The Europe region is prone to floods, landslides, extreme weather conditions, and occasionally earthquakes. The short-term losses people face when affected by a disaster can turn into long-term poverty if responses fail to consider how people are going to make a living. Increasing urbanization has meant that the traditional focus on rural livelihoods has expanded to include more diverse strategies to support those affected by disaster.

In recent years, conflict, poverty, and lack of opportunity in many regions of the world has triggered an unprecedented surge in migration towards and within Europe. In 2018 the numbers of arrivals reduced since the previous year, however tens of thousands of people continue to attempt the dangerous journey to Europe, with thousands losing their lives on the way.

The Europe region is witnessing a demographic and social shift characterized by an increase in older populations. In parallel, increasing inequality creates disproportionate adverse health impacts on the poorest and most vulnerable. Cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases are together responsible for two thirds of premature deaths in the region, while mental health disorders are the main cause of disability. Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV remain a concern, with alarming rates of infection in many Eastern European and Central Asian countries. Many vulnerable groups including migrants and displaced people have little or no access to essential health services.

The Europe region comprises 53 Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies in Europe and Central Asia, as well as Israel which the IFRC regional office provides with operational and technical support. National Societies support communities to become stronger and safer through a variety of development projects and humanitarian activities via networks of local volunteers. IFRC plays a prominent role in developing capacities of Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies in the region, building trusted partnerships and responding to disasters and crises. The overall approach focuses on climate-smart, socially inclusive, integrated programming, including mainstreaming gender and diversity, community engagement and accountability, and disaster preparedness. Strong coordination and collaboration both within the Movement and with external actors is embedded throughout all programmes.
PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH

The IFRC Europe region is comprised of a regional office in Budapest, including representation for Central- and South-eastern Europe and representations in Central Asia, South Caucasus, Greece, Turkey, Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the Red Cross EU Office in Brussels. This plan outlines the work of the IFRC regional office for Europe in collaboration with the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in 2019. The objectives are designed based on the approved areas of focus and strategies for implementation:

- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Shelter
- Livelihoods and basic needs
- Health
- Migration
- Strengthen National Societies
- Ensure effective international disaster response
- Influence others as leading strategic partners
- Ensure a strong IFRC

The IFRC plan builds on the Almaty Commitments and Bishkek Declaration which were the outcomes of 10th European Conference and 23rd European Youth Cooperation Meeting in May 2018. The Almaty Commitments set out Red Cross and Red Crescent priorities for Europe and Central Asia for the next four years and provides the basis for the Europe region’s plans for 2019 and beyond, focussing on sustainability, cooperation/coordination, and migration; while the Bishkek Declaration calls for greater involvement and empowerment of youth and volunteers in delivering the Movement’s humanitarian mission.

The overall budget of IFRC operations in Europe, including cluster plans and country plans is CHF 24 million. The budget for the Turkey International Appeal is CHF 114 million relating to the full operation from 2012 to 2019.

For a full overview of all IFRC work in the Europe region, this document is to be read alongside the plans for:

- Turkey
- Ukraine
- Russia
- Belarus
- Moldova
- Tajikistan
- Central Asia Country Cluster
- Southern Caucasus Country Cluster
- Central and South-Eastern Europe Country Cluster

All plans are available here https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/europe-central-asia/ As a follow-up to the population movement Emergency Appeals of the past years, support is continued to be provided to the National Societies of Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia within the scope of regional plan. Montenegro is included for the first time due to increasing demands on the National Society. At the end of 2018, IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal for population movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

IFRC teams developed plans for Greece for 2019 as the continuation of the humanitarian activities of the last few years. The documents may be published pending developments relating to the Hellenic Red Cross’ status as a National Society.

IFRC would like to sincerely thank all partners for the continued support, collaboration and cooperation, enabling the delivery of essential assistance, services and support to vulnerable people across the Europe region.
Europe is frequently affected by weather-related crises, with floods by far the largest single trigger for an IFRC response. Although many natural disasters in the region are recurring events, several National Societies and communities remain insufficiently prepared to respond. Central Asia, the Balkans and the South Caucasus are particularly vulnerable, with insufficient support for prevention and preparedness measures from states and donors.

In 2019, IFRC will work with National Societies to build community resilience and to lessen the impact of hazards and risks. Many extreme weather events can be predicted based on historical data and meteorological predictions - for example, in the Balkans, South Caucasus and some parts of Central Asia, flooding is a seasonal hazard. Forecast-based financing preparedness actions will be tested and piloted in Europe, to provide funding to areas before an emergency strikes, thereby reducing loss of life, assets and livelihoods. National Societies will be supported to mainstream climate change adaptation measures into their strategies, policies and projects.

A model for delivering effective community flood resilience programmes will be developed and used to shape the agenda of policy makers and donors. The ‘Roadmap for Community Resilience’ will be rolled out, taking a new approach of accompanying, enabling and connecting communities to reduce their vulnerability to emergencies. National Societies will be supported to implement the ‘Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment’ tool, which uses participatory approaches to gauge people’s exposure to, and capacity to cope with, natural hazards, and to draw up action plans to increase their resilience.

School safety projects will provide educational materials, engage teachers and students in local resilience building activities and organize extra-curricular activities to enhance knowledge of disaster risk reduction. Public awareness campaigns will share essential information for communities to better understand how to reduce, prepare for and respond to identified risks.

Gender will be mainstreamed into disaster risk reduction programmes through regional courses, and the protection component of Regional Disaster Response Team trainings will be strengthened. In parallel, community and engagement and accountability will be embedded into programme design and implementation.

IFRC will facilitate the exchange of information on risk mapping via a user-friendly platform which showcases the results of disaster risk reduction models and shares related materials and tools.

**OUTCOME**

**COMMUNITIES IN HIGH RISK AREAS ARE PREPARED FOR AND ABLE TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS**

- Between 2006 and 2015, approximately 1,000 disasters occurred in Europe, resulting in over 90,000 deaths
- Weather events triggered 54 per cent of IFRC responses in Europe since 2008, of which 33 per cent related to flooding
National Societies in the Europe region often play an important role in shelter interventions, such as providing services in reception centres. IFRC will identify opportunities for National Societies to increase skills and expertise, based on existing capacities within the region. In close cooperation with the Geneva shelter team, the Europe office will disseminate best practices and promote adherence to minimum programming standards.

The team will provide technical support to shelter and settlements operations, conducting training and workshops to enhance knowledge and share experiences across the region.

**Area of Focus**

**Shelter**

Traditionally, the response address basic needs following disasters has been distribution of goods such as food, blankets and clothing, often without consideration of economic recovery. Many National Societies are now beginning to test the use of cash transfer and vouchers, nonetheless cash cannot be used alone for economic recovery and needs to be part of a more holistic livelihoods response using a broad range of tools and modalities.

Increasing urbanization requires alternative approaches to livelihoods, which differ from the well-established interventions used in rural contexts. The Europe region has integrated markets, social protection mechanisms, access to insurance and functioning credit systems, nonetheless the poorest and most vulnerable are disproportionately affected by climatic and socioeconomic crises.

Some National Societies in the region are already leading on cash-based interventions and IFRC aims to build on these existing practices and challenge more National Societies to consider cash programming where feasible, while integrating technological solutions as needed.

**Outcome**

**Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods**

- Over 50 per cent of the population of Europe live in urban areas
HEALTH

The Europe region is characterized by a diverse range of health challenges caused by different socio-economic situations and the level of accessibility of health services. An ageing population, high incidence of non-communicable diseases, and worrying rates of TB and HIV are of particular concern.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies play an important role in promoting healthy and active ageing, disseminating information on healthy lifestyles, improving people’s physical and mental health, delivering first aid training and recruiting blood donors. IFRC will support National Societies to implement innovative health programmes, working as closely as possible with key populations such as migrant communities, people living with TB or HIV, and drug users.

Many European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have accumulated rich and valuable experience in implementing programmes aimed at healthy longevity, promoting healthy lifestyles, preventing non-communicable diseases and improving mental health. IFRC will promote the experience and knowledge gained through existing networks in Europe and will create new platforms to disseminate learning across the region. A working group on healthy ageing will be established to develop a unified approach among National Societies, and will pilot different projects which promote active and dignified older age. IFRC will work with National Societies to develop and introduce community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) methodology into their activities on migration, TB, HIV, drug use, reproductive health and other priority areas.

Health in emergencies will be a priority area, and IFRC will ensure that National Societies and communities in the Europe region are prepared to respond to risks of outbreaks, infections, psychosocial and other needs during disasters. Health components will be integrated into National Society preparedness and response mechanisms, and training and simulation exercises conducted. IFRC will develop contingency plans and provide cascading training of trainers and refresher courses in first aid and psychosocial support, and Regional Disaster Response Team members will be trained in health in emergencies focussing on epidemic control and infection outbreaks.

Cooperation with national health authorities is essential, and IFRC will advocate for the role of National Societies with ministries of health to achieve common goals and objectives, while at a regional level maintaining strong relationships with WHO, UNFPA, USAID, health networks and reference centres.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE’S HEALTH AND DIGNITY ARE IMPROVED THROUGH INCREASED ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE HEALTH SERVICES

- The proportion of people aged 65 years and older is expected to reach 25 per cent by 2050 in Europe
- Non-communicable diseases accounted for an estimated 86 per cent of deaths in 2017
- There were an estimated 34,000 deaths due to TB in 2017
- More than 150,000 people were diagnosed with HIV in 2017
In the Europe region the protection, gender and inclusion work initially focussed on the population movement crisis due to the many complex needs of vulnerable migrants. In 2018 and 2019, IFRC is taking a more holistic approach, mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion to all sectors.

IFRC will develop a regional protection, gender and inclusion strategy for 2019 to 2024, concentrating on key priority areas including child protection, sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking in human beings, psychosocial support, social inclusion, prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse, and emergency surge capacities.

Protection, gender and inclusion will be included into training sessions on health, ageing and psychosocial support. A mapping exercise will identify where there are gaps and needs across the Europe region, such as in social inclusion.

IFRC will support National Societies with training on responding to sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking, and roll out the ‘Protecting and Assisting Migrant Children’ toolkit. In collaboration with the community engagement and accountability focal point, a mechanism for complaints and feedback specifically related to protection, gender and inclusion will be developed.

A child protection working group or network will be established to share best practices among National Societies. The strong collaboration with ICRC will be further developed and strengthened, and support will continue to the Action for Trafficked Persons Network (ATN) and Gender and Diversity network.

Between 2013 and 2014, EU countries reported 15,846 victims of human trafficking, 76 per cent of whom were women and girls; however, the actual number of victims could be far higher than those reported.

26 per cent of women in Eastern Europe, 23 per cent of women in Central Asia and 19 per cent of women in Western Europe experience physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence by a non-partner.

Gender-based violence is known to increase during emergencies.

COMMUNITIES BECOME MORE PEACEFUL, SAFE AND INCLUSIVE THROUGH MEETING THE NEEDS AND RIGHTS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE
Migration continues to be a major issue for the Europe region, and support to vulnerable displaced people features strongly in IFRC country and country cluster plans for Central and South-Eastern Europe, Russia, Ukraine, Central Asia, Greece and Turkey.

In 2018, Spain became the primary entry point to Europe via the Mediterranean route, with 54,000 land and sea arrivals from January to October 2018 compared to 27,850 to Greece and 22,000 to Italy. Many of those who make it to Europe report having been subjected to multiple forms of abuse along their journey, and access to services and protection in countries receiving migrants varies greatly. Even on arrival to safer destinations, migrants face huge challenges in integrating into their new societies, as they can struggle with language barriers, complex asylum processes, and difficulties in accessing education and employment. The political and humanitarian environment is becoming more challenging in many countries with increasing hostility against migrants from the media, politicians, and the public.

In 2019, IFRC will support National Societies to develop migration strategies with a longer-term multi-year structural approach. The IFRC Trafficking in Human Beings toolkit will be rolled out, a toolkit on child protection will be launched, and training on sexual and gender-based violence will be facilitated. IFRC will work with National Societies to integrate community engagement and accountability into their programmes, ensuring that migrants are able to influence the design and implementation of services, understand what the Red Cross Red Crescent is doing and why, and can provide feedback through two-way dialogue. Migrants will be given access to relevant, useful information by community-based volunteers and staff, as well as through mobile applications and other technological solutions, depending on the needs and preferences of target communities. The second year of an integration programme in Bulgaria, Croatia and Germany will be implemented, providing relocated and resettled people with language courses, cultural orientation, peer to peer community events and access to legal advice, education, and employment. In new migration responses, cash transfer programming will be selected as the preferred modality of assistance, where the funding infrastructure and capacity is available. IFRC will continue to work together with communications teams in Budapest and Geneva to identify key concerns in migrants’ rights, safety and dignity, and access to basic services, and support joint advocacy initiatives on these issues.

Good practices in migration programming across thematic areas will be gathered and disseminated widely to ensure National Societies can learn from the experiences of others. IFRC will maintain close coordination with UNHCR and IOM while participating in and facilitating networks such as the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO), RCRC Mediterranean Platform on Migration and European Red Cross Action for Trafficked Persons Network (ATN). Restoring Family Links will continue to be carried out with support from and in cooperation with ICRC.
The Syria conflict continues to be the largest and most complex humanitarian crisis in the world, resulting in internal and external displacement, loss of thousands of lives and severe damage to infrastructure, roads, buildings and livelihoods. Currently, over five million Syrian people are displaced to neighbouring countries, including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and, other countries in North Africa. Turkey alone hosts about 3.9 million registered refugees and the Turkish Red Crescent Society has played a leading role in helping refugees since 2012, supporting some 1.5 million displaced people in protection camps and urban settings. The Turkey International Appeal and 2019 operational plan are summarised on the IFRC website and the full International Appeal is available [here](http://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=232049) The budget is CHF 114 million, which represents the total funding required from 2012 to 2019.

### Greece

The IFRC operational plan for Greece for 2019 has been prepared and could be published pending developments relating to the Hellenic Red Cross’ National Society status. The migration crisis has been the focus in the past years for the Hellenic Red Cross and IFRC. The majority of migrants and refugees now live in urban areas in Greece, while there are continuous arrivals from the islands. The urgency of meeting the basic needs of new asylum seekers and migrants will continue, but the more substantial question for the Red Cross is how to increase the resilience and self-sufficiency of people to facilitate their integration into society. At the same time, a financial crisis in Greece has had a huge impact on local people, with every fifth Greek person unemployed, with wide-reaching negative impacts including on health and wellbeing. A major response to the wildfires was mounted in 2018, and the Hellenic Red Cross intends to strengthen its disaster management capacities in 2019.

### Ukraine

1.6 million are displaced due to the conflict in Ukraine, and IFRC works closely with Ukrainian Red Cross Society and ICRC to support vulnerable people who have left their homes. Operations are delivered in the spirit of the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation initiative, which aims to increase efficiency and effectiveness through well-structured coordination between partners to deliver greater impact for people in need. More details are available [here](http://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=232048)
AREA OF FOCUS

MIGRATION

Italy

In 2018, measures targeting irregular migration in the central Mediterranean by restricting the work of organizations involved in search and rescue operations and limiting access to ports led to fewer arrivals in Italy (22,000 in 2018 compared to 100,000 in 2017) but a far higher death rate. Those who survive the journey are often exposed to discrimination and stigma. The local population is struggling with an economic crisis and high unemployment rate, and many people feel they do not have equal access to jobs, housing and services. Informal settlements in Italy are increasing, inhabited mainly by migrants as well as by a growing number of vulnerable Italian citizens. Approximately one million seasonal workers are engaged in fruit and vegetable picking, many of whom are migrants working in dire conditions.

The Italian Red Cross continues to provide humanitarian assistance at the ports and across the whole of Italy with 109 reception centres and multiple Safe Points accessible to all regardless of their legal status. In 2019 the Italian Red Cross will continue to provide tailored support to migrants, especially young men, unaccompanied minors, single female-headed families and families with children. The National Society will also begin providing support to approximately 12,000 seasonal workers. As migration to Italy is no longer a new ‘emergency’ situation, programmes focus on longer-term protection activities including responding to trafficking, gender-based violence and child protection. The Safe Points will be maintained and a further five established to provide information and assistance to migrants and local people in need, and opportunities for peer-to-peer exchange on their implementation will be explored. Italian Red Cross will support migrants in all aspects of their rights and wellbeing, including access to health care and legal assistance. Psychosocial support and Restoring Family Links will continue to be delivered, supporting people to find loved ones they may have lost contact with on their journeys, and Italian Red Cross will host the annual Restoring Family Links conference in 2019 in cooperation with ICRC. Awareness-raising and advocacy activities will be conducted to address xenophobia, discrimination and negative perceptions towards migrants and promote a positive narrative around migration through community engagement and accountability. A social inclusion project helping migrants to gain employment was piloted in 2018 in cooperation with private sector stakeholders, and this will be further expanded into different locations. The Italian Red Cross migration unit will be strengthened, and staff and volunteers trained to implement community-based programmes, focusing on protection, community engagement and accountability, health, cultural awareness, and detection and referral of vulnerable cases.

Republic of North Macedonia

The Republic of North Macedonia remains a transit country for people travelling to other parts of Europe. In the first nine months of 2018, over 16,000 people crossed through the country, more than 2,000 of whom spent a few days in reception centres. These figures have risen slightly since 2017, and if the situation remains stable the migrant population is expected to be approximately 16,400 in 2019.

As the main humanitarian organization in the response to the migration crisis in the country, the Red Cross will continue to maintain a 24-hour presence both in the border regions with Serbia and Greece and in the reception centres. Through eight mobile teams, the National Society will provide food and non-food items, first aid, transport to hospital, psychosocial support and Restoring Family Links to irregular migrants at border areas. As the teams are often the first to respond, they can identify where people may have been victims of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, provide some initial psychosocial support and referrals to the relevant health facilities. The National Society provides wheelchairs, crutches and other equipment to people with disabilities or mobility issues and provides referrals and transport for people with acute or chronic health issues and long-term conditions, such as diabetes. In reception centres the Red Cross will continue to provide daily hot food as well as health assistance, hygiene parcels, clothes and first aid as needed. The National Society with ICRC will continue to reunite families who have become separated along the journey as well as to work with authorities to ensure contingency plans and stocks are in place. The Red Cross maintains a dialogue with migrants to ensure that their input informs the development and adaptation of the programmes wherever possible, and new feedback mechanisms will be implemented in 2019.
**AREA OF FOCUS**

**MIGRATION**

**Serbia**

As of September 2018, there were nearly 4,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Serbia, the majority of whom were accommodated in reception and asylum centres, with others camping close to the borders. Migrants are now staying for several months in Serbia, therefore not only need essentials such as food and clothing, but longer-term support. Unsuccessful attempts to cross the border, lengthy stays in reception centres and an uncertain future put enormous psychological pressure on people still hoping to continue their journeys. Furthermore, people who are desperate to move on to other European countries, especially children, unaccompanied minors and women, are particularly vulnerable to traffickers.

The Red Cross of Serbia is the largest humanitarian organization in the country, and one of the few remaining in the country assisting migrants. The National Society will maintain stocks of the necessary food and individual hygiene kits to ensure uninterrupted response to basic needs. The Red Cross of Serbia will continue to provide psychosocial support to stranded migrants and refugees in governmental centres, tailored to their needs and preferences. Child friendly corners will be maintained, and psychological wellbeing of all monitored to assess the effectiveness of the services. Protection and support will be provided to actual and potential victims of labour and sexual exploitation, forced begging and other forms of trafficking. In parallel, awareness raising campaigns and workshops will be implemented, not only for migrants, but also for professionals in host communities enabling them to recognize and address trafficking cases.

With migrants and refugees staying longer in one place the need for continued family contact is even higher and therefore Restoring Family Links activities will be intensified in cooperation with ICRC, with follow up of tracing requests, free phone calls, and support to family reunification. Refugee and migrant children are now enrolled in Serbian schools, and the Red Cross will implement a ‘Promotion of Humanitarian Values’ which aims to improve social and educational inclusion of children from asylum centres in local communities, to decrease peer violence among children and to promote tolerance and intercultural diversity.

**Croatia**

The trend of new arrivals of refugees and migrants to Croatia has continued throughout 2017 and 2018 with an increase in irregular migration from neighbouring countries, especially from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over 1,000 asylum seekers have been transferred back to Croatia from Austria, Switzerland, Germany and Sweden since 2016, and refugees have been continuously relocated to Croatia under the EU relocation and resettlement programme. People often arrive in a desperate situation having endured great hardship, exploitation and violence prior to entering Croatia, which has seriously affected their physical and mental health and wellbeing. Those who have been returned from Western Europe find themselves in the challenging situation of having begun the integration process already elsewhere and are often reluctant to start again in Croatia. The Croatian Red Cross’ strategic aim is to “assist asylum seekers, refugees and migrants to live with dignity and in a safe environment that enables them to recover from hardship and rebuild their lives”. To meet immediate needs, the Croatian Red Cross will provide supplementary food, hygiene items, clothing, underwear and shoes as required to people arriving at reception centres and at the border areas. Psychological first aid and psychosocial support will be provided, and people with severe mental health issues referred to staff in the centres. Red Cross staff, volunteers and local authorities will be trained in psychosocial support and protection to ensure that people receive adequate assistance. The National Society will continue to deliver comprehensive social inclusion activities including education and cultural orientation workshops and tailored one-to-one psychological and practical support at the Red Cross Integration House. Public awareness events and activities such as cooking workshops and exhibitions which bring migrant and local populations together will seek to prevent social exclusion, xenophobia and discrimination. In cooperation with ICRC, the Croatian Red Cross will reunite people who have lost touch with their families as a result of migration through the Restoring Family Links service.

**Funding requirement**

- **Serbia**: 230,000 CHF
- **Croatia**: 300,000 CHF
MIGRATION

Montenegro

From 1 January to 20 September 2018, 3,320 migrants expressed an intention to request asylum in Montenegro, however many people still try to continue their journey to the EU countries through Bosnia and Herzegovina. Accommodation capacities are at their limits, and migrants sleep in the park without access to food, clothes or hygiene items, while waiting for a chance to cross the border. Tightening border controls mean increasing numbers are staying in the country, and the Red Cross has been supporting people with access to services and activities including language courses, assistance in school for asylum seeker children, and supporting with communication to landlords. Nonetheless, the lack of an adequate state integration system, difficulties in finding jobs and the lengthy asylum process have made many people return to Greece or proceed to Western Europe. The needs of migrants, including those who seek asylum, have exhausted the capacities of many relevant stakeholders and the government of Montenegro requested greater involvement of the Red Cross.

In 2019, the Red Cross of Montenegro is expected to scale up its response, particularly during the winter months, and plans to distribute hygiene kits, first aid kits, food parcels and winter clothes (jackets, rubber boots, tracksuits, underwear, socks, raincoats). The National Society will disseminate information on the importance of maintaining hygiene standards for individual and community health. Integration activities such as language courses will continue, and educational activities in first aid, HIV and AIDS and trafficking will be conducted. The National Society’s staffing structure will be strengthened, with interpreters and mobile teams established and staff and volunteers trained to meet the needs of vulnerable migrants.

Hungary

There were nearly 4,000 asylum seekers in Hungary in 2017, out of which approximately 1,300 were granted international protection. During 2018 the number of asylum seekers staying in the two transit zones at the Serbian border dramatically decreased due to faster asylum processing times and a reduction in the number of people allowed to enter each day from thirty to two. The Hungarian Red Cross has been present in the transit zones since 2016, offering services complimentary to those provided by the authorities, including distribution of food and non-food items, hygiene promotion, Restoring Family Links, community programmes, and psychosocial support. Since 2018 the Hungarian Red Cross is one of the few remaining humanitarian organizations with a regular presence.

The Hungarian Red Cross aims to meet the humanitarian needs of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection in the transit zones and reception centres, however the National Society is unable to expand its services due to the current legal framework on migration. In 2019 the Hungarian Red Cross will provide clothing, hygiene items such as sanitary pads and nappies, and food including fresh fruits and vegetables in the transit zones. The National Society will conduct group hygiene sessions which explain proper usage of the distributed items and focus on the importance of hand washing. Psychosocial services will be strengthened with particular attention to the needs of children. Both authorities and asylum seekers have requested organized activities for children and adults and the Hungarian Red Cross will run creative workshops which help build trust and allow for psychosocial support.

In the newly-opened Hungarian Red Cross Empathy Café in Budapest, the National Society will organise workshops and events which portray different cultures in a positive way to help reduce social exclusion and discrimination. For example, workshops will introduce Middle-East and African countries through their culture, music, food, literature and religion, and will be open to all.

Funding requirement

Montenegro

467,000 CHF

Hungary

125,000 CHF
Organizational development support will be shaped around the relevance of National Societies in their local context in terms of identity, sustainability, legitimacy and accountability. Priority areas will be legal base enhancement, volunteers and youth, leadership development, resource mobilization, and organizational capacity at national and local levels.

The Europe region will support National Societies to implement the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) tool which enables them to assess their own strengths and identify the key priority areas for development. Half of the National Societies in the region have been through the OCAC process, and IFRC will support them to implement the resulting recommendations. Tailored guidance will be extended to the leadership of those undergoing comprehensive and holistic change processes. National Societies will be supported to modernize, with outdated statutory documents revised, and policies put in place to safeguard their integrity. IFRC in cooperation with ICRC will provide technical assistance on legal and statutory base and the auxiliary role of National Societies both individually and through leadership courses. A workshop of organizational development practitioners on National Society Development will be organized to share experiences and build on existing good practices.

Youth and volunteering will be strengthened in 2019, with a dedicated focal point organizing learning activities and supporting relevant networks. A leadership course specifically for young Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers will be organized, and IFRC will host an annual meeting of the European Youth Coordination Committee. IFRC will continue to engage with the European Youth Network and assist in the revitalization of their communications platforms.

Support will be provided to strengthen National Societies’ communication strategies and enhance their effectiveness, focussing on reputation management and digital media.

IFRC will continue to strengthen the quality, accountability, performance and impact of operations by providing technical assistance and guidance, and promoting a culture and practice of reliable Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER). Building on the outcomes of a mapping exercise conducted in 2018, IFRC plans to organize a regional PMER workshop in 2019 directly focusing on National Societies in need of such support.

Technical guidance will be provided to National Societies in all aspects of disaster management, delivering continuous support to response operations. The ‘Preparedness for Effective Response’ and ‘Well Prepared National Society’ approaches will be rolled out to ensure more European National Societies are ready to respond to emergencies. IFRC will work with National Societies to raise awareness on how to prepare for chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear hazards which require specific attention to duty of care for staff and volunteers. Contingency planning processes will be strengthened where National Societies have requested support.

Cash transfer programming and community engagement and accountability will continue to be key focus areas in 2019, and National Societies will be supported to integrate these elements into their plans and programmes.

The disaster management network will convene to share learning and analysis through the lens of recent operational experience, advance approaches and actively participate in joint planning for preparedness and response.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES HAVE THE NECESSARY LEGAL, ETHICAL AND FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS, SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES, COMPETENCIES AND CAPACITIES TO PLAN AND PERFORM
ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The Regional Disaster Response Team is a group of trained experts who can be deployed immediately at the onset of a disaster to manage the response. The system is utilized successfully globally but has not been operating at its full capacity in Europe for some years. IFRC will revitalize the Regional Disaster Response Team in Europe by recruiting new members, re-establishing and modernizing trainings and exercises, and strengthening the database and alert system.

Cash transfer programming capacity will not only be added to the Regional Disaster Response Team but will be mainstreamed across all thematic sectors and all areas of emergency response. The overall aim is that all National Societies are confident to implement programmes with a cash component wherever appropriate. The Europe region team will improve systematic data collection on cash-based interventions, and through the global ‘Cash Hub’ will contribute to positioning IFRC more clearly as a leader in humanitarian cash response. IFRC will explore and test new partnerships and agreements for the improved delivery of cash and will collaborate with the private sector on innovative approaches.

The information management function will provide tools, resources and training in data skills, data literacy to enable IFRC and National Societies to make evidence-based decisions and deliver data-driven programming during emergency operations. IFRC will identify and bring together information management focal points from National Societies in the region to share knowledge and experience and increase capacities. National Societies will be supported to contribute to the online Go Platform, which is developing a suite of solutions to make disaster information universally available and useful for responders.

The Europe region team will promote IFRC’s lead role in shelter coordination in relevant contexts, providing technical input into preparedness and response plans, and support National Societies to define their roles in Country Shelter Cluster planning.

A disaster management network will be enhanced and strengthened through regional meetings, platforms and forums, with the involvement of other technical or programmatic areas as appropriate.

Technical expertise and resources will be mobilized to support small-to-medium scale emergency operations as well as to new emergency appeals and the International Appeal for Turkey.

1 million CHF
Funding requirement

EFFECTIVE AND COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE IS ENSURED
INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNER

Access to health

A disturbing trend continues in some countries of the Europe region whereby as a result of legislation, entire groups of the population such as migrants, people living with HIV and/or TB, older and disabled people do not have access to life-saving health services. Stigma and discrimination persist, in part due to the influence of the media, which reinforce this trend. IFRC will advocate for universal health coverage by establishing strategic partnerships and working with decision-makers to influence change. IFRC will support National Societies to raise awareness among media representatives and journalists about Red Cross Red Crescent Principles and Values, and the ‘no stigma no discrimination’ approach. A series of advocacy campaigns will be delivered around World TB Day, World AIDS Day and International Migrants’ Day, which contribute to changing public opinion and fostering positive attitudes towards the most socially excluded and marginalized people.

Fundraising and communications

The Europe region has huge potential for fundraising. National Societies in the Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia have the infrastructure and leadership appetite to develop domestic fundraising, and there is limited (but increasing) competition from other agencies. Market studies have consistently shown great untapped potential and with the support of IFRC and Movement partners, National Societies could quickly become market leaders in their respective countries. The Europe region will provide specialist, tailored support to National Societies to develop systemic fundraising, focussing on unearmarked regular income. Market studies and fundraising audits will be conducted to identify the most effective opportunities for fundraising in each country and National Societies will be supported to develop the necessary infrastructure such as databases and digital giving platforms. The team will invest in commercially viable activities by providing seed funding to kick-start fundraising programmes. A strong network of communication professionals will be established, providing a platform for experience exchange and peer-to-peer support. Learning, training and networking opportunities for both fundraisers and communications professionals will be organized, and the Regional Fundraising and Communications Skillshare will be delivered for the sixth time.

The communications team will continue to work on improving IFRC and National Society’s social media and digital presence, providing high-quality, engaging content to maximize global outreach. IFRC will continue to showcase the outstanding work of National Societies in the region on an expanded range of digital platforms. Social integration will be a key thematic area, and transparency and accountability will be promoted in all aspects of communication.

THE PROGRAMMATIC REACH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND THE IFRC IS EXPANDED

1 million CHF

Funding requirement
ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

._.1_. Communications
The Europe Communications team promotes and provides visibility to National Society and IFRC operations and raises awareness of humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities through multiple channels.

._.2_. Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
The Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting team is responsible for ensuring the overall quality and effectiveness of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems in the region. This includes maintaining and improving the current processes and practices to establish a quality result-based system for planning, performance measurement, learning and accountability.

._.3_. Partnerships and Resource Development
The Partnerships and Resource Development team liaises closely with donors, National Societies and partners, raising funds and managing relationships to ensure there are sufficient resources available to support long term programmes and plans as well as emergency operations.

._.4_. Finance
The Europe Finance team ensures financial control, reporting, budgeting and analysis, financial systems and business processes, risk management, treasury management and provide training, advice and support to relevant stakeholders within a comprehensive financial management structure.

._.5_. Human Resources
The Human Resources team ensures that policies and procedures are aligned and strengthened throughout the region, and aims to attract, retain, develop and renew diverse talent in line with the changing organizational needs and priorities.

OUTCOME
THE IFRC ENHANCES ITS EFFECTIVENESS, CREDIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
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