



# BELARUS AND RUSSIA

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

23 October 2024

## IN SUPPORT OF THE BELARUS RED CROSS



**158**

National Society local units



**370**

National Society staff



**13,330**

National Society volunteers

## PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency Operations



**36,192**

Climate and environment



**30,000**

Disasters and crises



**35,700**

Health and wellbeing



**25,832**

Migration and displacement



**228**

Values, power and inclusion



**1,293**

## IN SUPPORT OF THE RUSSIAN RED CROSS



**85**

National Society branches



**600**

National Society local units



**50,000**

National Society volunteers



**1,456**

National Society staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency Operations



**250,367**

Disasters and crises



**261,291**

Health and wellbeing



**807,763**

Migration and displacement



**3,456**

Values, power and inclusion

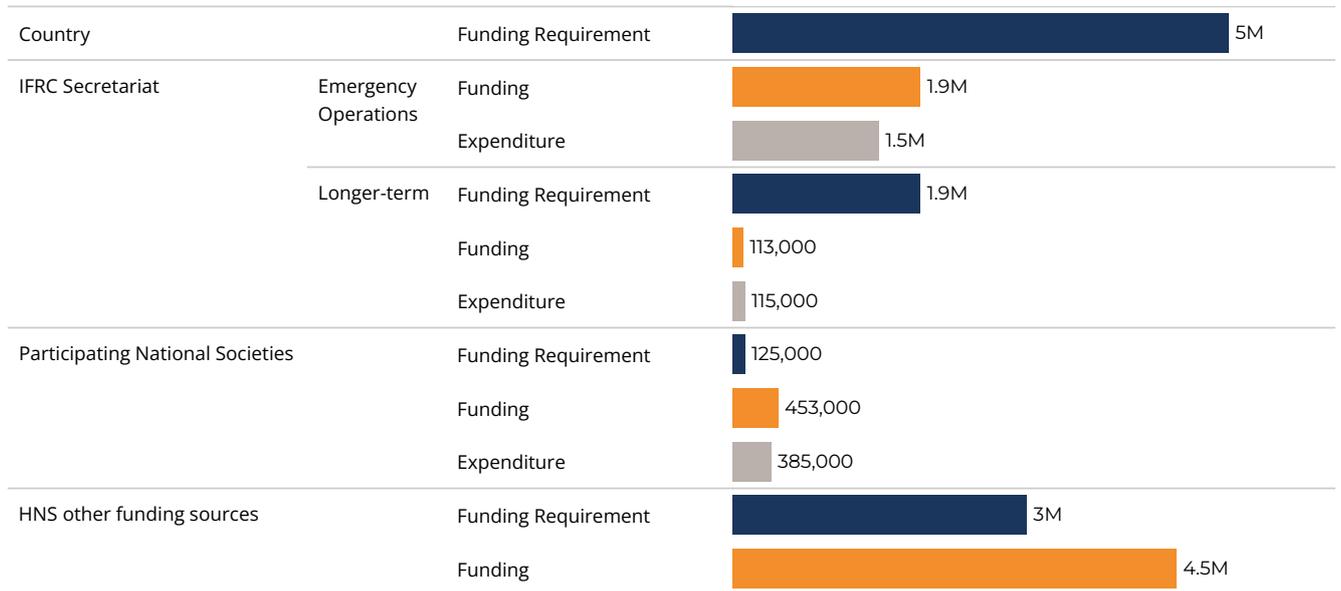


**7,477**

Appeal number **MAARU003** | **MAABY003**

# BELARUS

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW in Swiss francs (CHF)

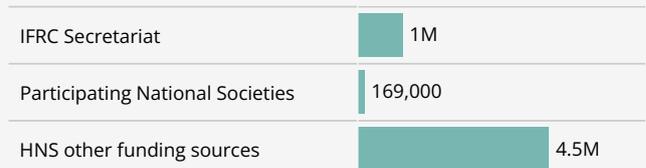


### Belarus Red Cross

#### Overview



#### Funding Sources

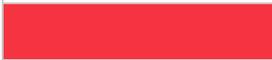


# ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MGR65002 / Ukraine and impacted countries crisis

People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	36,000
People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	3,000
People supported with CVA	3,000
People reached with livelihoods support	3,000
People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	1,000
People reached with shelter support	188
People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	105
Number of IFRC monitoring and support missions	503
Number of community consultation meetings	223
Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes	1
Movement coordination meetings are organized, and updates are provided to the Movement partners	Yes
Logistics department provides constant support to the National Society's logistics unit for replenishment and other procurements	Yes
Joint coordination tools and mechanisms are in use within the Movement response (where a Movement response is required)	Yes
IFRC engages in inter-agency coordination during operation	Yes
DREF / Appeal procedures are applied during the implementation of the operation	Yes
Percentage of operational staff for IFRC receive a security briefing	100%

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response activities	 30,000
Disasters and crises	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 36,000
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 3,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	 3,000
	People reached with shelter support	188
Health and wellbeing	People trained by National Societies in first aid	 26,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 3,000
	People donating blood	 2,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	335
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	105
Migration and displacement	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	228
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes	1
	Data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move?	Yes
Values, power and inclusion	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	 1,000
	People whose access to education is facilitated through National Society programming	290
	Is Community Engagement and Accountability integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)?	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	3
	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of	1
National Society development	Youth engagement strategy developed or in place	Yes
	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
	One National Society Development plan in place	Yes

Accountability and agility	National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes
	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

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Bilateral Support							Multilateral Support
	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Through IFRC
British Red Cross								✓
Danish Red Cross								✓
Finnish Red Cross								✓
French Red Cross								✓
German Red Cross								✓
Icelandic Red Cross								✓
Italian Red Cross								✓
Japanese Red Cross Society								✓
Netherlands Red Cross								✓
Norwegian Red Cross			●	●		●	●	✓
Swedish Red Cross								✓
Swiss Red Cross	1.1M						●	✓

Total Funding Reported **CHF 1.1M**

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country		Funding Requirement	
			11.4M
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	Funding	16.1M
		Expenditure	6.6M
	Longer-term	Funding Requirement	
Funding			2.9M
Expenditure			1.9M
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement		70,000
	Funding		1.5M
	Expenditure		1.4M

### The Russian Red Cross Society

#### Overview

Funding	Not reported
Expenditure	Not reported

#### Funding Sources

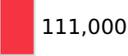
IFRC Secretariat	Not reported
Participating National Societies	Not reported
HNS other funding sources	Not reported

# ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MGR65002 / Ukraine and impacted countries crisis

People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	250,000
People supported with CVA	73,000
People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	40,000
People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	28,000
People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	6,000
People trained by National Societies in first aid	327
People reached with livelihoods support	27
Number of IFRC monitoring and support missions	508
Percentage of financial reporting respecting IFRC procedures	1
The operation is informed by a needs assessment which includes information gathered from affected people	Yes
Movement coordination meetings are organized, and updates are provided to the Movement partners	Yes
Logistics department provides constant support to the National Society's logistics unit for replenishment and other procurements	Yes
Joint coordination tools and mechanisms are in use within the Movement response (where a Movement response is required)	Yes
IFRC engages in inter-agency coordination during operation	Yes
DREF / Appeal procedures are applied during the implementation of the operation	Yes
Percentage of operational staff for IFRC receive a security briefing	100%

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	Developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks?	Yes
Disasters and crises	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 261,000
	People reached with shelter support	 111,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	27
	Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	40%
Health and wellbeing	People trained by National Societies in first aid	 808,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	 163,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	 145,000
	People donating blood	 83,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 45,000
Migration and displacement	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	3,000
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes	118
	Data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move?	Yes
	Advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move?	Yes
Values, power and inclusion	People whose access to education is facilitated through National Society programming	7,000
	People reached by RCRC educational programmes	7,000
	Is Community Engagement and Accountability integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)?	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	11
National Society development	Youth engagement strategy developed or in place	Yes
	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
	One National Society Development plan in place	Yes
	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of their volunteers	Yes
Humanitarian diplomacy	Participation in IFRC-led communication campaigns	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society is showing progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes
	National Society have strengthened their integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes
	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

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

The humanitarian consequences stemming from the escalated armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine in the first quarter of 2022 continue to dominate the operational landscape of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), as well as for the Belarus Red Cross and the Russian Red Cross Society. Steps have been taken to boost the capacities of both National Societies, particularly in the areas of branch development, strategic engagement and partnerships. In Russia, this involved identifying domestic resources for mobilization and cultivating interactions with both internal and external stakeholders, affiliated with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement or otherwise. However, the uneasy political situation led to hesitation among donors to contribute to activities in Belarus and Russia, which in its turn introduced an element of uncertainty into the sustainable funding of regular programmes.

### Belarus

Belarus faces significant economic vulnerability, heavily relying on trade with Russia. The COVID-19 pandemic, political unrest, deteriorating relations with the EU and the Ukrainian crisis leading to sanctions, have further weakened its economy. The country's most vulnerable groups include older people, individuals with disabilities, single-parent families, and migrants.

Demographically, Belarus is experiencing rapid aging. By 2019, about 15.2 per cent of the population was aged 65 or older, a trend accelerating in rural areas. Projections indicate that by 2030, this group will comprise 21 per cent of the population.

### Russia

Russia, the world's largest country, spans 11 time zones and has a diverse climate. As of 2021, its population reached 147.2 million, characterized by low birth rates, high mortality and an aging population. The country faces economic shifts due to urbanization and migration, with poverty affecting 9.8 per cent of the population. Unemployment hit a low of 3.5 per cent in early 2023, amidst concerns about skilled worker shortages. The Ukrainian crisis has strained the economy further, and natural hazards like floods and forest fires pose additional challenges.

## Key achievements

### Belarus Red Cross

#### Climate and environment

In 2023, the Belarus Red Cross supported over 31,000 people during extreme weather events including cold and heat waves and provided essential assistance to vulnerable individuals such as the homeless and isolated elderly during harsh winter conditions.

#### Disasters and crises

In April and May 2023, the Belarus Red Cross responded to severe flooding in Gomel, Vitebsk and Brest, assisting people with food, hygiene kits and support to protect homes from water damage. Flood waters were also pumped from basements. A disaster management working group meeting was held, leading to the review and improvement of disaster management policies and plans. The National Society also drafted standard operating procedures and developed contingency, business continuity and disaster preparedness plans, which are awaiting approval.

#### Health and wellbeing

During the reporting period, the Belarus Red Cross supported vulnerable populations by organizing 165 blood donation events. The National Society also launched the 'Become a Donor' exhibition and participated in international first aid initiatives. Four volunteer groups provided psychosocial support to 550 children through clown, art and play therapy.

Additionally, 178 nurses offered home care services, with one receiving the prestigious Florence Nightingale medal. The National Society continues to support centres for children with disabilities and people with mental illnesses.

## **Migration and displacement**

The Belarus Red Cross successfully negotiated the renewal of a cooperation memorandum with key government ministries to enhance humanitarian support for migrants, with the official signing in July 2023. The Belarus Red Cross also launched the internet portal [wehelp.by](#) with UN support, offering migrants, particularly those from Ukraine, information on available assistance. Additionally, [humanitarian service points](#) (HSPs) were established across five regional branches providing services and accommodation for migrants and those in crisis. The Belarus Red Cross also continued to assist stranded migrants at the Belarus-EU border, offering medical aid, food and [Restoring Family Links](#) (RFL) services.

## **Values, power and inclusion**

The Belarus Red Cross representatives attended protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) training in Budapest in April 2023, and are applying the knowledge and best practices learned to improve ongoing activities. The National Society also implemented needs assessments and feedback collection within its programmes and launched post-distribution monitoring in late 2023 to evaluate the effectiveness of cash assistance under the 'Ukraine and Impacted Countries' Emergency Appeal.

## **Enabling local actors**

In 2023, the Belarus Red Cross successfully renewed key partnerships, including a memorandum with the Red Cross Society of China and ongoing cooperation with the Swiss Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross. The National Society played a pivotal role in disaster response and migrant support, particularly during the Ukraine crisis and the Syria-Türkiye earthquake, raising substantial funds for relief efforts.

Internally, the Belarus Red Cross expanded the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) across 20 branches and enhanced volunteer management and youth development strategies. The National Society improved its internal and external communication capacities by integrating modern technologies such as a customer relationship management (CRM) system for aid tracking and data management.

Despite being suspended from the IFRC on 1 Dec 2023 due to non-compliance, the Belarus Red Cross remained committed to its mission, continuing to provide essential services to vulnerable populations and maintaining close coordination with government bodies and international organizations. The National Society also prioritized ethics, safeguarding, and risk management, particularly in the face of sanctions and IT security challenges.

## **Russian Red Cross Society**

### **Climate and environment**

In 2023, a representative from the Russian Red Cross Society participated in a climate action meeting in Greece, reflecting the National Society's commitment to environmental issues. Communication channels of the National Society are providing people with key information on heat waves, cold waves and other climate-related hazards. The Russian Red Cross headquarters also encourages environmentally sustainable practices and welcomes waste sorting.

### **Disasters and crises**

In 2023, the Russian Red Cross Society provided humanitarian aid and psychosocial support to thousands of individuals affected by wildfires and major flooding in Primorsky Krai. The National Society conducted an emergency response team workshop in June to enhance preparedness, informed by lessons from the Ukraine crisis. The National Society also deployed teams to Lattakia, assisting over 4,500 people affected by the flood. Additionally, it conducted 80 seminars on injury prevention and emergency preparedness, strengthening regional awareness and institutional capacity across its branches. The National Society also launched post-distribution monitoring to evaluate cash assistance under the 'Ukraine and Impacted Countries' Emergency Appeal.

### **Health and wellbeing**

In 2023, the Russian Red Cross Society continued to provide essential health and social care to individuals in need across various regions. The National Society implemented specialized projects such as the 'Colours of Life' in

Novosibirsk, which supports stroke recovery. First aid remained a priority, with the National Society updating training methodologies and promoting blood donation through various events. In June, the Russian Red Cross Society launched a separate mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programme targeting families affected by the Ukraine crisis, opening Red Cross family centres in 10 regions and conducting MHPSS training in 15 others.

## **Migration and displacement**

In 2023, the Russian Red Cross Society's migration centre supported vulnerable migrants in Moscow and the Moscow region. The centre provided legal, psychological, medical and social consultations through in-person appointments and a hotline. It also offered educational support for migrant children and featured a sensory room for therapeutic purposes. The centre handled 124 legal counselling requests, primarily related to the Ukrainian crisis, and collaborated with various NGOs for experience exchange and beneficiary referrals. Staff from the National Society participated in a workshop in Budapest on refugee integration, and a summer migration school in St. Petersburg engaged 30 participants consisting of students and young leaders from Russia and Belarus, focusing on migration policy and integration.

## **Values, power and inclusion**

In 2023, the Russian Red Cross Society participated in protection, inclusion and gender (PGI) training, applying new knowledge to refine its activities. The National Society also sent a PMER officer to a Social Studies training in Budapest to improve its feedback mechanisms. The Russian Red Cross Society is releasing podcasts and talk shows to explain the Movement's Fundamental Principles and activities.

## **Enabling local actors**

The Russian Red Cross Society focused on enhancing its operational capabilities through strategic partnerships and internal development. It signed project agreements with the Norwegian Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross to bolster its emergency preparedness, response and fundraising capacities. The National Society engaged in tri-partite meetings with the IFRC and the ICRC to address the crisis in Ukraine and impacted countries, ensuring effective coordination and reaffirming its international roles.

The National Society finalized and approved its Strategy 2023-2028, and the BOCA process was expanded. The Russian Red Cross Society also updated its volunteer management policies and created a Youth Council. A comprehensive survey was conducted, and a Youth Engagement Forum was held to further engage young activists. The Russian Red Cross Society improved its advocacy efforts through international humanitarian diplomacy, and enhanced its internal and external communications. This included the adoption of new digital tools and participation in global communication forums to produce high-quality content.

The Russian Red Cross Society maintained a transparent financial reporting system and developed a unified digital architecture to improve accountability. Risk management efforts included monitoring sanctions and establishing an ethics commission to address issues related to fraud and safeguarding.

## **Changes and amendments**

The humanitarian consequences stemming from the escalated armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine in the first quarter of 2022 continue to dominate the operational landscape of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), as well as for the Belarus Red Cross and the Russian Red Cross Society. Steps have been taken to boost the capacities of both National Societies, particularly in the areas of branch development, strategic engagement and partnerships. In Russia, this involved identifying domestic resources for mobilization and cultivating interactions with both internal and external stakeholders, affiliated with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement or otherwise. However, the uneasy political situation led to hesitance among donors to contribute to activities in Belarus and Russia, which in its turn introduced an element of uncertainty into the sustainable funding of regular programmes.

Further, as of 1 December 2023, the Belarus Red Cross is suspended from the IFRC, following the decision of the IFRC's Governing Board on 3 October 2023 on the issue of non-compliance by the Belarus Red Cross. The suspension means that the Belarus Red Cross loses its rights as a member of the IFRC. Any new funding to the National Society will also be suspended. The Belarus Red Cross can be reinstated once the National Society complies with the decision of the Governing Board, further to the Compliance and Mediation Committee's recommendation. The IFRC's commitment to addressing humanitarian needs in Belarus remains strong.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

<b>Name of the operation</b>	Ukraine And Impacted Countries Crisis Emergency Appeal
<b>MGR-code</b>	<a href="#">MGR65002</a>
<b>Duration</b>	46 months (28 February 2022 to 31 December 2025)
<b>Funding allocation</b>	CHF 800 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal CHF 2.7 billion Federation-wide
<b>People targeted</b>	22.65 million
<b>Latest Operations Update</b>	<a href="#">Operations Update #9 Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis</a>

The international armed conflict in Ukraine continues, inflicting a devastating toll on the lives of people. The protracted crisis has resulted in massive civilian casualties, severe harm to critical infrastructure and livelihoods, and widespread displacement from front-line communities, leading to an alarming escalation in humanitarian needs, inside and outside of Ukraine. Millions of people have crossed borders from Ukraine into neighbouring countries and beyond. Most of these individuals have been displaced for nearly two years, and the gaps in meeting their needs are still increasing. Displaced people from Ukraine still require safety, assistance, and critical protection to lead dignified lives and restore their wellbeing and livelihoods. First launched in February 2022, the IFRC Emergency Appeal was revised in May 2023, in support of the work of 18 National Societies including the Belarus Red Cross and the Russian Red Cross Society who are responding to the crisis.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through the [revised emergency appeal](#), the Belarus Red Cross and the Russian Red Cross Society are providing targeted assistance to people affected by the crisis with interventions consisting of:

#### Health and care including water, sanitation, and hygiene ([WASH](#))

Delivering psychological first aid to affected communities. Facilitating the distribution of drinking water, offering cash and voucher assistance (CVA) or in-kind provisions like hygiene items.

#### [Shelter, housing, and settlements, multi-purpose cash](#)

Providing necessary household items like clothing, blankets, bed linens, mattresses, foldable beds. Providing flexible multi-purpose cash grants and resources along with access to local employment opportunities to displaced individuals.

#### [Protection, gender, and inclusion \(PGI\), community engagement and accountability \(CEA\), migration](#)

The operational strategy integrates PGI and CEA as pivotal elements in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities include the establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms. The strategy emphasizes local voice amplification, collaborative engagement and transparent communication, extending into long-term resilience building.

## Belarus Red Cross

For the reporting period from March 2022 to December 2023, the Belarus Red Cross aims to support approximately 7,088 people displaced from Ukraine who are staying in Belarus temporarily or permanently. The Belarus Red Cross response will focus on activities covering basic needs mainly through CVA, health and mental health, information provision, livelihoods support and advocacy.

## Russian Red Cross Society

For the reporting period February 2022 to December 2025, the Russian Red Cross Society aims to assist approximately 2.6 million people in Russia through targeted interventions. These include health and care services such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), providing drinking water and hygiene items and shelter assistance. The appeal also supports displaced individuals with multi-purpose cash assistance and local employment opportunities. Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) are integral to the strategy. Migration activities include setting up humanitarian service points (HSPs) to offer cash assistance (CVA), mental health support (MHPSS), family reunification services and communication facilities.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

### Belarus Red Cross

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Belarus Red Cross has been actively involved in climate and environmental initiatives, playing a significant role participating in a technical reference group for climate action and contributing to online meetings. In 2023, the Belarus Red Cross provided crucial support during extreme weather events, targeting over 31,000 people affected by cold waves and heat waves. During extremely low temperatures and harsh weather conditions, the National Society assisted more than 1,780 vulnerable individuals, including the homeless, older people living alone and those caught in adverse weather on the roads. The Belarus Red Cross actively participates in the technical reference group for climate action, contributing to online meetings to share insights and strategies.

#### IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** assisted the Belarus Red Cross in disseminating crucial information on climate-related hazards through established communication channels. This included providing communication guidance and social media materials to help raise awareness about the climate crisis and climate-related disasters. The IFRC climate centre provides information support, ensuring that the Belarus Red Cross had access to the latest data and best practices for climate action.

### Russian Red Cross Society

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Russian Red Cross Society participated in the technical reference group for climate action, with a representative attending a meeting in Greece in June 2023. During the wildfires in Russia, the Russian Red Cross Society assisted 1,331 people by distributing 16,000 items of humanitarian aid. The National Society also provided aid to 3,240 individuals affected by a major flood in Primorsky Krai in summer 2023.

The headquarters of the Russian Red Cross Society further promoted environmentally sustainable practices, such as waste sorting, aligning with the IFRC's commitment to fostering a greener and more resilient future. A staff member from the Russian Red Cross Society has joined the National Societies' Technical Group on Climate Change in the European Region, enhancing its capacity to address climate challenges.

## IFRC network joint support

The IFRC [climate centre](#) collaborates closely with the Russian Red Cross Society to develop and integrate climate and environmental goals into its 2028 Strategy. This partnership has led to the establishment of comprehensive goals and objectives that guide the Russian Red Cross Society in its climate agenda. The climate centre provides essential information support, ensuring that the Russian Red Cross Society has access to the latest data and strategies for climate action.

During wildfires and major floods, the IFRC support enabled the Russian Red Cross Society to deliver substantial humanitarian aid, assisting thousands of people affected by these climate-related disasters. The IFRC also provides communication guidance and social media materials to help the Russian Red Cross Society disseminate key information on climate-related hazards such as heat waves and cold waves.



## Disasters and crises

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### Belarus Red Cross

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

### Progress by the National Society in preparedness and response capacity

In April and May 2023, three regions in Belarus—Gomel, Vitebsk, and Brest—experienced severe flooding due to a seasonal rise in river levels. The Belarus Red Cross, in collaboration with the Ministry of Emergency Situations and local authorities conducted thorough assessments and provided crucial support. The National Society supplied food and hygiene kits to affected populations, assisted households in safeguarding belongings from water damage, and pumped water out of basements, helping a total of 616 people.

The Belarus Red Cross also took part in the response to the earthquake emergency in Syria and Türkiye in February 2023. The Belarus Red Cross concentrated on the mobilization of funds (CHF 73,617.32) for the National Societies in Syria and Türkiye. Later in the year, the Belarus Red Cross collected donations for the survivors of the floods in Morocco and Libya (CHF 344.31).

Additionally, a disaster management technical working group meeting was held in the second quarter of the year. The meeting involved disaster management focal points, regional branch chairpersons, department heads from headquarters and the Secretary General. They reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of the disaster management service, focusing on policy, standards, analysis, planning, operational capacity, coordination and operational support.

The Belarus Red Cross also drafted standard operating procedures for emergency response teams, incident management, humanitarian service points and the emergency operations centre. Additionally, a multi-hazard contingency plan, business continuity plan, and disaster preparedness and response plan were developed and are awaiting approval. The National Society participated in an orientation session on international quality standards, including SPHERE and Inter-Agency Standing Committee standards conducted to incorporate migration and protection concerns into upcoming policies and strategic documents.

## IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical support to the Belarus Red Cross in developing its disaster risk management policy and strategy aligned with its strategic plan and existing guidelines.

The IFRC also supported the National Society in conducting [preparedness for emergency response \(PER\)](#) orientation sessions in March 2023 to strengthen emergency response processes

The IFRC also supported the National Society in conducting orientation sessions in March 2023 to strengthen emergency response processes and [cash and voucher assistance \(CVA\)](#) frameworks. The IFRC facilitated cross-country cooperation and the sharing of best practices, helping the Belarus Red Cross to digitize disaster responses and improve its operational effectiveness.

## Russian Red Cross Society

The IFRC support enabled the Russian Red Cross Society during wildfires and major floods to deliver substantial humanitarian aid, assisting thousands of people affected by these climate-related disasters. The IFRC also provides communication guidance and social media materials to help the Russian Red Cross Society disseminate key information on climate-related hazards such as heat waves and cold waves.

### Progress by the National Society in preparedness and response capacity

In 2023, the Russian Red Cross Society responded to various natural disasters including wildfires and major flooding in Primorsky Krai, helping thousands of affected individuals. The National Society distributed humanitarian aid, including food and medical supplies, and offered [psychosocial support](#) to those in need.

The Russian Red Cross Society took part in the response to the earthquake emergency in Syria and Türkiye in February 2023. The National Society conducted two deployments to Lattakia (Syria), helping over 4,500 people. This included distributing 18,000 kilograms of humanitarian aid and offering medical and psychosocial support.

Later in the year, the National Society continued operating a hospital in Ethiopia. In June 2023, the Russian Red Cross Society conducted an emergency response team workshop, discussing a draft strategy to enhance its preparedness and response capacity. The workshop informed by lessons from the “Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis” Emergency Appeal involved key branches and headquarters staff. This initiative fostered cooperation and the exchange of best practices, enhancing the National Society’s operational capabilities.

The National Society conducted two deployments to Lattakia, helping over 4,500 people. This included distributing 18,000 kilograms of humanitarian aid and offering medical and psychosocial support.

The Russian Red Cross Society also conducted seminars and training to improve regional awareness and institutional capacity. 80 seminars on injury prevention and emergency preparedness were conducted in Novgorod, Arkhangelsk and Murmansk. These efforts improved regional awareness and strengthened the institutional capacity of the Russian Red Cross Society’s regional branches. A series of disaster response training were also launched for volunteers and staff from 11 branches, training a total of 40 people.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical support to the Russian Red Cross Society in conducting a PER orientation session in June 2023. The IFRC also facilitated the development of the Russian Red Cross Society’s emergency response strategy, providing direction and common approaches to strengthen the National Society preparedness and response capacity. Additionally, the IFRC supported the National Society’s surge mechanism and international response capacity, helping it to participate in global surge working group sessions and conduct impactful international missions.

The **Syrian Arab Red Crescent** signed a memorandum of understanding with the Russian Red Cross Society to provide humanitarian aid and medical and psychosocial support to the affected population in Lattakia.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** also supported the Russian Red Cross Society to conduct seminars on injury prevention and emergency preparedness.



## Health and wellbeing

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### Belarus Red Cross

#### Progress by the National Society in comprehensive medical and social activities

The Belarus Red Cross continues to address the needs of people with limited movement and self-care capacities through comprehensive medical and social activities. The National Society remains active in first aid, participating in the international expert group alongside other Eastern European and Central Asian countries. Blood donation promotion is a key focus, with large-scale informational events and donor recruitment drives organized on World Blood Donation Day. In 2023, the Belarus Red Cross held its first ‘Become a Donor’ exhibition at the National History Museum and conducted 165 events promoting blood donation. While structural changes have reduced the focus on

health-related activities, technical support remains accessible through the Regional Office for Europe's Emergency Health Unit if required.

Currently, four Belarus Red Cross volunteer groups are engaged in the rehabilitation and socialization of children in healthcare, education and social protection institutions using the methods of clown, art and play therapy. The total number of children who received psychosocial support from clown volunteers of the Belarus Red Cross during the project implementation period stands at 550 people.

The National Society has 178 nurses who provide home care for people who need it. A Belarus Red Cross nurse received a Florence Nightingale medal in May 2023, which makes the total number of nurses who received this award in Belarus 15.

Centres for children with disabilities in Grodno and for people with mental illnesses in Minsk continue their activities but require external funding support.

### **IFRC network joint support**

With support from **the IFRC**, the Belarus Red Cross staff attended psychosocial support (MHPSS) training in Budapest and received continuous remote support from the regional MHPSS delegate.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the Belarus Red Cross in continued implementation of the clown therapy project.

### **Russian Red Cross Society**

#### **Progress by the National Society in comprehensive medical and social activities**

The Russian Red Cross Society is running several health and care centres across different regions of the country. Continual medical and social assistance was provided to 2,368 people in 2023. Some of the Russian Red Cross Society regional branches have exclusive projects aimed at social assistance for those in need. For example, the Novosibirsk regional branch has been implementing a 'Colours of Life' project dedicated to stroke recovery. There are 15 people in this programme who have suffered a stroke or have age-related fine motor disorders.

The Russian Red Cross Society continues its dedicated efforts to support people with limited movement and self-care capacities through various medical and social activities. First aid activities remain a priority, with the National Society actively participating in the international expert group on first aid for Eastern European and Central Asian countries. The Russian Red Cross Society is updating its first aid training methodologies and pursuing certifications for its first aid reference centre and additional trainers. The National Society also promotes blood donation, organizing events on World Blood Donation Day and throughout the year. Despite structural changes in the country cluster delegation affecting health-related activities, technical support is available from the Regional Office for Europe's Emergency Health Unit when needed.

In June 2023, in addition to MHPSS activities covered by the Emergency Appeal, the Russian Red Cross Society launched a separate MHPSS programme. The project is targeted at supporting families with one parent and/or more than one child, displaced or affected by the Ukraine and impacted countries crisis or with general need for support. During September and October 2023, Red Cross family centres opened in 10 Russian regions, offering daycare activities for



*The Belarus Red Cross responds to floods in Gomel region. (Photo: Belarus Red Cross)*

children and psychosocial support for both parents and children. In additional 15 regions, knowledge about MHPSS, its importance and how it could be delivered was shared in training by the Russian Red Cross Society MHPSS specialists.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The **IFRC** supported the Russian Red Cross Society in implementing the MHPSS programme which was financed by the **Norwegian Red Cross**. In December 2023, the main donor agreed to prolong the MHPSS programme until June 2025. With the IFRC support, the Russian Red Cross Society staff participated in MHPSS training in Budapest and received ongoing remote assistance from the regional MHPSS delegate.



## **Migration and displacement**

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### **Belarus Red Cross**

#### **Progress by National Society against objectives**

The Belarus Red Cross successfully negotiated the renewal of the memorandum on cooperation for providing humanitarian support to migrants which was signed in July 2023 by the National Society, along with the Ministries of Interior, Emergencies, and Foreign Affairs and the State Border Committee. This memorandum aims to ensure efficient coordination in meeting the needs of migrants within Belarus, facilitating information exchange, joint urgent support planning, humanitarian aid distribution and restoring family links (RFL).

With UN support, the Belarus Red Cross launched the internet portal wehelp.by, providing migrants with information on the support available from the National Society and partner organizations. While primarily targeting individuals from Ukraine, the portal offers relevant information for migrants from any country.

During the reporting period, humanitarian service points (crisis centres) were established in the Grodno, Gomel, Brest, Mogilev, and Vitebsk branches of the Belarus Red Cross. These centres offer services and, if necessary, accommodation to migrants and individuals in difficult life situations.

The situation at the border between Belarus and the EU continues to evolve with reports of migrant groups caught between borders or in border forests. In coordination with local authorities, the Belarus Red Cross assisted these stranded migrants, providing medical support, food and non-food items, family link restoration and referrals.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The **IFRC** encouraged the Belarus Red Cross to participate in the networks on migration and in revision of the migration strategy of the IFRC.

### **Russian Red Cross Society**

#### **Progress by National Society against objectives**

During the reporting period, the migration centre of the Russian Red Cross Society provided sustained support to 3,456 of the most vulnerable migrants in Moscow and the Moscow region. The migration centre functions as a counselling hub, a centre for individual social support (case management), and an educational centre. It offers consultations on legal, psychological, medical and social issues through in-person appointments and a hotline. The educational centre enables migrant children to access education in subjects such as Math and Russian, facilitating their integration into society.

The migration centre continues receiving and has received 124 requests, primarily from individuals affected by the Ukrainian crisis, seeking legal counselling. The centre features a sensory room that helps reduce psychological burdens and develop senses through special lighting, music and touch, and is also used as therapy for children with limited communication skills.

The centre collaborates with various non-governmental organizations, including charity foundations for migrants, integration centres for refugees and migrant children and migrant support centres, to exchange experiences and refer beneficiaries as needed. Additionally, two Russian Red Cross Society staff participated in a workshop on medium and long-term integration support to refugees in Budapest, contributing insights from the National Society's perspective.

In August 2023, a summer migration school event for students and young leaders was conducted in St. Petersburg and attended by 30 participants from Russia and Belarus. This platform offered education on legal bases, rights and laws, and facilitated the exchange of ideas and establishment of contacts among young activists involved in migration response. The agenda covered migration policy, legal regimes for foreign citizens in Russia and aspects of social, economic and cultural integration of migrants, with participation from the Ombudsman for Human Rights in St. Petersburg and professors from prominent Russian universities.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the Russian Red Cross Society along with the **Italian Red Cross**, UNHCR and other partners, enabling the migration centre in Moscow and the Moscow region to function effectively.

The IFRC facilitated the participation of Russian Red Cross Society staff in international workshops, including the one in Budapest, enhancing the National Society's capacity to provide medium and long-term integration support to refugees. Additionally, the IFRC supported the summer migration school event in St. Petersburg. The IFRC also encouraged the Russian Red Cross Society in contributing to the revision of the migration strategy of the IFRC. [migration strategy of the IFRC](#).



## **Values, power and inclusion**

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### **Belarus Red Cross**

#### **Progress by the National Society in protection, gender and inclusion**

Representatives of the Belarus Red Cross participated in [protection, gender and inclusion \(PGI\)](#) training in Budapest in April 2023 and the knowledge and best practices obtained is used in the National Society to adjust its ongoing activities.

The Belarus Red Cross is implementing [needs assessment](#) and feedback collection as part of its programmes. A post distribution monitoring was launched in late 2023 to gather insights on the implementation of cash assistance under the "Ukraine and Impacted Countries" Emergency Appeal umbrella.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** provided technical support to the Belarus Red Cross in implementing needs assessment and feedback collection.

### **Russian Red Cross Society**

#### **Progress by the National Society in protection, gender and inclusion**

The Russian Red Cross Society participated in a PGI training in December 2023, and the knowledge gained is being applied to adjust ongoing activities. The National Society is also conducting needs assessments and feedback collection as part of its programmes. In late 2023, a post-distribution monitoring was launched to gather insights on the implementation of cash assistance under the "Ukraine and Impacted Countries" Emergency Appeal. Additionally, a programme monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) officer attended the Social Studies training in Budapest in November 2023, and the National Society is currently strategizing ways to improve its feedback mechanism. 25 branches of the National Society also participated in an MHPSS training conducted in the second half of 2023.

The Russian Red Cross Society has been actively disseminating knowledge about the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement using innovative methods to reach the public. A series of podcasts and talk shows have been released, explaining the [Fundamental Principles](#) the approaches used by the Movement and various aspects of daily Movement activities.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** conducted a training on MHPSS during the second half of 2023, in which staff and volunteers of the Russian Red Cross Society participated for capacity building.

# ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

### IFRC membership coordination

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

### Belarus Red Cross

The IFRC membership coordination faced a fair share of challenges due to the external factors, yet the Belarus Red Cross duly worked with participating National Societies throughout 2023. The Belarus Red Cross signed a memorandum of cooperation with the **Red Cross Society of China** in April 2023. It also continued its cooperation with the **Swiss Red Cross** that maintained a presence in Belarus on healthy and active ageing, the home-based care programme (including community mobilization and psychosocial support) and National Society development in the areas of resource mobilization and fundraising. The National Society also benefitted from the cooperation of the **Italian Red Cross** on the clown therapy project.

### Russian Red Cross Society

The Russian Red Cross Society concluded a project agreement with the **Norwegian Red Cross** on the development of emergency preparedness and response and fundraising capacities. The Russian Red Cross Society benefited from the cooperation with the **Italian Red Cross**, which supported a project on individual case management for people affected by the Ukrainian crisis.

### Movement coordination

The Belarus Red Cross and the Russian Red Cross Society ensure 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.

### Belarus Red Cross

Movement cooperation and coordination for the Belarus Red Cross manifested itself in close ties with **the IFRC** and **the ICRC** Delegations present in the country. The Belarus Red Cross benefited from National Society development activities through Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) and other exercises. The National Society received regular technical support and consultations from the IFRC on fundraising capacity strengthening. The National Society coordinated regularly with the IFRC and the ICRC on the issues of public relations and networking. In July 2023, the Belarus Red Cross became a subject of the IFRC investigation due to the fact of a trip of the Belarus Red Cross Secretary General to Donbas that was deemed to violate the Fundamental Principles. The Belarus Red Cross membership in the IFRC ultimately was suspended on 30 November 2023 due to the failure to comply with the Compliance and Mediation Committee recommendations.

### Russian Red Cross Society

Movement cooperation and coordination for the Russian Red Cross Society manifested itself in close ties with **the IFRC** and **the ICRC** Delegations present in Russia. The Russian Red Cross Society benefited from National Society development activities through BOCA and other exercises. The National Society received regular technical support and consultations from the IFRC on fundraising capacity strengthening. The Russian Red Cross Society

also benefited from the [National Society Investment Alliance \(NSIA\)](#) and [Capacity Building Fund \(CBF\)](#) support, both projects on resource mobilization (direct dialogue, targeting, telemarketing and corporate fundraising). The IFRC and the ICRC regularly coordinated with the Russian Red Cross Society on the issues of public relations and networking. In January 2023, Russian Red Cross Society, the IFRC and the ICRC held a joint briefing for the diplomatic community in Moscow, Russia to brief the diplomats on the Russian Red Cross Society efforts in support of the people impacted by the crisis in Ukraine.

Throughout 2023, the Russian Red Cross Society engaged in tri-partite meetings with the IFRC and the ICRC to follow up on the international armed conflict in Ukraine and discuss the strategic and operational impacts, including the implications of the Seville Agreement 2.0. These meetings revisited the outcomes of the 2022 mini summit, focusing on the changes in the regulatory framework for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's coordination responsibilities. It was agreed that the Movement's components in Moscow would reaffirm their coordination roles for international activities necessitated by the conflict.

## **Coordination with other actors**

### **Belarus Red Cross**

The Belarus Red Cross has actively worked within its mandate to provide relief and regular services to vulnerable populations, serving as an auxiliary to the public authorities. The National Society closely coordinated with various government bodies, including the Ministries of Emergencies, Health and Interior to ensure effective disaster preparedness and response. Within the framework of its cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Emergency of Belarus, the Belarus Red Cross played a significant role in disaster response efforts, such as flood response at the district and regional levels in spring 2023.

In the first half of 2023, the Belarus Red Cross continued to implement the Memorandum of Understanding with the State Border Committee and the Ministry of Interior. This agreement positions the Belarus Red Cross as the coordinator of humanitarian assistance to migrants in Belarus, particularly in response to the Ukraine crisis and the influx of migrants from the Middle East. Additionally, the Belarus Red Cross operationalized an agreement with Belpochta (the Belarusian Post Office) and UNICEF, providing support to families with children through cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)).

The Belarus Red Cross maintained ongoing efforts to respond to the Ukraine crisis, collaborating with multiple UN agencies in Belarus, including IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, and UNICEF. Coordination occurred through daily working-level contacts and monthly Refugee Coordination Forums convened by the UNHCR. With UN funding, the Belarus Red Cross assisted displaced people with accommodations across Belarus and upgraded the crisis centre in Mogilev. Additionally, the National Society supported livelihood improvement for displaced individuals through UNDP-sponsored training sessions on business planning and self-employment. The Belarus Red Cross also distributed back-to-school sets to displaced children and served as the primary focal point for CVA field implementation supported by UN agencies. The Belarus Red Cross also signed an agreement with "Molochny Mir", a major dairy producer in Belarus.

Although discussions to renew the Movement Coordination Agreement in Belarus during the third quarter of the year were discontinued following the suspension of the Belarus Red Cross, the National Society remains committed to coordinating with other actors to address the needs of vulnerable populations.

### **Russian Red Cross Society**

The Russian Red Cross Society closely coordinated with various governmental bodies, including the Ministries of Emergencies, Health and Interior. The Russian Red Cross Society worked alongside the Ministry of Emergency of Russia (EMERCOM) to revise the current framework cooperation agreement, a process that is ongoing in parallel with the renewal of agreements between the Russian Red Cross Society regional branches and regional governments.

Practically, the Russian Red Cross Society coordinated with EMERCOM and the Ministry of Health in addressing the needs of people affected by the Ukrainian crisis. This support included providing material and humanitarian aid, [psychosocial support](#), responding to individual requests and [restoring family links](#).

The Russian Red Cross Society continued building up its network of contacts among the big domestic corporations and foreign owned businesses, landing significant contributions along the way, including those of Pochtabank, Nestle, PepsiCo, Autodesk, Magnit and others. The total amount of the corporate donations grew approximately

tenfold compared to 2022. Preliminary discussions regarding the renewal of the Movement Coordination Agreement in Russia have been initiated, highlighting the ongoing commitment of the Russian Red Cross Society to maintaining effective coordination with other actors in addressing humanitarian needs.



## National Society Development

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### Belarus Red Cross

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Belarus Red Cross made significant progress in National Society development, particularly in the areas of branch, volunteering and youth development. The Belarus Red Cross successfully expanded the implementation of the [Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment](#) (BOCA) across 20 branches, including all eight regional branches. This widespread adoption of the BOCA enabled the National Society to reassess its branch operations, identify key development priorities, and begin drafting essential internal regulations such as comprehensive HR and Conflict Resolution policies.

The Belarus Red Cross also updated its Volunteer Management Policy and developed a new volunteering strategy, along with an implementation plan. These efforts were supported by a local consultant, leading to the introduction of innovative approaches to volunteer engagement and management. The Belarus Red Cross also worked on improving its volunteer and beneficiary databases, which will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations. Additionally, the National Society revised its application to the [Capacity Building Fund](#) (CBF) to secure additional resources for further developing its volunteer management systems and training programmes.

#### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC facilitated the implementation of the BOCA and supported training for BOCA facilitators and trainers. The IFRC enabled the participation of the Belarus Red Cross staff in the BOCA Training of Facilitators in Tajikistan and the Training of Trainers in Budapest.

The IFRC also assisted the National Society in updating its Volunteer Management Policy and developing a new volunteering strategy and implementation plan by funding the hiring of a local consultant. The IFRC supported the drafting of an application for CBF and provided guidance on revising the application to align with updated fund procedures.

### Russian Red Cross Society

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Russian Red Cross Society achieved significant milestones in National Society development, including the finalization and approval of the Russian Red Cross Strategy 2023-2028, which was subsequently approved by the Russian Red Cross Society Governing Board in December 2023, setting the strategic direction for the National Society over the next five years. This was complemented by a continued focus on branch development, where the Russian Red Cross Society embraced the BOCA process. Following two pilot BOCA workshops, the Russian Red Cross Society rapidly expanded its facilitator pool from five to 33, completing 17 BOCA workshops across its branches. The positive feedback from these workshops highlighted the effectiveness of BOCA in strengthening branch operations, with plans to cover more than half of the existing branches in 2024.

In the area of volunteer management, the Russian Red Cross Society updated its volunteering policy and conducted a comprehensive survey to better understand volunteer motivation. The creation of the Russian Red Cross Society Youth Council, which serves as a talent pool and a platform for youth engagement, was another significant development. This initiative was underscored by the election of the Youth Council President during the first-ever Russian Red Cross Society Volunteering and Youth Engagement Forum in December 2023. Additionally, the National Society began redesigning its membership policy to better define roles within the National Society, thereby enhancing its appeal in the competitive humanitarian sector.

## IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Russian Red Cross Society in 2023 to finalize the Russian Red Cross Strategy 2023-2028. The IFRC provided guidance through an international consultant to develop and present the strategy. The IFRC also facilitated the training of two Russian Red Cross Society practitioners as certified BOCA trainers in Budapest.

The IFRC supported the Russian Red Cross Society in updating its volunteering policy and conducting a large-scale survey on volunteer motivation. The IFRC also provided resources for the redesigning of the National Society's membership policy. To strengthen the Russian Red Cross Society's human resources capacities, the IFRC supported the National Society in conducting an IMPACT course and ensured participation in training, international conferences and workshops such as the IFRC Global Innovation Summit 2023.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Belarus Red Cross

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

Communications specialists from the Belarus Red Cross participated in the Global Communications Forum in Jordan. This participation provided opportunities to learn best practices, share experiences and expand professional networks. Additionally, the Belarus Red Cross conducted a training on mobile photography to develop the communication skills of its staff.

#### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC is guiding the Belarus Red Cross to align its humanitarian diplomacy efforts with international standards and practices. This alignment ensures that the National Society can effectively represent the needs and interests of those it serves both domestically and within the broader Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

The IFRC provided extensive support to the Belarus Red Cross in monitoring and addressing reputational risks, drafting reactive lines and public statements, and handling media requests. The communications team from IFRC continues to engage the Russian-speaking audience through social media and media, showcasing the National Society's work on regional and global levels, focusing on ongoing emergencies. The IFRC and the ICRC supported the Belarus Red Cross to participate in the Global Communications Forum in Jordan. The IFRC also supported the National Society to conduct training on mobile photography.

### Russian Red Cross Society

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Russian Red Cross Society reached a major milestone with the adoption of the Institutional Development Strategy by its Governing Board in November 2023, which emphasizes the National Society's auxiliary role and outlines advocacy goals through 2028. The Russian Red Cross Society also made strides in finalizing its [humanitarian diplomacy policy](#).

The Russian Red Cross Society actively engaged in international humanitarian diplomacy networks, addressing critical issues and enhancing the capacity of other humanitarian actors. The Russian Red Cross Society's efforts in negotiating humanitarian access in regions like Syria and Nagorno-Karabakh were particularly impactful. Domestically, the Russian Red Cross Society strengthened its advocacy and communication capabilities, conducting training for regional branch and the headquarters communications teams. The Russian Red Cross Society's Linguistic Centre played a vital role in localizing advocacy products, making them more accessible to Russian-speaking audiences.

The Russian Red Cross Society expanded its communications efforts, participating in the Global Communications Forum and improving its capacity to produce high-quality audiovisual content.

#### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC guided the Russian Red Cross Society in developing its humanitarian diplomacy policy in 2023. The IFRC facilitated a trilateral meeting in September 2023, involving the Russian Red Cross Society and the ICRC to refine the strategic directions of the Russian Red Cross Society's humanitarian diplomacy. The IFRC also supported the Russian Red Cross Society in creating training materials to enhance the understanding of the Movement's [Fundamental](#)

Principles and the National Society's auxiliary role. The IFRC helped the Russian Red Cross Society to participate in an online course offered in partnership with the Diplo Foundation.

The IFRC also provided technical assistance to the Russian Red Cross Society's Linguistic Centre, helping localize key IFRC and Movement documents into Russian. The IFRC supported the Russian Red Cross Society in addressing reputational risks, managing media relations, and enhancing communication efforts through training sessions and the procurement of filming equipment.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Belarus Red Cross

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Belarus Red Cross focused on building its internal and external communication capacities. To enhance transparency and accountability, the Belarus Red Cross has been integrating modern technology into its operations. A customer relationship management (CRM) solution was developed and implemented to register aid recipients and account for the aid received. This system allows real-time data entry, correction and registration, ensuring efficient tracking and updating of beneficiary information. Throughout 2023, staff were trained to use this system, which is being integrated with Kobo Toolbox and Bitrix24 for areas with poor internet connectivity. Data protection and compliance with local legislation are being finalized, and the existing Salesforce-based CRM solution is optimized for in-house fundraising.

The Belarus Red Cross maintained a transparent financial management system by collecting and submitting financial reports from regional branches to the IFRC finance unit, complete with all necessary documentation. The National Society also conducted internal audits of its regional branches and external audits annually. The completion of the Capacity Review and Risk Assessment (CRRRA) process (formerly WWPP, 'Working with Project Partners') and the transition to the new funds transfer modality marked key milestones in 2023.

The Belarus Red Cross has a procedure to handle reports of violations of the National Society's statutes and code. The Belarus Red Cross also worked to improve its ethics practices, establishing conflict management procedures. The Russian Red Cross has an ethics commission, which considers reports of violations of the provisions of the National Society's statutes and the Code of Conduct. Complaints from staff, members, volunteers of the National Society are considered confidentially by a group of people. The commission considers complaints, including those related to violation of the policy of prevention and control of fraud and corruption.

#### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided comprehensive support to the Belarus Red Cross throughout 2023, focusing on providing access to the IFRC's e-Learning platform for staff and volunteers, facilitating the National Society's participation in mandatory and professional development courses. The IFRC also supported the Belarus Red Cross in the completion of the CRRRA process and the transition to a new funds transfer modality, which has begun for National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) activities.

The IFRC team actively participated in over 10 monitoring visits to assess the effectiveness of programmes and address any challenges encountered. This included supporting the Belarus Red Cross in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) tasks, as well as in post-distribution monitoring of cash distribution. The IFRC also provided guidance on risk management, data protection and IT security, helping the Belarus Red Cross navigate complex operational environments, particularly in the context of sanctions against Russia and Belarus.

### Russian Red Cross Society

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Russian Red Cross Society maintained a transparent financial management and reporting system, ensuring that financial reports from regional branches were collected, archived and submitted to the IFRC with the required documentation. The completion of the CRRRA process and the signing of new programme agreements were significant milestones for the Russian Red Cross Society. The National Society developed a digital architecture that included a unified corporate email system, document management with partners, and an electronic consolidated

reporting system. The implementation of a CRM solution with the Mercy Service was also piloted to enhance accountability and transparency in aid distribution.

Risk management was a key focus for the Russian Red Cross Society, with the National Society closely monitoring the sanctions regime for Russia to ensure compliance. An internal audit was conducted in late 2023, with the final report expected in early 2024. The Russian Red Cross Society also emphasized ethics and safeguarding, establishing an ethics commission and participating in training on fraud, sexual exploitation and abuse awareness.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** facilitated access to its e-Learning platform throughout 2023, allowing staff and volunteers to participate in essential training programmes aimed at enhancing professional development and emergency preparedness.

The IFRC guided the Russian Red Cross Society through the CRRRA process, helping to secure new programme agreements and transition to a new funds transfer modality. This was complemented by ongoing support for PMER tasks, including participation in over 10 monitoring visits to assess programme effectiveness.

The IFRC supported the development of the Russian Red Cross Society's digital architecture and in the pilot implementation of a customer relationship management CRM solution with the Mercy Service. Risk management briefings and compliance with the sanctions regime were other areas where the IFRC supported the National Society. The IFRC contributed to enhancing the National Society's ethics and safeguarding practices through training and the establishment of an ethics commission.



## 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

- **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 Belarus 2023 Financial Report](#)
- [IFRC Russia 2023 Financial Report](#)
- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

### Contact information

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[www.redcross.by](http://www.redcross.by)

**Russian Red Cross Society**  
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