



TURKMENISTAN

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 7.1M**

Appeal number **MAATM002**

In support of the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan



51

National Society branches



172

National Society staff



5,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



450,000

Climate and environment



450,000

Disasters and crises



430,000

Health and wellbeing



12,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs

- recurring disasters
- climate change adaptation
- social vulnerabilities

Capacity development

- disaster preparedness and readiness
 - volunteer mobilisation
 - digital transformation

Key country data

Population

6.2M

Human Development Index rank

91

Hazards



Drought



Heat waves



Earthquakes



Floods



Landslides

Funding requirements

Total 7.1M CHF

Through the IFRC

3.9M CHF

Host National Society

3.2M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

- 1.0M** CHF
Climate and environment
- 900,000** CHF
Disasters and crises
- 660,000** CHF
Health and wellbeing
- 150,000** CHF
Values, power and inclusion
- 1.2M** CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross*

The Canadian Red Cross Society*

Italian Red Cross*

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Red Cross of Monaco*

Swedish Red Cross*

Swiss Red Cross*

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan was established in 1926 and is the only recognized independent public organization in Turkmenistan to carry out humanitarian activities across the country. It has 51 branches (five provincial branches, six city branches and 40 district branches), 172 staff and 5,000 volunteers. In 2012, the law “On the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan” was adopted, regulating its auxiliary role and, in 2020, the Turkmenistan law “On International Humanitarian Assistance in Case of Emergency” was adopted.

The National Society Strategic Plan 2021–2025 sets out four strategic goals which are to:

- Strengthen its capacity to provide high-quality humanitarian assistance to people in need
- Improve its readiness and that of local communities to prepare for and respond to disasters, protecting people’s lives and strengthening their vitality
- Strengthen its capacity to prevent diseases and provide social support
- Promote a culture of peace and humanity by ensuring that all people are involved in the country’s harmonious life

According to its Strategic Plan, the main priorities of the National Society are providing support to the most vulnerable, preparedness and response to disasters, preventive measures for infectious and non-communicable diseases, humanitarian assistance to stateless people, dissemination of knowledge on international humanitarian law, tracing services/restoring family links, work with

young people, volunteering, provision of first aid and ensuring the financial sustainability of the organization.

The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan strives for financial sustainability. One of its main sources of income is the income received from three subordinate enterprises dealing with trade and construction, which were established by the National Society and are exempted from taxes under current law. These transfer 30% of their income to the National Society. The second source of income is commercial first aid courses. The National Society is licensed by the Ministry of Education and holds a European standard compliance certificate on first aid training. The National Society has an agreement with the state road control service and first aid courses are mandatory for all its staff. First aid courses are also provided for private and foreign companies operating in the country. A third source of income is membership fees, that comprise 15 Turkmen manats (USD 9) and are paid by each member once a year.

These income sources allow the National Society to conduct activities across the territory of the country, including humanitarian assistance, through provision of a range of items to meet basic needs, including food items, hygiene kits, clothes, wheelchairs, household items etc. This also includes building playgrounds for orphans and for children with disabilities and providing stationery items and school uniforms for school children. The National Society also provides psychosocial support for older people and pays for treatment for cancer patients in low-income families.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Turkmenistan gained its independence on 27 October 1991. It has a total area of 491.2 square kilometres, making it the second largest country in Central Asia, after Kazakhstan. 80% of the country is covered by the Karakum or Black Sand Desert, which is one of the driest deserts in the world and where many natural resources are located. Its form of government is a presidential republic, where the President is the head of the government and holds executive power. Legislative

power is implemented by the Parliament and the People’s Assembly (Khalk Medjlis).

Turkmenistan has land borders with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and with Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Iran on the Caspian Sea. Turkmenistan shares over 700 km of borders with Afghanistan, which have remained closed since the deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan.

The population of the country is about six million, the lowest of the Central Asian republics, indeed Turkmenistan is one of the most sparsely populated nations in Asia (although the last published census dates from 1995). Education is universal and mandatory through to the secondary level in the country, however, only 21% of its population uses the Internet. The citizens of Turkmenistan have free access to medical services and education.

Turkmenistan is the second largest economic power in Central Asia, after Kazakhstan, due to its rich natural gas and oil fields, and its cotton crops - Turkmenistan possesses the world's fifth largest reserves of natural gas and is the world's tenth-largest cotton producer. Its GDP in 2019 was USD45.23 billion and GDP per capita was USD 7,612. A major element of the country's rural economy also includes carpet manufacturing.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Turkmenistan is in a temperate desert zone with a dry continental climate and is highly vulnerable to climate change. According to the World Bank Climate Risk Country Profile, "the annual probability of experiencing a severe drought is projected to increase very significantly over the 21st century. Indeed, under higher emissions pathways the majority of Turkmenistan's surface is projected to convert to 'hyper-arid' land cover".

Increased temperatures and glacial melting in Central Asia are also likely to cause water scarcity for Turkmenistan's Amu Darya river. Water stress will further challenge agriculture and impact people's livelihoods. Soil salinization is already affecting agricultural productivity and is projected to increase due to evaporation. The Caspian Sea level is also decreasing, mainly due to evaporation, which may lead to ecosystem shifts in coastal areas.

Heatwaves represent a serious natural hazard and are projected to increase with climate change. Similarly extreme floods are projected to affect more people, with their effects accentuated by land degradation.

The [National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Climate Change](#) identifies four tasks required to achieve its goals:

1. Improvement of hydrometeorological monitoring of weather and climate change in the territory of Turkmenistan
2. Development and implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures (to prevent climate change)
3. Measures to save fuel and energy resources and stabilize greenhouse gas emissions until 2030 (and beyond), through the use of energy-efficient and resource-saving technologies

4. Increases in the level of scientific support and international cooperation to support the development and implementation of climate change measures

Efforts have been deployed in multiple sectors, with a priority focus on improvements in the water sector and to improve forestry conservation. Annual campaigns are held to plant up to three million seedlings as part of the National Forest Programme .

Main areas of support

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

The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan is engaged in significant projects with various state agencies and international partners to address climate change. In 2022, 30 million climate resistant trees were planted by the National Society jointly with the Ministry of Water Management, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Ecology. The National Society will continue to implement activities aimed at preventing the drying up of the Aral Sea and to help mitigate the effects of increasing salinisation in the shore areas. Such activities include the training of schoolteachers and students, improving of infrastructure by installing water pumps, and planting of trees that are climate resistant. The Red Crescent

Society of Turkmenistan will also continue working with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF on the “Green School” project, which includes a training component on climate change and mitigation measures in schools. This project works with teachers and students to scale up experience exchange activities from two pilot regions to the whole country.

In 2023 the IFRC network will support the National Society to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation in disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities. This includes support to:

- Reduce loss of life and damage to livelihoods caused by the adverse impact of climate change, providing IFRC technical support and working with the [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre](#)
- Predict and prepare for extreme weather events (heat and cold waves, droughts, forest fires, floods, mudflows etc.) through forecast-based financing, in cooperation with the IFRC, participating National Societies, and other partners and stakeholders

Disasters and crises

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

Turkmenistan is at risk to several natural hazards, with earthquakes representing the main risk in terms of impact. The World Bank [Disaster Risk Profile](#) for Turkmenistan reports almost 4 billion USD in damage from the country’s worst earthquake since 1900, which took place in 1948 in Aschgabad. The earthquake of 7.3 magnitude was estimated to have caused between 50,000 to 100,000 fatalities. Annually, an average of about 100,000 people are affected by earthquakes in Turkmenistan, with about 300 fatalities, however, there is a risk of a more serious earthquake.

Floods are also a recurring hazard, both in terms of river flooding and flash flooding. The Turkmenistan Disaster Risk Profile estimates an annual average of 70,000 people are affected by flooding each year.

Other hazards include droughts, mudflows, and dust storms and high temperatures also increase the risk of wildfires.

Main areas of support

The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan provides humanitarian assistance to people affected by disasters and crises as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. It stores basic household items such as bedding sets, pillows, mattresses, blankets, kitchen

sets and tents in the capital and vilayats (districts) that can cover the emergency needs of up to 1,000 people, plus clothes for 5,000 children. Over six metric tons of food items are stored as preparedness for a potential population influx from Afghanistan. The National Society also holds an emergency reserve fund that is utilized during small scale emergencies.

At the national and provincial levels, the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan has a number of rapid response teams that work with the firefighting and civil defence services. The composition of these have been renewed and participants have received training. These teams are equipped with vehicles and key staff of the National Society are equipped with radios, enabling the teams to continue to respond to emergencies.

The National Society is a member of the State Commission for Emergency Situations in Turkmenistan, and actively participates in the coordination of humanitarian assistance at the district level.

The IFRC and network partners will support the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan in the following areas:

- Increasing public awareness of disaster risk areas and conducting relevant prevention projects
- Implementing school-based disaster risk reduction activities, targeting school teachers and students
- Reviewing school disaster evacuation plans and improving disaster related signage
- Supporting the Government in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the education curriculum, partnering with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Emergency Situations and UN agencies
- Exploring the feasibility of cash and voucher assistance
- Providing support to people affected by domestic fires
- Strengthening warehouse management and infrastructure and reinforcing emergency stocks
- Improving the skills of disaster relief professionals and volunteers in the field of logistics, sanitation and housing security
- Participating in the coordination of services during emergencies and man-made disasters
- Building the capacity of the National Society and government partners on disaster law and legislative advocacy

Health and wellbeing

Implementation systems for state-provided free health care in Central Asia are varied and coverage gaps persist, leaving some people unprotected by the mandatory health insurance benefits package. As a result, many poorer households have been forced into private spending on health care, worsening their financial burdens.

Main areas of support

The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan carries out large-scale work aimed at the prevention of infectious and non-communicable diseases among the population, supporting the promotion of healthy lifestyle principles, training on first aid skills and the provision of social support to the population.

With regards to COVID-19, the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan has been a member of the working group on the implementation of the “National Coronavirus Infection Preparedness and Response Plan” and supported the implementation of the plan through regular risk communication activities to educate the public about the risks of COVID-19 infection, the proper use of personal protective equipment, physical distancing and other preventative measures. This was targeted at the general population and school children.

Under the framework of the 2021–2025 National Programme on Improving Immunity and as an auxiliary to the public authorities, the National Society staff and volunteers conducted extensive vaccine promotion activities through door-to-door visits in communities, working jointly with local health workers. They provided accurate information on COVID-19 vaccines, addressed the misperceptions and doubts of those reluctant to get vaccinated, and provided psychosocial support. In addition, National Society staff worked with health workers at vaccination clinics to help people register and receive vaccination cards, and accompanied people to the vaccination centres. It is estimated that over one million people have been reached with these services.

The IFRC and network partners will support the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan in the following areas:

- Preparing communities for health emergencies and training them to prevent or minimize possible risks
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and helping to prevent diseases, through achieving behaviour change
- Raising awareness regarding the prevention and control of specific non-communicable diseases and the importance of self-care for those affected

- Raising knowledge of first aid amongst communities, through educational institutions and partnering with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Emergency Situations and UN Agencies
- Raising awareness of the population relating to infectious and non-communicable diseases through the implementation and monitoring of disease prevention measures
- Mobilizing resources to support non-communicable diseases prevention and control activities
- Working jointly with the Ministry of Health in cities and villages to prepare communities for possible health emergencies and train them to prevent or minimize possible risks, establish rules of conduct for emergencies and provide first aid
- Starting new initiatives to address road safety, in collaboration with the [Global Road Safety Partnership](#) hosted by the IFRC
- Sharing experience and peer learning through active participation in the European HIV and Tuberculosis Network’s activities
- Organising refresher training on community-based health and first aid
- Training volunteers in non-communicable disease detection, home based care, and support
- Strengthening the capacity of the National Society on epidemic and pandemic preparedness and provision of mental health and psychosocial support by provision of training
- Strengthening the National Society’s preparedness and response capacities in emergency health, through a series of trainings, facilitation of peer learning and networking with other organisations
- Promoting the auxiliary role of the National Society in health service delivery at the community level

Migration and displacement

Many people in Central Asia work abroad and send remittances to their home countries. The income received from these migrant workers is heavily relied upon in the region. The biggest challenges for migrant workers are exposure to disease, lack of access to medical services, human trafficking and other protection risks, vulnerable families left behind, and the systemic lack of reintegration upon return. The growing number of ‘social orphans’ in the region is also a cause for concern. These are children whose parents are dependent

on labour migration for their income and they are often left with relatives or put into children's homes, making them vulnerable or exposed to violence or abuse.

In Turkmenistan, Turkey is the most popular destination for migrant workers. This is due to the linguistic affinity and visa-free entry agreement between these two countries. Turkey receives an average of 20,000 to 25,000 Turkmenistan workers annually. Iran and Gulf countries follow as the preferred destinations for labour migrants. In 2019, the total number of emigrants from Turkmenistan was 195,000 people. The Statistical Committee of Turkmenistan also reported that between 2008 and 2018, almost 2 million people left the country for residence or permanent work abroad.

Main areas of support

The IFRC network's overarching regional objective for Central Asia is to support programming to address the basic needs of migrants of all categories, and to improve their access to basic health services and shelter options. This includes supporting returnees. The approach comprises humanitarian diplomacy, community engagement, needs assessments, training and services or programming to support migrants.

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan supports people in need through its main programmes on disaster risk management and health and wellbeing. Hence support to vulnerable migrants and their families is embedded into the other sections of this plan.

Values, power and inclusion

In accordance with the Code of Turkmenistan "On Social Protection of the Population", which came into force on January 1, 2013, the state expanded a number of public welfare payments and social aid to be given to people living with disabilities. Other socially vulnerable groups include in Turkmenistan include older people and orphans.

Gender inequality remains persistent in Central Asia, with women representation in politics and decision-making remaining below international standards. In Turkmenistan, 25% of seats in the Parliament are held by women.

Main areas of support

The IFRC network's overarching regional objective for Central Asia is to support the National Societies with policies, procedures, training and workshops tied to protection, gender and inclusion, and to improve the identification of and responsiveness to the diversified needs of target communities. This will include establishing sub-regional coordination with protection, gender and inclusion focal points within Central Asia National Societies to discuss and share best practices and lessons learnt on related topics.

The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan already runs targeted programmes for vulnerable groups. For example, under its three subordinate enterprises, sewing factories train people with disabilities on cutting and sewing.

The IFRC and network partners will support the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan in the following areas:

- Increasing humanitarian education as part of its work and supporting gender equality at all levels of Turkmen society
- Enhancing capacities in community engagement and accountability through training for staff, volunteers and communities
- Setting up community feedback systems and participatory approaches for all operations
- Strengthening emergency preparedness and response by including protection analysis in all programming and taking into account gender roles, risks, vulnerabilities and capacities
- Providing training for ministries, state agencies and local authorities on how to create favourable conditions for people living with disabilities and for older people
- Ensuring that staff and volunteers are familiar with the [minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion](#)
- Ensuring programmes and services are accessible for people living with disabilities
- Providing support to orphans, including by purchasing stationery for school work and building playgrounds and other amenities
- Supplying wheelchairs, food and clothing to vulnerable groups

Enabling local actors

The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan is committed to strengthening its capacities, with support from the IFRC. The National Society has carried out the self-assessment as part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2011. The OCAC self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

The National Society strives to become a strong organization through the development of partnerships, the undertaking activities to develop the institution, and the engagement of members and volunteers in the activities of the National Society. The National Society seeks to promote a culture of volunteering and the active participation of young people in its work. It seeks to expand its activities in the local regions and throughout the country, expanding the scope and duration of services for people in need, and establishing long-term partnerships with local donors to sustain those services. It plans to develop effective cooperation with external and internal partners through stronger methods of cooperation to complement the focus on its strategic outcomes.

The National Society conducted an internal audit in 2021 and From January to March 2022 an external audit was conducted to increase financial accountability.

Main areas of support

The main priorities for the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan are capacity building and peer support for managers in programming areas, such as preparedness for response, disaster risk reduction, and health and social services. It will also focus on volunteer mobilization and digital transformation.

Other planned activities with support from the IFRC network include:

- Improving the digitalization of the existing beneficiary database
- Equipping the National Society, with support from the IFRC, with one set of video conferencing hardware and holding associated training for headquarters and branch levels
- Further enhancing financial stability by implementing revenue-generating and fundraising activities
- Improving planning, management and accountability in all its activities
- Reporting on a regular basis to service recipients and partners
- Implementing a new Youth Policy
- Promoting a volunteer culture with the active participation of young and elderly people in community activities and community associations
- Increasing the capacities of provincial and local branches

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC's Central Asia Delegation is based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The IFRC also had a presence in Turkmenistan that is to be re-established in 2023 and has held a status agreement with the Government of Turkmenistan since 2015. It supports the National Societies to collaborate, through formal and informal exchange platforms, exchange visits, and online and in-person meetings.

The IFRC supports the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan on disaster management and preparedness including disaster response teams, disaster risk reduction, cash and voucher assistance, community

development, health, community engagement and accountability, disaster law, humanitarian diplomacy and positioning with authorities, branch and volunteer development, leadership support and development, and financial sustainability and systems development. The IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its [global Emergency Appeal](#), has supported the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan in its COVID-19 prevention programme.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to analyse the humanitarian context, assess the humanitarian situation and needs, agree common priorities, co-develop common strategies to address issues, such as obtaining greater humanitarian access and acceptance, mobilize funding and other resources, clarify consistent public messaging, and monitor progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development

assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

In addition to peer-to-peer collaboration between the Central Asian National Societies, the **Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society** provides peer-to-peer support to the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan in the area of volunteer development, youth management and home care.

Movement coordination

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) work closely together throughout Central Asia. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC supports the National Societies in Central Asia on restoring family links, international humanitarian law, mental health and psychosocial support, and emergency preparedness response programming. It informs governmental authorities on international humanitarian law and its integration into legislation, academic curricula and the practices of military and security forces.

Coordination with other actors

The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan recognises the importance of its auxiliary role in relation to the state, and intends to strengthen cooperation with state agencies. The National Society is a member of the State Commission on Emergencies, and takes part in the simulation exercises of the Defense Ministry on an annual basis. It participates in the coordination of services during emergencies and manmade disasters, in accordance with the yearly state plan for emergencies.

The National Society contributes to the implementation of the tasks set by the President of Turkmenistan in the state programme for health, "Saglyk" covering 2015–2025, as well as supporting the work plans of the multi-disciplinary, interdepartmental group on health care. During the COVID-19 response, the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, under its auxiliary role to the public authorities, actively engaged in the immunization of the population, providing community mobilization and developing and distributing information materials on the importance of vaccination. Staff and volunteers distributed the information materials and short videos on personal protective equipment, the observance of

social distancing, protection methods, ethics of behavior, and tried to eliminate disinformation.

The National Society is also collaborating with the Ministry of Water Management, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Ecology on activities to prevent the Aral Sea drying up and to mitigate the effects of the salinization spreading in coastal areas.

The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan is a member of the Interdepartmental Commission in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL). The Interdepartmental Commission is a permanent advisory body established to coordinate the activities of ministries, state committees, departments and local executive authorities, enterprises, institutions and organizations for the implementation of the international legal obligations of Turkmenistan in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law. The National Society supports the integration of IHL into the national law of Turkmenistan and assists the state agencies on the protection or misuse of emblems of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan works with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on home care, health, and social programmes, which include TB prevention and patient support, and COVID prevention. It also partners with the Global Fund on managing the distribution cycle of social assistance for TB patients. Partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) focuses on providing legal assistance to stateless persons. The National

Society also cooperates with UNDP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on disaster mitigation and preparedness and climate change adaptation, as well as building the capacities of volunteers to mitigate natural hazards. The Green School Project, funded by UNICEF, is a collaboration between the National Society, the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, and is aimed at changing school policy standards to make them more environmentally friendly.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 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.

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National Society

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