



# ALBANIA

2024-2025 IFRC network country plan

1 August 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 5.09M**

## In support of the Albanian Red Cross



**39**

National Society branches



**58**

National Society staff



**2,295**

National Society volunteers

## People to be reached



**60,000**

Climate and environment



**16,000**

Disasters and crises



**130,000**

Health and wellbeing



**520**

Migration & Displacement



**126,000**

Values, power and inclusion

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### Longer-term needs

- Early warning and disaster risk reduction
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Health needs
- Inclusion of vulnerable groups

### capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
- Sustainable resource mobilization and fundraising
  - Partnerships
  - Financial management
  - Branch development
  - Communications
- Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

## Key country data

**Population** **2.8M**

**INFORM Severity rating** **Low**

**INFORM Climate Risk Index** **Low**

**Human Development Index rank** **67**

**Population below poverty level** **22.0%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for  
Central & South-eastern Europe, Sarajevo

# Funding requirements

2024

2025\*\*

Total 2.56M CHF

Total 2.53M CHF

Through IFRC

1.3M CHF

Through IFRC

1.3M CHF

Through Participating National Societies



→ 272,000 CHF

Through Participating National Societies



→ 242,000 CHF

Through Host National Society

978,000 CHF

Through Host National Society

978,000 CHF

\*\*Projected funding requirements

## IFRC Breakdown

### Longer-term needs

150,000 CHF

Climate and environment

150,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

370,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

50,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

100,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

500,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

## Participating National Societies

Austrian Red Cross

British Red Cross\*

Canadian Red Cross Society\*

Italian Red Cross

Qatar Red Crescent

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

## IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term programmes:

**MAAAL003**

## Hazards



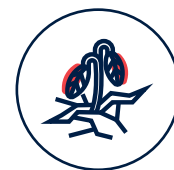
Earthquakes



Floods



Landslides



Droughts



Forest fires

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Albanian Red Cross**, the oldest humanitarian organization in Albania, was founded in 1921. It was admitted to the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** in 1923.

After the war, the state gradually detracted a major part of the National Society's activities and reduced its operational capacities. Consequently, it lost its identity. An arbitrary decision in 1969 finally officially suspended the National Society, and it ceased to exist for more than 20 years. At the beginning of the 1990s, the National Society resumed its activity by building a legal basis and organizational structure, which has constantly been consolidated ever since. The National Society was recognized in law by the Albanian Parliament as an independent volunteer humanitarian organization in 1994. Today, the Albanian Red Cross serves as an auxiliary to public authorities nationwide, demonstrating its capacity in humanitarian aid operations during crises and disasters. It provides social and health assistance to vulnerable communities, advocates for their concerns, and expands its volunteer network for increased transparency and accountability. The Albanian Red Cross' main programmes include disaster preparedness and response, social welfare, health promotion, youth education, and organizational development, all aimed at enhancing community resilience and well-being while promoting humanitarian values and voluntarism.

By 2022, the Albanian Red Cross reached approximately 15,000 people by long term services and development programmes and about 25,000 people by its disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.



Map of Albanian Red Cross branches

According to its Strategic Plan for 2022–2026, the priorities of the National Society include to:

- Put people at the centre of change to create competitive advantage and alleviate peoples suffering
- Build on past achievements to make new progress and shape the future through investing into the development of empowered National Society
- Serve to support people in need and affected from emergencies helping them to stay physically healthy and develop resilience to psychosocial challenges

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Albania, located in the western part of the Balkan Peninsula, faces geographic challenges with three-fourths of its territory consisting of mountains and hills. Despite being classified as a middle-income country and an official candidate for EU accession, Albania's population is projected to decline due to falling birthrates and emigration. The economy experienced setbacks from a severe earthquake in 2019 and the COVID-19

pandemic, leading to its first recession in over two decades. While improvements in governance have been made since the end of communist rule in 1992, structural shortcomings like weak governance structures and high levels of corruption persist. Social issues such as poverty, gender inequality in the labor market, and vulnerability to climate change impacts are significant challenges. Additionally, Albania faces human rights concerns and migration issues, with the need for updates to its legal framework and capacity to manage irregular migration influxes. Despite these challenges, efforts are underway to address these issues and enhance Albania's resilience and prosperity.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

In [Albania](#), [climate change](#) is causing increasingly frequent extreme weather events and temperature variation. These are expected to have the most significant impacts to the country's key sectors, economy, and population. Increased vulnerability is expected due to infrastructure needs and poverty in rural areas, and natural hazards have the potential to adversely affect crop and livestock production. Albania's hydrographic profile makes [riverine flooding](#) highly dangerous and damaging. The country has a long history of flooding, specifically in its western lowlands. Historical records show that flooding has occurred in all major catchment basins of the country.

These challenges are exacerbated by infrastructure needs and rural poverty. The [2019 earthquake](#) revealed substantial damage, mainly in urban areas, with an estimated annual cost of \$147 million from earthquakes and floods. To address these challenges, enhancing community resilience through national and local interventions is crucial. Government initiatives like the National Strategy on Climate Change and National Action Plan on Climate Change outline measures for emission reduction, renewable energy promotion, and climate resilience, aligning with humanitarian goals to support affected communities and promote health and resilience against environmental crises.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Albanian Red Cross is part of the [IFRC's Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars:

- scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness;
- reducing the public health impacts of climate change;
- addressing climate displacement; and
- enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The National Society's overarching objectives span several years and focus on serving and aiding individuals impacted by emergencies, assisting them in maintaining physical health and fostering resilience to psychosocial difficulties. By achieving these goals, the Society seeks to enable individuals to anticipate, respond to, and promptly recover from crises, while also fortifying communities against various hazards and the effects of climate change.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Climate change mitigation through the adoption of [environmentally sustainable practices](#)
- Advocate to ensure that policy, strategy and action plans reflect a community-level orientation in the implementation of flood resilience
- Conduct public awareness campaigns to reach 50,000 people
- Plan and implement [community-based disaster risk reduction](#) activities
- Organize information sessions on disaster risk reduction targeting 10,000 community members
- Formulate community preparedness and [response plans](#), emphasizing building resilience to climate change and environmental crises

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** provides strategic guidance, technical assistance, and aids in resource mobilization to enhance climate resilience and preparedness. Participating National Societies contribute targeted funding, technical expertise, and recommendations to inform decision-making processes. Additionally, the Albanian Red Cross benefits from access to [IFRC Reference Centers](#), Hubs, and Labs for innovation, learning, and networking opportunities. As part of its collaboration with the IFRC on climate change initiatives, the Albanian Red Cross, in coordination with the Central and Southern Eastern Europe (CSEE) country delegation in Sarajevo, is working towards building long-term resilience against climate-related disasters. This includes ongoing efforts to secure funding through the [DREF](#) and [anticipatory early](#) action mechanism to address heat waves and other climate-related challenges.



## Disasters and crises

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

Albania faces a range of natural hazards, including floods, droughts, forest fires, landslides, and earthquakes. The country's [risk profile](#) indicates a high risk of natural hazards, particularly earthquakes, alongside insufficient institutional coping capacity. The 2019 earthquake alone caused significant damages to public assets, highlighting the need for proactive measures to mitigate future risks.

This situation makes disaster management a core function of the Albanian Red Cross. The organization plays an auxiliary role, supporting the state with humanitarian assistance to save lives and aid those affected by disasters while also preparing for future emergencies and reducing vulnerability to expected hazards. To address the increasing demands caused by climate change, the Albanian Red Cross adapts risk-reduction activities and early-warning procedures to effectively communicate changing hazards and facilitate recovery from more frequent, intense, or unfamiliar disasters.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The long-term goals of the National Society involve empowering individuals to anticipate, respond to, and swiftly recover from crises. Additionally, the Albanian Red Cross aims to assist those impacted by emergencies to maintain physical well-being and enhance resilience against psychosocial challenges.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Enhance community resilience through awareness and mitigation activities and reach 5000 community members
- Provide need-based emergency relief packages, food assistance, and cash assistance
- Offer [Restoring Family Links \(RFL\)](#) services to those affected by disasters and crises

- Coordinate disaster preparedness with government, local authorities, and partners
- Improve accessibility of information for the population during and after emergencies and establish and maintain community feedback mechanisms
- Increase [first aid](#) capacities of volunteer teams through training and competitions

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** provides long-term support to the Albanian Red Cross in disasters and crises management, aiming to enhance its capacity for timely response and mitigate the impacts of disasters on communities. This support involves capacity building, technical expertise, and resource mobilization to strengthen the National Society's ability to address humanitarian needs during disasters. Efforts include providing shelter, relief aid, healthcare, [mental health and psychosocial support \(MHPSS\)](#), and other vital services. Additionally, the partnership focuses on empowering affected communities to rebuild their lives and become more resilient. The adoption of approaches like [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) further bolsters the National Society's readiness to handle disasters both immediately and in the long term.

To achieve these goals, the IFRC supports the Albanian Red Cross by focusing on:

- Community resilience strengthening through national and local interventions
- Ensuring timely, adequate, and flexible access to humanitarian assistance
- Effectively responding to evolving crises and disasters
- Awareness raising and educating on [disaster law](#)
- Strengthening volunteers and its services to the public and partnerships in the field of first aid and disaster preparedness



## Health and wellbeing

Health and well-being trends in the Central and South-Eastern European region are predominantly tied to the demographics of an ageing population, the need to respond to health needs of migrants as a key transit region, and ensuring preparedness for crisis-based health needs, including pandemic preparedness, first aid and blood donation.

Albania's public health system faces challenges due to underdevelopment, lack of funding, and inadequate resources, highlighting the vulnerability of communities. Extreme weather events, air quality, and communicable diseases are identified as top health risks exacerbated by climate change. Heat-related deaths, particularly among the elderly, pose immediate threats.



The impact assessment of Covid-19 revealed increased needs across various groups in Albania, including families in social assistance schemes, people with disabilities, and elderly individuals. Challenges arose in accessing education, particularly for ethnic minorities and informal workers, leading to disrupted livelihoods and heightened stress levels.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Albanian Red Cross remains committed to serving communities and vulnerable groups by implementing flagship programmes in health, including first aid, blood donation promotion, disease interventions, and psychosocial support. The National Society's goal is that people lead safe, healthy, and dignified lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

Collaborating with government and other organizations, the National Society aims to alleviate suffering and promote a healthier population in Albania through a coordinated and integrated approach to healthcare delivery. It will serve to support people in need and affected from emergencies helping them to stay physically healthy and develop resilience to psychosocial challenges.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Provide community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) programmes, including psychosocial support (MHPSS) training, reaching 10,000 people

- Update tools and manuals on first aid and psychosocial support trainings
- Support communities in gaining better access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, reaching 20,000 people
- Educate 10,000 young people on the dangers of drug use and related diseases
- Facilitate 5,000 non-remunerated blood donations
- Provide MHPSS and health services to 1,000 vulnerable older people, offer home care services to 700 older people, and provide vocational/orientation trainings and health education to 200 disadvantaged women and girls

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Albanian Red Cross in the health and wellbeing sector including technical expertise, resources and capacity building to enhance the National Society's healthcare programmes and services. The focus is on improving access to healthcare including MHPSS, addressing epidemics, promoting vaccinations, tackling malnutrition and strengthening WASH systems. Through this partnership, the Albanian Red Cross will be better equipped to respond to health emergencies, provide essential health services, and promote community well-being. The support from the IFRC will help build resilience and ensure the delivery of quality healthcare to vulnerable populations in Albania.



The Albanian Red Cross volunteers assisted families in Marikaj village, where over 10,000 people were homeless after the earthquake in 2019. (Photo: Albanian Red Cross)



## Migration and displacement

Albania, like other Western Balkan countries, grapples with mixed population flows driven by socio-economic factors and global conflicts. These include refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, trafficking victims, unaccompanied minors, and stateless persons. Despite border closures, Albania faces a rising influx of irregular migrants, primarily from Greece en route to other EU nations. Insufficient resources, including border officers and asylum officials, strain response capacities. Irregular migrant apprehensions rose by 13% in 2020 and tripled in the first half of 2022 compared to 2021, with a relatively low number of Ukrainians entering (around 2000 people).

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Albanian Red Cross aims to increase collaboration with local and national authorities, as well as other organizations, to develop, coordinate and deliver humanitarian assistance and protection services for the migrants. The National Society's vision as its multi-year high level objective is that people are mobilized to build inclusive and peaceful communities, and help those who are in need and affected by emergencies to stay physically healthy and develop resilience to psychosocial challenges.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Support migrants and displaced persons along migratory routes, facilitating access to humanitarian aid and protection

- Ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering diverse needs based on gender and other factors
- Reach 500 migrants with food assistance and non-food items for basic needs
- Train 20 individuals to provide Restoring Family Links (RFL) services
- Engage closely with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to assess and respond to priority needs

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides ongoing support to the Albanian Red Cross in migration and displacement, with a focus on meeting the needs of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. Together, they analyze migration and displacement dynamics, assist affected individuals and advocate for their rights and well-being.

Collaborating closely, the IFRC network and the Albanian Red Cross develop and implement policies, action plans, and coordination mechanisms tailored to address the specific challenges encountered by migrants and displaced populations. This collaborative effort ensures a comprehensive and unified response to the changing needs and patterns in migration and displacement.

The IFRC ensures that migrants and displaced persons receive humanitarian aid and protection at crucial points along their journey, while also facilitating access to durable solutions when appropriate.



## Values, power and inclusion

Central and South-Eastern European National Societies collaborate with local authorities and ministries to implement projects that promote humanitarian values and include marginalized groups, particularly the Roma and Egyptian populations. These groups are the largest and most vulnerable minorities in the region, facing chronic, multidimensional poverty. Significant disparities exist between the Roma and the general population in housing, employment, education, and healthcare, with Roma women especially disadvantaged. Roma children are three times more likely to live in poverty, five times more likely to be malnourished, and twice as likely to

experience growth delays. Their primary school enrolment is one-third lower, and their immunization rates are significantly lower compared to non-Roma children.

Despite the efforts of the Albanian government and various organizations, data from the past five years reveals persistent challenges in civil registration, education, employment, healthcare, housing, and social protection. These challenges are compounded by ongoing social stigma, stereotypes, and discrimination faced by Roma and Egyptians. Over the past decade, the Albanian Government has taken strides in several

areas to enhance the living standards and integration of Roma and Egyptians, particularly in civil registration, social housing, and education. To tackle these issues comprehensively, the Government of Albania adopted the [National Action Plan for Equality, Inclusion, and Participation of Roma and Egyptians in Albania \(2021-2025\)](#) on 18 November 2021.

In Albania, [violence against women and girls](#) remains a very concerning issue, and often sexual violence cases remain underreported. A [national population-based survey conducted by UNDP](#) in 2018 on violence against women and girls in Albania revealed that 3 out of 4 or 75.4% of women reported domestic violence against women is a major problem in Albania. A [comparative overview](#) of a project supported by the European Commission and executed by UN Women in February 2021 concerning perceptions of violence against women and girls in Albania uncovers intriguing findings. These findings include views such as regarding violence as a private matter to be resolved within the family. A significant majority of respondents, comprising over three-quarters (78%), expressed that women enduring abuse should refrain from seeking assistance from the police.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The goal of the National Society is to empower communities to foster inclusivity and peace, with a focus on prioritizing people's well-being and driving positive change to enhance resilience and alleviate suffering.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Implement [education programmes](#) targeting 6,000 children and youth to increase their knowledge on humanitarian values and promote voluntary service

- Empower volunteers, staff, and [youth](#) through life skills and leadership development
- Systematically integrate [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) in activities at headquarter and branch levels
- Reach 100,000 people with external awareness campaigns on the Red Cross Red Crescent emblem, [Fundamental Principles](#), and International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
- Reach 100 communities at risk through community-based interventions, including engaging [youth as agents of behaviour](#) and social change

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC in collaboration with participating National Societies provides technical expertise, resources, and training to enhance the Albanian Red Cross' capacity to conduct various educational programmes, training and workshops on [protection, gender and inclusion \(PGI\)](#) and dissemination of humanitarian values among its pool of volunteers as well as among general population. Additionally, the IFRC and the participating National Societies work together to implement longer-term development programmes that promote community resilience and sustainable development. These programmes focus on areas such as promoting human values and contributing to inclusion of various marginalized groups, including the Roma population.

Through capacity building initiatives, knowledge sharing, and joint initiatives, the IFRC and participating National Societies strengthen the institutional capacity of the Albanian Red Cross. This support ensures the organization's ability to effectively plan, coordinate and implement humanitarian activities in line with the country's priorities and needs and work together with various government and non-government organizations.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Albanian 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 2015. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Albanian Red Cross 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 analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it. The IFRC network is committed to support the National Society in its development, according to its priorities.





## Strategic and operational coordination

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Ensure representation in different Movement forums and maintain Movement coordination mechanisms at the country level
- Develop resource mobilization and income-generating activities in branches and strengthen diversified resource mobilization efforts including developing the National Society property and utilizing existing property more efficiently
- Conduct regular reviews and mapping of domestic and international partnerships to enhance resource mobilization activities
- Increase development efforts in domestic fundraising, including individual, corporate, and digital channels

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will help the Albanian Red Cross in formulating strategic plans, resource mobilization, and enhancing programme management. It will also facilitate partnerships between the Albanian Red Cross and external entities, strengthening coordination mechanisms and processes.

The IFRC will further assist the Albanian Red Cross in developing strategies and systems to quickly adapt to changing humanitarian contexts. This includes providing guidance on emergency preparedness and response, enabling the National Society to efficiently mobilize resources, activate response mechanisms, and coordinate with relevant stakeholders during emergencies. It will also facilitate learning from other National Societies to enable knowledge sharing opportunities and diversify funding sources while establishing partnerships to mobilize resources.



## National Society development

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Implement activities outlined in the National Society's [Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#) to focus on National Society development
- Enhance National Society development initiatives and services through proper assessment, planning and budgeting processes
- Focus on engaging new volunteers and members in services at the community level to improve expertise and quality

and resource mobilization. The IFRC will also support the strengthening of governance structures, enhanced leadership, and implementation of international standards. Training and mentoring will cover strategic planning, programme, and financial management. The IFRC will support the Albanian Red Cross in building a robust volunteer base, promoting volunteer management practices.

The IFRC will assist the Albanian Red Cross with National Society development through accessing dedicated [funding mechanisms](#), such as the [National Society Investment Alliance](#), jointly led by the IFRC and ICRC, the [Capacity Building Fund](#), the [Empress Shôken Fund](#) and other innovative approaches.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will offer technical expertise, guidance, and capacity building to the Albanian Red Cross in governance, leadership, organizational development, volunteer management,



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Prioritize advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy to strengthen preparedness
- Identify institutional modes of regular communication and advocacy
- Advocate for stronger partnerships between the National Society and public authorities to expand services
- Hold regular partnership events to coordinate efforts and communicate progresses

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC continuously supports the Albanian Red Cross in enhancing its humanitarian diplomacy endeavours. This includes capacity building, training, and knowledge exchange on advocacy strategies. It assists the National Society in devising and executing diplomatic initiatives to shape policies affecting humanitarian efforts. Additionally, the IFRC fosters partnerships between the Albanian Red Cross and other Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, along with international organizations and diplomatic entities.

The Albanian Red Cross collaborates with traditional partners such as the **Qatar Red Crescent**, the **Austrian Red Cross** and the **Italian Red Cross** for its humanitarian diplomacy measures.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Enhance communication mechanisms within the National Society by adopting modern technologies and digitalization for effective internal and external communication
- Ensure the quality and effectiveness of programmes by improving financial management, reporting, and control systems
- Follow harmonized planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) standards and guidelines in its work
- Standardize frameworks and guidelines on PMER across all levels of the National Society
- Provide training to relevant staff and volunteers to strengthen PMER structures and systems

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the Albanian Red Cross in promoting accountability at all levels of the organization. This will include ensuring adherence to ethical standards and enhancing financial and administrative systems. The IFRC will also support the National Society in implementing monitoring and evaluation processes to assess the impact and effectiveness of its programmes and activities.

To foster agility, the IFRC will promote the use of innovative approaches and technologies. This may include implementing information management systems, digital tools, and data analysis techniques that facilitate timely decision-making and effective humanitarian action. The IFRC will further assist the Albanian Red Cross in capacity building, training programmes, and workshops on safety and security, and equip the Albanian Red Cross with the necessary skills to maintain integrity within the organization.



The Albanian Red Cross mobile teams distributed food, milk and bread to people unable to return to their homes after the 6.4 magnitude earthquake in December 2019. (Photo: Albanian Red Cross)

# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The **IFRC**, through its Country Cluster Delegation for Central and South-Eastern Europe (located in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina) and its Regional Office for Europe (located in Budapest, Hungary) provides continuous technical guidance

and financial support in implementation of several projects related to risk reduction, support for Covid-19 pandemic, emergency response, climate change and recovery and health in emergency.

## IFRC membership coordination

The 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 Albanian Red Cross has developed strong relationships and projects with the Austrian Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, and Qatar Red Crescent Society. Their support includes:





The **Austrian Red Cross** is a long-term partner of the Albanian Red Cross, and in previous years it supported the development of the Albanian Red Cross' first aid systems, as well as supported the Albanian earthquake response in 2019. Since 2021, the Albanian Red Cross and Austrian Red Cross are cooperating in the implementation of a three-year project on Strengthening Volunteering in First Aid and Disaster Preparedness (VolFAID) which aims to contribute to strengthening capacities, volunteering, and disaster preparedness in Albania. The Austrian Red Cross also provides technical support and expertise on cash and voucher assistance (CVA). This project focuses on preparing ARC Disaster Response teams for effective disaster response and the delivery of first aid and psychological first aid. The Albanian Red Cross volunteers will receive regular training to administer first aid in non-emergency situations, expanding their reach to areas such as large events and tourist locations through new partnerships with public and private stakeholders. These efforts not only enhance the National Society's service provision but also pave the

way for potential income generation, ensuring long-term sustainability. Additionally, the project aims to strengthen ties with the government and civil society, highlighting the value of volunteer-based engagement in Albanian society. The collaboration between the Albanian Red Cross and the Austrian Red Cross also extends to technical support and expertise in cash distribution to vulnerable populations. This support proved crucial during cash distributions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 and in assisting older people and individuals with disabilities in 2022.

The **Italian Red Cross** supported the Albanian Red Cross before 2019 in implementing its main programmes in the fields of women's empowerment, first aid training, and response to IFRC emergency operations. At the end of 2018 the cooperation between the two National Societies was considerably strengthened by the launch of two new projects including the "home care project", conducted multilaterally with the Montenegro Red Cross and the women's empowerment project. The Italian Red Cross supported the Albanian Red Cross and IFRC in the emergency response following the earthquake in Albania in 2019 when the Italian Red Cross deployed technical personal to support rescue and relief operations and psychosocial support programme development. Currently, the Italian Red Cross provides technical guidance and financial support in implementation of the "Home Care for Older People" project.

Starting from 2018, the **Qatar Red Crescent** has been offering financial assistance to provide relief support to vulnerable families, primarily through food packages. This support has reached approximately 5000 families to date. Furthermore, the Qatar Red Crescent played a significant role in supporting the Albanian Red Cross during the emergency response operation following the earthquake that struck Albania in November 2019.

## Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Austrian Red Cross	242,000						
Italian Red Cross	30,000						

Total Funding requirement

**272,000**

## Movement coordination

The Albanian 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](#).

The ICRC provides ongoing support to the National Society in protection and [restoring family links](#) programmes. This partnership involves providing support and assistance to those in need, promoting and upholding international humanitarian law, and facilitating the reestablishment of family links for separated or missing persons. The Albanian Red Cross and ICRC jointly implement activities such as tracing and reconnecting separated family members and promoting awareness of humanitarian principles by conducting training and capacity building for staff and volunteers.

## Coordination with other actors

To implement its humanitarian activities, the Albanian Red Cross cooperates with diplomatic-consular sector in Albania, as well as with many international organizations (EU Delegation, UNHCR, UNDP, USAID, WHO, IOM, World Vision). The WHO is supporting the “Home Care for Older People” project.

The Albanian Red Cross enjoys a high level of autonomy and independence to act in accordance with its mandate and auxiliary role in Albania. The National Society maintains good relationship with line ministries, various departments and government institutions and there is cooperation in several areas. However, the Albanian Red Cross cooperates more closely with governmental authorities especially on disaster preparedness and its first aid programme.

According to the National Plan of Civil Protection, the National Society is a member of the Albanian disaster management structure at local, regional and national level. Regarding first aid training, the Albanian Red Cross is certified by European Reference Centre for First Aid (EFAC), now Global First Aid Reference Centre (GFARC).

The EU and ADA are co-funding the implementation of projects: “Strengthening Volunteering in First Aid and Disaster Preparedness” (VolFAID) and “Strengthening resilience of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities during COVID-19 and future disasters”.





## 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 Albanian 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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