

BALTIC COUNTRIES

2023 IFRC network multi-country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 10.3M**

Appeal numbers **MAAES001 / MAALT001**

In support of the Estonian Red Cross and Lithuanian Red Cross Society



33

National Society branches



210

National Society staff



2,456

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



115,000

Ongoing emergency operations



8,500

Climate and environment



30,300

Disasters and crises



70,000

Health and wellbeing



35,000

Migration and displacement



50,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Emergency response

- population movement

Longer term needs

- mental health and psychosocial support
- disaster risk reduction and preparedness
- climate change adaptation • social vulnerabilities

Capacity development

- humanitarian diplomacy • youth engagement
- resource mobilization • digital transformation
- staff and volunteer development

Population

Estonia **1.3M**

Lithuania **2.8M**

Hazards



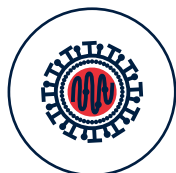
Floods



Heatwaves



Population movement



Climate change

Funding requirements

Total 10.3M CHF

Through the IFRC

7M CHF

Host National Societies

→ **3.3M** CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

- 75,000** CHF
Climate and environment
- 1.1M** CHF
Disasters and crises
- 2.3M** CHF
Health and wellbeing
- 443,000** CHF
Migration and displacement
- 603,000** CHF
Values, power and inclusion
- 2.5M** CHF
Enabling local actors

Ongoing emergencies

Part of the Ukraine and Impacted countries crisis

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross*

Finnish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILES

The statutes of the **Estonian Red Cross** were approved by the Government of the Republic of Estonia in February 1919. The National Society was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1922. In its auxiliary role to the public authorities, the Estonian Red Cross reduces and prevents vulnerability to disasters and crises in the community. It operates through 17 branches, with 30 staff and 456 volunteers.

The strategic goal of the Estonian Red Cross is to develop into a well-functioning National Society that meets the needs of people living in Estonia, with a strong financial and material base. The Estonian Red Cross delivers home care and soup kitchen services to those in need, and during COVID-19, it supported people in isolation. The National Society is also training the population in first aid and providing regular psychosocial support.

As a strategic partner of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the National Society delivers first aid training and is in the process of developing a first aid training system. It has built an e-learning platform for people to access online first aid training, targeting students at driving schools and basic first aid training courses. The National Society also delivers first aid training projects for hearing-impaired children and a broad range of target groups, such as local organizations, companies, sports associations, schools and ordinary citizens. It provides first aid guards at sports and cultural events.

In cooperation with the IFRC's [Psychosocial Support Centre](#), the Estonian Red Cross also developed a 30-hour psychosocial support programme to train volunteers. The National Society's planned activities for the coming year maintain a strong focus on humanitarian diplomacy, innovation and digital transformation, and protection, gender and inclusion initiatives.

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society was established in 1919 and admitted to the IFRC in 1924. It has a countrywide presence, with 16 branches, 180 staff members and 2,000 regular volunteers. The Lithuanian Red Cross supports vulnerable populations in Lithuania through its programmes and activities, delivering psychosocial care to older people and humanitarian assistance to

refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and other vulnerable communities, as well as conducting advocacy work. The National Society aims to reach 60,000 people with its first aid training sessions.

Recently, the Lithuanian Red Cross launched its youth programme, focusing on educating young people on topics such as human rights, humanitarianism and resilience to disasters. The National Society also delivers humanitarian aid in emergencies, having carried out large-scale humanitarian responses to the [COVID-19](#) pandemic and the population movement crisis in Belarus and Ukraine. The Lithuanian Red Cross is active in negotiating agreements, policy and legal provisions with authorities to strengthen its auxiliary role, focusing on disaster response. It aims to be known to the state and to the public as an asylum and migration expert and a first responder in emergencies.

The National Society's 2020–2023 Strategic Plan outlines its vision to remain the first responder in disaster situations in Lithuania, assisting people affected by crises on a regular basis or as needed. The objectives of the plan are:

- To be the first responder to provide humanitarian assistance during a crisis, expanding the regularity and scope of its reach
- To be a reliable auxiliary to public authorities, with long-term agreements with the state and the top eight city municipalities, clear commitments and a financing mechanism
- To grow volunteer engagement, achieving at least 3,200 regular and reserve volunteers and putting a framework in place for volunteer retention
- To create opportunities for partnerships by putting a system in place to attract potential partners, including setting up a database of 42,000 individual sponsors with 15,000 active, regular sponsors and diverse sources of funding
- To promote initiatives, professionalism and unity, with a functioning motivational system, stable staff turnover and positive employee satisfaction feedback

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

The Baltic countries of Estonia and Lithuania have faced new challenges in recent years, stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine and the ongoing impact of climate change.

Known as post-communist countries, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia share many geographical and political similarities. The countries have experienced significant shifts in their political history, from their establishment as independent states in 1918, the outbreak of World War II, the Soviet period and the re-establishment of their independence in the 1990s.

Although Lithuania is ranked 34th on the Human Development Index, a quarter of its population are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Socio-economic disparities are increasing in the country as a result. Estonia has a population of 1.3 million, composed of various ethnic groups which include Estonians, Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Finns and others.

In 2021, the region faced a politically triggered population movement crisis originating in Belarus. Geopolitical tensions in the region have also increased public anxiety.

Communities in Estonia and Lithuania are experiencing significant growth of ageing populations. The proportion

of people over 65 years old is now approximately 20 per cent of the overall population, with forecasts predicting an increase to approximately 30 per cent by early 2030. Family structures have become increasingly diverse, while high rates of emigration among young people have increased the proportion of elderly people living in the countries.

Declining population trends in the Baltic nations come as a result of numerous factors. The three most likely factors are economic migration, low birth rates and high mortality rates. Over the past decade, Latvia and Lithuania have experienced some of the most significant declines in population rates around the world.

Between 2008 and 2010, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were highly affected by the global financial crisis. Authorities implemented significant austerity measures to offset these impacts, particularly in Lithuania and Latvia, and the past decade has seen these countries overcome the crisis. The three countries appear to have recovered from a sharp decrease in youth employment following the economic crisis, especially in Latvia and Lithuania, and to a lesser extent in Estonia. The youth employment ratio has since increased; however, this may be the result of declining birth rates and high emigration trends.

Ongoing emergency response

For action related to the Ukraine and impacted countries crisis in Estonia and Lithuania, see the IFRC GO page [Federation-wide indicator tracking tool](#).

In early 2022, the IFRC launched its Ukraine and impacted countries crisis [Emergency Appeal](#) to assist more than 3.6 million people affected by the conflict in Ukraine. Due to changing needs in the region and additional requests for support by other National Societies, the IFRC has been scaling up its response within Ukraine and in neighbouring countries, as well as revising the Emergency Appeal to include a total of 17 National Societies.

These National Societies now include the Belarus Red Cross, Bulgarian Red Cross, Croatian Red Cross,

Estonian Red Cross, Red Cross Society of Georgia, Hellenic Red Cross, Hungarian Red Cross, **Lithuanian Red Cross Society**, Red Cross Society of the Republic of Moldova, Red Cross of Montenegro, Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia, Polish Red Cross, Romanian Red Cross, the Russian Red Cross, Slovak Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent Society and Ukrainian Red Cross Society, while coordinating with participating National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The dynamic and protracted nature of the conflict and the ongoing displacement of people from Ukraine make it likely that additional National Societies will request IFRC support during the timeframe of implementation.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

The Baltic Sea coast region, exposed to significant hydro-meteorological hazards, is highly vulnerable to climate change. Flooding and storms with heavy rains and strong winds are recurring with more frequency and severity, exposing the local population to life-threatening risks, property damage and power cuts. Sea level rise is also a concern and will lead to considerable changes in coastal ecosystems, as well as economic losses. The impact of sea level rise will likely cause flooding of coastal areas, erosion of sandy beaches and the destruction of harbours and other coastal constructions.

The Baltic countries also expect more heatwaves due to global warming. In Estonia, climate change scenarios based on general circulation models indicate an increase of mean annual air temperatures of 2.3–4.5°C for the year 2100. Due to the region's proximity to the Baltic Sea, which warms up the coastal zone during the winter and cools it down during spring, the highest level of warming in the region will take place in the winter months.

Estonia's climate is becoming less continental and more maritime. An increase in extreme heatwaves poses a very real threat to human health, crop production and vital transport infrastructure, as well as increasing the risk of forest fires.

Climate change will disproportionately affect people on low incomes, older adults, people living with disabilities and chronic diseases, homeless people and those who work and live in disaster-prone areas. Urban areas are also particularly vulnerable to climate-related hazards, especially in Tallin, the capital city of Estonia, where roads, houses and other buildings often exist in close proximity to the shoreline. The security of energy supplies is also a major concern.

Main actions and areas of support

The National Societies in Estonia and Lithuania place great emphasis on reducing the impacts of climate change and minimizing climate and environmental footprints in their respective countries. To support this, they will both integrate climate risk management across all programmes, operations and advocacy work in coordination with relevant authorities.

The National Societies plan to leverage their networks of volunteers to raise public awareness, empowering

young people as agents of change and increasing uptake in climate- and environment-friendly activities. They will strive to share knowledge with at-risk communities to reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate change impacts and environmental degradation.

With the support of the IFRC, the National Societies will carry out activities focusing on youth projects, staff and volunteer capacity building, community development, reducing the carbon footprint, and advocacy.

National Societies in the Baltic region will organize lectures in schools and universities, initiate climate change mitigation projects and organize events to discuss climate change mitigation activities with young people. To build the capacity of staff and volunteers, the National Societies will invest in training to enable them to identify, address and promote climate risk reduction practices and share their knowledge with impacted communities. At the community level, the National Societies in Estonia and Lithuania will promote environmentally sustainable practices. The Estonian Red Cross and Lithuanian Red Cross Society are also committed to advocating for climate risk management.

To reduce carbon footprints, the National Societies will strive to reduce carbon emissions by using electric cars to travel, promoting recycling and energy-saving practices such as decreasing fuel consumption, and improving the climate-friendliness of transportation, office needs and humanitarian aid provision. The National Societies will ensure that staff have the knowledge, skills and resources to plan and organize activities, operations and logistical functions in an environmentally friendly way.

Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see the IFRC GO pages on [Estonia](#) and [Lithuania](#).

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, population movements and climate change have increased the need for disaster risk reduction and preparedness to better respond to crises in Estonia and Lithuania. During recent crises, the Lithuanian Red Cross Society was forced to mobilize all existing resources in the country, relying on spontaneous support from international partners, the general public and volunteers to cover its operations.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lithuanian Government had never exercised the auxiliary role of the National Society. The Lithuanian Red Cross Society has never received funding from the Government for disaster preparedness and response capacity building.

In Estonia, emergency risk analysis is prepared by the respective state institutions for events where rescue and/or police services are needed, such as cyber incidents, radiation or nuclear accidents, health security events, and animal diseases. Emergencies also include extensive interruptions to vital services, which may have severe consequences for the public. The inclusion of these vital services to the list of emergencies will solidify the state's focus on improving continuity and obligate the authorities to better prepare for crises.

Main actions and areas of support

Key action areas for the National Societies of Estonia and Lithuania include disaster preparedness, capacity building, disaster risk reduction, and cash and voucher assistance preparedness.

In Lithuania, part of this responsiveness is tied to the development and implementation of a revised strategy for upgrading the disaster preparedness and response capacity building activity plan, which also seeks to strengthen the auxiliary role of the Lithuanian Red Cross Society and increase its resources to respond to disasters.

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society aims to strengthen its disaster preparedness programme by assembling a strong team that will prepare its disaster preparedness plans. The team will also form a reserve for crises; organize specialized training for volunteer groups; negotiate with the state on the role of the National Society in critical crises; and cooperate with the state in preparing for crises. It will also launch an information campaign and organize practical trainings for the public, teaching people how to behave during critical crises, where to ask for help and how to help others.

The Estonian Red Cross will focus on developing cash and voucher assistance preparedness, including conducting a self-assessment on cash and voucher assistance readiness, exploring its use across thematic and sectoral areas, and establishing key administrative frameworks to support cash and voucher assistance when it is utilized.

Health and wellbeing

The Baltic countries are among those in the EU with the lowest life expectancy. Key health challenges facing the

region include mental health and non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, strokes and addiction.

In the last two years, the Baltic countries have faced several challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the region, leading to social exclusion, disruption of social relations and economic struggle. Increased migration from non-EU countries also caused social and economic challenges, while Russia's actions in Ukraine threatened national security. These crises affected the psychological health of people living in the Baltic countries, increasing the need for psychological and psychosocial counselling.

However, vulnerable communities have almost no access to psychosocial support due to a lack of trained psychologists and high consultation fees. It is especially difficult for migrants to access mental health services due to the language barrier and lack of funds. Elderly people also struggle to get the help they need due to lack of funds and the inability to find specialists, while single parents and those living in poverty are unable to pay for private psychosocial help.

In Lithuania, suicide rates were the highest in Europe at 21.6 per 100,000, but deaths by suicide fell by 55 per cent between 2000 and 2019. Suicide rates in Lithuania had increased during a period of significant social and economic change. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1996, there were 51 suicide cases per 100,000 inhabitants. The Government of Lithuania is committed to further reducing the number of suicides by running suicide prevention campaigns and strengthening the mental health system. There has not been a significant change in the number of deaths by suicide since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alcohol abuse is one of leading causes of death and disability, particularly among those of working age in Lithuania who drink 11 litres of alcohol per person per year on average. Over 20 per cent of 15-year-olds smoked cigarettes at least once a month in the period between 2017 and 2018.

During the pandemic, most health consultations were provided remotely, leading to dissatisfaction with the quality of services. Many people still complain that it takes a long time to engage a doctor and receive a live consultation, and the consultations are of poor quality. The need for psychologists and psychosocial counselling in Lithuania has increased significantly over the past two years. Those who miss out on state-funded counselling do not have the funds to pay for it privately.



Estonian Red Cross

Main actions and areas of support

Key priorities for National Societies in the Baltic region include the revival of first aid awareness and training, mental health and psychosocial support programming, and healthy ageing.

The National Societies are keen to ensure that first aid training programmes are upgraded to be compliant with the requirements of the [IFRC Global First Aid Reference Centre](#). The Estonian Red Cross and Lithuanian Red Cross Society plan to meet this need through the development of a first aid skills education and training system in cooperation with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The National Societies will offer first aid training to target groups, improving its delivery and quality moving forward.

Delivery of regular first aid training creates a broader and stronger basis for the protection of people in an emergency. The situation in Ukraine has demonstrated the need to be better prepared for disasters and conflicts in the region, highlighting the importance of equipping people with the skills to assist those around them. The Estonian Red Cross aims to create a national first aid competence centre, providing first aid training to the population with modern first aid methods. The development and purchase of a training facility will allow for more regular training sessions to take place.

The National Societies in Estonia and Lithuania will deliver programmatic mental health and psychosocial support training, as well as regular psychosocial assistance for people in need. The National Societies will also establish regional psychosocial support response

units, where advanced mental health and psychosocial support training can be carried out. Through this focus area, the National Societies will strive to establish a response system for mental health and psychosocial support during rapid emergencies. They will also deliver long-term community support in cooperation with authorities, as well as establishing clear referral pathways for mental health support and other services.

Migration and displacement

The past two years have seen significant growth in the humanitarian needs of migrants and displaced people in the Baltic region, stemming from the Belarus and Ukrainian population movements and increased government measures to contain or hinder movement. Due to the ongoing conflict, violence and a severe lack of livelihoods and safety, population movement from these countries is expected to increase, especially during the winter months, as people affected by the conflict and extreme winter conditions flee.

In 2021, significant movement of migrants increased tensions between local communities and migrants. Migrants are often subjected to abuse, with limited medical and mental health care. A lack of livelihoods and access to services negatively affects the mental health and well-being of people on the move. Measures taken by local authorities, such as forced pushbacks at the border and release of migrants from detention with no legal documentation, have left people in highly insecure conditions, further exacerbating their vulnerability.

The Lithuanian Red Cross will continue to assist people arriving in Lithuania or transiting through the country, providing water, sanitation and hygiene services, livelihoods support, health services, information and voucher assistance to meet basic humanitarian needs.

As of mid-2022, the migration situation in the region was relatively stable; however, based on humanitarian analysis and in-depth discussions with governmental actors and authorities, there is a clear need to maintain and expand these actions, and prepare longer-term assistance for refugees in the country.

To scale up their action, the Estonian Red Cross and Lithuanian Red Cross Society must improve overall ability and preparedness by training staff and volunteers effectively. The National Societies will also implement a systematic approach to respond to emergencies, and a cooperation structure to collaborate with the respective authorities and governmental actors.

Main actions and areas of support

The National Societies of Lithuania and Estonia are committed to improving their services to migrants, with a particular focus on basic needs, integration, and mental health and psychosocial support.

The Estonian Red Cross aims to engage with migrants, displaced people and host communities to assess, understand and respond to their priority needs more effectively. It will scale up the development of needs assessments to improve the accuracy and responsiveness of programming, while simultaneously leveraging existing information technology tools to ensure that programmes are both efficient and accessible.

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society aims to expand its provision of health, protection and inclusion services and humanitarian assistance to people on the move, while working with local communities to combat negative perceptions of migrants and displaced people. The National Society will also continue to scale up the negotiation of agreements and legal provisions with local authorities to strengthen its auxiliary role in supporting people on the move. It will engage with authorities to provide humanitarian assistance to host communities and affected populations, and expand the range of safe services provided to migrants through humanitarian service points across all 15 branches.

Values, power and inclusion

The National Societies in Lithuania and Estonia are committed to integrating values, power and inclusion within all areas of programming. They recognize that a

person's sex, gender identity, age, physical ability, ethnicity or nationality can influence how they are affected by disasters, conflicts and crises and how they respond and recover from them. Deliberate and targeted actions are required to mitigate, reduce and respond to risks and incidents of violence, discrimination and exclusion against people on the move.

Emergencies can also make existing inequalities worse. The current situation in Ukraine exacerbates vulnerabilities and increases existing protection risks, such as sexual and gender-based violence, human trafficking, violence towards and neglect of children, racism, xenophobia and discrimination against the LGBTQI+ community and other minority groups. Women, unaccompanied and separated minors, people living with disabilities, older adults, members of the LGBTQI+ community and third country nationals have been identified as vulnerable, requiring immediate and targeted assistance.

The COVID-19 pandemic magnified the vulnerabilities of key communities. People in poverty, older people and migrants experienced unemployment and limited capacity for remote work, food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, and lack of access to health care. The widespread impact of the pandemic continues to reverberate, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities and demanding more comprehensive responses to issues as they emerge over the coming years.

Main actions and areas of support

The National Societies in Lithuania and Estonia will continue to advocate for humanitarian values and principles by encouraging young people to share their knowledge of humanitarian principles in their communities. The National Societies will also mainstream protection, gender and inclusion in strategic and programme planning to ensure that interventions are tailored to the diverse needs and problems of specific vulnerable groups.

The Estonian Red Cross will focus on protecting and promoting positive change for humanity, based on humanitarian values and principles. To achieve this, the IFRC will support the National Society to reach more branches and increase awareness through engagement with young people and the education community, ensuring inclusive working dynamics, greater diversity and the protection of people and their dignity. The IFRC will also support the National Society to promote resilience and peaceful environments.

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society plans to establish the Lithuanian Red Cross Academy, where it will conduct lectures for its volunteers and other members of the public. These lectures will cover a range of topics, such as how humanitarian aid is carried out; how not to harm people in crisis; and how to help others. The Lithuanian Red Cross Academy will also conduct practical training sessions for volunteers and other members of the public, covering first aid and mental health and psychosocial support, crisis preparedness, behavioural crises and other topics.

The National Societies will also strengthen community engagement and accountability as a way of working that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, whose diverse needs, priorities and preferences guide everything the IFRC does. It achieves this by integrating meaningful community participation, open and honest communication and mechanisms to listen to and act on feedback, within programmes and operations.

Enabling local actors

The National Societies in Estonia and Lithuania are committed to pursuing their institutional strengthening and have carried out the self-assessment part of the [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process in 2020 and 2011 respectively. The self-assessment part of the process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

Engaged

Public participation in crisis management is vital. National Societies must share information about crises in a timely manner and communicate what is needed and how people can help during the response. The National Societies in the Baltic region will hold activities and meetings with communities, designed to share information and discuss the ways in which communities can support emergency response. The crisis in Ukraine demonstrated that in order to assist people efficiently and effectively, the National Societies must digitalize their activities or individual processes more.

The Estonian Red Cross will build its engagement with the IFRC Psychosocial Support Centre and the IFRC Global First Aid Reference Centre to support its 2021–2025 strategy. The National Society will also participate in the National Commission for International Humanitarian Law and carry out activities for digital transformation.

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society will organize activities to change public behaviour, strengthen community resilience to crises, build inclusive and peaceful communities and optimize operations by improving its digital maturity.

Accountable

The Estonian Red Cross and the Lithuanian Red Cross Society will strengthen the competences of staff and volunteers as an important part of disaster preparedness, improving coordination processes that support the implementation of programmes and service delivery in an accountable manner.

The National Societies will build their capacities in financial sustainability and negotiate additional warehouse capacity. They will develop and manage a logistics strategy and a standard for relief delivery and maintenance, as well as limiting the environmental impacts of programmes, operations, logistics and supply chain functions.

Trusted

The Estonian Red Cross and the Lithuanian Red Cross Society both have the potential to play a larger role in supporting their communities as trusted organizations, working closely with authorities. This role and position will require the recruitment of new volunteers, capacity building and training at branch level, and the institutionalization of the National Societies' supporting role.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Estonian Red Cross and the Lithuanian Red Cross Society on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including strengthening auxiliary roles. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In Estonia, the IFRC supports the National Society through its Psychosocial Support and Global First Aid Reference Centres. The IFRC also provides materials for psychosocial support training.

In Lithuania, the IFRC Regional Office for Europe in Budapest continues to coordinate the response to population movement through a [DREF operation](#) and the Ukraine and impacted countries crisis [Emergency Appeal](#). The IFRC is supporting the National Society to strengthen its capacity. Additionally, the IFRC country cluster delegation in Warsaw is supporting Lithuanian Red Cross Society in planning its development phases.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordinates with National Societies to assess humanitarian context, situations and needs; agree common priorities; co-develop common strategies to address issues such as obtaining humanitarian access,

acceptance and space; mobilize funding and other resources; clarify consistent public messaging; and monitor progress. The IFRC also ensures that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action and development assistance, reinforcing the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Estonian Red Cross and Lithuanian Red Cross Society are part of various thematic groups that bring together European National Societies. The IFRC supports and facilitates the active participation of the National Societies in these networks.

During the 2021 Lithuania population movement operation, the IFRC supported the Lithuanian Red Cross Society to engage with the National Societies in Estonia, Latvia and Poland through joint meetings. The Lithuanian Red Cross shared its experiences and lessons learned during the unexpected migrant influx. It also held one-on-one talks with the sister National Societies as needed.

The Estonian Red Cross also enjoys partnerships with the **German Red Cross** on an ambulance project, and the **Finnish Red Cross** on evacuation readiness and second-hand store items.

Movement coordination

Coordination between the National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#). During the 2021 Lithuania population movement operation, the Lithuanian Red Cross Society led bi-weekly Movement coordination meetings with the IFRC and the ICRC.

The Estonian Red Cross partners with the ICRC to deliver restoring family links programming.

The Lithuanian Red Cross has partnered with the ICRC on protection issues since 2019, including restoring family links and detention. The National Society's restoring family links officer, head of asylum and migration programmes, and monitoring officer are actively collaborating with the ICRC Paris regional delegation.

Coordination with other actors

During the COVID-19 pandemic, both National Societies increased their cooperation with authorities.

The Estonian Red Cross works with a variety of local partners, including:

- Ministry of Social Affairs on mental health and psychosocial support and first aid training, the provision and establishment of a response system, and implementing a cash and voucher assistance programme
- Ministry of Education and Research on the Boomerang project
- Ministry of Interior on the Kobo Toolbox project
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs on humanitarian diplomacy and international humanitarian law

In 2021, as part of the DREF population movement operation, the Lithuanian Red Cross Society expanded its collaboration with state bodies and other organizations involved in population movement issues. These include:

- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour
- State Border Guard Service

- Migration Department
- Foreigners Registration Centre
- Refugee Reception Centre
- UNHCR RRNE
- FRONTEX
- IOM Vilnius office
- Caritas Lithuania
- Food Bank Lithuania

The Lithuanian Red Cross's access to the reception centres and border control points were granted in an official written agreement between the State Border Guard Service, UNHCR and the National Society. In collaboration with Caritas Lithuania and Food Bank Lithuania, the Lithuanian Red Cross Society has been addressing the humanitarian needs of migrants at border crossing points, by distributing water, hygiene kits, footwear and clothing, and leisure equipment for children.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



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.

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