



**325,000**

CHF funding requirement

**122**

Million people living in countries covered by the cluster

**16**

Countries and Kosovo covered

## CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE - 2019

IFRC Country Cluster Support Team

### OVERVIEW

The Central and South-Eastern Europe Country Cluster is managed from Budapest and covers 16 National Societies (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia) and Kosovo, where there is no recognised National Society. The cluster is highly diverse, with Red Cross National Societies tailoring their support to vulnerable people based on the local context and needs.

Based on mapping and discussions with the National Societies with thematic technical input, countries from the Central and South-Eastern Europe are included in regional programming such as healthy and active ageing, training of trainers for first aid, disaster risk reduction, migration, strengthening the National Society auxiliary role and legal base, capacity building in Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), in domestic resource development, in communications and in branch development.

The focus of support directly from the Head of Country Cluster will be on overall development and capacity building efforts of the National Societies in Central and South-Eastern Europe, including strengthening the auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, legal base, including revision of the National Society statutes and Red Cross Law, enhanced international representation and Movement cooperation and coordination, including strong cooperation with ICRC and Partner National Societies. The 'Neighbours Help First' informal framework of National Societies in the cluster, led by the Croatian Red Cross, will be promoted. The implementation of the Almaty Commitments and Bishkek Declaration in youth sector and preparations for the statutory meetings in 2019 will be highlighted. Technical expertise, as needed and relevant, will be sought from the thematic teams i.e. Organizational Development and Capacity Building, Youth and Volunteer Management, Disaster Management, Health and Care, Communications, PMER and Partnerships and Resource Development.

In addition to the ICRC offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia, other Movement components within the cluster include at least the following Partner National Societies: Austrian Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Red Cross of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, and Turkish Red Crescent. The Italian Red Cross has a regional office in Montenegro, covering primarily six Balkan countries, the Swiss Red Cross has an office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Turkish Red Crescent has offices in Bulgaria and Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Red Cross of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has an office in Bosnia and Herzegovina. IFRC aims to consolidate and coordinate this bilateral and multilateral support where feasible, to strengthen the focus and efficiency of the collective approach.

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Croatia Red Cross reaching isolated older people cut off by snow, February 2018

National Societies of Central and South-Eastern Europe need to be supported with (1) strengthening their auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, (2) modernizing their organizations to remain relevant and able to effectively respond to the growing needs of the vulnerable people, including large ageing population (3) enhancing cooperation and exchange of experience, (4) facilitating effective emergency response, (5) fundraising and (6) developing partnerships.



Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina supporting migrants arriving at Bihac, October 2018

Photo: Sohrab Taheri-Sohi / German Red Cross

## STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

### STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

**CHF 50,000 REQUIRED**

In the last decades, the countries and National Societies in Central and South-Eastern Europe have undergone a significant transformation and many have struggled to adapt to the new realities. In the past, most National Societies were recipients of financial support from governments which have subsequently ceased to exist. The new social and economic reality has brought competition in humanitarian sectors, with emergence of numerous non-governmental organizations, thus pushing Red Cross actors to adapt, having lost their situation of near-monopoly.

Some National Societies need to further modernize their organization to remain relevant and able to effectively respond to the growing needs of vulnerable people in Europe and fulfil their role as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field.

Support is needed particularly in capacity building, including strengthening the auxiliary role and legal base, as well as enhancing cooperation and coordination within the cluster through mutual exchange of experience and learning together.

### ENSURE EFFECTIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT

**CHF 25,000 REQUIRED**

After 18 years of peace, there are still potential flashpoints in many Balkan countries, as well as sources of political instability caused by unresolved ethnic conflicts, receding European Union enlargement prospects, social and economic distress and terrorist threat.

Despite the political tension and instability, the cultural affinity and mutual solidarity in the Balkans between National Societies remains strong and is further gaining strength, especially during disasters and crisis.

Many countries within Central and South-Eastern Europe are experiencing an increased frequency of natural disasters and extreme weather conditions, such as severe flooding, snow storms, and heat waves.

In addition, the Balkans has also seen a large migration flow, that further escalated again in 2018 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

In close cooperation with IFRC's regional Disaster, Crisis, Prevention, Response and Recovery team, effective strategic support will be provided to ensure that appropriate disaster preparedness and response mechanisms are in place, both to facilitate effective emergency response and to strengthen National Societies' capacities to manage future crises. This includes also support to the migration operation in the Balkans, managed by the regional Disaster, Crisis, Prevention, Response and Recovery team through a separate operation.

### INFLUENCE OTHERS AS A LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

**CHF 25,000 REQUIRED**

In cooperation with IFRC regional Communications team, political, economic and social trends will be monitored and analysed in Central and South-Eastern Europe to facilitate timely and proactive humanitarian response by the Red Cross.

IFRC will support the National Societies to formulate policy objectives for effective humanitarian diplomacy, advocacy, communications and external relations with other Movement actors, in line with the IFRC global priorities.

IFRC will support building capacities of National Societies in fundraising by mapping the market in the country, and exploring opportunities for domestic income generation.

Support will be provided to the 'Neighbours Help First' framework which was initiated by the Croatian Red Cross. An informal framework agreement was signed by eight South-Eastern European National Societies during the 10th European Regional Conference in Almaty. The network has five technical working groups that plan to work together on the following topics: 1) Enhanced regional coordination; 2) Development of human resources; 3) Strengthening visibility and exercising auxiliary role; 4) Using new technologies; 5) Innovative resource development, including domestic fundraising. It is expected that the Movement components support these technical working groups through mentoring and coaching, based on expertise.

### ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

**CHF 225,000 REQUIRED**

In the Central and South-Eastern Europe cluster, IFRC will strengthen the development of partnerships with external stakeholders, management of finance and administration, adhering to the IFRC security rules and regulations, strengthening the National Societies' PMER function and overall data management and enhancing the National Societies' knowledge on the IFRC policies particularly on 1) prevention and control of fraud and corruption and on 2) harassment, sexual violence and abuse, unethical behaviour.

## CONTACTS

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