



TÜRKİYE

2024 IFRC network country plan

25 January 2024

Funding Requirement **CHF 291.5M**

In support of the Turkish Red Crescent



301

National Society branches



13,900

National Society staff



320,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



1.25M

Ongoing emergency operations



48,000

Climate and environment



147,000

Disasters and crises



442,000

Health and wellbeing



425,000

Migration and displacement



15,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- protracted population movement crisis

Capacity development

- humanitarian diplomacy
 - communications
 - digitalization
- human resource development

Key country data

Population

85.3M

INFORM Severity rating

high

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

medium

Human Development Index rank

48

Population below poverty level

15%

Hazards



Earthquakes



Population movement



Floods



Landslides



Forest fires

Funding requirements

Total 291.5M CHF

Through the IFRC

252M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

39.5M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

200M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

2M CHF

Climate and environment

5M CHF

Disasters and crises

5M CHF

Health and wellbeing

30M CHF

Migration and displacement

10M CHF

Enabling local actors

IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing emergency response:

MDRTR004

Longer-term needs:

MAATR002

Participating National Societies

Albanian Red Cross*

American Red Cross*

Andorran Red Cross*

Australian Red Cross*

Austrian Red Cross*

Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan*

Belarus Red Cross*

Belgian Red Cross*

British Red Cross*

Bulgarian Red Cross*

Canadian Red Cross Society*

Red Cross Society of China*

Croatian Red Cross*

Danish Red Cross*

Estonia Red Cross*

Finnish Red Cross*

French Red Cross*

The Gambia Red Cross Society*

German Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society

Korean Red Cross

Icelandic Red Cross*

Irish Red Cross Society*

Italian Red Cross*

Kazakh Red Crescent*

Latvian Red Cross*

Liechtenstein Red Cross*

Red Cross of North Macedonia*

Maldivian Red Crescent*

Red Cross of Monaco*

The Netherlands Red Cross*

New Zealand Red Cross*

Norwegian Red Cross

Philippine Red Cross*

Saudi Red Crescent Authority*

The Red Cross of Serbia*

Singapore Red Cross Society*

Slovenian Red Cross*

Spanish Red Cross*

Swedish Red Cross*

Swiss Red Cross*

**National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.*

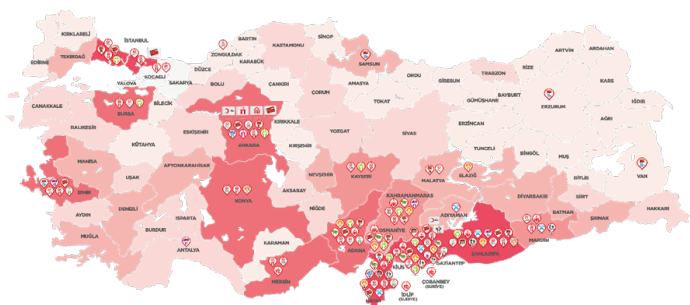
NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Turkish Red Crescent, established in 1868, is the largest humanitarian organization in the country. As an auxiliary to the public authorities in humanitarian services, the National Society provides aid for vulnerable people in need during disasters and non-emergency contexts. It uses its extensive in-country assets, human resources, and government and civil society relations for the effective and efficient implementation of activities across all sectors. This includes disaster management as well as social, migration and blood services. The Turkish Red Crescent was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1930.

The Turkish Red Crescent's vision is to serve as a model in humanitarian aid services in Türkiye and around the world, and to stand by people in their most challenging times. Prepared with the contributions of all stakeholders, [the Turkish Red Crescent Strategic Plan](#) for 2021–2030 comprises a total of 11 goals to reinforce social resilience and develop strong governance and institutional trust. The National Society strives towards eliminating hunger and poverty in society, helping migrants, promoting healthy ageing, meeting blood needs sufficiently, developing resilience against natural hazards and human-made disasters, and creating a more viable environment with better access to education. It also seeks to improve stakeholder relations and financial sustainability.

In 2022, the Turkish Red Crescent has reached over 33 million people with long term services and development

programmes, whereas close to 9 million people have been [reached](#) through disaster response and early recovery programmes. Over the past three years, the Turkish Red Crescent, in coordination with IFRC, has been supporting more than 2.5 million refugees in Türkiye under the ECHO funded Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme. The Turkish Red Crescent will continue supporting refugee families through the Social Safety Net, in coordination with the Directorate General of Social Assistance, with funding from European Commission's Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR). As part of its migration response, the Turkish Red Crescent has built a strong capacity which it commits to share with other stakeholders to reach more communities in need. This focuses on cash ([the Kızılaykart Platform](#)) and social services – including multi-sector needs such as health, protection and livelihoods through a nationwide network of community centres. It also emphasizes planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, together with community engagement and accountability approaches.



IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

With a population of more than 85 million, Türkiye is an upper middle-income country, and is highly vulnerable to natural hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, floods, and forest fires. More than 95 per cent of the country lies in some of the most active earthquake and landslide regions in the world. At the outset of 2023, devastating earthquakes caused widespread damage in southern Türkiye. In the wake of the catastrophic earthquakes that hit Türkiye, the nation is

facing an escalating humanitarian crisis as the needs on the ground continue to grow. The earthquakes and its subsequent aftershocks have caused extensive devastation in both urban and rural areas. Nearly 16 million people have been affected and approximately 9.1 million people stand as direct witnesses to these earthquakes. This catastrophe resulted in the loss of over 50 thousand lives and the internal displacement of more than three million individuals. As per the June 2023 AFAD data, approximately three million people are displaced within the disaster-stricken region, with 2.4 million of them seeking shelter in tents. While new housing is under construction and alternate shelter solutions are being explored, the state of displacement is increasingly prolonged.

Türkiye had been hosting the most refugees in the world before the earthquake happened in February 2023. According to statistics provided by the Presidency of Migration Management, as of July 2023 more than 3.3 million Syrians under temporary protection status are residing in Türkiye. A sizeable number of refugees with international protection status from other countries, such as Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and Somalia, are also housed in Türkiye. Over 1.8 million refugees live in the earthquake-affected area, roughly half of whom are women and girls when the number of foreign residents in the earthquake-affected region is considered. The disaster has put even more pressure on both refugee populations and host communities, stretching capacities.

Climate change is expected to contribute to an increase in average temperature, which will negatively affect water and soil resources that are crucial for food production. Wildfires in the Mediterranean region saw heightened activity in 2021. These problems are likely to cause further distress to Türkiye's entire population and have a particularly negative impact on the vulnerability of migrants living in the country.

Türkiye has been experiencing an economic crisis for the past years, and it has worsened significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic, and the conflict in Ukraine.



The Turkish Red Crescent has deployed more than 4,000 staff and volunteers in response to the 6 Feb 2023 earthquakes. (Photo: TRC)

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Emergency Appeal name	Earthquakes
Appeal number	MDRTR004
Duration	7 Feb 2023 – 28 Feb 2025
People to be assisted	300,000 people
Funding requirement	CHF 400 M IFRC CHF 750 M Federation-wide
Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal
Operational strategy	Revised operational strategy
Last operation update	Operation Update 6-month update

A devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck southeast Türkiye in the early hours of 6 February 2023, followed by 83 aftershocks at a maximum level of 6.7, and an additional separate earthquake of 7.6 the following day in the same region. On 20 February, almost two weeks after the initial earthquake, a separate 6.4 magnitude earthquake hit the Defne district, close to the Syrian border in Hatay province. This was followed by a 5.8 magnitude earthquake on the same evening in Samandag district, Hatay, causing further destruction to the already heavily damaged area. Since 6 February, over 24,000 tremors were recorded in the area (AFAD 05/04/2023).

According to the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), 50,096 people died, and 107,204 people were injured as of 05 April 2023. Some three million people have been displaced, including an estimated 528,146 evacuated by the government. More than half a million buildings have sustained damage, of which almost 265,000 have either collapsed or have been severely damaged. Roads were equally seriously damaged in the affected areas. In total, 17 provinces have been impacted by the earthquake with an estimated 9.1 million people directly affected according to AFAD estimates.

The Turkish authorities, under the umbrella of the AFAD, are leading the overall coordination and management of the response. The Turkish Red Crescent has taken a proactive stance, launching comprehensive operations from day one to provide crucial support and relief to those affected by the earthquakes. As the coordinator of the National Nutrition Service Group and a crucial component of eight auxiliary service groups, the National Society carries a substantial responsibility in the Türkiye Disaster Response Plan. The intricate network of service groups includes telecommunication, health, transportation, shelter, psychosocial assistance, in-kind assistance storage management and distribution, international support, and relations, as well as national and international cash donation.

The Turkish Red Crescent leads the Red Cross Red Crescent response with the support from other Movement and international partners. The IFRC allocated two million Swiss francs from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) on 6 February to cover the immediate costs of the initial response, followed by the launch of an Emergency Appeal on 7 February. The IFRC global surge capacity (Rapid Response personnel) was activated initially for the roles of operations management, membership coordination, health in emergencies and communications, and later complemented by sectoral roles. From 10 February 2023, the IFRC assumed the shelter cluster coordination role, in line with global shelter cluster lead

role in disaster contexts. To ensure coordination amongst the different actors in the field, the Turkish Red Crescent and the IFRC jointly built upon the existing Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) structures to establish an operational field base in Gaziantep.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through the IFRC emergency appeal, the immediate and early recovery needs of 300,000 affected people are being met. The support through the IFRC appeal includes shelter, food and water, health services, cash assistance and protection for vulnerable groups. The Turkish Red Crescent has been distributing tents, blankets, sleeping bags, bed chairs and mattresses to meet the urgent shelter needs of the people whose houses were destroyed.

The revised Operational Strategy indicates that food security, multi-purpose cash, psychosocial support, protection and livelihoods remain the major priorities for international support. Whilst ongoing requirements to support basic needs of the affected population remain, the Turkish Red Crescent has largely transitioned to recovery focused activities. The mass food distribution concluded in most provinces by the end of August 2023 and has only continued in Hatay (Antakya) province where the largest impact of the earthquakes occurred. The implementation of recovery activities is supported by six community centres across the most affected provinces of Hatay, Kahramanaras, Adiyaman, Osmaniye, Malatya and Gaziantep. Each community centre has staff and volunteers to support affected communities and the activities for cash, livelihoods, protection, WASH, and community health. It also includes social workers and psychologists to meet the psychosocial needs of the affected population. Disaster risk reduction is also factored in.

New activities in the revised operational strategy, in line with early recovery and recovery priorities, also include:

- Shelter, Housing and Settlements: fully furnished containers
- Food: cash assistance for food, transition from hot meals to food parcels
- Livelihoods: increased cash assistance for rural livelihoods, small-to-medium businesses grants
- Health and care: cash assistance for health (health equipment, medicine, medical treatment, people living with disabilities)
- WASH: increased WASH services in temporary settlements (through water tanks, shower units, laundry units)

Emergency Appeal name	Ukraine and Impacted Countries
Appeal number	MGR65002
Duration	28 Feb 2022 – 31 Dec 2025
People to be assisted	Total for the Appeal: 22.65 M people Türkiye: 7'500 for 2024
Funding requirement	CHF 800M IFRC, out of which 23.1M for Türkiye CHF 2.7 billion Federation-wide
Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal
Operational strategy	Türkiye -Turkish Red Crescent Response Plan
Last operation update	Operation Update 8

More than one year on from the escalation of international armed conflict in Ukraine, the devastation continues to affect every aspect of people's lives. Many of the millions who fled are unable to return home, and those who remain face dire conditions, with limited access to water, heat, health care and other essential services. The impacts on people's mental health, whether they are inside or outside of Ukraine, continue to grow.

Through this Emergency Appeal, the IFRC continues to support the Ukrainian Red Cross and other National Societies in the region who are standing side-by-side with communities, providing crucial and long-term humanitarian aid to meet a wide range of needs. People displaced from Ukraine can enter the country and stay in Türkiye up to 90 days without visa in line with a visa waiver programme. For longer stay, they need to apply for residence permit (short term or humanitarian residence permit) or international protection status as regulated under the Law on Foreigners and International Protection. Most of the displaced people from Ukraine consider Türkiye as a temporary location and tend to apply for short-term residence permit (short term or humanitarian residence permit). Due to legal obligations such as complying with signature duty, applications for international protection remain low among the target population.

The Turkish Red Crescent Response Plan as part of the Ukraine and impacted countries crisis Appeal has received by mid-2023 an income of CHF 3.5 M from the IFRC Appeal and CHF 2.6 mil from American Red Cross, making a total income of CHF 6.1 M for the response in Türkiye. The Turkish Red Crescent

has reached over 9'000 people as part of its response to the Ukraine and impacted countries crisis.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

With much about the future of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine remaining unknown, the Turkish Red Crescent plans to extend its humanitarian assistance operation for the people displaced from Ukraine to Türkiye until the end of 2025. During this timeframe, the National Society will continue providing essential humanitarian aid in health and care, WASH, integrated assistance (including essential households items, multi-purpose cash and accommodation), protection gender and inclusion (PGI) services and community engagement and accountability (CEA), while receiving support from other existing programmes as appropriate. The Turkish Red Crescent is planning to continue its efforts for the people affected by the Ukraine crisis through expanding its support from health to provision of rehabilitation of children with specific needs. In terms of protection activities, case management activities are planned to be included in the response for the period of 2024 and 2025. Within this period, the National Society will be actively collecting, analysing, and responding to feedback as an extension of the CEA component. A livelihoods component will be incorporated in the plan to provide Turkish language courses to people who have a probability of staying in Türkiye until the end of 2025. In addition, socio-economic analysis will be carried out for individuals willing to integrate into the labor market. To this end, people will be referred to suitable jobs or their vocational competency will be supported through courses.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Climate change studies in Türkiye report that there is likely to be a decrease in rainfall, a rise in extreme weather events and average temperature increases of 1.5–4°C degrees by 2070. According to [Türkiye's National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan](#), temperature increases could be reaching up to 5°C in inner regions and up to 4°C in the Aegean and Eastern Anatolia. Such factors will contribute to a more arid climate with a higher propensity for weather-related disasters. These changes are not evenly distributed across the country. Higher temperatures are predicted for the west and southwest, with less rainfall in regions with a Mediterranean climate and more rainfall and flooding along the Black Sea coast. The most extreme effects of climate change are predicted, and already observed, to be along the western coastline where much of the population lives.

According to Türkiye's National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, which entered into force in May 2010, Türkiye's national vision within the scope of climate change is to integrate climate change policies within development policies, to expand energy efficiency, to increase the use of clean and renewable energy resources, to support the fight against climate change and to be a country that can offer energy with low carbon intensity.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Turkish Red Crescent has defined a set of multi-year objectives together with the IFRC and network partners to tackle climate change and environmental challenges in Türkiye. The objectives cover ambitious institutional and programmatic developments, in line with the urgency of the climate and environmental crisis, and include to:

- Develop and implement community-driven climate change adaptation and environmental protection projects
- Raise awareness at the community level with the help of branches and community centres
- Apply procedures to conform to environmental protection requirements in day-to-day work
- Mainstream environmental protection as an integral part of project and programme implementation, particularly in socio-economic empowerment and community resilience programming

Planned activities in 2024

- Set up a Logistics Hub at Istanbul Airport, specialized in greener solutions for disaster response and humanitarian work
- Inform local institutions and government bodies, such as municipalities, agriculture and forest departments, about the Turkish Red Crescent's approach to climate change
- Ecological awareness-raising training at the community level, for example vocational training of participants to reduce, reuse and recycle the materials used during the training
- Strengthen existing livelihood interventions and expand their scope into developing an integrated socio-economic programme with integral climate change actions
- Support available concept notes or proposals concerning the impact of climate change on health, for example heatwaves, fires, floods and drought, or potential malnutrition as a result of food insecurity with a community-oriented focus
- Deliver virtual climate change-related training
- Conduct joint research to understand the risks and impacts of climate change in Türkiye, particularly from extreme heat
- Identify the climate policy landscape in Türkiye, the potential role that the National Society can play, and key areas of focus in climate and environment-related response
- Explore and research sample case studies from other countries to understand how different National Societies position themselves in their overall climate response
- Support the mandate of the Turkish Red Crescent's climate response as determined by its strategic investments, such as hiring an expert and creating a cross-cutting department
- Develop an implementation plan to ensure the application of protective measures, such as responsible water and energy usage, alternative energy sources, waste separation, recycling of materials, and reducing the consumption of products with high carbon emissions
- Explore partnerships to support environmental protection, including waste management, community plantation and reforestation, conservation of natural resources, and disaster risk reduction mitigation activities by addressing climate change and environmental crisis issues with mitigation measures

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Since the beginning of 2023, the IFRC and the Turkish Red Crescent have worked together to define the Turkish Red Crescent's climate action roadmap. The IFRC Regional Office held two online webinars and one on-site workshop in Athens to communicate the [IFRC Network Climate Action Roadmap 2025](#). Climate change focal points from both the IFRC and the Turkish Red Crescent attended two webinars in March and May

2023 and contributed to the thematic discussions. As a result of these initial dialogue, and in collaboration with the [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre](#), the IFRC Regional Office and the IFRC Türkiye Delegation, discussions are ongoing to initiate the work on a national climate risk assessment and a climate screening to be completed in 2024.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page [Türkiye](#)

Given its environmental and geographic position, Türkiye has long experienced many disasters caused by natural hazards. On 6 February 2023, two massive earthquakes with magnitudes of 7.7 and 7.6 struck the southern part of Türkiye. The quakes exposed the area's susceptibility to seismic damages and unleashed a torrent of destruction (see under ongoing emergency response section for details).

Other hazards include the high potential for wildfires in the Mediterranean region and the risk of flooding along the Black Sea coast, while the southern border regions face potential militant and cross-border conflict issues.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Turkish Red Crescent is a major responder to emergencies in the country. Within the earthquakes emergency response operation and for effective response to disasters, the National Society will continue to implement the plan of action following the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) assessment conducted in November 2022. This is part of the Turkish Red Crescent strengthening efforts as outlined in the National Society strategy. Looking at the future, recognizing the need for continued investment in preparedness, the Turkish Red Crescent aspires to develop a regional disaster management centre in Istanbul (European side). In addition, the Turkish Red Crescent will seek to invest in ready-to-eat food preparedness stocks, recognizing the National Society's designated role in food provision under the National Disaster Management Plan.

The Turkish Red Crescent disaster management team selected areas of priority, from the PER action plan as follows:

- Raising awareness about disasters and realizing early and effective pre-disaster preparedness
- Developing the National Society search/rescue and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) capacities

- Harnessing the power of Artificial Intelligence to enhance disaster management by integrating machine learning algorithms and enabling the generation of predictive models based on a comprehensive analysis of past disasters
- Build the Kızılay disaster management system for a more effective and technologically advanced approach to disaster management by integrating AI

Planned activities in 2024

- Continue to respond to the needs of people affected by disasters and crises as they arise
- Support communities with essential resources for earthquake hazard reduction within their homes
- Conduct preparedness exercises using an earthquake simulation vehicle
- Expand the communication network, by acquiring a communication vehicle and strategically placing it across the country annually
- Enhanced mass feeding capabilities by converting food delivery vehicles, food packaging machinery, food preparation tools, a dishwashing unit, and a soup vending machine

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will work together with the Turkish Red Crescent to integrate lessons learned from previous disaster management operations where applicable, as well as align the organizational priorities based on the Earthquakes [Emergency Appeal](#) and [Operations Strategy](#). This is part of the National Society strengthening during the recovery phase of the earthquake operation. In this regard, an operational review will be carried out by the Turkish Red Crescent and IFRC. Findings and recommendations will be used to inform future programming in Türkiye, and in other similar contexts globally.

The National Society, with IFRC support, will explore a project on mental health and economic resilience support for earthquake affected households particularly women, girls, and youth from both refugees, internally displaced and host communities. This project follows an integrated humanitarian-development nexus approach by promoting access to income and addressing mental health, psychosocial and protection needs of vulnerable population in the earthquake affected region. Key interventions include (1) livelihood and income-generating support to affected micro and small businesses, particularly women-led businesses, towards women's economic empowerment; (2) job and employment guidance and work permit support to refugees and internally displaced population; (3) women working rights, care work and unpaid care awareness raising and (4) coordinated employment and livelihood referral services.

The **Republic of Korea National Red Cross** will support the Turkish Red Crescent to provide transitional shelters to the earthquake affected population in Pazarcik, Kahramanmaraş and to enhance the Turkish Red Crescent's disaster and crisis preparedness and capability by prepositioning emergency relief items and improving transportation capacity of local branch offices. A transitional shelter village has been established with 1,000 container houses and social facilities in Pazarcik, Kahramanmaraş, connected, installed, and equipped with lifelines (water, electricity, road), home appliances, and furniture among others. Emergency relief items such as kitchen sets and mattresses were procured and prepositioned. 35 emergency response fleet vehicles for ten local branches and headquarters will be procured and distributed.



Health and wellbeing

The health and well-being context in Türkiye is influenced by factors such as healthcare accessibility, public health initiatives, mental health awareness, lifestyle-related issues, aging population concerns, disaster preparedness, and the integration of traditional medicine. Disparities in healthcare access exist between urban and rural areas. Public health initiatives focus on prevention and education. Mental health awareness is increasing, and efforts are being made to address stigma. Lifestyle changes have led to concerns about diseases like obesity. Türkiye's aging population necessitates improved geriatric care and social support. Disaster management is crucial due to the country's vulnerability to natural disasters. Traditional medicine is being integrated into modern healthcare practices.

Many Syrians can easily access health services in Türkiye in accordance with Türkiye's social security system based on general health insurance. However, Türkiye's public health services are strained by the large number of migrants within the country, most of whom lack access to quality preventive and curative health services due to language and cultural barriers. Vulnerability and poverty negatively impact Syrian refugees in Türkiye, with Syrians in less stable situations seeking out healthcare more frequently, reporting higher rates of obesity, heart disease, and other long-term ailments. Mental illness is an especially acute issue, reported widely in both the Syrian and the Turkish population, with economic stress and post-conflict trauma issues. Low health literacy in

this community is still a major issue that prevents from the efficient use of health services and causes to seek treatment in old-fashioned ways.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Turkish Red Crescent has a sustained health capacity and strengthened community-based approach, which includes mental health and health interventions within community centres. Through its Directorate of Public Health and Psychosocial Support, the National Society raises awareness at community level to achieve a society with improved well-being. It works to elevate health literacy, and supports better care for the elderly and people with disabilities. With the primary goal of reducing mortality and morbidity during disasters and emergencies, the National Society is working to establish an improved and institutionalized health emergency response unit (ERU) to effectively address emergency health crises that may rise.

To address the challenges of access to health services for vulnerable groups, the Turkish Red Crescent has created the women's health and safe motherhood trainings to provide the communities with the necessary information. The main subjects of these trainings consist of a broad range of health issues such as hygiene, women's health, early marriage, teenage pregnancies, family planning, and aged care.

Planned activities in 2024

- Provide health services at times of disasters and respond to health emergencies as they arise
- Continue to run blood services
- Maintain community health care provision at five community centres focusing on maternal and child health care services, immunization, referrals to primary health care, health awareness and education sessions, and outreach activities – together with a protection component where the National Society responds to violence issues with a focus on health
- Implement healthy lifestyle and healthy ageing programmes throughout the country through volunteers
- Increase public health awareness regarding maternal and childcare, communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), first aid, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), disaster health preparedness, oral and dental health, as well as care for the elderly and people living with disabilities
- Organize community-based health and first aid programmes in identified provinces to improve the wellbeing of the communities.
- Include and engage communities through health committees during health care service provision
- Use a special needs fund to facilitate Syrian refugees' access to health and hygiene-related materials that are not offered to them in free health care programmes, such as hearing aids and eye care
- Maintain essential MHPSS services through psychiatrists, psychologists, and child development specialists at 12 mental health units. These stress a community-oriented focus, as well as prevention-related activities and the sustainability of actions, to ensure MHPSS will remain operational beyond funding support
- Provide technical support and improve essential MHPSS activities in community-based migration programmes
- Strengthen mutual referral mechanisms between the migrant health facilities run by the Turkish Ministry of Health, other stakeholders with mental health and psychosocial support services, and the Turkish Red Crescent's other refugee services
- Strengthen health capacity elements, including community-based health and first aid, volunteering, staff capacity building (in both migration and public health departments) and networking with stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Health, NGOs and other local health actors, to improve referral mechanisms

- Train key National Society staff in community-based health and first aid, including branch volunteers, based on training previously provided by the IFRC
- Institutionalize community-based health and first aid training under the ongoing public health training hub
- Provide practical health ERU training together with field exercises, including necessary equipment and materials, to the health roster on an annual basis

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC is set to assist the Turkish Red Crescent by providing community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) Training of Trainers to key personnel, including branch volunteers, building on prior training provided by IFRC. The CBHFA training will become a part of the ongoing public health training hub. It will be implemented in all provinces for the enhancement of community health, covering topics such as maternal and childcare, communicable and non-communicable diseases, MHPSS, first aid, and health in emergencies.

The IFRC will also support comprehensive health ERU training, including annual field exercises for the health ERU roster. ERU staff and volunteers will receive training in fundamental healthcare services and the healthcare referral system through the health training hub. Both medical and non-medical supplies will be procured for the health ERU. A software service for ERU roster management, specifically the rapid personnel deployment system, will be implemented. To ensure a broader reach and capability, members of the Turkish Red Crescent ERU roster will actively participate in international health ERU Technical working group meetings and specialized training programs in other countries. The IFRC is committed to fostering collaboration within IFRC membership to provide substantial support to Turkish Red Crescent in enhancing its health ERU capacity and embedding ERU capacity-building endeavours and methodologies into the organization's framework.

The German Red Cross will support the Turkish Red Crescent in maintaining a sustained health capacity and strengthened community-based approach, with a focus on mental health interventions within community centres. It will provide financial support for maintaining essential MHPSS services through psychiatrists, psychologists, and child development specialists at 12 Mental Health Units, with a community-oriented focus. Support includes technical assistance and improvement of the non-medical MHPDD activities that Turkish Red Crescent rolls out in community-based migration programmes and strengthening the mutual referral mechanisms.

The Republic of Korea National Red Cross will support the national blood transfusion services of the Turkish Red Crescent. It will support the establishment of a blood donation

centre in Iskenderun, two blood collection units in Antakya and Kirikhan, and two blood donation vehicles, equipped with blood transfusion equipment, supplies, and consumables. The Korean Red Cross will provide technical support to the Turkish Red Crescent blood service staff through mutual knowledge and practice exchanges, and study visits between the Turkish Red Crescent and the Republic of Korea National Red Cross

blood service centres. The Korean Red Cross will also support the construction of community centres where the multiple health services include MHPSS and referral services.

The Japanese Red Cross will provide bilateral funding support to the Turkish Red Crescent's health care services for the earthquake affected populations in the areas of CBHFA and blood service.



Migration and displacement

Türkiye hosts approximately four million registered refugees out of a total of 5.5 million foreign residents. Among these refugees, 92% are Syrians under temporary protection. Over 98% of Syrians have transitioned into “urban refugees,” settling in various towns and cities across Türkiye and coexisting with the local community. This group also includes 450,000 children who were born in Türkiye after their families migrated. The remaining 300,000 registered refugees fall primarily under the category of international protection, originating from various countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Somalia, and most recently Ukraine (see under ongoing emergency response section for Ukrainians in Türkiye).

In the wake of increasing instances of disasters caused by natural hazards and the evolving impacts of climate change, Türkiye is also confronted to internal population movement. The devastating earthquakes in February 2023 have displaced about three million people and have also profoundly impacted the living conditions of refugees in Türkiye, alongside the host community. More than two million refugees under international and temporary protection previously resided in the eleven provinces affected by the earthquakes (see also under ongoing emergency response section).

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Turkish Red Crescent is a major actor in the response to population movement from Syria and has developed an integrated approach which includes protection, socioeconomic empowerment, health, and MHPSS programmes. Building upon the support provided to more than 2.5 million refugees under the ECHO funded Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme and in coordination with the IFRC, the Turkish Red Crescent, will continue supporting almost two million refugees through the Social Safety Net, in coordination with the Directorate General of Social Assistance, and with funding from European Commission's Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR). This programme aims to support refugee families meet their basic needs through provision of monthly cash transfers. The

Turkish Red Crescent is also present in the border area with a team in Gazantep and expanding its capacities in the area.

The Turkish Red Crescent has been actively involved in migrant protection with a dedicated department. Its four core protection scopes are restoring family links (RFL) services, monitoring visits to the removal centres, supporting the people that are requested to be part of the voluntary return mechanism and human trafficking. The Turkish Red Crescent is part of the IFRC's three-year Global Route-Based Migration Programme. It aims to improve the safety and dignity of people along dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Annually, the programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and in host communities through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The high-level objectives of the Turkish Red Crescent include to:

- Respond to the immediate needs of people displaced by disasters as they occur, and support early recovery efforts
- Strengthen socioeconomic empowerment and livelihood referral mechanisms for refugees, internally displaced and host communities through integrated services and more inclusive and feasible economic engagement pathways Support social cohesion between refugees, migrants and displaced people, and host communities
- Manage the protection referral mechanism within the Social Safety Net programme
- Strengthen the National Society protection and outreach capacity
- Increase the capacity of the National Society branches to coordinate and cooperate at local level
- Further increase the sustainability of the community centres through the four pillars of economic sustainability,

environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and good governance

Planned activities in 2024

- Provide monthly cash transfers to almost two million refugees through the Social Safety Net programme
- Continue to run sustainable community centres and provide a wide range of services to vulnerable migrants
- Make need-based interventions, such as Turkish language training, vocational training and on-the-job and soft skills training
- Provide access to employment opportunities through promotion and job placement services and enhance livelihood referral pathways
- Provide work permit application consultancy, coverage for work permit fees and incentives for employers
- Support registration of seasonal informal agriculture workers through an authorization granted by the Directorate-General for International Labour Force across community centres
- Provide information on individual rights, procedures, and updates to maximize and facilitate meaningful access to services during application at service centres and through sensitization activities
- Continue to carry out monitoring visits to removal centres, based on the protocol signed with the Presidency of Migration Management, with a focus on the physical conditions of facilities and service standards to irregular migrants, and providing inputs towards increased service efficiency
- Assist migrants who lack means to voluntarily return to their country, in line with the memorandum of understanding for the National Assisted Voluntary Return Mechanism signed between the Presidency of Migration Management, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and the Turkish Red Crescent
- Provide RFL services, including family reunification, tracing, and delivery of family messages for migrants who are separated from their family members due to the conflict and crisis
- Support victims of trafficking in the safe houses or elsewhere, as per the agreement with the Presidency of Migration Management
- Coordinate with state and non-state actors through evidence-based advocacy initiatives, collaborative actions

and community-level dialogues – raising the concerns of refugees about socio-economic opportunities, formalization of informal jobs and access to work permits

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC's assistance to the Turkish Red Crescent's community-based migration programme spans a range of initiatives collectively aiming to promote sustainable development and enhance the well-being of affected populations. The IFRC is set to assist the Turkish Red Crescent in adopting a nexus approach to transition from humanitarian aid to development programming. The activities to achieve this include:

- Improved livelihood referral pathways to match potential beneficiaries with suitable opportunities through a streamlined tracking mechanism
- Profiling studies to assess needs and inform sustainable program activities
- Registering and profiling of individuals seeking socio-economic empowerment at community centres, guiding personalised counselling and action plans based on qualifications
- Advocacy with local authorities and sector actors to promote livelihood referral mechanisms
- Regular labour market analysis and sector identification to support profiling and selection of target groups
- Value chain and market system analysis to identify potentials of new economic engagement opportunities

The IFRC will also support the Turkish Red Crescent in its efforts to implement activities towards the most urgent needs of the displaced population through the Earthquakes Emergency Appeal. This includes early recovery and recovery priorities, including shelter, housing, and settlements, provision of fully furnished containers, cash assistance for food, transition from hot meals to food parcels, increased cash assistance for rural livelihoods, small-to-medium businesses grants, cash assistance for health, including people living with disabilities (equipment, medicine, and treatment), and increased WASH services in temporary settlements (water tanks, shower units, laundry units).

The Japanese Red Cross will provide support through the IFRC Emergency Appeal to the Turkish Red Crescent's cash-based interventions aimed at supporting vulnerable populations affected by the earthquakes to meet their basic needs and restore their livelihoods.



Values, power and inclusion

The relationship between migrants and host communities in Türkiye has deteriorated since 2020. This has affected refugees' access to essential services, social cohesion, refugee mobility and other vital aspects of migrant life. According to the Syrian Barometer and other surveys, migrants have retained a positive attitude towards the Turkish people, with 95 per cent of Syrians wanting to be friends with them. In contrast, only 37 per cent of people in host communities feel the same.

The aftermath of the earthquakes in Türkiye has had significant impacts, particularly on women and girls, who make up half of the affected population in the 11 impacted provinces. Overall, women and girls affected by the earthquakes require urgent support and services to address their specific needs and challenges, including privacy arrangements, gender-segregated spaces, psychosocial support for children and survivors of traumatic events.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Turkish Red Crescent's goal is to integrate Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) principles across all its programs, operations, and services. The National Society seeks to enhance its targeting methods to effectively address diverse needs and vulnerabilities on the ground, emphasizing a localized approach that encompasses both migrants and host communities. Promoting social cohesion between refugee and host communities is a key objective for the National Society. This also involves increasing the awareness and capacity of staff and volunteers in dealing with issues related to human trafficking, as well as other forms of violence. Through these efforts, the Turkish Red Crescent aims to contribute to a more inclusive and protective environment while ensuring the well-being and safety of all.

The National Society is dedicated to fostering greater acceptance and trust within the community by maintaining ongoing efforts in community engagement and accountability (CEA). It follows a human centred approach, and the target groups and individuals are seen as active stakeholders who are the main responsible of their resilience and development. This approach allows the National Society to position the target groups in all stages of the decision making from needs assessment, design of the interventions to implementation and monitoring. Local communities should be represented by their own institutions or leaders or themselves and have a say in matters that concern their life and well-being.

The high-level objectives of the Turkish Red Crescent include to:

- Incorporate protection, gender and inclusion in all its programmes, operations and services
- Collaborate with local municipalities to identify ongoing social cohesion initiatives, and jointly discover more options for promoting it
- Focus on localization, to improve its targeting system to address needs and vulnerabilities on the ground including host and migrant communities
- Focus on social services and resilience to reposition its auxiliary role to an evidence-based approach
- Works towards increased social cohesion among refugee and host communities
- Increase awareness among National Society staff and volunteers in human trafficking and any forms of violence
- Develop a grassroots strategy to influence public opinion about social cohesion, through the dissemination of critical messages to host communities and high-level decision-makers
- Dissemination of information about RFL services among NGOs, authorities and affected people
- Integrate CEA minimum questions into needs assessments and monitoring exercises
- Offer continued service provision through the 168 call centres
- Ensure capacity to gather, analyse and leverage feedback data from the call centre to guide response actions
- Ensure community members are consulted, engaged and actively participate to improve and inform the available services
- Coordinate with local authorities to ensure relevant key information is aligned and distributed through multiple channels, avoiding duplication and not generating misinformation
- Participate actively in inter-agency CEA/Accountability to Affected Populations/Communication with Communities coordination systems and joint initiatives to share and leverage available community data

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Planned activities in 2024

- Engage the Kizilay Academy to regularly publish vulnerability studies, which can then inform programming around social services, climate, and other areas
 - Provide peer learning and capacity exchange
 - Partner with a university or other expert institution to develop a barometer or observatory to define and monitor needs and vulnerabilities
 - Strengthen programmes for children at risk through lessons learned and the development of educational tools
 - Adapt and translate minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies and programmes across Türkiye
 - Develop training materials on preventing human trafficking and any forms of violence
 - Monitor the collection and evaluation of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data
 - Collect case studies to capture lessons learned and good protection, gender, and inclusion practice.
-

The IFRC will support the Turkish Red Crescent to promote social cohesion. The National Society, with the support of IFRC, will adopt an integrated approach that combines humanitarian and development efforts to address mental health, psycho-social, and protection needs while promoting income access. The objective is to enhance the mental well-being and economic resilience of earthquake-affected households, especially women, girls, and youth from refugee, internally displaced, and host communities.

The Republic of Korea National Red Cross will support the National Society to develop local communities' social capability in economics, culture, children care, and cohesion by developing and providing adequate services to host communities. Community centres will be constructed in the most effective areas accessible to the residents. Assessments and analysis will be conducted to provide the most necessary services to the communities in effective ways and develop specific service plans. Services considered include among others livelihood training, language courses, children education and legal service. Social cohesion will be enhanced among host communities and refugees by cultural exchange programs and other services which give opportunities for mutual understanding.

being done through the development of guidelines, policies, and other relevant documents.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Turkish Red Crescent is committed to strengthening itself as an institution. It carried out a self-assessment as part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2019. This self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Turkish Red Crescent is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective response (PER) process, and is at the work plan phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms, and ultimately take necessary action to improve them.

The Turkish Red Crescent Strategic Plan for 2021–2030 defines the institutional management principles as:

- Transparency: disclose sufficient, correct, and comparable information about the institution in financial, real, and economic aspects in a timely, concrete, and clear manner
- Accountability: define rules and responsibilities regarding management explicitly and adopt the principles of transparency and accessibility to public within the framework of these responsibilities.
- Responsibility: ensure that activities and services conform to the fundamental principles of the Movement of which it is a member, respective national and international legislation, in-house regulations, as well as social and ethical values
- Justice and equality: adopt an equal and unbiased approach towards third persons during all activities



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Turkish Red Crescent seeks continuously enlarge its collaboration and partnerships. It aims to actively forge new partnerships with other National Societies, employing membership coordination mechanisms, including IFRC Emergency Appeals, as tools for engagement and resource coordination. The National Society looks to:

- Maintaining regular communication and engagement with government ministries, humanitarian and development actors in Türkiye, and Movement and other partners
- Deepening active collaboration with public and local organizations
- Establishing a network of cooperation with the private sector
- Continuous information exchange and coordination between the National Society and IFRC on membership-related activities
- Consistent communication with supporting National Societies, including updates on IFRC and National Society initiatives in Türkiye to foster cooperation
- Engagement with IFRC membership in resource mobilization endeavours to ensure well-organized and comprehensive fundraising campaigns
- Relying on a country-specific monitoring and reporting framework to standardize processes, ensuring accountability and transparency
- Maintaining membership in the Platform for European Red Cross and Red Crescent Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Migrants (PERCO)
- Mentoring and capacity enhancement to empower both its internal members and external organizations with similar objectives of community support – channelled in particular through the National Society network of branches, community centres, and youth centres
- Sharing know-how and engaging stakeholders for durable capacity transfer beyond mere training provision
- Enhancing of local decision-making processes, bolstering local capacities, and tailoring solutions that adeptly address community-specific challenges

- Participating in inter-agency coordination meetings and engaging with operational-level actors
- Showcasing its on-ground activities and exploring collaborative responses during workshops and seminars involving national and international actors

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Turkish Red Crescent in maintaining consistent communication with Movement partners if needed. Membership coordination is upheld through ongoing communication with National Societies currently supporting the Turkish Red Crescent. In the event of a disaster necessitating international cooperation, IFRC will continue to provide support through the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) or a comprehensive Emergency Appeal, based on the disaster's nature and scale of needs. Unified planning processes in Türkiye will encompass all IFRC members contributing support and facilitate fundraising efforts with potential donors in alignment with jointly determined priorities. Engagement with the Turkish government will encompass regional and global climate change policy processes, including the Movement's Climate Ambitions and support for implementing the Paris Agreement. Collaboration with local institutions for environmental protection and climate change mitigation will be ensured. Participation in sectoral and thematic coordination mechanisms, including those within the Ukraine response 3RP structures, will be supported.

Within the earthquakes operation, the IFRC aims to support membership coordination which is led by the Turkish Red Crescent, enabling efficient, effective, and complementary support to meet operational needs. This will be done through i) strengthening existing and established membership coordination including information exchange with membership, support in Federation-wide monitoring and reporting, supporting member National Societies visits amongst others; ii) providing technical assistance and accompaniment to ensure compliance and alignment with the IFRC policies and tools; iii) supporting learning from the use of IFRC tools, to ensure effective support in this and future emergency operations; iv) supporting coordination and representation with relevant external actors, including the government, UN agencies, donors, as well as other stakeholders to address specific operational and policy level challenges.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Turkish Red Crescent places particular emphasis on strengthening its volunteers' network, promoting diversity, and working towards sustainability of its community centres. These objectives include:

- Appointing volunteer specialists in the volunteer centres and community centres, who will be responsible for mobilizing, training, and managing the volunteers in their respective areas
- Ensuring a rapid and high-quality emergency response through the volunteer specialists
- Promoting a culture of solidarity and mutual assistance among the volunteers and the communities they serve, by creating opportunities for dialogue, exchange, and cooperation
- Establishing a dedicated monitoring, reporting, and evaluation unit under the volunteer directorate
- Identifying areas of improvement through continuous assessment of volunteering activities and enhancing the skills and competencies of volunteers
- Enhancing the [online platform](#) for volunteer applications through improved user-friendliness and functionality
- Growing the engagement of youth and women's networks in the National Society, through prioritizing special initiatives such as Kızılay Women, Kızılay Youth, and Kızılay Child

The Turkish Red Crescent is also keen to invest in the development of a Health Emergency Response Unit (ERU) for international response and emergency medical teams that it could deploy as part of a Federation-wide response. At the same time, the National Society is committed to further reinforcing its domestic disaster management response capabilities by further developing search and rescue capacity and investing in emergency communications.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the Turkish Red Crescent in enhancing staff capacity to effectively incorporate Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) principles. Exchange of knowledge will take place with IFRC network members in the fields of Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) and [health emergency response unit \(ERU\)](#) through the Turkish Red Crescent's Health Training Hub.

Within the earthquakes operation, IFRC aims to support the National Society in the implementation of pre-existing capacity strengthening efforts, as outlined in its Strategy and plans. This will include organizing and providing tailored trainings to fit response needs, strengthening volunteer management (inductions, systems, psychosocial support, insurance provision), integrating established National Society development methods and tools into the operation (National Society development in emergencies, branch development, preparedness for effective response (PER)) and responding to disaster-based impacts incurred in the National Society itself as a result of losses it incurred during the earthquakes (risk mapping, business continuity plans, implementation of PER plan of action, improving urban PER).

Beyond the conclusion of the ESSN programme in December 2023, the IFRC is committed to providing continuous support to the National Society, with a dedicated focus on facilitating CVA activities and supporting initiatives for capacity enhancement.

The German Red Cross will continue supporting the Turkish Red Crescent community-based programming that leads to sustainability of the community centres. Support will focus on technical support in the pilot project of Kirikkale community centre, testing and enhancing community engagement and risk analysis tools for communities to identify and implement their own service priorities. The German Red Cross will also continue supporting the Turkish Red Crescent in enhancing the capacity of local branches in terms of preparedness, including with regards to protection issues as well as other risks and hazards.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Turkish Red Crescent seeks to effectively communicate about its action, and influence decision-makers and public opinion about humanitarian needs. Its priorities include to:

- Develop an external humanitarian diplomacy action plan
- Have a joint communications strategy in place to address critical migration issues
- Pursue the development of new business models in humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy
- Continue to actively support the development and awareness of international regulations such as international humanitarian law and international disaster law
- Actively track and disseminate international regulations and standards

- Promote its activities, including through generating concept and position papers
- Tailor communication to help develop new relationships and partnerships, in particular with the private sector

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to engage media and social media, and to align on national, regional, and global campaigns and other key events to help position, influence, and advocate in Türkiye and around the world. As part of the earthquakes operation, the IFRC aims to scale up public communication with to ensure reliable visibility and accurate sharing of information to support positioning and resource mobilisation. This includes increased social media activities, and media engagements on the ground in Türkiye and around the world.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Turkish Red Crescent, as part of its Strategic Plan, aims at establishing a more agile, innovative, and accountable management mechanism. Its priorities include to:

- Provide pertinent, reliable, and timely financial and related non-financial information and reports to all stakeholders to inform them on the use and management of funds
- Ensure that effective and efficient internal control systems are in place and controls are proportionate to the risks they aim to mitigate, while supporting innovation
- Facilitate workshops on the risk of fraud and protection from any forms of exploitation and abuse
- Oversee data spot checks in coordination with information management and finance units

- Ensure comprehensive internal monitoring and accountability
- Develop the ability to creatively gather and present data and information

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Turkish Red Crescent in generating automated and online reports and dashboards, as well as information products through visualization and mapping that will be shared publicly through the IFRC online platforms. Within the earthquakes operation, the IFRC will support in integrating proactive risk management and scaling up information management and data analysis. It will also support branches in the affected areas in financial management and accountability.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC first opened a delegation in Türkiye in 1994, and later re-established its presence in 2012 following the start of the conflict in Syria. The IFRC provides technical, coordination, administrative and donor-reporting support to the Turkish Red Crescent if needed, and assists in finance and administration, procurement, human resources, communications, and accountability. The IFRC has international and national staff to support cash transfer, migration, livelihoods and disaster response programming, humanitarian diplomacy and external engagement and partnerships.

From 2020 to 2023, the Turkish Red Crescent and the IFRC assumed joint implementation of the [Emergency Social Safety Net](#) programme (ESSN), with funding from the European Union, and in partnership with the Turkish Government's Ministry of Family and Social Services. ESSN, the largest humanitarian programme in the history of the European Union and the largest program ever implemented by the IFRC, was handed

over to the Ministry of Family and Social Services in the latter half of 2023.

Most recently, the IFRC has been supporting the National Society in responding to the devastating earthquakes of February 2023 in the southeastern part of Türkiye through an [Emergency Appeal](#). The IFRC and the Turkish Red Crescent continue working together to respond to the ongoing, and mid-to-long term recovery needs effectively and consistently on the ground. Furthermore, the IFRC has been supporting the National Society to respond to the urgent needs of the people displaced due to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine through the [Emergency Appeal for Ukraine and Impacted Countries](#) (see ongoing emergency response section). The IFRC has also been supporting the National Society to develop strategies for the meaningful inclusion of most vulnerable people from refugee and host communities in formal employment, as part of its socio-economic empowerment programmes.

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations, and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance, and space, mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, of development assistance, and of efforts to reinforce the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Turkish Red Crescent relies on its strong capacities to respond to needs, while receiving support from the IFRC network when major emergencies arise, such as in its response to the 1999 earthquake, the 2011 Van earthquake, the Syrian migration influx towards Türkiye and recently the 2023 earthquakes. There were no participating National Societies present in Türkiye when the earthquakes struck, except for a **Norwegian Red Cross** health delegate integrated with the IFRC. Following the earthquakes, the Turkish Red Crescent has entered new bilateral partnerships with the **German**

Red Cross and the **Republic of Korea National Red Cross**. Both partners will have a longer-term in-country presence. Additionally, the **Japanese Red Cross** will provide ongoing remote bilateral support.

The **German Red Cross** has supported the National Society since the 1999 earthquake. It continues to assist it in mental health and psychosocial support programming, targeting refugee and host communities in Türkiye. Furthermore, the German Red Cross supports community-based programming by enhancing the sustainable community centre model. It contributes to disaster preparedness through readiness support to local branches wherever necessary. Following the earthquake in February 2023, the German Red Cross is supporting the National Society to reach out the affected people with food and relief items, cash and voucher assistance, and psychosocial support kits. It supports the partnership from its Beirut office and since August 2023 has a delegate in Ankara.

The **Japanese Red Cross Society** delegates visited Türkiye after the February 2023 earthquakes to support the Turkish Red Crescent directly and through the IFRC Emergency Appeal

on food support, provision of relief items, health, WASH and in-kind donation and funding of vehicles. The Japanese Red Cross is now continuously supporting the Turkish Red Crescent remotely for mid to long-term activities including health activities and blood services, cash assistance and livelihoods. Both National Societies are also seeking long-term cooperation in the academic area.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** started support to the Turkish Red Crescent through the IFRC and has worked with the National Society bilaterally to cover gaps in health, with a focus on community centres in five provinces, by enabling increased access for Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities to equitable, gender-responsive and quality community health services. With the agreement to assist the Turkish Red Crescent with community-based health programmes coming









to an end in 2023, discussions are taking place around the Norwegian Red Cross future presence and support.

The **Republic of Korea National Red Cross** has been working closely with the Turkish Red Crescent to meet the needs of people affected by the February 2023 earthquakes. The Republic of Korea National Red Cross set up a delegation in April 2023, and signed a bilateral cooperation agreement with the Turkish Red Crescent in June 2023. The support focuses on addressing the needs of vulnerable people in eleven provinces affected by the earthquakes. Aligned with the Turkish Red Crescent Recovery Plan, the cooperation strategy is to link short-term humanitarian service with long-term sustainable development. Priorities include food support, transitional shelter provision, community-based services, blood services, and National Society capacity reinforcement.



Nursena Say, Miss Türkiye World 2022, visited the earthquake-affected areas in her homeland with the Turkish Red Crescent and IFRC colleagues to experience both the devastation and the extensive Red Cross Red Crescent support to the affected families. (Photo: IFRC)

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
German Red Cross	1.4M						
Japanese Red Cross Society	23.3M						
Korean Red Cross	14.3M						
Norwegian Red Cross	453,000						

Total Funding requirement

39.5M

Movement coordination

The IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) communicate regularly about their activities in Türkiye and follow up on developments in the country and sub-region. The ICRC is not present in Türkiye, but it continues to strengthen its collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent in restoring family links and promoting and disseminating

international humanitarian law. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#). For the 2023 earthquakes response, the ICRC supported the Turkish Red Crescent with in-kind relief materials.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Turkish Red Crescent works closely with the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), which leads coordination for disaster response. The Turkish government authorities equally lead the overall coordination and management of humanitarian assistance for refugees, and the National Society works closely with the Presidency of AFAD, the Presidency of Migration Management, the Ministry of Family and Social Services, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in line with its assigned mandate. The National Society coordinates its work with the local authorities and provincial levels of the AFAD and Provincial Directorates of Migration Management offices, the relevant ministries, security authorities and other relevant agencies as and when required. Specific collaboration areas with ministries include:

- The Ministry of Family and Social Services for support to refugees through different programmes
- The Ministry of Labor and Social Security for skills development, employability training and employment related matters
- The Ministry of Health on health-related referrals, health training and seminars, checks for children and adults
- The Ministry of National Education on language and vocational activities, and school-related matters
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on livelihood skills programmes and activities related to agriculture and livestock

With its extensive network of humanitarian partnerships, the Turkish Red Crescent cooperates with UN agencies, INGOs

and private sector entities, including global private sector organisations in collaboration with the IFRC. The National Society is working with UNHCR on large-scale protection activities and since the earthquakes has initiated projects with Collective Kindness (BİZ) and Children First (ONCE), in cooperation with the IFRC. As a result of these projects, new partnership processes were initiated with WFP and UNICEF. The National Society is part of major projects with the Turkish Employment Agency, World Bank (project ISDEP-2) and UNDP (ISDEP-3) focusing on livelihoods and socioeconomic opportunities.

The Turkish Red Crescent and the IFRC are actively involved in interagency coordination as part of the earthquakes response. The National Society jointly managed the cash working group meetings with UNHCR, while the IFRC took its role of shelter cluster lead. The global shelter cluster is an Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) coordination mechanism and IFRC has been leading the shelter cluster in disaster contexts since the establishment of the cluster approach in 2005



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 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.

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](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the Turkish Red Crescent, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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