Regional Profile

The Europe region comprises 53 Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies in Europe and Central Asia, as well as the Magen David Adom in Israel which the IFRC Regional Office for Europe 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.

The IFRC Europe region is comprised of a regional office in Budapest, including representation through cluster offices for Central and South-eastern Europe, Central Asia, South Caucasus and the Russian Federation (covering Belarus and Moldova) as well as country offices in Greece, Turkey, Ukraine. The Red Cross EU Office¹, a membership office representing the EU National Societies, Norwegian Red Cross and IFRC, is based 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 2020.
For a full overview of all IFRC work in the Europe region, this document is to be read alongside the plans for:

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Georgia
- Greece
- Moldova
- Russia
- Ukraine
- Central Asia Country Cluster
- Central and South-Eastern Europe Country Cluster

As a follow-up to the population movement-related operations of the recent years, support is continued to be provided to the National Societies of Cyprus, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia within the scope of the regional plan.

Currently, there are three ongoing appeals in Europe Region:

- Albania Earthquake Emergency Appeal
- Bosnia and Herzegovina Population Movement Emergency Appeal
- Turkey Population Movement International Appeal

The Europe region is prone to floods, landslides, extreme weather conditions, and occasionally earthquakes. Climate change is exacerbating the effects of emergencies, with a particular effect on vulnerable communities such as those living on hillsides and flood plains. There are increasing health emergencies such as measles outbreaks which require additional humanitarian assistance.

In recent years, conflict, poverty, and lack of opportunity in many regions of the world have triggered an unprecedented surge in migration towards and within Europe. In 2019 the numbers of arrivals reduced compared to the previous years, 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 population. 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 untimely 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.

This document reflects the support IFRC will provide to National Societies in agreed upon areas, with a particular focus on disaster risk reduction, health, migration, protection, strengthening National Societies.
Role of the Regional office

IFRC plays a prominent role in strengthening capacities of Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies in the region, building trusted partnerships, preparing for 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.

The region is diverse, comprising many of the traditional ‘partner National Societies’ whose income corresponds to 92 per cent of the total income of the region, as well as National Societies at varying levels of development. This presents an opportunity to enhance peer exchange within the region, to enable National Societies to benefit from the wealth of experience and expertise which already exists in Europe.

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 provide the basis for the Europe region’s plans for 2020 and beyond, focusing 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.

Movement Footprint

IFRC works closely with all Movement partners in Europe and maintains strong cooperation with National Societies from other regions. Cooperation with the ICRC is complementary in support of the National Societies through their offices at the headquarters in Geneva as well as through their delegations in Belgrade (covering Serbia, Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moscow (covering Russian Federation, Moldova, Belarus), Yerevan, Baku, Tbilisi, Kiev, Bishkek, Dushanbe, Brussels, Paris (covering France, Andorra, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican) and London (UK and Ireland).

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.
AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Despite ever more evident effects of the climate change, disaster risk reduction actions globally are still not sufficient. Leading scientists agree that the current pace and scale of actions will not achieve the targets of the Sendai Framework, which in turn will jeopardize the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The application of risk-informed investment and development decisions are still the exception rather than the rule.

The IFRC approach not only considers the global concept of risk reduction, but more widely seeks to build resilient communities.

The IFRC defines resilience as: "the ability of individuals, communities, organizations or countries exposed to disasters, crises and underlying vulnerabilities to anticipate, prepare for, reduce the impact of, cope with and recover from the effects of shocks and stresses without compromising their long-term prospects."

The Europe region is affected by recurrent, extreme weather events, and 30 per cent of natural disasters are flood-related. The 2020 IFRC plan aims to address the effects of the severe events accelerated by climate change by reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing the resilience of at-risk communities. When natural disasters occur, they can disproportionately affect migrants in the country and IFRC Regional Office for Europe will seek to pilot or mainstream tools to better address and respond to the specific vulnerabilities of migrants in these contexts and enhance their resilience.

The Regional Office for Europe is seeking innovative adaptation solutions and initiatives to counter the harmful effects of the changing climate. In 2020 National Societies in the region will be supported to mainstream climate change adaptation measures into their strategies, policies and projects. Actions will be tailored to National Society needs and will include:

- Conducting evidence-based climate advocacy,
- Building collaboration and partnerships with local organizations,
- Developing early warning early actions,
- Building heatwave preparedness,
- Preparing National Adaptation Plans,
- Developing or promoting new technologies and innovative tools,
- Reducing vulnerability and enhancing the resilience of displaced people and migrants.
IFRC will seek to maximize the impact and reach of its network by strengthening interaction with the IFRC Reference Centres and building new partnerships with emerging research centres.

Forecast-based Financing is a programme which enables access to humanitarian funding for early action based on in-depth forecast information and risk analysis. The goal is to anticipate disasters, prevent their impact, if possible, and reduce human suffering and losses. In 2020, the Regional Office for Europe will roll out Forecast-based Financing to Central Asia and potentially the South Caucasus and adapt the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment to support National Societies in the region.

IFRC will continue to implement a flood resilience project in Albania and Montenegro. In its second year, IFRC will focus on awareness raising of the established flood resilience tool among children and adults through events, workshops, distribution of flyers and informative meetings, as well as conducting activities aimed at increasing community resilience.

The Regional Office for Europe will strengthen Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) components in all aspects of National Society programming and IFRC disaster risk reduction planning, trainings and implementation. IFRC will support National Societies to develop and implement long-term disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies and programmes and enhance their constructive engagement in global and regional platforms and networks.
AREA OF FOCUS
SHELTER

National Societies in the Europe region often play an important role in shelter interventions, such as providing services during emergencies. IFRC will identify opportunities for National Societies to increase skills and expertise, based on existing capacities within the region. IFRC will deliver trainings and workshops for National Societies to help them build their shelter capacity and knowledge, drawing on technical support from the Global Shelter team as needed.

OUTCOME
COMMUNITIES RESTORE THEIR SAFETY AND RECOVERY THROUGH APPROPRIATE SHELTER SOLUTIONS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED WITH ADEQUATE SHELTER IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY
15,000

160,000 SWISS FRANCS FUNDING REQUIREMENT
AREA OF FOCUS

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

The Europe region is prone to floods, landslides, extreme weather conditions, occasional earthquakes as well as migration-related vulnerabilities. Traditionally, disaster response has been centred around distribution of goods such as food, blankets and clothing, often without consideration of economic recovery. Many National Societies are now increasingly providing cash or vouchers, an approach which not only addresses basic needs but also enables people to take control of their own recovery with dignity. Cash and vouchers can support communities’ overall economic recovery, but only when part of a more holistic livelihoods response using a broad range of tools and modalities.

IFRC aims to build on these existing practices and invest in capacity development within the National Societies to consider cash and vouchers assistance and market-based approaches for basic needs in contexts where they are appropriate and feasible. The aim is to institutionalize cash and vouchers in early response decisions and consider from day one the livelihoods of affected people.

From 2020 IFRC will lead the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) in Turkey, supporting in excess of 1.7 million refugees to meet basic needs through regular and predictable cash transfers and supporting ‘work ready’ persons to transition to livelihoods support. Learning and experience from ESSN will be disseminated across the region and contribute to wider ambitions for cash programming.

Many National Societies in Europe region, as well as the IFRC Livelihoods Resource Centre, have a wealth of knowledge and experience in livelihoods and basic needs interventions. This provides an opportunity to strengthen links among National Societies to enhance capacity across the region. IFRC will focus on building awareness and advocacy for livelihood integration, market-based programming, shock response safety nets, cash and voucher capacity, digitalization and human resource development. As demand grows for livelihood and basic needs support the emphasis will be on strong coordination, maintaining a surge capacity and monitoring programme quality.

OUTCOME

COMMUNITIES RESTORE THEIR SAFETY AND RECOVERY THROUGH APPROPRIATE SHELTER SOLUTIONS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED WITH CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

100,000
AREA OF FOCUS
HEALTH

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

National 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 in Europe region 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.

In 2020 IFRC will continue its support to National Societies to ensure that communities are well organized and prepared to respond to public health-related emergencies, resilient to climate change, and can withstand public health challenges. IFRC’s approach combines humanitarian concern for imminent threats with longer-term, sustainable approaches and institutional strengthening.

IFRC will facilitate exchanges of good practice and experience, data collection and further development of the Health Mapping Online Platform. Existing publications and methodologies will be promoted, and creation of new tools to reach the most vulnerable groups encouraged. IFRC will continue to build strong partnerships with stakeholders such as WHO and UNFPA, and will lobby at inter-state and inter-parliamentary level on behalf of the most vulnerable people to promote the concept of Universal Health Coverage.
Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) and ONE WASH will be the main methodological tools to strengthen communities and prepare them to better manage health risks. Health interventions will include various components of health and care such as prevention of outbreaks and spread of infection diseases, first aid, mental health/psychosocial support (including psychological first aid), promotion of healthy lifestyle, water, sanitation and hygiene.

To achieve this, IFRC aims to expand its health team by establishing Health Delegate positions in Ukraine, Russia, South Caucasus, Central Asia as well as by expanding the Health and Care team in the Regional Office for Europe with continuation of Health and Ageing Officer position and recruitment of a Community Health Delegate.

**Activities will include:**

- Conduct community-based cascade training sessions to address the main health risks in disaster prone areas,
- Regional trainings on healthy and dignified ageing, first aid and innovative PSS interventions,
- Deliver projects on healthy ageing, healthy lifestyles and prevention of non-communicable diseases,
- Facilitate community-based sessions and regional actions on tuberculosis, HIV and Hepatitis B prevention, earlier detection, testing, diagnosis and better access to treatment,
- Regional trainings and actions on health emergencies, pandemic preparedness, epidemic control, water hygiene and sanitation, response to mass casualty events, first aid, psychosocial support in case of natural disasters and extreme weather conditions,
- Support to National Society mobile teams in providing clinical health care services during emergencies,
- Facilitate social mobilization actions for national immunization campaigns.

**Outcome**

**Vulnerable People’s Health and Dignity are improved through access to appropriate health services**

**Number of people reached with health services**

5,000
AREA OF FOCUS

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION

Within the evolving discourse around protection in humanitarian action, the IFRC has a particular role to play, drawn from the experience of National Societies who are engaged as humanitarian actors at the community level before, during and after disaster or crisis, in migration responses or long-term interventions. Founded on this experience, the IFRC approach to PGI (protection, gender and inclusion) aims at achieving more peaceful, safe and inclusive communities through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable and affected people. This contextualized approach involves not only looking at the immediate risks and consequences of violations, but looking at the causes of those risks, before, during and after a crisis event.

Specific focus will be given to strengthen and harmonize areas of expertise that fall under the PGI area of focus, such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), child protection, gender equality and diversity, and trafficking of human beings, to build a conducive environment for accountability (minimum standards, policies and procedures) and institutionalization.

In relation to migration, priorities will be given to have minimum standards in place to avoid doing harm and to guarantee key approaches, such as survivor-centred and child-centred. Children migrants are continuously exposed to risks such as violence, exploitation, sexual abuse and trafficking for the purpose of sexual or other exploitation, going missing or becoming separated from their families. To properly address their needs, volunteers and staff members will be trained on protection and assistance to child migrants toolkit. To tackle risk and protection issues comprehensively, inclusion will also be promoted based on the incoming IFRC’s strategy.

In line with the Gender and Diversity Policy (2020), the Inclusion Strategy (2020), IFRC Protection, Gender and Inclusion priorities, and SGBV Programming Logframe guidelines, the overall objectives of PGI will be:

1. Strengthen Europe region’s knowledge, skills and competences in PGI to better design emergency responses that address issues of harm, equality, discrimination and rights.

2. Mainstream SGBV prevention, mitigation and response in disaster management, with a specific focus on accountability focusing on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding

3. Reduce involuntary risks of doing harm while implementing interventions and delivering services in disaster management, emergencies and migration responses.
4. Contribute to the global positioning of IFRC in protection through influencing dialogue and coordination within the region, and looking for opportunities of collaboration with other actors, including ICRC (with specific focus in migration and RFL).

5. Ensure the Gender and Diversity policy workstream by supporting National Societies to assess their programmes and address identified gaps.

6. Develop a Regional PGI strategy for 2020-2024, linked to other IFRC’s Global Strategies and policies.

The overarching approach will aim to create coherence between different areas of expertise and approaches, in collaboration and coordination with other departments and sectors by promoting complementarity. This reinforces the broad focus of PGI as an area which addresses issues of violence, discrimination and exclusion in any context where National Societies work, whether in humanitarian response, development programmes or in the day-to-day support to affected people in any other context. IFRC will ensure that each individual activity will be more coherent, supported by an enabling institutional environment that has a good understanding of the various issues underlying problems of violence, inequality, discrimination and exclusion.

OUTCOME

NUMBER OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES TRAINED IN PGI TOPICS AND MINIMUM STANDARDS 15

NATIONAL SOCIETIES INCLUDE PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION IN ALL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES
AREA OF FOCUS
MIGRATION

Migration continues to be a major issue for Europe and support to vulnerable displaced people features strongly in 2020 plans across the region. The European Union (EU) is a major destination for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees from across the world. Although less intensive than in 2015 to 2016, arrivals from the Central/Eastern and Western Mediterranean route continue to put pressure on reception capacities in Europe.

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. Those who remain stranded in countries of first arrival often seek dangerous alternative routes at risk of being victims of abuse or violence. 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. Access to relevant, useful information has been highlighted as a key need by service users across migration programming, with CEA essential in ensuring communities and service users are consulted and included in programme assessment, design, implementation and adaptation.

During 2018-2019, the focus of the IFRC Europe migration team has shifted from emergency response to long term programming. The IFRC Global Strategy on Migration and accompanying Roadmap have been endorsed, with the overarching goal that “at all stages of their journeys, and irrespective of their legal status, migrants find the IFRC ready to respond to their needs, enhance their resilience and advocacy for their rights".
IFRC in 2020 will:

1. Provide consistent and specialized response to the needs of migrants,
2. Establish specialized protection programmes in migration,
3. Support social inclusion and integration work of National Societies,
4. Ensure PGI and CEA approaches are mainstreamed in migration programmes,
5. Support communication and advocacy efforts for better protection of the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.

The IFRC Regional Office for Europe has been regularly participating and coordinating with the European Red Cross migration expert platforms and networks on these topics (e.g. Platform for European Red Cross and Red Crescent Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Migrants (PERCO) and European Red Cross Action for Trafficked Persons Network (ATN)). Collaboration and partnership with these platforms will continue to play an important role in addressing migrants needs across the region.

In 2020 the IFRC Regional Office for Europe support to National Societies will seek to ensure a holistic approach to the diverse contexts on migration in the region by combining both the regional and sub-regional as well as country-specific priorities based on needs. There are currently active Population Movement Appeals in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey where IFRC will support National Societies to address urgent and longer-term needs of migrants in 2020. The Regional Office for Europe will work closely with countries and clusters throughout the region to support displaced people in many contexts, including Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Under this regional plan, IFRC will seek support for North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Cyprus, where the National Societies have been providing assistance to migrants in the form of food and non-food items, shelter, health and protection for several years, and are committed to strengthening their services in 2020 with support from IFRC. Complementing specialized support to National Societies in these contexts, regional activities will seek to ensure that diverse experience and knowledge of National Societies on migration both in advocacy and service delivery is shared, built upon and strengthened across the region.

North Macedonia

North Macedonia is considered a transit country with the average length of stay from three days to two weeks. In the first six months of 2019, approximately 13,690 migrants (75 per cent men, 15 per cent women and 10 per cent children) transited through North Macedonia, out of whom 12,708 were assisted by the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia at the border regions and 981 at the receptions centres.
In close coordination with the Crisis Management Centre of the government and other agencies, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia responds to the needs of migrants who may stay in the country, as well as to those who continue to arrive irregularly. In 2020, the main areas of intervention planned are provision of food, hygiene parcels, clothes and first aid, as well as medical support in two centres. The Red Cross will continue to provide hot meals and health assistance to people in the reception centres, and the eight mobile response teams at the border areas will provide first aid, outpatient care, medicine, referrals, psychosocial support and Restoring Family Links (RFL). As these teams are often the first to respond to migrants’ needs, they can identify where people may have been victims of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, provide some initial psychosocial support and refer people onwards to the relevant health facilities, offering transport where needed.

Serbia

Migrants in Serbia often stay for six months or even up to two years. In the first half of 2019, 3,464 asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in the country, of these 2,678 were accommodated in 16 centres (69 per cent were adult men, 9 per cent adult women and 22 per cent children). Over 760 people were observed sleeping rough, either in Belgrade or near the border areas.

In 2020, the Red Cross of Serbia will continue helping stranded people to connect with their family members and plans to hold refresher training sessions for staff and volunteers to strengthen the RFL capacity. The Red Cross of Serbia plans to continue preventing and protecting children and young people from the threat of human trafficking. Activities include educating individuals and groups to recognize the issue, its forms and how people can protect themselves against being tricked into the human trafficking chain. Increased participation of people at risk of human trafficking in the design, implementation, adaptation and evaluation of programmes, through greater integration of CEA approaches, will help deliver stronger, more effective programming better tailored to the needs of vulnerable people. Red Cross of Serbia will continue to implement the “Promotion of Humanitarian Values” educational programme for children from marginalized groups and their peers which aims to prevent discrimination, decrease peer violence, improve inclusion and promote tolerance and respect for diversity.

Montenegro

Montenegro is considered a transit country where people stay between three days to a maximum of one month. The number of arrivals to Montenegro is increasing, and in the first six months of 2019 approximately 4,200 people transited through, of whom 80 per cent were male, 20 per cent were female.

The Red Cross of Montenegro plans to continue supporting migrants in 2020 in health, protection, social inclusion and integration. The vast majority of migrants lack access to healthcare, and Red Cross of Montenegro will provide medicine for chronic or contagious disease and organize transport to health facilities. The National Society will review the family reunification process, analyzing the
current procedure, producing a report and promoting its recommendations among state authorities and partners. The National Society will organize community activities and joint multicultural events to promote social cohesion and tolerance. With social inclusion and integration becoming a pressing issue, the Red Cross of Montenegro is planning to provide humanitarian assistance to migrant families in the initial phase of their integration process. With a focus on unemployed people, the National Society will provide vouchers to families to cover basic household needs as defined by the assessment of Red Cross case workers.

Cyprus

The numbers of arrivals to Cyprus intensified from September 2018, putting a pressure on both the asylum system of the country and on the Cyprus Red Cross in their efforts to meet basic needs and improve the quality of the services provided to migrants. The Cyprus Red Cross has been assisting the newly arrived migrants in reception centres through provision of hygiene parcels, clothing items, psychosocial support and social inclusion. However, given the continuous demand to meet the needs of increasing numbers of people, the stocks and financial resources of the National Society have been depleted, and staff and volunteers are exhausted. IFRC plans to support the National Society to ensure continuous provision of services and improve currently implemented activities in psychosocial support, social inclusion and protection.

**Outcome**

Migrants have safe access to services which meet their basic needs and enhance their integration into society

**Number of migrants provided with essential services**

18,000
STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

The capacities of authorities and civil society actors to assist affected people after major disasters in South-Eastern European countries remain limited, and cross-border information sharing as well as coordination of relief need to be strengthened. In 2020 IFRC will implement a programme to increase the interoperability of South-Eastern European countries’ emergency management sectors to adequately and effectively prepare for and respond to emergencies. The Regional Office for Europe will also support the establishment of six Emergency Operational Centres during 2020, including by identifying and obtaining relevant mapping and software.

Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) is being implemented in six countries where a self-assessment has taken place and a plan of action developed. IFRC will work with the National Societies to implement the plans of actions, mainly relating to contingency planning, development of disaster management strategies and improving training from National Disaster Response Teams. Cooperation with European Union Civil Protection mechanism (UCPM) will continue to ensure National Society staff and volunteers participate in UCPM trainings, and Standard Operating Procedures will be developed. The Regional Office for Europe will conduct two meetings for the Disaster Management network, which is an informal platform that shares learning and analysis through the lens of recent operational experience, and actively facilitates joint planning for preparedness and response. IFRC will strengthen the capacity of National Societies to institutionalize and integrate CEA into strategies, policies and guidelines, roll out trainings, facilitate peer exchange and operationalize CEA in active programmes.

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is continuously strengthening the system of recruitment, involvement and retention of volunteers. IFRC will provide technical support to National Societies within the region to develop and implement volunteering and youth policies and strategies. Volunteering and youth networks act as ambassadors for the Movement and facilitate peer exchange, and IFRC will continue to support the European Youth Network, European Youth Coordination Committee and the European network for the development of volunteering in 2020. Two regional training courses will be organized: a course aimed to strengthen capacities among National Society staff members operating in youth and volunteering development and a course which aims to empower youth and volunteering leaders. A regional workshop will be held on National Society Development (NSD) focusing on branch development, and three National Societies will be closely supported to implement the findings from the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC).

OUTCOME

NATIONAL SOCIETIES HAVE THE NECESSARY SYSTEMS, STRUCTURES AND COMPETENCIES TO EFFECTIVELY PERFORM

900,000 SWISS FRANCS FUNDING REQUIREMENT
ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

From 2018, the previously dormant Europe Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) system has been reactivated with number of improved trainings and establishment of an upgraded regional database. In 2020, further work will continue to align the response capacities in the region to the IFRC surge optimization process, and to harmonise current RDRT members’ specialities with surge role profiles and competency-based frameworks. IFRC will strengthen the cooperation of Disaster Management Coordinators and connect them with National Society health focal points.

The Regional Office for Europe will strengthen information management and analysis in the region by providing tools, resources and trainings in data skills and data literacy. The overall approach is to deliver well-developed training and a capacity-building roadmap and materials, enabling the development of processes and systems for data-driven National Societies which make evidence-based decisions. Focus will be given to the integration of secondary data analysis techniques, which will enable structuring of internal and external data on needs, risks and vulnerabilities to better inform operational decision making.

The Disaster Relief and Emergency (DREF) tool is used on average 10 to 15 times every year in Europe to enable National Societies to respond quickly to emergencies. In 2020 IFRC plans to enhance the understanding and effectiveness of the DREF through online and on-site trainings as well as operational monitoring through field visits.

IFRC will improve the quality of CEA within emergency response operations through supporting National Societies to include CEA activities and capacity in their emergency plans of action and integrate it into disaster response tools and approaches. IFRC will help to test and roll out the CEA minimum commitments in emergency response, and provide appropriate CEA support to each context, including deployment of surge support where necessary.
National Societies will be supported to build capacities for cash and voucher assistance. The activities will build on the existing capacities within the region, whilst also engaging those National Societies not yet practiced in the use of cash and vouchers. The expectation is to create a network of National Societies and individuals to support the accelerated integration of cash and voucher assistance through cash preparedness, surge support and specialized training. The objectives are to:

1. Strengthen regional knowledge, skills and capacities to prepare and plan for cash and voucher integration into disaster response and recovery programmes within the framework of the IFRC 2020 strategy and global cash-based interventions roadmap

2. Develop regional skills, expertise and capacity in cash preparedness and market-based interventions for utilizing cash and vouchers for response, recovery and migration-related responses

3. Contribute to global positioning of IFRC and coordination of regional cash and voucher portfolio, through influencing the cash dialogue within the regional humanitarian community and seeking opportunities for Europe region to test, pilot and innovate cash-based interventions

OUTCOME

NATIONAL SOCIETIES ARE BETTER PREPARED TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Fundraising and communications

More than a third of National Societies in the Europe region rely on financial support from Movement partners despite the huge potential for domestic fundraising in their markets. There is significant demand from National Societies for support to become more financially sustainable and less reliant on external partners and in response the IFRC Regional Office for Europe has developed a peer support approach to fundraising capacity development. Through this programme, National Societies have access to an expert focal point who guides them throughout the process, providing tailored support with market studies, fundraising strategies, recruitment and selection of staff and agencies, procurement of databases, product development, fundraising trials and training. The programme has achieved tangible results with several National Societies starting to generate regular, unearmarked reliable income which will have a transformational impact on their long-term financial sustainability. Nonetheless, demand for support significantly outstrips current resources and in 2020 IFRC plans to not only continue this programme but also to strengthen the team to reach
more National Societies through recruitment of expert national staff, staff-on-loan from partner National Societies and deployment of specialist consultants.

2020 communications priorities are to highlight the ongoing migration emergency in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the earthquake response in Albania, and drive engagement and participation of National Societies in the IFRC Global Climate Campaign. IFRC continues to facilitate a strong network of Red Cross Red Crescent communication professionals, providing a platform for experience exchange and peer-to-peer support. With a special focus on the Russian-speaking National Societies, IFRC plans to deliver trainings and workshops that improve communication capacities within the region, including the Emergency Surge Communications Training. IFRC will grow its new regional Russian-language Instagram page as well as support National Societies to increase their digital presence.

The annual regional Fundraising and Communications Skillshare will be held again in 2020, bringing together over 100 fundraisers and communications practitioners from across the region to learn from Movement and external experts, share experiences and develop networks.

Advocacy on Access to Healthcare

Universal Health Coverage is the idea that everyone, everywhere, should have access to essential healthcare services whenever they need it, without facing financial hardship. Through their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, all UN member States agreed to achieve Universal Health Coverage by 2030. However, 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. In 2020, IFRC will advocate for Universal Health Coverage by establishing strategic partnerships with intergovernmental bodies, inter-parliamentary unions, the state, national parliaments and the academic community to form evidence-based approaches which 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.
STRAINFOR IMPLEMENTATION

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

Leadership and Management

The Europe region is led by the Regional Director, supported by the Deputy Regional Director, four Heads of Country Clusters, three Heads of Country Offices and the Director of the Red Cross EU Office.

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.

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.

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.

Finance

The 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.

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.

ENDNOTES

1 More information can be found on the website www.redcross.eu and all documents related to the plan and budget can be obtained directly from the Red Cross EU Office upon request.
Contact information of the IFRC Regional office, for partners who wish to find out more

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