This document details the IFRC’s support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.
There are four ongoing appeals in the Europe region as well as the Europe component of the global COVID-19 appeal. Excluding ongoing emergency appeals the IFRC requires CHF 4.2 million, and the collective requirements for the Country Offices and Country Clusters is CHF 16 million.¹

There are 9 operational plans in the Europe Region.

As Europe is one of the most heavily impacted regions of the COVID-19 pandemic the IFRC Network is facing an unprecedented challenge to its prevention and relief efforts. The situation continues to deteriorate as the pandemic strains national healthcare systems and the social and the socio-economic situation across the continent.

The IFRC COVID-19 Response Team in Europe provides comprehensive agile and timely technical and financial support to National Societies in countries with increasing numbers of cases.

The implementation of COVID-19 related activities under the Global Emergency Appeal, and support to National Societies with their capacity building are high priorities in 2021. Engaging and mobilizing communities on the safety, efficacy and necessity of vaccination, and sharing information about the logistics of vaccinations are critical elements of the preparedness and response support. Health and the secondary effects of the pandemic, contact tracing and preparing for potential unrest, are some of the other focus areas for National Societies in the region.

¹ Excluding Turkey Emergency Social Safety Net
The 2021 activities are also highly likely to be affected by Governments’ reactions to the COVID-19 pandemic and the funding of the global Emergency Appeal. Therefore, the IFRC and its members will continue to focus on the digitalization of services and support the sharing of innovation in the network.

The Europe region is also prone to natural disasters, such as floods, landslides, extreme weather conditions, and occasionally earthquakes, and other types of emergencies including, civil unrest, conflict, and population movement. There are also 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 2020, the numbers of arrivals continued to increase, while the COVID-19 pandemic response has also affected the access of migrants and other vulnerable groups to essential services. Despite this, tens of thousands of people continued to attempt dangerous journeys to Europe.

The demography in the Europe region is characterised by an ageing population, and increasing inequality is having a disproportionate and adverse health impact on the poorest and most vulnerable. Many vulnerable groups, including migrants and displaced people, have little or no access to essential health services. 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 and HIV remain a concern, with alarming infection rates in several Eastern European and Central Asian countries.
The IFRC will actively engage and involve National Societies in dialogue on strategic agendas such as the secondary effects of COVID-19, migration, climate change, disaster preparedness and approaches to health in the region, and is ensuring coordination support with different stakeholders and counterparts both at strategic, operational and technical levels.

The IFRC actively participates in several thematic consultative platforms, networks and working groups, including:

**Disaster and Crisis Preparedness, Response and Recovery**


**Migration:**

Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum seeker and Migrants (PERCO), European Red Cross Action for Trafficked Persons Network (ATN), Centre para la Cooperacion en el Mediterraneo Mediterranean Conference (CCM), Global Migration Task Force, Movement Reference Group on Internal Displacement.

**Protection, Gender and Inclusion:**

Red Cross Red Crescent Global Gender and Diversity Network, Restoring Family Links Network, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Coordination, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Protection, Gender and Inclusion global coordination, Protection, Gender and Inclusion global coordination, Red Cross Red Crescent Early marriage working group, Alliance Expert Coordination Team.

**Health:**

European Red Cross/Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS and TB (ERNA), First Aid Education European Network (FAEEN), European Red Cross/Crescent Network for Psychological Support (ENPS), Regional Advisory Group on Health & Ageing.

**Partnerships and Resource Development:**

European Public Support Group, Virtual Fundraising Hub (Movement-Wide with ICRC and the IFRC leading), IFL-International Fundraising Leadership.

**Youth and Volunteering:**

European Network of Red Cross Youth, European Youth Climate Movement, European Youth Coordination Committee, European Network on the Development of Volunteering, Central European Youth Network, Western European Youth Network, Big 6 Youth Organizations.

**National Society Development:**

National Society Development Practitioners.
The global COVID-19 pandemic shocked the humanitarian ecosystem, but it also recognised the relevance of the IFRC Network in addressing the needs of local communities most in need, while still maintaining global coherence and consistency in action.

The IFRC will continue to work closely with all Movement partners in Europe to maximise the collective humanitarian impact and maintains strong cooperation with National Societies from across the Movement.

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 are embedded throughout all programmes. The varying degrees of National Society development in the region presents an opportunity to enhance peer exchange and enable cross-country engagement.

The IFRC will continue to leverage National Society auxiliary roles and support their dialogue with local and national government and development partners on programmatic areas to build stronger partnerships. The current engagement of some local authorities in employability training, healthcare propagation and education conducted by National Societies present a strong case for further development in this area.
Climate adaptation and mitigation will be a priority for the IFRC, with an increased focus on integrating climate risk management across programmes, operations and advocacy. The IFRC climate and environment focus will be on reducing the current and future humanitarian impacts of crises and on supporting National Societies to adapt and thrive in the face of climate change.

In addition to scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, the IFRC will aim to reduce the negative impacts, address climate displacement, and enable climate-resilient livelihoods and human settlements with a focus on urban contexts. It will prioritise reducing its carbon footprint as a cross-cutting consideration, and adopt better environmental management and nature-based solutions wherever they can be effective.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support National Societies to design and conduct innovative climate adaptation actions.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to develop new, climate-smart approaches in disaster management.
- The IFRC will train and support the National Societies to adopt and integrate community engagement and co-production activities.
- The IFRC will support Climate Smart Livelihoods training and peer to peer exchange for the National Societies and IFRC staff and volunteers.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies in developing a campaign to advocate for action against the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises.
Evolving crises and disasters

Community engagement and accountability is crucial in building trust with communities, maintaining safe access, and ensuring that the IFRC Network effectively addresses vulnerable people’s most critical needs.

The IFRC will reinforce preparedness and readiness to respond to shocks and enhance community risk reduction and resilience. This includes early warning, early action and anticipation to mitigate risks from multi-hazards affecting the lives, the livelihoods, homes and living conditions of the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and hard to reach communities.

The main focus of the IFRC will be the strengthening of the agency of affected people. It will do this through the systematic engagement of communities in disaster risk management and response modalities, such as the scaling-up of cash-based assistance, accompanied by appropriate technical assistance to bolster their choices.

The IFRC aims to develop a strategic framework to expand the disaster management frameworks, planning exercises, approaches and outlines. It seeks to ensure that the IFRC’s extended Disaster and Crisis Preparedness, Response and Recovery team provides timely, high-quality and coordinated support to European National Societies to save lives and reduce suffering. This framework will increase the quality and coverage of European National Societies’ disaster management programming in collaboration with partner National Societies and external actors. The IFRC will also consult within the network on utilising learning experiences.

The IFRC aims to develop the standard operating procedures for disaster response in Europe and detail the roles, responsibilities and procedures required for a coordinated, effective and accountable disaster response in the region.

The National Societies in Europe will collaborate and communicate regularly. They will be brought together with Reference Centres and Regional Disaster and Crisis Preparedness, Response and Recovery teams on an annual basis, to share trends, tools and other operational priorities.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the inclusion of National Societies’ in national epidemic and health emergency preparedness and response actions and plans, strategies and policies.
- The IFRC will support National Societies’ to address urgent basic health services needs of vulnerable people, including migrant communities.
- The IFRC will contribute to the Resolution of the International Conference “Addressing mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies”
- The IFRC will deliver mental health and psychosocial support training to staff and volunteers.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to provide direct psychosocial support to people living with HIV and TB.
- The IFRC will facilitate and promote the International First Aid Attestation process, and the engagement of National Societies with the IFRC Global First Aid Reference Center.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to ensure that communities have appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services.
People living in Europe and Central Asia, including the Balkans and the Caucasus, have been affected by earthquakes, floods, landslides, man-made disasters and the outbreak of communicable diseases. The increasing effects of climate change are changing patterns of disease and the socio-economic situation, extreme weather events, and water and food security are significantly affecting people’s health and well-being.

Additionally, Europe has the world’s highest median age and people in nearly every part of the region are living longer, but their chances of spending these later years in good health and well-being vary within and between countries.

The number of new Tuberculosis cases resistant to drugs in Europe is the highest in the world and the disease is highly concentrated in the 18 countries in the region.

Some countries have made progress towards achieving universal access to HIV prevention, testing, treatment, care and support. However, 82 per cent of people newly diagnosed in 2018 were from the eastern part of the region. The provision of complex services to people living with HIV, including timely and adequate therapy, is crucial in counteracting the HIV epidemic.

Mental health is a leading cause of suffering and disability, especially depressive and anxiety disorders, the growth of self-harm and suicide, and the unmet needs of people with dementia or autism spectrum disorder. Early and appropriate mental health and psychosocial support, particularly for children and youth, is essential for preventing distress from developing into more severe conditions.

Access to health care is crucial for the migrants and refugees because they face unequal access to essential health and care, mental health services and psychosocial support. Countries cannot provide migrants with adequate access to national health and care system due to existing legal and social-economic restrictions. In many countries, the documentation processes and legal status, also expose refugees and migrants to higher health risks and hazards.

Many people do not have equal access to life-saving health services due to social and legal factors. People living with HIV or with tuberculosis, drug users, older and disabled people, migrants and other displaced people affected by disasters are stigmatised and discriminated against because of legislation and messages from the media which reinforce this trend.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support and advocate for the inclusion of National Societies’ roles in country health emergencies’ preparedness and response actions and national epidemic preparedness and response plans, strategies and policies.
- The IFRC will support National Societies’ actions to address the urgent basic health services needs of migrant communities, including first aid, health and care, mental health and psychosocial support.
- The IFRC will contribute to the implementation of the Resolution of the International Conference “Addressing mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies”
- The IFRC will deliver mental health and psychosocial support training for staff and volunteers.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to provide direct psychosocial support to people living with HIV and TB.
- The IFRC will facilitate and promote the International First Aid Attestation process, ensure regular updates and engage the National Societies with the IFRC Global First Aid Reference Center.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to provide assistance, protection and care of the most vulnerable people.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to ensure that communities have appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services and introduce community awareness of water-borne communicable diseases, including cholera.
MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

400,000

The European Union and the Russian Federation are significant destinations for migrants, including asylum seekers and refugees from across the world. Since 2014, more than one million displaced people have moved to Russia from Ukraine. About 15 per cent of those people still have non-regulated status, which significantly affects their living conditions and access to basic healthcare services, social benefits, jobs.

Although less intensive than in previous years, arrivals from the Central, Eastern and Western Mediterranean routes to Europe have continued in 2020, primarily through Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Malta, Spain and along the Western Balkan migratory route, where the COVID-19 pandemic is adding an additional layer of vulnerability. Fewer boats are carrying out Search and Rescue activities in the Mediterranean, and European Union Member States remain divided on taking in new arrivals by sea. The low number of arrivals in the first half of 2020 was partially due to the COVID-19 related measures but, despite border closures, movements continued and increased as restrictions were lifted.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and related measures, Spain, Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Malta all experienced increased arrivals during the second half of 2020. By the end of August 2020, the number of migrants in Greece had exceeded 120,000.

Asylum-seekers and irregular migrants have been especially hard hit by the pandemic, both in health and protection. They face considerable challenges in integrating into new societies, partly due to a hardening of attitudes, policies and public discourse. Even within the EU, border areas are still often dangerous, and access to services and protection varies greatly. Xenophobia and negative attitudes towards migrants constitute a significant challenge for advocacy and programming across Europe.

Access to useful information has been highlighted as a critical need by service users across Migration Programming. The IFRC will ensure Humanitarian Service Points and similar services will be supported to ensure vulnerable people have access to the information, and information services, including internet access and mobile phones to remain safe, stay in touch with loved ones and make informed decisions about their futures.

TARGET 1

5 National Societies supported to establish Humanitarian Service Points

ACTIVITIES

• The IFRC will support National Societies to analyse data, trends, and profiles of people moving along migratory routes at the regional, national and community levels.
• The IFRC will support National Societies to develop national contingency population movements plans.
• The IFRC will analyse migrants and displaced person vulnerabilities and access to essential services to inform operational and advocacy priorities at regional, subregional and national levels.
• The IFRC will support National Societies to develop tools, guidance and other documents to guide their engagement on migration and displacement related issues.
• The IFRC will support National Societies to expand on and establish Humanitarian Service Points in emergency and non-emergency contexts.
• The IFRC will support National Societies to advocate in support of migrants’ and their access to essential public services
• The IFRC will facilitate the exchange of information and good practices between the Movement’s components to support the work of National Societies along trans-regional routes.
VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
200,000

Existing gender inequalities are being exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the incidence of sexual and gender-based violence, and violence against children is expected to increase, especially with the closure of schools. Women, girls, and vulnerable groups are at increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence due to the shifts in social safety nets, reduced mobility, limited access to information, and specialised services disruption. The reduced access to gender-based violence services might impact the immediate safety and health of survivors’ life-saving care and support, such as the clinical management of rape and mental health and psychosocial support.

Similarly, the pandemic’s socio-economic impacts are affecting vulnerable groups, including migrant workers, resulting in increased exposure to long-term effects and exposing them to more risks, such as discrimination, isolation, and the potential engagement in illegal activities. In camps and shelter settings, migrants face an increased risk of violence due to insufficient security, safety and privacy. This creates unsafe and unhealthy living conditions that may lead to exploitation and abuse, especially for women, girls and LGBTIQ.

Lockdown measures, combined with economic crises, loss of livelihoods, work uncertainty and fear for the future are exhausting people and exposing them to severe mental pressures. This creates harmful survival mechanisms that can lead to exploitation and abuse and protection risks, such as early marriage, people trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse. Inadequate mechanisms may exclude people, particularly those at risk, and can increase resource tensions and exploitation.

**TARGET 1**
10 National Societies supported to address protection issues by enhancing the mitigation and response strategies

**TARGET 2**
15 National Societies supported through the protection gender and inclusion help desk

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will promote a culture of non-violence and peace by supporting Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change initiatives, and youth-led initiatives within National Societies, particularly those planned by the Youth Networks in Europe.
- The IFRC will strengthen protection, gender and inclusion in programming to remain accountable to affected populations.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to addressing protection, gender and inclusion issues with a helpdesk that will offer expertise and experiences from within the region.
- The IFRC will guarantee the basic services are in place to support and coordinate sexual and gender-based violence prevention, strengthen staff and volunteers to handle disclosures of sexual and gender-based violence, and adopt a survivor-centred approach.
- The IFRC will launch the new toolkit to address protection risks among children in migration contexts and support National Societies in addressing child protection issues by enhancing mitigation and response strategies.
ENABLER 1
ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
440,000

The IFRC has strengthened its engagement with partners to work collectively on the most important challenges facing communities. It supports National Societies to substantially widen their involvement and leadership of civil society and other coalitions and communications and public advocacy to increase impact, public trust and the understanding of their role and activities.

The IFRC has also supported the National Societies in the methodical partnership coordination meeting and thematic steering groups. Fostering and supporting these practices will remain a key theme for the IFRC in 2021.

The IFRC is also prioritising digital transformation in 2021. It will develop a standard data model across the network and a customer relationship management system for the National Society’s resource mobilisation activities. This will include enhancing data protection and adopting information security measures in ongoing and new operations. While undergoing digital developments, the IFRC and National Societies will have the opportunity to design tools, programmes and services inclusive of gender, diversity, language, and mobility.

The IFRC will increase its digital presence on social media platforms and will support National Societies to do the same. It will also provide technical support and advice to National Societies to roll out the Climate Campaign. The IFRC aims to provide high-quality, engaging content to showcase the work of the National Societies and support them in the localisation of global and regional campaigns.

The IFRC will maintain a network of communication professionals across the region to provide a platform for experience exchange and peer-to-peer support. It will deliver training and workshops that improve the region’s communication capacities, with a focus on the Russian-speaking National Societies.

The IFRC will use Community Engagement and Accountability information to support National Societies with advocacy initiatives that address the concerns and interests of the vulnerable people they aim to help.

ACTIVITIES

• The IFRC will support National Societies to improve and increase their capacity to access Volunteering Management information and training.
• The IFRC will support Youth and Volunteering Networks to sponsor and foster learning opportunities and online training.
• The IFRC will work with affected people and communities to ensure tools, services, materials, and activities are inclusive, appropriate, relevant, effective and safe for the people they are intended to support.
• The IFRC will support National Societies to engage and involve affected people and communities more closely in the planning and implementation of their work.
• The IFRC will identify funding opportunities for income generation insights, research and product development.
• The IFRC will support National Societies to implement the External Communication Plan and to review it with humanitarian and development agencies, ministries, and local authorities.
**ENABLER 2**
**ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT**

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
90,000

The IFRC will work with affected people and communities to ensure the work of the Movement is inclusive and respectful of diversity, and that they are included in monitoring to understand the impact better.

To support financial sustainability and ensure continued unrestricted funding, the IFRC will support National Societies to launch and upscale systematic unrestricted income generation initiatives, draft internal policies, and develop best practices.

The IFRC will cooperate with the National Society to secure new and unearmarked funding by exploring innovative financing sources with in-country and Budapest-based emerging government donor missions such as Estonia, Malta, Lithuania, Cyprus, Russia, Czech Republic and others.

The IFRC will support National Societies in Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting capacity building based on research to be conducted early in 2021. A regional Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting capacity building training will be organised alongside technical support provided to National Societies.

Donor stewardship is an essential component of a fundraising process. The IFRC will support relevant reporting requirements and coordinate engagement with stakeholders, including donors.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will refine its Key Performance Indicators reporting and workforce dashboard to develop talent acquisition and gender diversity.
- The IFRC will roll-out induction sessions on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for staff and new employees and orient all staff on safeguarding initiatives.
- The IFRC will carry out a region-wide annual assessment that provides domestic resource mobilisation business insights.
- The IFRC will actively participate in an annual benchmarking study in partnership with 20 international organisations, to assess the fundraising performance at global, regional, and national levels.
The IFRC ensures that development activities are made available to all National Societies with fairness and equity to support internal transformation for sustainable National Society Development. The IFRC also supports leadership development through peer-to-peer support, experience exchange and education opportunities.

National Societies assess their development needs, revise their legal base and planning to better address service sustainability. Rising demands require a coordinated, structured, and systematic approach to resource mobilisation capacity development. To achieve this, the IFRC will focus on direct dialogue fundraising and the development of regular giving, digital fundraising and high-value partnerships.

Youth and volunteer engagement is crucial for the successful communication with communities. Volunteering development and youth action are critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action, ensuring access and the nurturing of trust. They allow young people to contribute to decision-making, innovation, the strengthening of national networks and to increase understanding of young people’s needs. The volunteer base will reflect the diversity of communities, including gender, local languages and cultures, marginalised groups, and influential community members and institutions.

Community engagement facilitates the building of trust in National Societies. The IFRC will support National Societies to strengthen and set up mechanisms to generate quality social data to inform action and actively collect, analyse and respond to community feedback, perceptions, concerns and insights.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will maintain the National Society Development Practitioners Network creating opportunities for networking, peer-to-peer learning and experience exchange.
- The IFRC will develop and maintain National Societies’ statutes revision mapping jointly with the ICRC.
- The IFRC will support priority National Societies with the roll-out of the Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse guidance and provide technical support to develop Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse frameworks.
- The IFRC will collaborate with National Societies on the IFRC Youth Engagement Strategy implementation toolkit and support the IFRC Youth Commission’s constitutional mandate.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to improve their knowledge of the Movement, the relationship with partners, and conflict resolution, negotiation tools, cooperation mechanisms and alliances.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to engage with Movement partners and establish local partnerships that strengthen long-term sustainable National Society development.
- The IFRC will continue to ensure effective communication and coordination among Movement partners and Host National Societies.
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 14 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.