Црвени крст Србије
Red Cross of Serbia
1876

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS UNDER THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER

Reporting period: Progress achieved to November 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

In October 2022, the Red Cross of Serbia (RCS) adopted its Strategic Orientation on Climate Change and Climate Action, reaffirming its commitment to addressing the humanitarian consequences of climate change, supporting the adaptation of vulnerable individuals and communities, and strengthening the organization's own capacity to respond to climate-related risks.

As a signatory to the Climate and Environmental Charter, the Red Cross of Serbia has been working towards integrating climate and environmental considerations into its institutional policies, operational capacities, programmes and activities, with a particular focus on the needs of the most vulnerable population groups.

The implementation of these commitments has been supported through several initiatives and partnerships, including the Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) project, cooperation with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the European Climate Foundation-supported heatwave project, and other disaster preparedness, climate adaptation and community resilience activities.

The progress achieved demonstrates an increasing recognition of climate change as a cross-cutting humanitarian concern and a growing commitment to integrating climate considerations into disaster risk management, social protection, public health, community preparedness and youth engagement.

This report presents the progress achieved under the four strategic priorities established by the Red Cross of Serbia within its commitments under the Climate and Environmental Charter.

2. PROGRESS UNDER THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER COMMITMENTS

COMMITMENT 1 – Strengthen climate and environmental risk-informed humanitarian action

PRIORITY 1. Improve the Red Cross of Serbia capacities for enhanced response to humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the impacts of the climate and environmental crisis.

Target 1.1 – Analyse and identify current capacities in programmes and activities aimed at responding to increased humanitarian needs and helping people adapt to climate change.

Progress achieved

The Red Cross of Serbia has undertaken several important steps to improve its understanding of existing institutional capacities, programme relevance and operational readiness in the context of increasing climate-related humanitarian needs.

A significant contribution was made through the Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) project, implemented in cooperation with the IFRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. Within this project, a Climate Risk Profile for Serbia was developed and finalized, together with a climate risk screening process.

The screening aimed to assess how current and projected climate and hydrometeorological conditions affect the organization's operations, programmes, plans and strategies, as well as its target groups and geographical priorities. It also examined how changing climate conditions may influence the needs of communities and the operational environment in which the Red Cross of Serbia works.

The process provided an important basis for identifying opportunities to strengthen existing programmes and integrate climate considerations into future planning and institutional development.

In addition, the Red Cross of Serbia organized a Climate Action Journey workshop for local Red Cross branches, emphasizing the importance of understanding local climate risks and identifying opportunities for community-level adaptation activities.

The implementation of the heatwave project, supported by the European Climate Foundation, further contributed to the assessment of institutional capacities and programme relevance. Through household-level field assessments, the project examined living conditions, exposure to extreme heat, household characteristics and the specific vulnerabilities of people at increased risk.

Key results:

- Climate Risk Profile for Serbia finalized in cooperation with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.
- Climate risk screening process completed.
- Climate-related considerations introduced into discussions on institutional programmes, planning and operational priorities.
- Red Cross branches engaged in identifying opportunities for climate adaptation at community level.
- Household-level evidence on heatwave exposure and vulnerability collected through the heatwave project.

Status: Significant progress achieved; further integration of climate risk analysis into regular institutional planning and programme assessments is required.

Target 1.2 – Develop and improve RCS programmes and activities for risk reduction and mitigation of the consequences of climate-related disasters and other hazards, early warning, and raising awareness of climate and environmental risks.

Progress achieved

The Early Warning Early Action project represented an important step towards strengthening the Red Cross of Serbia's institutional and operational capacity to support communities exposed to climate-related and other hazards.

Through the implementation of the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) self-assessment, the organization finalized an action plan and assigned relevant activities to designated project staff.

Several important institutional and operational outputs were achieved:

- The RCS Governing Board adopted the Disaster Management Policy, establishing an institutional framework for strengthening the organization's disaster preparedness and response capacities.
- A Contingency Plan was drafted, and the first round of consultations with local Red Cross branches was completed.
- Needs assessment tools were finalized and distributed to Red Cross branches to support more systematic identification of humanitarian needs in emergencies.
- A policy document and minimum standards for the protection of vulnerable groups in disasters and crises were developed, followed by the organization of a Training of Trainers (ToT).

An important milestone was the EWEA conference organized by the Red Cross of Serbia in May 2024, bringing together relevant national stakeholders working in the field of early warning and early action.

The conference highlighted the importance of strengthening early warning mechanisms and, particularly, ensuring that warnings are translated into timely and practical actions at community level.

In line with IFRC recommendations and the Global Initiative Early Warning for All (EW4All), the Red Cross of Serbia emphasized its potential contribution to ensuring that early warnings are accompanied by clear, accessible and actionable messages that help people understand what protective measures they should take.

In this context, the RCS translated and contextualized Public Awareness and Public Education (PAPE) messages. Consultations were also conducted with selected Red Cross branches to identify appropriate communication channels and approaches for reaching vulnerable and hard-to-reach population groups and translating information into practical behavioural changes.

At the end of the EWEA project, an EVCA Training of Trainers was organized for representatives of 24 Red Cross branches and headquarters focal points, strengthening the organization's capacity to identify vulnerabilities and capacities at community level and support participatory risk assessment.

The heatwave project, implemented with support from the European Climate Foundation in 2026, further strengthened the practical application of climate risk reduction measures. It focused on identifying households exposed to extreme heat, assessing their living conditions and vulnerability, and developing recommendations and practical measures to reduce the negative consequences of heatwaves.

As a result of the above mentioned activates the national society had developed and launched preventive video during summertime, prior to heatwaves emphasizing community and individual responsibilities and protective measures.

Key results:

- Disaster Management Policy adopted by the RCS Governing Board.
- Contingency Plan drafted and consultations with local branches conducted.
- Needs assessment tools developed and distributed.
- Protection policy and minimum standards for vulnerable groups in disasters and crises developed.
- Training of Trainers on protection standards organized.
- National EWEA conference organized in May 2024.
- PAPE messages translated and contextualized.
- Consultations with Red Cross branches conducted on communicating early action messages.
- EVCA Training of Trainers delivered to representatives of 24 Red Cross branches and headquarters focal points.
- Heatwave vulnerability assessments and community-level risk reduction activities implemented in 2026.
- Preventive videos launched through public broadcaster:
    1. Drought and wildfires - https://we.tl/t-rDuv1UAztw1nA8jA
    2. Heat waves TOPLOTNI TALAS 16-9.mp4
    3. Water safety Crveni Krst Srbije Bezbednost na vodi na srpskom znakovnom jeziku.mp4

Target 1.3 – Institutionalize cash and voucher assistance through the adoption of the Cash and Voucher Strategic Framework and implementation of the related plan of action by 2025.

Progress achieved

The Red Cross of Serbia has continued to strengthen its institutional and operational capacities for the use of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) as an effective modality of humanitarian support.

The institutional framework has been adopted in 2022 and two cash preparedness self-assessment exercises finalized where plan of action was created and according to which the activities are taking place.

Within its broader preparedness and response capacity-building activities, the organization has undertaken training and capacity development related to cash and voucher assistance, including the organization of workshops and trainings for the Red Cross branch staff.

These activities contributed to strengthening staff knowledge and operational readiness for the use of cash-based assistance in humanitarian response.

The development of CVA capacities is particularly relevant in the context of climate-related emergencies, as cash assistance can provide affected households with greater flexibility in meeting their immediate needs, while supporting local markets and reducing some of the logistical and environmental implications associated with the transportation, storage and distribution of in-kind assistance.

Target 1.4 – Develop a forecast-based financing approach.

Progress achieved

The EWEA project established important foundations for strengthening the Red Cross of Serbia's understanding of early action and the role of humanitarian organizations in acting before a disaster occurs.

Through the development of the Climate Risk Profile, climate risk screening, consultations with relevant stakeholders and the contextualization of early action messages, the organization strengthened its understanding of the relationship between climate forecasts, early warnings, anticipated humanitarian needs and preventive action.

The May 2024 EWEA conference also highlighted the importance of linking timely and credible warnings with clearly defined actions that communities and institutions can undertake before the impacts of a hazard materialize.

These activities provide an important basis for further developing anticipatory action approaches within the Red Cross of Serbia.

However, the establishment of a fully operational forecast-based financing approach, including the identification of appropriate triggers, pre-agreed early actions, financing arrangements and implementation procedures, remains an area for further development.

Target 1.5 – Improve understanding of heatwaves and their consequences on individuals and communities in urban areas through awareness-raising and behavioural change activities, with a specific focus on vulnerable groups.

Progress achieved

The Red Cross of Serbia has made progress in strengthening its understanding of heatwaves as an increasingly important public health and humanitarian risk, particularly for vulnerable individuals and households living in urban areas.

A key contribution was made through the project supported by the European Climate Foundation, implemented during 2026, which focused on assessing household vulnerability to extreme heat and identifying opportunities to reduce the negative consequences of heatwaves.

The project included field assessments of household exposure to heat, residential conditions and the characteristics of household members. Particular attention was given to identifying the circumstances that increase vulnerability, including age, household size, living conditions and other factors influencing the ability of individuals to cope with prolonged periods of high temperatures.

The project placed particular emphasis on people living alone, older people, young children, persons with disabilities and households experiencing poor living conditions or inadequate access to essential resources.

The assessments provided a better understanding of how housing characteristics, household composition and individual vulnerability interact to increase the risks associated with extreme heat.

The project also contributed to raising awareness of heatwave-related health risks, promoting protective behaviour and strengthening the capacity of Red Cross branches to identify and support vulnerable households.

The findings were used to formulate lessons learned and recommendations concerning the role of the Red Cross in protecting the most vulnerable during heatwaves and improving community preparedness.

The project also strengthened the evidence base for future interventions by combining household-level information with broader climate projections for Serbia and the Western Balkans, including trends related to rising temperatures and the expected duration and intensity of heatwaves.

Key results:

- Household-level assessments of heat exposure and vulnerability conducted.
- Living conditions and household characteristics analysed.
- Vulnerable population groups identified and prioritized.
- Local-level awareness-raising and support activities implemented.
- Lessons learned and recommendations developed.

- Evidence generated to inform future heatwave preparedness and response interventions.

COMMITMENT 2 – Reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the Red Cross of Serbia activities in line with the broader understanding of the DO NO HARM principle

PRIORITY 2. Reduce the environmental footprint of RCS operations and strengthen environmentally responsible organizational practices.

Target 1.1 – Develop the environmental policy of the Red Cross of Serbia.

Progress achieved

The adoption of the Strategic Orientation on Climate Change and Climate Action in October 2022 established the organization's strategic commitment to climate action, adaptation and environmental responsibility.

The Disaster Management Policy, adopted by the RCS Governing Board, also provides an important institutional basis for integrating risk-informed and responsible approaches into disaster management.

The Climate Risk Profile and climate screening process further strengthened awareness of the need to consider environmental and climate-related risks in organizational operations and programmes.

Nevertheless, the development and formal adoption of a dedicated Environmental Policy, covering the organization's environmental footprint and operational responsibilities, remains an area requiring further attention.

Target 1.2 – Conduct regular assessment and calculation of CO2 emissions.

Progress achieved

The Red Cross of Serbia has advanced its understanding of climate-related risks and the environmental implications of its programmes through the climate risk screening process.

However, the National Society still didn’t establish systematic methodology for calculating and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions generated by the organization's operations.

The introduction of an organizational carbon footprint assessment, including emissions related to buildings, heating, electricity consumption, transport and procurement, represents an important next step.

Target 1.3 – Develop a training programme and conduct training of employees for environmental impact assessment in the Red Cross of Serbia response.

Progress achieved

The EWEA project and the Climate Action Journey workshop contributed to strengthening institutional awareness of climate risks and the need to consider environmental and climate-related factors in humanitarian operations.

The EVCA Training of Trainers, delivered to representatives of 24 Red Cross branches and headquarters focal points, also strengthened capacities for understanding community vulnerabilities and capacities in the context of disasters.

These activities provide a useful foundation for further integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian response training.

However, a dedicated training programme addressing environmental impact assessment in the planning and implementation of RCS response activities has not yet been developed and implemented.

Target 1.4 – Develop approaches and programmes to raise awareness of employees and volunteers on climate change and environmental protection.

Progress achieved

The Red Cross of Serbia has undertaken several activities aimed at increasing institutional awareness and knowledge of climate change and its humanitarian consequences.

The Climate Action Journey workshop brought together representatives of local Red Cross branches and highlighted the importance of incorporating climate adaptation into community-based activities.

The EWEA project also strengthened staff and volunteer understanding of early warning, early action and the importance of communicating climate-related risks in a manner that enables vulnerable individuals to take appropriate protective measures.

The translation of Y-Adapt and Climate Cards represents an additional contribution to the development of educational approaches that can be used with young people and volunteers.

These activities, even though still limited, have helped establish a foundation for broader climate and environmental awareness within the organization.

Target 1.5 – Prioritize the implementation of cash and voucher assistance to vulnerable groups instead of the distribution of food and hygiene parcels.

Progress achieved

The Red Cross of Serbia has continued to strengthen its capacities for cash and voucher assistance, recognizing its potential to provide more flexible and context-specific support to vulnerable households.

The training activities undertaken have contributed to improving institutional readiness to use cash-based assistance where appropriate and where local market conditions and the needs of affected people allow.

The further development of this approach should also take into account its potential environmental benefits, particularly through reducing the transportation, packaging and storage requirements associated with certain forms of in-kind assistance.

A systematic assessment of opportunities to prioritize cash and voucher assistance over in-kind distributions, while ensuring that the most vulnerable people retain access to essential goods and services, remains necessary.

Target 1.6 – Improve the sustainability of the supply chain for relief items.

Progress achieved

No specific organizational measures or results are currently available to demonstrate systematic changes in the environmental sustainability of the RCS supply chain.

Further work is needed to introduce environmental considerations into procurement and logistics procedures, including reducing packaging, eliminating single-use plastics, promoting local procurement and prioritizing products with a lower environmental footprint.

Target 1.7 – Improve waste management, including electronic waste.

Progress achieved

The Red Cross of Serbia has defined steps for the responsible disposal and management of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, in accordance with applicable national legislation.

Since 2018, electronic waste generated through the organization's operations has been handed over to authorized waste management companies for appropriate treatment and disposal. The organization maintains supporting documentation confirming that electronic waste is handled through legally authorized operators.

Paper and other non-hazardous waste are also transferred to authorized companies for further processing and recycling, with official receipts documenting the quantities received.

In addition to waste disposal practices, the Red Cross of Serbia has introduced measures aimed at reducing the consumption of office materials and minimizing paper waste. As part of its efforts to improve operational efficiency and rationalize printing and copying costs, tablets have been provided for members of the Governing Board and all relevant Commissions. This enables meeting materials to be distributed and reviewed electronically rather than printed and circulated in paper form.

These measures represent practical steps towards more responsible resource use and the reduction of waste generated through the organization's regular administrative activities.

Further progress could be achieved through the introduction of a more comprehensive waste management approach, including systematic monitoring of waste quantities, further reduction of paper consumption, improved waste separation, regular environmental awareness-raising among employees and the development of more structured internal procedures.

Key results:

- Electronic waste has been transferred to authorized waste management companies in accordance with national legislation since 2018.
- Supporting documentation on the appropriate disposal of electronic waste is maintained.

- Paper and other non-hazardous waste are handed over to authorized companies for further processing, with confirmation of received quantities.
- Tablets have been introduced for members of the Governing Board and Commissions, reducing the need for printed meeting materials and paper consumption.

Target 1.8 – Develop an approach to reduce or completely eliminate single-use plastic in the Red Cross of Serbia.

Progress achieved

No specific measures or organization-wide results concerning the reduction of single-use plastics have yet been fully developed and put in place.

This target should be addressed through the development of practical guidelines for headquarters and local branches, particularly regarding meetings, events, training activities, procurement and humanitarian distributions.

Target 1.9 – Develop a plan for sustainable and environmentally safe disposal of fuel, oil, tires and other products.

Progress achieved

No specific progress has been yet achived in the development of an organization-wide plan for the environmentally safe disposal of fuel, oil, tires and other potentially hazardous materials.

This remains an area for future assessment and the establishment of appropriate operational procedures.

Target 1.10 – Adapt the methods of organizing events, meetings, seminars and training to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and waste.

Progress achieved

The Red Cross of Serbia has increasingly used workshops, consultations and capacity-building activities to strengthen institutional knowledge and local-level engagement on climate-related issues.

The EWEA conference in May 2024, the Climate Action Journey workshop and various training activities provided opportunities to engage national and local stakeholders and strengthen coordination.

However, there is currently insufficient evidence to confirm the systematic introduction of environmentally responsible event management practices, such as reducing travel-related emissions, limiting waste and encouraging sustainable transport arrangements.

Status: Initial opportunities identified; systematic implementation of environmentally sustainable event management practices remains to be strengthened.

Target 1.11 – Increase energy efficiency in the facilities of the Red Cross of Serbia.

Progress achieved

Energy efficiency remains an important area for improving the environmental sustainability and operational resilience of the organization's facilities.

Although climate resilience and the vulnerability of households to extreme temperatures have been addressed through climate-related activities, no sufficiently documented organization-wide results are currently available concerning energy efficiency improvements in RCS premises.

Further assessment is needed to identify opportunities for improving insulation, replacing inefficient windows and doors, introducing more efficient heating systems and considering renewable energy solutions, including solar panels.

COMMITMENT 3 – Improve and develop programmes and activities supporting the adaptation of the most vulnerable groups to climate change, with a special focus on children and youth.

PRIORITY 3. Strengthen climate change adaptation programmes and community engagement, particularly through the involvement of children and young people.

Target 1.1 – Develop, adapt and contextualize the Climate Change and Climate Action programme for children and youth, using local knowledge and practices.

Progress achieved

The Red Cross of Serbia has taken important preparatory steps towards developing a structured educational programme on climate change and climate action for children and young people.

Within the EWEA project, the organization translated the Y-Adapt programme and Climate Cards developed by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

These materials provide an important educational resource for engaging young people in understanding climate change, identifying local climate-related challenges and exploring practical community-based adaptation measures.

The intention is to develop a programme approach that enables children and young people not only to understand climate change but also to actively participate in identifying risks, developing local solutions and strengthening community preparedness.

Target 1.2 – By 2028, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and other local and national actors have endorsed the Climate Change and Climate Action programme for children and youth.

Progress achieved

The translation of Y-Adapt and Climate Cards represents an important initial step towards developing a programme that could be presented to relevant educational institutions and other national and local stakeholders.

The Red Cross of Serbia recognizes the importance of cooperation with educational authorities and relevant partners to ensure the programme's institutional recognition, relevance and sustainability.

Formal endorsement by the Ministry of Education and other relevant actors has not yet been documented.

Target 1.3 – By 2028, 70% of Red Cross branches are implementing the Climate Change and Climate Action programme for children and youth.

Progress achieved

The Red Cross of Serbia has established initial foundations for future implementation through the translation of educational materials and the engagement of local branches in broader climate-related capacity-building activities.

The Climate Action Journey workshop provided an opportunity to introduce climate adaptation as an important area of local Red Cross action and to encourage branches to identify relevant community-level activities.

The existing network of Red Cross branches and youth volunteers provides an important institutional platform for the future rollout of the programme.

However, systematic implementation of the contextualized programme has not yet been established, and the target of 70% branch coverage remains to be achieved.

Target 1.4 – Implement advocacy and awareness-raising activities on climate change and environmental protection, with a specific focus on youth-led advocacy at local level.

Progress achieved

The Red Cross of Serbia has contributed to raising awareness of climate-related risks through national-level stakeholder engagement, educational activities and community-oriented initiatives.

The EWEA conference organized in May 2024 provided an important platform for discussing the role of local communities in strengthening early warning and early action and for emphasizing the importance of accessible information and practical protective measures.

The PAPE messages developed within the EWEA project also provide a practical tool for communicating climate-related risks and encouraging appropriate behavioural changes, particularly among vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups.

The translation of Y-Adapt and Climate Cards further supports the future development of youth engagement and climate awareness activities.

In addition, the 2026 heatwave project contributed to raising awareness of the health consequences of extreme heat and the importance of protective behaviour, particularly among people at increased risk.

The next step is to strengthen the role of children and young people as active contributors to local climate advocacy, including through youth-led awareness campaigns, community initiatives and cooperation with local authorities and educational institutions.

COMMITMENT 4 – Develop an approach for adapting and defining climate-smart programmes and projects of the Red Cross of Serbia.

PRIORITY 4. Establish an institutional framework for integrating climate and environmental considerations across programme areas.

Target 1.1 – Analyse and identify the current status and define indicators for climate-smart RCS programmes and projects.

Progress achieved

The development of the Climate Risk Profile for Serbia and the implementation of the climate risk screening process represent important steps towards identifying how climate change affects the organization's programmes, operations and target groups.

The assessment provided a basis for understanding how current and future climate and hydrometeorological conditions should be considered in programme design, operational planning and strategic decision-making.

The process also highlighted the need to recognize the different ways in which climate change affects vulnerable population groups and programme areas, including social protection, public health, disaster preparedness and response, and youth engagement.

The heatwave project further contributed to this process by providing evidence on the relationship between household vulnerability, residential conditions and exposure to extreme heat.

These activities provide a foundation for developing specific climate-smart indicators that can be applied across relevant RCS programme areas.

Target 1.2 – Develop a framework document for adaptation, cross-sectoral integration and the development of climate-smart programmes and projects.

Progress achieved

The Strategic Orientation on Climate Change and Climate Action, adopted in October 2022, provides the overarching institutional basis for integrating climate considerations into the work of the Red Cross of Serbia.

The subsequent development of the Climate Risk Profile and the implementation of the Climate Action Journey contributed to translating this strategic commitment into more practical discussions on programme adaptation and institutional responsibilities.

The EWEA project also demonstrated the cross-sectoral nature of climate action, connecting disaster management, public awareness, community preparedness, protection of vulnerable groups and youth engagement.

Similarly, the heatwave project demonstrated the relevance of integrating climate adaptation into public health and social protection interventions, particularly through the identification and support of households exposed to extreme temperatures.

These experiences provide important inputs for the development of a dedicated framework document that would establish common principles, indicators and procedures for climate-smart programming across the organization.

Target 1.3 – Develop methodology and guidelines for Red Cross branches for environmental impact assessment of response activities in peacetime, during and after a disaster.

Progress achieved

The development of the Disaster Management Policy, Contingency Plan, needs assessment tools and minimum standards for the protection of vulnerable groups has strengthened the institutional framework for responsible disaster management.

The Climate Risk Profile and climate screening process have also increased awareness of the importance of considering environmental and climate-related factors in humanitarian operations.

However, these activities have primarily addressed climate risk, vulnerability and preparedness rather than providing a dedicated methodology for assessing the environmental impact of humanitarian response activities.

The development of practical guidelines for local branches, covering waste generation, resource use, procurement, logistics and potential environmental consequences of response activities, remains necessary.

Target 1.4 – Develop methodology and guidelines for Red Cross branches for environmental impact assessment during the early planning and design phase of programmes and projects.

Progress achieved

The climate risk screening process undertaken in cooperation with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre provided an initial framework for considering climate-related factors in programme and operational planning.

It helped strengthen understanding of how changing climate conditions can affect programme relevance, implementation conditions and the needs of targeted communities.

The experience gained through the EWEA project, 2025 household energy efficiency and the 2026 heatwave project also highlighted the importance of incorporating climate vulnerability and adaptation considerations at the earliest stages of programme design.

Nevertheless, a dedicated methodology and set of guidelines enabling branches to systematically assess the potential environmental impacts of proposed programmes and projects have not yet been documented as finalized.

Target 1.5 – Develop a training programme for employees on using climate-smart indicators in programmes and projects.

Progress achieved

The Red Cross of Serbia has taken initial steps towards strengthening the knowledge and capacities required for climate-smart programming through the Climate Action Journey workshop and other climate-related capacity-building activities.

The workshop introduced representatives of local branches to the importance of community adaptation and encouraged the identification of opportunities to integrate climate considerations into existing programmes.

The climate risk screening process also provided an important knowledge base for understanding the relevance of climate indicators across different programme areas, including social protection, public health, disaster preparedness and support to older people and other vulnerable groups.

The experience gained through the heatwave and household energy efficiency project further demonstrated the value of applying practical vulnerability indicators and household-level information when designing climate adaptation interventions.

The development of a structured training programme for RCS employees, including practical guidance on the application of climate-smart indicators in programme planning, implementation and monitoring, remains an important next step.

3. OVERALL PROGRESS AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The progress achieved by the Red Cross of Serbia demonstrates a systematic approach to addressing climate change and its humanitarian consequences.

Several important institutional and operational achievements can be highlighted:

1. Strengthened institutional framework for disaster management

The adoption of the Disaster Management Policy, the initiation of the Disaster Management Strategy development process, the drafting of the Contingency Plan and the development of needs assessment tools have strengthened the institutional foundations for disaster preparedness and response.

2. Improved understanding of climate risks and vulnerabilities

The finalization of the Climate Risk Profile for Serbia and the climate risk screening process provided an important evidence base for understanding current and future climate risks and their implications for RCS programmes, operations and vulnerable population groups.

3. Progress in early warning and early action

The EWEA conference, the contextualization of PAPE messages and consultations with local branches strengthened the organization's understanding of the importance of translating early warnings into timely and practical protective actions at community level.

4. Strengthened community-level assessment and preparedness capacities

The development of needs assessment tools and the EVCA Training of Trainers contributed to strengthening local capacities to identify vulnerabilities, capacities and risks.

5. Increased focus on climate-related public health risks

The 2025 household energy efficiency project supported by UNICEF and 2026 heatwave project supported by the European Climate Foundation generated practical evidence on household vulnerability to extreme winter and extreme heat and contributed to improving the understanding of the specific needs of people at increased risk.

6. Foundations established for climate education and youth engagement

The translation of Y-Adapt and Climate Cards represents an important step towards developing a contextualized educational programme for children and young people and strengthening their role in community-level climate action.

7. Increased recognition of climate change as a cross-sectoral issue

Through the Climate Action Journey, climate risk screening and practical project implementation, the Red Cross of Serbia has increasingly recognized the need to integrate climate considerations into disaster management, social protection, public health, youth engagement and other relevant programme areas.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Building on the progress achieved, the ambition of the Red Cross of Serbia is to focus on moving from project-based activities towards more systematic institutional integration of climate and environmental considerations.

The following areas are perceived as priorities if the funding landscape enables it:

1. Strengthening anticipatory action: Develop operational procedures linking climate forecasts, early warning triggers, pre-agreed early actions and financing arrangements.
2. Institutionalizing climate risk assessment: Integrate climate risk screening into regular programme planning, strategic development and operational decision-making.
3. Advancing climate-smart programming: Develop a framework document and practical guidelines for integrating climate considerations into existing and future RCS programmes.
4. Developing climate education for children and youth: Finalize the adaptation of Y-Adapt and Climate Cards, pilot the programme and establish cooperation with educational institutions and relevant national and local stakeholders.
5. Strengthening environmentally responsible operations: Develop an Environmental Policy and establish a baseline for organizational carbon emissions, energy consumption, waste management, sustainable procurement and the reduction of single-use plastics.
6. Strengthening staff and volunteer capacities: Develop a structured training programme addressing climate-smart programming, environmental impact assessment, climate risk communication and environmentally responsible humanitarian response.
7. Strengthening partnerships and advocacy: Continue cooperation with IFRC, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, national authorities, local self-governments, educational

institutions and other relevant stakeholders to promote climate resilience and the protection of vulnerable communities.

CONCLUSION

The Red Cross of Serbia has made moderate progress in translating its strategic commitment to climate action into institutional development, strengthened preparedness capacities and practical interventions at community level.

The implementation of the EWEA project provided a particularly important foundation for this progress, contributing to the development of institutional policies and tools, improved understanding of climate risks, strengthened early warning and early action capacities, and increased engagement of local branches.

The development of the Climate Risk Profile for Serbia and the implementation of climate risk screening have further strengthened the evidence base for integrating climate considerations into the organization's programmes and operations.

At the same time, the community-based projects demonstrated the importance of combining climate information with household-level vulnerability assessments and targeted interventions to protect those most exposed to the consequences of climate change.

Progress has also been made in preparing educational resources for children and young people and strengthening local-level capacities for climate adaptation and community preparedness.

While important foundations have been established, further efforts are required to institutionalize these approaches, particularly in the areas of environmental management, carbon footprint monitoring, sustainable procurement, climate-smart programming and forecast-based financing.

The Red Cross of Serbia remains committed to strengthening its role as a key humanitarian actor in supporting climate-resilient communities, protecting the most vulnerable and ensuring that climate and environmental considerations become an integral part of its institutional development and humanitarian action.