



ROMANIA

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

20 June 2024

Multi - Year Funding Requirement **CHF 13M**

In support of the Romanian Red Cross



47

National Society branches



289

National Society staff



8,928

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



100,000

Ongoing emergency operations



10,000

Climate and environment



50,000

Disasters and crises



80,000

Health and wellbeing



30,000

Migration and displacement



30,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Population Movement Crisis

Longer term needs

- Disaster Preparedness
- Community Based and Emergency Health
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
- National Society development

Key country data

Population **19M**

INFORM Severity rating **Low**

INFORM Climate Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **53**

Population below poverty level **21.2%**

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

2026**

Total 12M CHF

Total 0.44M CHF

Total 0.5M CHF

Through the IFRC

→ **8.5M CHF**

Through Participating National Societies

→ **2M CHF**

Through Host National Society

9.4M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Ongoing emergency operations

275,000 CHF

Longer-term needs

30,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

121,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Through Participating National Societies

450,000 CHF

Through Participating National Societies

500,000 CHF

***Projected funding requirements*

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

Belgian Red Cross*

British Red Cross

Canadian Red Cross Society*

Red Cross Society of China*

Danish Red Cross*

Finnish Red Cross*

French Red Cross

German Red Cross*

Icelandic Red Cross*

Irish Red Cross Society*

Italian Red Cross

Red Cross of Monaco*

The Netherlands Red Cross*

Norwegian Red Cross*

Swedish Red Cross

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

IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing emergency response:

MGR65002

Longer-term needs:

MAARO002

Hazards



Earthquakes



Landslides



Floods



Extreme heat and cold



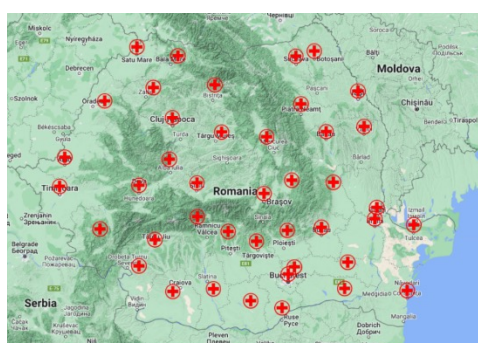
Population movement



Communicable diseases

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

Established by Romanian State law in 1876 and with a revised law in 1995 and amended in 2004 by the Romanian parliament, the National Red Cross Society of Romania is an independent, non-governmental, apolitical, and non-commercial organization. The Romanian Red Cross was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1919. As an institution of public benefit, the National Society aims to engage in humanitarian activities as a voluntary aid organization auxiliary to the public authorities. The Romanian Red Cross enjoys the protection and support of the state and has the right to request the support of all public authorities, and they have the obligation to grant it.



The Romanian Red Cross acts to prevent and alleviate human suffering in all circumstances with no discrimination whatsoever as to nationality, race, religion, age, sex, social condition, political or military affiliation. The Romanian Red Cross focuses on:

- Acting as an auxiliary during armed conflicts and peace, ensuring preparedness
- Enhancing community health and alleviating suffering through mutual aid programmes

- Providing emergency services for disaster victims at national or local levels
- Recruiting, training, and instructing personnel for its mission
- Promoting youth involvement and educating the public about its activities and principles
- Authorizing emblem use in accordance with the law
- Collaborating with organizations, ministries, and institutions to pursue humanitarian goals
- Participating in health programmes, recruiting blood donors, and combating epidemics
- Offering mandatory courses for volunteers and providing first aid training for at-risk professionals

The Romanian Red Cross, headquartered in Bucharest, operates through a network of 47 local branches across the country.

Collaborating with government agencies, international organizations, and civil society groups, the Romanian Red Cross enhances its impact in disaster response coordination, healthcare provision, social support, and education. With its legal status, it engages in various activities, addressing humanitarian priorities such as disaster risk reduction, healthcare, social support, community initiatives, and educational programs for health, safety, and disaster preparedness.

By 2022, the National Society reached 112,000 people with its long term services and development programmes and 28,000 people with its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Romania, located in southeastern Europe, boasts diverse geography, including the Carpathian Mountains, plains, and a Black Sea coastline. Its historical role as a cultural and commercial crossroads has shaped its identity as a

bridge between Eastern and Western civilizations. While the Carpathian Mountains offer resources like minerals and timber, the fertile plains support agriculture. However, the Black Sea's strategic importance has increased due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, leading to security concerns. Despite these challenges, Romania's geographic diversity has profoundly influenced its cultural heritage, economic pursuits, and historical engagements.

Romania's population, totaling about 19 million, consists of slightly more females than males. The average life expectancy has increased, reaching around 74 years, with variations between genders. The birth rate has decreased to approximately 9 births per 1,000 people, while the death rate stands at around 13 deaths per 1,000 people. The ethnic makeup is diverse, with ethnic Romanians being the majority, alongside minority groups like Hungarians, Roma, Ukrainians, and Germans. Emigration, driven by economic challenges since the fall of the dictatorship in 1989 and the 2007/8 global financial crisis, has led to an aging population and labor shortages, resulting in a significant drop in Romania's population over the past three decades, from 23 million in 1991 to just over 19 million in 2021.

Romania functions as a semi-presidential republic with a bicameral parliament, marked by the overthrow of the communist regime in 1989 and subsequent democratization efforts. The upcoming presidential elections are scheduled for mid- to late November 2024, reflecting ongoing political dynamics aimed at combating corruption and reinforcing

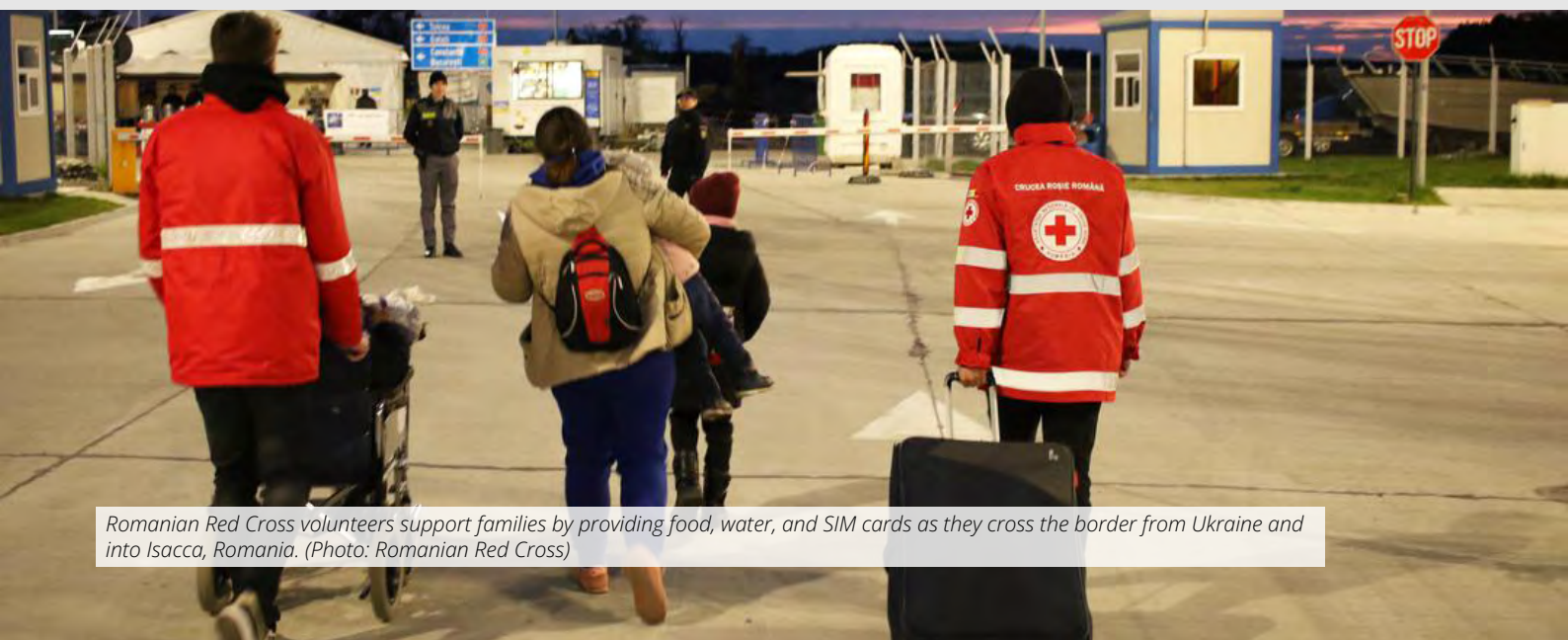
the rule of law. Economically, Romania boasts a diverse, high-income economy, ranking among the top EU nations in terms of nominal GDP and purchasing power parity. However, persistent challenges include a notable budget deficit, significant unemployment rate of 5.4%, and economic inequality, with a quarter of the population at risk of poverty. Inflation surged over 15% in 2022 due to the Ukraine conflict, exacerbating affordability issues, particularly in housing. Despite progress, Romania remains one of the EU countries with the highest poverty rates, concentrated mainly in rural areas and smaller cities.

The country's high risk of poverty has had a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of Romanians, particularly those belonging to rural communities, historically marginalized groups such as Roma communities, and certain groups of migrants. The escalation of the conflict in Ukraine has also increased the people's risk of falling into poverty due to an increased national inflation rate, rising cost and scarcity of affordable housing, rising food costs, and other factors.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Emergency Operation	Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis
Appeal number	MGR65002
Duration	until December 2025
Target areas	22.7 M (total); 600,000 (in Romania)
Funding requirement	Total: CHF 800 M (IFRC); CHF 2.7 billion (Federation-wide) Romania: CHF 100.19 M (IFRC); CHF 117.66 M (Federation-wide)
Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal
Operational Strategy	Revised Operational Strategy Romania Response Plan
Link to revised appeal	Operation Update No.9



Romanian Red Cross volunteers support families by providing food, water, and SIM cards as they cross the border from Ukraine and into Isaccea, Romania. (Photo: Romanian Red Cross)

Following the escalation of the international armed conflict in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the IFRC launched an emergency appeal covering Ukraine and other countries impacted by the population movement triggered by the conflict. The Romanian Red Cross, as a direct neighbour to Ukraine, immediately began responding to the needs of people displaced by the armed conflict.

As of September 2023, approximately 4.6 million individuals, including third-country nationals, have fled the conflict in Ukraine and Moldova, seeking refuge in Romania. Currently, about 87,000 displaced individuals from Ukraine reside in Romania, with over 142,000 registered for temporary protection. The number of arrivals is expected to increase during winter due to worsening conditions in Ukraine. Many face challenges accessing essential services and employment due to language barriers and financial constraints. The Romanian Red Cross has played a crucial role in the national response, particularly in bordering counties. The government's National Action Plan, initiated in July 2022, focuses on housing, employment, and social welfare programmes, complemented by efforts from IFRC and Romanian Red Cross in collaboration with national authorities.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Romanian Red Cross has supported over 325,000 people displaced from Ukraine who have crossed the border into Romania, and thousands more people who remain in Ukraine with essential relief items. The highlights of the assistance are:

Health and care

Deployment of emergency response units and establishment of mobile health units in affected area. Delivery of and support to community-based and primary health services such as training in first aid and community-based health and care. Provision

of psychological first aid and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to the affected population.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Provision of drinking water, hygiene items and menstrual hygiene kits to the affected populations. Reconstruction of toilets and restoration of water connection.

Shelter, housing and settlements

Distribution of essential household items such as clothing, blankets, bed linens, mattresses, foldable beds and tarps to target groups. Provision of modular houses to internally displaced persons. Provision of short-term rental assistance through cash and voucher assistance (CVA), as well as repair or retrofitting and reconstruction support as required.

Livelihoods

Provision of multi-purpose cash grants, and language training, work permits and job placements.

Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI), community engagement and accountability (CEA), migration

The operational strategy integrates PGI and CEA as pivotal elements in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities includes the provision of dignity kits, and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms. The strategy emphasizes local voice amplification, collaborative engagement, and transparent communication, extending into long-term resilience building. Migration related activities include establishment of humanitarian service points (HSPs) to provide CVA, MHPSS, accepting applications for family reunification (RFL).

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Romania's temperate-continental climate experiences distinct seasons, from hot summers to cold winters, with climate change altering patterns and expected to continue impacting the country. Projections indicate rising temperatures, more frequent heatwaves, and shifts in precipitation patterns, leading to intense rainfall and prolonged droughts. Various regions face distinct risks; coastal areas may suffer from sea-level rise and erosion, while inland regions could encounter water scarcity and heat-related challenges.

The country has already felt the effects of climate change, with notable events like the record warmth of 2015 and the historic flood of 2005 causing significant damage. Droughts in 2007 and subsequent years, along with a rise in wildfires, have further strained sectors like agriculture, transportation, and energy. Economic losses have been substantial, prompting concerns about future scenarios, especially with a projected 4°C increase in global warming.

Romania witnessed numerous severe weather alerts in 2021, a trend experts attribute to climate change. The agricultural year of 2021-2022 saw nine months of drought conditions, exacerbating challenges for farmers. The United Nations IPCC reports underscore the urgent need for action, highlighting the rapid acceleration of global climate change due to greenhouse gas emissions. Romania's Working Group on Fighting Climate Change has identified seven key challenges in combating climate change.

As an EU member, Romania is committed to combating climate change, exemplified by its ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2015. The EU aims for a climate-neutral economy by 2050, with interim targets, including a 55% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Romanian Red Cross seeks to enhance its ability to address and adjust to the threats posed by climate change, implementing proactive measures to minimize its effects. For this, the National Society's goals are to:

- Undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises and prepare the communities as well as the staff and volunteers
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation

Planned activities in 2024

- Enhance the knowledge and capacity of the staff and volunteers enabling them to take urgent action to adapt to the climate crisis.
- Integrate and anticipate the short and longer-term impacts of climate change into programmes, operations, plans, and strategies
- Implement programmes (and where possible, operations) to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks and manage residual risks
- Ensure that communities have increased capacity to address the impacts of climate change and ownership over programmes addressing climate risks
- Minimize its carbon footprint and any adverse environmental impacts resulting from its operations
- Promote environmentally sustainable practices in its offices and promote environmentally sustainable practices in communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will primarily focus on implementing actions outlined in the regional Climate Action Roadmap, which serves as the main framework for guiding and scaling up climate action in the Europe Region by 2025 and beyond. The Climate Action Roadmap Community of Practice serves as a platform for shared learning, collaboration, and addressing climate and environmental challenges in Europe and Central Asia. This includes leveraging new tools, facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges, and providing technical and capacity-building support through IFRC network entities, including the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. Emphasis is also placed on regional coordination and supporting increased funding opportunities. Proposals for regional and multi-country climate resilience projects will be developed. National Societies in Europe and Central Asia are collectively and individually committed to upholding the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will support the advancement of the Romanian Red Cross' climate and environment objectives by providing technical support for establishing green response systems.



Disasters and crises

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

Romania's geography boasts diverse landforms, with plains, hills and plateaus, and mountains distributed almost equally across its surface. With altitudes ranging from sea level to Mount Moldoveanu's peak at 2,544 meters, Romania's average altitude is approximately 420 meters. While Romania possesses a [low overall risk](#) and moderate resilience to disasters, it still contends with various threats such as earthquakes, landslides, extreme temperatures, communicable diseases, forest fires, and floods.

The recent escalation of the conflict in Ukraine has heightened concerns about a potential [radiological disaster from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant](#) in Southeast Ukraine, as well as the [expansion of conflict into the Republic of Moldova](#).

Earthquakes pose a significant risk to Romania due to its high seismic activity, particularly in the Vrancea subduction zone. The [1977 Vrancea earthquake](#), with a magnitude of 7.2, caused extensive casualties and economic damage. Additionally, external earthquakes from neighboring countries occasionally impact Romania, highlighting the nation's vulnerability.

Floods, often triggered by heavy rainfall and river overflow, are [recurrent hazards](#) in Romania, particularly during spring and autumn. Climate change may exacerbate flooding by intensifying extreme rainfall events, affecting low-lying areas and regions with inadequate flood management infrastructure.

Landslides are common in Romania's hilly and mountainous regions, often occurring after heavy precipitation or snowmelt events. Deforestation and improper land use practices increase the risk of landslides.

Extreme temperatures, including heatwaves, pose significant risks to Romania's population and economy. With [temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius in recent years](#), the frequency and duration of heatwaves are expected to rise due to global warming, leading to increased hospitalizations and fatalities.

As the sole humanitarian organization mandated by law to support public authorities in disaster prevention and intervention, the Romanian Red Cross is well-equipped to respond promptly to disasters through its territorial organization, human resources, and logistical capabilities. It establishes disaster base camps, triage points, and delivers first aid immediately after disasters strike.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Romanian Red Cross aims to respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters and leverage its auxiliary role in emergency responses. To achieve this, the National Society will:

- Encourage and [prepare communities](#) to act and increase their [resilience](#) to multiple evolving shocks and hazards
- Expand its capacity to influence the national [disaster law](#) and improve the official/legal recognition of its auxiliary role
- Strengthen its overall positioning and profiling efforts

Planned activities in 2024

- Train the population to respond to disasters and ensure at-risk communities receive regular actionable risk information, helping them reduce vulnerability and exposure to hazards
- Raise awareness and create training curriculum for the public, including the development of family plans for emergency preparedness
- Prepare and distribute emergency kits to households in at-risk areas
- Involve volunteers trained in [disaster management](#) in instructing the public in disaster preparedness and response and raise awareness of communities in disaster-prone areas
- Increase capacity to analyze and address the [needs of people](#) affected by crises and disasters
- Develop regional disaster response teams, including an urban Search and Rescue (SAR) team with 40 trained members
- Develop an [emergency operations centre](#) at the headquarters in Bucharest
- Establish a national radio/emergency communications system
- Create an early warning/[anticipatory action protocol](#)
- Be prepared to support cross border information exchange and increase sub-regional preparedness in southeastern Europe
- Strengthen its [CVA](#) preparedness and become a "cash ready" organization

- Pre-position inventory for the needs of up to 100,000 people along with sufficient in-house logistics and procurement capabilities
- Establish a national volunteering programme for community-based disaster risk management with a nation-wide volunteer management database
- Revise the disaster management training curriculum and integrate psychological first aid as a training module to address MHPSS needs during emergencies
- Ensure protection and proper use of the Red Cross emblem in Romania

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Romanian Red Cross by launching [DREF applications](#), in the event of disasters and emergencies. The IFRC will also help to develop the National Society's knowledge and capacities in [disaster risk management](#) by tapping into the knowledge and experiences of other EU National Societies, particularly newer EU Member States, such as Slovakia or Bulgaria. To better align support to the Romanian Red Cross and leverage resources, the IFRC also acts as co-convenor for Movement coordination working groups. The IFRC provides technical and financial support in key areas including mainstreaming [MHPSS](#) into disaster management trainings and interventions, and logistics development support.

Support is also available through the regional risk financing project to scale up National Society preparedness, integrating their capacities in regionally developed solutions for sharing stocks in emergency situations. National Societies can benefit from such cooperation by increasing their capabilities to quickly mobilize regional support through deployments of relief items in case of urgent needs. As part of the same project, mini grants are available for covering smaller scale emergency responses.

The **American Red Cross** will work to advance the Romanian Red Cross' goals through supporting the development of its cash readiness, supporting the transition of the Romanian Red Cross CVA-related help line to an organizational information line, and strengthening the Romanian Red Cross' communications capacities as well as managing its public image.

The **French Red Cross** is supporting the development of the National Society's emergency health services.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the development of national Disaster Response Teams, an emergency operation centre, warehousing, and logistics capacities, and providing in-country support for disaster management, with special focus on earthquake preparedness through technical staff placement.

The **British Red Cross** will also provide technical support and guidance to prepare the Romanian Red Cross in cash readiness and to help clarify and strengthen its auxiliary role on disaster risk management.

The **Swedish Red Cross** works with the National Society to mainstream [protection, gender and inclusion](#) (PGI) and [community engagement and accountability](#) (CEA) into the disaster management development process, helping to facilitate the [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) (PER) process, developing the National Society's volunteering development and training curricula, and advising on developing green response practices in logistics.

As part of wider Movement support, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is committed to the Romanian Red Cross through support in [restoring family links](#) (RFL) services in emergencies and advising on the [Safer Access Framework](#) and linking to other tools such as the PER process.



Health and wellbeing

The health and well-being landscape in Romania is undergoing significant transformation, as outlined in the Romanian government's [National Health Strategy 2023-2030](#), titled "Together for Health." This strategy builds upon previous efforts and recognizes the profound impact of political, economic, and social changes over the past three decades on the population's health and the healthcare system. Despite improvements, Romania faces challenges such as disparities in healthcare access, particularly in rural areas, and persistently low life expectancy compared to EU averages.

Key concerns include under-five mortality rates, infant mortality rates, and neonatal mortality rates, which place Romania in the [lower quartile](#) among European countries. Over four million children in Romania encounter barriers to accessing [adequate healthcare](#), highlighting the need for targeted interventions, particularly in poverty-stricken areas.

Avoidable deaths due to preventable and treatable causes remain a pressing issue, with Romania reporting notably higher mortality rates compared to other EU nations. Dietary

risks, tobacco, alcohol, and air pollution are identified as primary risk factors contributing to this trend.

The national health strategy emphasizes citizen-centered healthcare, aiming to empower individuals in managing their health and promoting preventive measures. It advocates for a transition from a patient-centered to a citizen-centered approach, focusing on public health promotion, accessible healthcare services, and efficient healthcare system management.

The Romanian Red Cross plays a vital role in supporting the national health strategy's implementation through its programmes focusing on health promotion, education, and preventive interventions. By aligning with the strategy's objectives, the Romanian Red Cross aims to enhance its auxiliary role in public health, advocacy, and community well-being.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Romanian Red Cross plans to expand its services and activities, including the health caravan and dental health programmes in schools, to contribute further to the government's health agenda. It will achieve its high-level goals by:

- Providing sustainable, affordable, and quality health services and contribute to the improved health and well-being of communities across Romania
- Developing its auxiliary role to ensure relevance and strong contributions to the national public health strategy, advocating for improvements in health and care in Romania, and engaging in key policy discussions
- Contributing to improved health and well-being of communities by providing sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across their life course
- Defining and developing its role and auxiliary functions, focusing on health promotion, prevention, and education

Planned activities in 2024

- Develop a National Health Program Framework consolidating existing activities contributing to standardization, sustainability, cooperation, expansion, and innovation
- Establish an MHPSS unit and strengthen capacity to respond to emerging mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by crises and other difficulties

- Explore the health and well-being gaps of excluded, marginalized, and vulnerable groups to facilitate adequate access and reach appropriate support
- Establish cross-border cooperation when developing the national health programme framework, particularly regarding developing approaches to reach the Roma community and other mobile/marginalized groups
- Reach traditional contexts (culture/religion) contributing to behavioral and cultural change, e.g., the attitude toward immunization, sexual and gender-based violence, smoking, and alcoholism
- Explore the use of digital tools for public awareness raising and reaching target populations with essential health services and information
- Conduct stakeholder mapping to identify critical actors in the health sector and establish partnership to ensure long-term and strategic work with organizations
- Advocate for and conduct campaigns on ambulance services, first aid, health caravans, health centers, MHPSS and psychosocial first aid (PFA), health education in schools, and voluntary blood donation

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Romanian Red Cross in developing its Community Health Programme and general health activities, including mainstreaming, and integrating MHPSS in all relevant programmes, and first aid. The IFRC is also providing technical support and peer-to-peer exchange opportunities with other National Societies in the region.

The **French Red Cross** is providing a range of support including development and maintenance of the Mobile Health Caravan project, first aid and the development of a first aid database, ambulance services, as well as mainstreaming and integrating MHPSS in the National Health Programmes. The French Red Cross is also supporting the National Society to obtain its Global First Aid Reference Centre certification, engaging in humanitarian diplomacy to advocate for a national first aid law, and broadening health awareness and education in schools through expanded topics and the introduction of national competitions and health clubs. The French Red Cross is also supporting the development of a national first aid law.



Migration and displacement in Romania present a multifaceted landscape influenced by historical trends, geopolitical factors, and contemporary crises. Historically a country of emigration, Romania witnessed a surge in emigration following the 1989 revolution, a trend further accelerated by its accession to the European Union in 2007. This emigration phenomenon, characterized by approximately 3.15 million Romanian citizens living abroad as of 2022, has significantly impacted Romania's social and economic fabric.

While predominantly an emigration country, Romania also serves as a transit and, to a lesser extent, a destination country for migrants, including refugees, asylum seekers, and other displaced individuals. Geographically positioned adjacent to Ukraine and a member of the EU, Romania has experienced an influx of migrants, particularly amid the international armed conflict in Ukraine. The escalation of this conflict has led to an estimated 3 million people entering Romania from Ukraine and Moldova, with a significant portion being granted temporary protection.

Displaced persons from Ukraine, comprising a diverse demographic including adults and children, have sought refuge in Romania, adding to the complexity of migration dynamics. A substantial number of unaccompanied or separated minors have been recorded, underscoring the vulnerability of certain migrant populations.

In addition to those fleeing conflict, Romania receives asylum claims from various countries, with Ukraine being a significant source alongside nations such as India, Bangladesh, and Syria. Before the Ukraine conflict, Romania also experienced migration from other countries, with Moldova, Hungary, and Italy being among the top origins of migrants.

Apart from migration driven by conflict and asylum-seeking, Romania grapples with internal displacements associated with disasters, though these numbers have generally remained in the hundreds annually. However, significant events like the 2022 flood caused by the failure of the Tăul Mare Dam led to internal displacements, highlighting the country's vulnerability to natural hazards.

Romania also faces challenges related to human trafficking, with individuals trafficked for sexual and labour exploitation both domestically and internationally. Despite government efforts to combat trafficking, instances persist, impacting vulnerable populations.

Migration and displacement in Romania reflect a complex interplay of historical, geopolitical, and socio-economic factors, ranging from emigration-driven by economic opportunities to the influx of refugees and asylum seekers fleeing conflict.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Romanian Red Cross is developed to play a key role in engaging with people on the move and host communities to assess, understand, and respond to their priority needs more effectively. The high-level objective of the National Society is that the people on the move in vulnerable situations have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes as well as access to durable solutions when appropriate.

Planned activities in 2024

- Develop, institutionalize, and standardize a Migration and Integration framework and program guiding its interventions at the national and local levels
 - Sensitize and train staff and volunteers on migration and displacement related topics including strong links to protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) mainstreaming
 - Focus on increasing the national and local capacities in trafficking in persons, restoring/protecting family links, and strengthening PFA and MHPSS for migrants
 - Increase cross-border collaboration with neighboring National Societies and engage with Movement migration networks
 - Utilize MHPSS as a resource for migration and social integration activities contributing to an increase in resilience of people on the move
 - Increase community engagement and accountability (CEA) focusing people on the move
 - Build staff and volunteer awareness in CEA through training and allocating dedicated technical, financial, and human resources
 - Develop sustainability and capacity of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) and other points of contact with people on the move
 - Train staff and volunteers on conducting needs assessments, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and other tools to identify the needs and preferences of people
 - Improve coordination and engagement with government and other stakeholders by engaging in dialogues and establishing agreements with the national authorities
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC is providing a range of technical and financial support for enhancing migration and displacement capacities of the Romanian Red Cross. This includes guidance and funding for the development of Humanitarian Service Points, technical support for MHPSS in migration and displacement, and helping to strengthen the humanitarian diplomacy and auxiliary role of the National Society. The IFRC is also supporting the Romanian Red Cross to develop migration-related policies and good practices connected to CEA, PGI, safeguarding, and other relevant areas.

The **British Red Cross** provides broad strategic, technical, and funding support to the Romanian Red Cross for migration and displacement work in Romania (closely linked to the Ukraine crisis country response plan) including related cross-cutting areas as possible.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the Romanian Red Cross in integrating CEA focusing on migration and displacement.

The **ICRC** is supporting the development of the Romanian Red Cross' restoring family links (RFL) capacities.



Values, power and inclusion

In Romania, the dynamics of values, power, and inclusion manifest through a range of social, legal, and economic factors, often intersecting to shape the experiences of different communities within the country.

Violence and discrimination, particularly against marginalized groups, present significant challenges to inclusion and social cohesion. Identity-based violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, remains a pervasive issue, with efforts to address it reflected the Gender Equality Index. Human trafficking, while showing a decline in detected victims, continues to threaten vulnerable populations, highlighting the need for ongoing vigilance and protection measures.

Gender disparities persist in various spheres, including labour force participation and representation in leadership positions, despite notable progress in certain areas. Romania faces challenges in LGBTQIA+ inclusion, ranking poorly in terms of respecting the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals. Hate speech and targeted violence against marginalized groups further exacerbate social divisions and undermine efforts toward inclusion and equality.

The Roma community faces systemic discrimination, particularly in the labour market and housing, with forced evictions exacerbating their marginalized status. Limited awareness about equality and nondiscrimination impedes progress toward a more inclusive society.

Economic disparities intersect with social exclusion, affecting vulnerable groups such as older people, those with low income, and individuals below the poverty line. Access to education, while generally strong, needs to address the proportion of youth not engaged in employment, education, or training to prevent long-term exclusion.

Government initiatives, in collaboration with civil society organizations like the Romanian Red Cross and local NGOs, aim to amplify community voices and enhance participation in decision-making processes. Community-based organizations

play a crucial role in disaster preparedness and response, engaging local communities in risk assessment and policy development.

Communication channels, including social media and emergency messaging systems, facilitate the dissemination of information about disaster preparedness and support services, empowering communities to take proactive measures for their safety and well-being.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

As its high-level objectives under values, power and inclusion, the Romanian Red Cross aims to:

- Be safe and inclusive, ensuring dignity, access, and participation for people of all identities
- Empower people and communities, vulnerable to and affected by crises, to influence decisions affecting them and trust Romanian Red Cross to serve their best interest

Planned activities in 2024

- Integrate a PGI approach across all operations, programmes, and services, ensuring that the specific needs, vulnerabilities, and capacities of the affected population are met, including the minimum standards for PGI in Emergencies
- Enhance institutional capacities, resources, and commitments to address violence, discrimination, and exclusion from the headquarters to the branch level
- Expand its support to marginalized and underserved groups including health and wellbeing services, financial support, food and basic needs assistance, social inclusion activities, MHPSS support, and more

- Strengthen its understanding of and capacity to implement [CEA approaches](#) at all levels, from programme and operations staff to senior leadership
- Develop a mainstreamed, centralized, nation-wide feedback mechanism with multiple channels for providing feedback and roll out across its branches
- Develop external communications and information capacities of the staff and volunteers by expanding the resources and information being provided by the help line

- Expand the scope of the helpline by training staff and incorporating additional information in more languages

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC, the **British Red Cross** and the **Swedish Red Cross** will continue providing the Romanian Red Cross with technical and [funding support](#), including supporting the development of a [CEA strategy](#) and to embed [safeguarding standards](#) across the National Society branches and its work.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Romanian Red Cross is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification ([OCAC](#))

process in 2012. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increase its cooperation and coordination with Movement partners, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions along with sustainable development of the organization
- Establish strategic, operational, and technical level platforms to develop and adopt strategic directions; oversee implementation through inclusive and problem-solving coordination, and implement operations by involving relevant Movement and external expertise

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Romanian Red Cross in its strategic direction and governance, and in strengthening its partnerships with the government, UN agencies, and other partners. It also supports the National Society in exchanging knowledge with other National Societies in the region.

The **Swedish Red Cross** offers the National Society targeted resource mobilization and partnership development.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop a national strategic plan 2024-2030 and associated programme frameworks
- Complete its statutory revision in coordination with the [Statutory Revision](#) Committee
- Continue to facilitate the emblem law implementation
- Localize and develop programmatic approaches, organizational standards, and policies on [community engagement and accountability](#) (CEA), [cash and voucher assistance](#) (CVA), [protection, gender and inclusion](#) (PGI), [safeguarding](#) and the [Safer Access Framework](#) (SAF)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** endeavours to provide technical or [financial assistance](#) to support various aspects of the development objectives of the Romanian Red Cross including [legal framework](#) development, legal base development including the strengthening of the Red Cross law; branch development,

volunteer management, logistics development and financial sustainability.

The **British Red Cross** will assist in cash and voucher assistance (CVA), preparedness and [safeguarding](#). Additionally, it will support the development of the auxiliary role of the Romanian Red Cross.

The **French Red Cross** is supporting the development of a national first aid law. It will also contribute to volunteering development.

The **Italian Red Cross** will support disaster risk management, logistics, warehousing, and supply chain development efforts.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will contribute to enhancing the safety and well-being of the volunteers through the [Volunteering in Conflict and Emergencies](#) (VICE) initiative, and strengthen volunteering management.

The **ICRC** is supporting [Safer Access Framework](#) and [legal base](#) development for the Romanian Red Cross.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop a [humanitarian diplomacy plan](#) focusing on key issues at the national, regional and local levels to reinforce and better position itself
- Develop communications and public advocacy guidance to contribute towards building public trust and understanding of its role and activities
- Expand and clarify its role in disaster [preparedness and response](#) and to enable greater agility, flexibility, and effectiveness
- Develop its auxiliary role to ensure the National Society's relevance and contributions to public health strategies advocacy and policy discussions

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will guide and support the National Society in prioritizing advocacy and communications, humanitarian diplomacy, and engaging with donors. It supports the communications development process with financial and technical assistance. The IFRC also helps to facilitate meetings between the Romanian Red Cross and its government counterparts.

The **American Red Cross** will support the Romanian Red Cross in enhancing its communications and marketing capacities.

The **ICRC** is supporting the Romanian Red Cross by strengthening the use of the emblem.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen policies, systems and practices to prevent and mitigate potential integrity risks
- Raise the knowledge and awareness of staff and volunteers on integrity issues, rules, reporting mechanisms, and their own protections and obligations
- Implement policies to ensure the minimum standards for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), supported by robust systems and procedures to identify and address any misconduct
- Conduct a safeguarding self-assessment and develop a plan to respond to identified gaps
- Transform the organization and its capacities through digitalization
- Strengthen and develop a more cohesive and comprehensive staff safety and security framework in the event of disaster and emergency situations
- Develop policies and systems for planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), information management (IM) and quality assurance

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Romanian Red Cross by providing technical support at the country, cluster, regional, and headquarter levels. This will include bringing in experts to help develop policies and systems on integrity, safeguarding and PSEA, and facilitating working groups. The IFRC will also support the National Society in programmatic approaches (such as CEA and PGI), risk; planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER); information management (IM), and digitalization.

The **British Red Cross** will provide a full safeguarding package of support, as well as technical support in n planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), community engagement and accountability (CEA) and quality assurance.

The **French Red Cross** will contribute to digitalization and human resource development.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will support the institutionalization of protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) support.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

In Romania, the IFRC is dedicated to strengthening the humanitarian efforts of the Romanian Red Cross through technical, financial, and long-term programme support, aiming to enhance its role as a trusted and agile leader in humanitarian action. Initially focused on aiding those affected by the conflict in Ukraine, the IFRC transitioned to a longer-term development approach, establishing a Country Office in Bucharest in 2023.

Guided by Strategy 2030 and the Agenda for Renewal, the IFRC promotes consistency and coherence within its network to improve effectiveness. The IFRC emphasizes National Society development across sectors, prepares the Romanian Red Cross for various challenges, ensures accountability, enhances humanitarian diplomacy, facilitates learning, and fosters effective communication among partners.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly 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, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The following participating National Societies support the Romanian Red Cross with their in-country presence:

The **American Red Cross** supports the Romanian Red Cross via IFRC in the establishment of [humanitarian service points](#). [Shelter](#) support is also provided.

The **British Red Cross** provides integrated assistance through cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)) or multipurpose cash support.

The **French Red Cross** supports the National Society in its health and wellbeing initiatives including [MHPSS](#) and [first aid](#), and National Society strengthening.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the Romanian Red Cross in National Society strengthening as well as in increasing its warehouse capacity.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the National Society in expanding and enhancing the humanitarian service points, [CEA](#), [PGI](#) and National Society development.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
American Red Cross						●	●
British Red Cross			●		●	●	●
French Red Cross	1.2M			●	●	●	●
Italian Red Cross	450,000		●				●
Swedish Red Cross	350,000		●		●	●	●

Total Funding requirement

2M



Volunteers with the Romanian Red Cross prepare a shipment of humanitarian aid, destined for Ukraine. (Photo: Romanian Red Cross)

Movement coordination

The Romanian Red Cross ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#). In this connection, functional strategic, operational and technical platforms will be established, along with a partnership framework.

The ICRC in Romania supports the humanitarian response to the international armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine. In partnership with the Romanian Red Cross, it seeks to restore contact between family members separated by the conflict and promote the proper use of the red cross emblem. It also supports the Romanian Red Cross in emergency preparedness and communications.

Coordination with other actors

The Romanian Red Cross is a crucial member of various humanitarian coordination platforms in Romania, including the Refugee Response Coordination mechanism and national working groups, including basic needs, protection, [MHPSS](#), and [cash](#). It collaborates closely with international organizations, humanitarian actors, and civil society groups to complement the efforts of national and local authorities. In fulfilling its auxiliary role, the Romanian Red Cross actively engages in regular coordination meetings with Romanian authorities at both levels, facilitating effective and evidence-based humanitarian interventions.

Additionally, the Romanian Red Cross fosters partnerships with private sector entities to expand its reach and resource mobilization capabilities, with plans to further strengthen these collaborations in 2024. Through participation in inter-agency groups and initiatives, such as those focused on community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)), the Romanian Red Cross ensures alignment with global standards and enhances its capacity for data sharing, analysis, and community engagement, thus maximizing its impact and effectiveness in addressing humanitarian needs.



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 Romanian Red Cross, 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 IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for 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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