



LITHUANIA

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

28 November 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 21.06M**

In support of the Lithuanian Red Cross Society



27

National Society branches



163

National Society staff



15,165

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



110,000

Ongoing emergency operations



28,000

Climate and environment



150,000

Disasters and crises



150,000

Health and wellbeing



50,000

Migration & Displacement



18,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Mental health and psychosocial support
- Disaster risk reduction and preparedness

- Climate change adaptation
- Social vulnerabilities

Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
 - Youth engagement
 - Resource mobilization
 - Digital transformation
- Staff and volunteer development
- Disaster and crises response

Key country data

Population **2.8M**

INFORM Climate Risk Index **Very low**

Human Development Index rank **35**

Population below poverty level **20.9%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, Poland & Czech Republic, based in Warsaw

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

2026**

Total 15.46M CHF

Total 2.8M CHF

Total 2.8M CHF

Through IFRC

9.36M CHF

Through IFRC

2.05M CHF

Through IFRC

2.05M CHF

Through Host National Society

6.1M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

200,000 CHF

Through Participating National Societies

200,000 CHF

Through Host National Society

550,000 CHF

Through Host National Society

550,000 CHF

IFRC Breakdown

***Projected funding requirements*

Ongoing emergency operations

5.3M CHF

Longer-term needs

152,000 CHF

Climate and environment

1.9M CHF

Disasters and crises

445,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

555,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

375,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

635,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

British Red Cross*

Canadian Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

French Red Cross*

German Red Cross

Irish Red Cross Society*

Swedish Red Cross*

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

IFRC Appeal codes

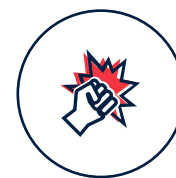
Ongoing Emergency Appeals:

MGR65002

Longer-term needs:

MAALT001

Hazards



Armed conflict



Floods



Heat waves



Population movement



Climate Change

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Lithuanian Red Cross Society** was established in 1919 and admitted to the IFRC in 1924. It has a countrywide presence and it supports vulnerable populations in Lithuania through its programmes and activities, delivering psychosocial care to older people and humanitarian assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and other vulnerable communities, as well as conducting advocacy work. The National Society aims to reach 60,000 people with its first aid training sessions.

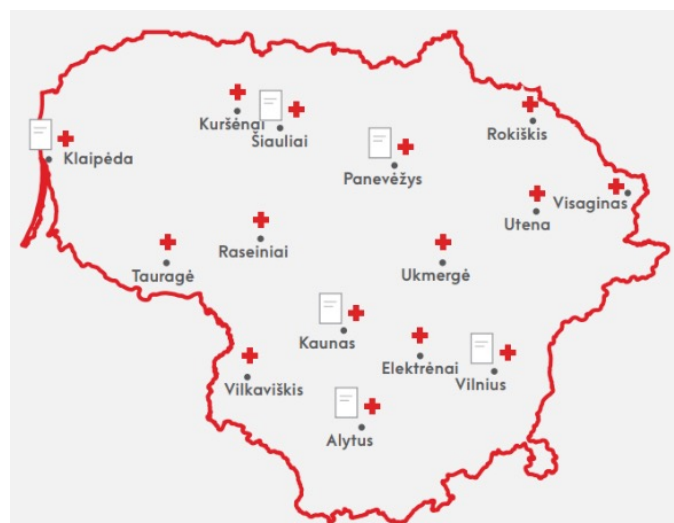
In 2023 Lithuanian Red Cross Society launched the Lithuanian Red Cross Society Academy programme, a program dedicated to enhancing the interpersonal and functional skills of its staff and volunteers. At the same time, the National Society is placing a strong emphasis on preparedness efforts and continues to actively engage with national authorities and municipalities, establishing agreements that clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the Red Cross during crises. In 2025 to 2026, expanding the methodology of a table-top simulation on humanitarian consequences of an armed conflict scenario (conducted in collaboration with government authorities) to identify gaps and better define the role of stakeholders and the Red Cross, the National Society will lead a project in collaboration with the Latvian and Estonian Red Cross Societies and IFRC. This project will include national and international simulation exercises focused on armed conflicts, joint training programmes, and the development of a shared emergency stock platform among the Baltic National Societies.

To reach people living even in the country's most remote regions, the Lithuanian Red Cross Society is starting with a unified humanitarian aid hotline number 111. The goal is to help all people living in Lithuania who need urgent humanitarian aid to meet their basic needs in the event of an unexpected disaster.

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society's goals according to its Strategic Plan 2023-2025 are to:

- Help 10 per cent of the population in the event of a crisis in Lithuania
- Become the leading non-state organization in crisis management, as auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field
- Structure and improve HR policies and processes, with a robust staff training system
- Increase the number of active volunteers and with effective and scalable volunteer management and training
- Attract non-targeted funds up to 50 per cent and establish its clear positioning and brand recognition

By the year 2022, the Lithuanian Red Cross Society reached 11,000 people by its long-term services and development programmes, and 134,000 people by disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.



JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Lithuania is a country in the Baltic region of Europe. It is one of three Baltic states and lies on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea. After regaining independence in 1990, Lithuania chose to integrate into Western organisations, with clear priorities for the European Union and NATO.

Lithuania's total population was 2.89 million in the beginning of 2024, following a rapid decline in the years after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 due to economic crises and mass emigration from the country, paired with a sharp decline in fertility. However, migration rates grew in recent years, mainly due to Ukrainian refugees, data shows that Lithuania's population increased by 28.61 thousand (1 per cent) between 2023 and 2024. At the start of 2024, 68.5 per cent of Lithuania's population lived in urban centres, while 31.5 per cent lived in rural areas. 20.3 per cent of Lithuanians are 65 years and above.

According to the OECD, after a mild contraction in 2023, growth is projected to rebound to 1.7 per cent in 2024 and 3.1 per cent in 2025. After peaking at 22.5 per cent in September 2022, inflation declined steadily to 0.4 per cent in March 2024.

However, Lithuania did experience a significant growth coupled with the rapid modernisation of its economy, becoming a member of the OECD in 2018. Credit Agricole Group reported that the country experienced the fastest recovery in Europe from the 2009 financial crisis, partly fuelled by a well-performing banking system and a diversified industrial

sector, and it was one of the best-performing countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The unemployment rate increased marginally to 6.8 per cent in 2023 from 5.9 per cent one year earlier. Shortages of skilled labour, an increase in the minimum wage by 9.4 per cent, and strong public-sector wage growth should support continued wage growth in 2024. About 20.6 per cent of Lithuania's population is at risk of poverty, 6.5 live below absolute poverty line.

Lithuania is not prone to many natural disasters, however, the country is experiencing certain consequences of climate change. In recent years, Lithuania has faced increasing challenges such as heatwaves, drought-induced crop failures and potential risks to coastal settlements due to rising sea levels. In 2023 several municipalities declared state of emergency in response to a prolonged drought, and the country's forest services were on the highest fire hazard alert these past few years. The frequency of heatwaves and floods is on the rise.

The international armed conflict in Ukraine is still very active and its direction remains unpredictable for the period of 2024-2025. The conflict will continue to have profound humanitarian consequences in Ukraine and beyond, including exacerbating the ability of individual and communities to cope with the compound effects of displacement, trauma, and economic pressures. It is the work of the Red Cross-national societies to be prepared for any eventuality and to act as auxiliary to their government in humanitarian responses of all types, including armed conflict.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Name | Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis |
| IFRC Appeal number | MGR65002 |
| Duration | July 2022 – December 2025 |
| People to be assisted | 22.7 M (total); 110,000 (in Lithuania) |
| Funding requirements | Total: CHF 800 M (IFRC); CHF 2.7 billion (Federation-wide) Lithuania: CHF 5.3 M (IFRC); CHF 14.6 M (Federation-wide) |
| Emergency Appeal | Revised Emergency Appeal |
| Operational Strategy | Revised Operational Strategy Lithuania Response Plan |
| Last operation update | Operations Update |

The international armed conflict in Ukraine continues, inflicting a devastating toll on the lives of people. The protracted crisis has resulted in massive civilian casualties, severe harm to critical infrastructure and livelihoods, and widespread displacement from front-line communities, leading to an alarming escalation in humanitarian needs, inside and outside of Ukraine. Millions of people have crossed borders from Ukraine into neighbouring countries and beyond. Most of these individuals have been displaced for nearly two years, and the gaps in meeting their needs are still increasing. Displaced people from Ukraine still require safety, assistance, and critical protection to lead dignified lives and restore their wellbeing and livelihoods.

First launched in February 2022, the IFRC Emergency Appeal was revised in May 2023, in support of the work of 18 National Societies including the Lithuanian Red Cross Society who are responding to the crisis. The revised emergency appeal presents a substantial increase in people targeted, funding requirement and geographical coverage, to support the National Societies in assisting people in Ukraine and other impacted countries affected by the crisis. It also represents a shift in response from an emergency phase to a protracted crisis scenario, while recognizing the need to remain agile and proactive in what continues to be a highly dynamic environment.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through this revised emergency appeal, the Lithuanian Red Cross Society is providing targeted assistance to about 110,000 people. Interventions consist of:

Health and care including water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH): Mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) and consultations are provided to Ukrainians fleeing the armed conflict. Additionally, the National Society is strengthening its first aid capacity by linking trainers to other

programmes, providing blended learning through online platforms, and equipping programmes with necessary materials.

Shelter, housing, and settlements, multi-purpose cash:

Distributing essential household items to support newly arrived refugees. Providing multipurpose cash and voucher assistance to those affected by the conflict. The National Society is also building its capacity in cash and voucher assistance (CVA) through training sessions for staff and volunteers. Priority actions include providing assistance for refugees and migrants to access the labour market and achieve successful employment placements.

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

Efforts underway to collect and analyse sex, age, and disability disaggregated data in needs assessments and other information gathering processes. Mainstreaming PGI and CEA across all programmes, such as cash activities and relief efforts, is a priority. A community-accessible complaints and feedback mechanism is established, to handle sensitive complaints like sexual exploitation and abuse. Specialized protection programmes are being rolled out, focusing on vulnerable groups.

Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) are operational across 15 branches, ensuring safe provision of services to refugees. The National Society is also assisting displaced people with official procedures such as migration, temporary protection, and asylum, deploying qualified interpreters to registration and reception centers for effective communication. Six community centers are active nationwide, offering integration-related assistance to individuals who have chosen to settle in Lithuania.

Optimizing the use of donated goods, focusing on reducing fuel consumption by implementing strategies such as having staff and volunteers travel to field missions in larger groups instead of individually.

Bilateral support is being extended to the Lithuanian Red Cross Society in its response to the Ukraine crisis by the

German Red Cross and **Irish Red Cross** and for long term preparedness by the **Canadian Red Cross**.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The Baltic Sea coast region, exposed to significant hydrometeorological hazards, is highly vulnerable to climate change. Flooding and storms with heavy rains and strong winds are recurring with more frequency and severity, exposing the local population to life-threatening risks, property damage and power cuts. Lithuania is located in the northern part of the temperate climate zone. Key features of its climate depend on this geographic location, as well as the prevailing westerly airflow. The mean annual temperature is 7.38°C, and the mean annual precipitation is 678.66 mm. January is the coldest, while July is the warmest month.

As a result of climate change, precipitation patterns are changing, while extreme weather events, including heat waves and cold waves, are increasing. Some of the projected future natural hazards include flooding, wildfires, landslides, and severe storms. These impacts of climate change can have a negative impact on various sectors of the country. Agriculture and forestry are some of the main areas where threats to poor harvest due to droughts and heavy and long-lasting rain can significantly affect people's livelihoods and basic needs. More than half of Lithuania's land is suitable for agriculture, while forests cover 33.5% of Lithuania's territory.

Potential secondary impacts of climate change on agriculture, forestry, and the ecosystem of Lithuania include the spread of pests, diseases, invasive species, and the risk of forest fires. Seasonal changes and extreme weather events, such as heat and cold waves, are expected to have a significant negative impact on human health as well as land degradation.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society is part of the IFRC 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: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3)

addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The National Society aims to:

- Integrate climate change education into youth programme through lectures and workshops in schools
- Promote recycling and energy-saving practices in the office
- Promote environmentally sustainable practices and share the knowledge to identify and reduce climate change-impacted risks in communities
- Inform older people on the dangers of heatwaves and how to protect themselves

Planned activities from 2024 to 2026

- Promote sustainable practices and educate communities on mitigating climate change impacts
- Promote a greener footprint for NS premises by promoting recycling and energy-saving measures
- Train staff and volunteers to increase their capacity to react and assist people in disasters caused by severe weather conditions

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in undertaking urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving climate and environmental crisis risks by fostering closer collaboration with local authorities and communities. It will further aid the National Society in making a continuous and measurable contribution to improved environmental management and climate change mitigation.



Disasters and crises

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

In Lithuania, the impacts of climate change are expected to result in various naturally driven disasters and crises. Changes in precipitation trends, rising temperatures and sea levels, and extreme weather events are expected to exacerbate disaster risks and increase the emergence of natural hazards.

Due to a shift in the geopolitical landscape with the beginning of the international armed conflict in Ukraine, the risk of armed conflict is a top priority for Baltic states. This threat places considerable pressure on Lithuania's defense budget and resources and causes psychological strain on the population, including fear and uncertainty. Lithuania also faces significant risks due to proximity to the Astravets Nuclear Power Plant, located just 40 kilometers from the capital Vilnius. Incidents during construction, lack of transparency and clarity of safety measures in the plant has caused concern for a possible radiological accident. An additional concern is that a border crisis similar to events in 2021 could repeat itself in the future. In 2021 the influx of people accumulated on the border strained Lithuania's resources and highlighted the country's challenges in managing border security and humanitarian needs. Lithuanian Red Cross Society mobilized its resources to provide immediate assistance to the influx of migrants, offering essential services such as food, water, clothing, and hygiene kits, delivering psychological support to asylum seekers.

In 2023, Lithuania adopted an amendment to the Crisis Management and Civil Protection Law, introducing significant changes. The key change is the establishment of a 24/7 National Crisis Management Center, responsible for monitoring potential national security threats and coordinating the country's crisis response. The amendment also redefines the

role of municipalities, granting them greater responsibility in crisis management. Municipalities are now also required to enhance emergency preparedness, improve local response capabilities, and ensure seamless integration with national strategies through closer collaboration with the National Crisis Management Center. This prompted a process of Lithuanian Red Cross Society offering its auxiliary services, and signing MoUs with municipalities, in order to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the National Society in crisis situations.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society aims to:

- Develop resilient and sustainable disaster management systems, teams and capabilities
- Establish Baltic operational linkages between Baltic National Societies to facilitate coordinated response in times of crises
- Provide help to people in times of crises
- Further clarify Lithuanian Red Cross Society mandate and its auxiliary role during crises and disasters
- Multi-year cyclical crisis response capacity development with the Preparedness for Effective Response approach



The National Society volunteers supporting communities affected from extreme cold by collecting generators and sleeping bags. (Photo: Lithuanian Red Cross Society)

Planned activities from 2024 to 2026

- Enhancing collaboration with relevant stakeholders, defining clear roles and responsibilities of Lithuanian Red Cross Society in crisis response
 - Prepare and update emergency preparedness stock to ensure readiness for potential crises
 - Broaden the scope of MoUs and pre-disaster agreements to include more local and national authorities
 - Develop the necessary capacities to ensure preparedness in delivering first aid and other health services to support hospitals during crises.
 - Simulation exercises and logistics system development
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will facilitate collaboration and closer linkages between Baltic National Societies, looking to expand operational linkages also to neighbouring nordic countries. Disaster

and crisis response capacity enhancement effort include mobilizing international expertise in key operational areas, follow-up on cyclical preparedness capacity development (PER) and supporting the development of a Baltic shared preparedness stock platform. It will also aid the National Society to respond effectively to the broad spectrum of evolving crises and disasters and ensure through Humanitarian Diplomacy efforts that the Red Cross auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well defined and recognized.

Starting 2024, the **Canadian Red Cross** is supporting the National Society in preparedness and CVA preparedness.

The **Finnish Red Cross** has supported preparedness efforts in previous years by enhancing Baltic-Nordic evacuation, volunteer management and mental health response capacities through multiple joint projects. In 2025-2026, a Baltic consortium will implement a joint project including multi-stakeholder national and cross-country simulation exercises on humanitarian consequences of armed conflict and mass evacuation scenarios, joint trainings with public authorities and logistics and stock-sharing platform development.



Health and wellbeing

Lithuania is part of the Baltic region which has the lowest life expectancy among those in the European Union (EU). Key health challenges facing the region include mental health and non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, strokes and addiction. In the last two years, the Baltic countries have faced several challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's actions in Ukraine had a significant impact on the region, leading to social exclusion, disruption of social relations and economic struggle. These crises affected the psychological health of people living in the Baltic countries, increasing the need for psychological and psychosocial counselling.

According to the [OECD Country Health Profile on Lithuania](#), the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted the steady gains in population health, causing a significant drop in life expectancy, in 2022 average life expectancy was still 0.5 lower than in 2019. In 2022, life expectancy was the fourth lowest within the EU, with 5 years below the EU average.

The main risk factors are smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and obesity, mainly affecting adolescents. While strict alcohol control measures targeting younger people were introduced, despite a significant decrease, alcohol consumption remains a major public health issue.

Cardiovascular diseases and cancer are the leading causes of death in Lithuania. Causes of death by liver disease and diabetes are also high. According to [WHO](#), Lithuania is in 7th place for deaths by suicide per 100,000 inhabitants and has

the highest rate of suicide in the European Union. There is stark gender disparity, with men being four time more likely to die by suicide compared to women.

Basic health care is provided free of charge and without a general practitioner's referral to all permanent residents of Lithuania, regardless of their nationality or whether they are covered by compulsory health insurance (CHI). These services include first aid and emergency [medical services](#) at clinics or hospitals. Compulsory health insurance has to be paid by all citizens and foreigners permanently residing in the country to benefit from [healthcare services](#), reimbursable medicines, medical aids paid by the National Insurance Fund.

Projected impacts of climate change on the Lithuanian public health system can be significant due to extreme weather conditions such as heatwaves and heavy rainfall, causing droughts and floods and consequently increasing morbidity and mortality rates. Furthermore, the expected effects of heatwaves, such as dehydration and heat stroke, may demand additional public health capacities in the summer.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Key priorities for the National Society include the revival of [first aid](#) awareness and training, mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) programming and healthy ageing. Other objectives are to:

- Support local health authorities in emergencies are in line with disaster and crisis priorities
- Provide PFA, hygiene kits and CVA support to people during disasters
- Community-based health education and empowering individuals and communities to make behavioural changes that reduce the risk of chronic diseases and other morbidities
- Ensure caring for staff and volunteers by providing mental health and psychosocial support
- Training communities in FA and PFA, positioning Lithuanian Red Cross Society as the primary organization for the provision of FA and PFA trainings
- Expand psychosocial support access to various target groups and improve caring for staff
- Implement community-based health education and promote healthy-ageing

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will guide and support the Lithuanian Red Cross Society to capitalize on its auxiliary role to ensure its position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms. The IFRC will work together with the Lithuanian Red Cross Society to scale up and institutionalize first aid and community based and commercial first aid. It also includes strengthening the capacity of the Lithuanian Red Cross Society to deliver community-based health education that complements the efforts of the public healthcare system.

Planned activities from 2024 to 2026

- Expand the provision of FA and PFA trainings



Migration and displacement

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

By September 2023, the UNHCR registered 70,380 Ukrainian refugees living in Lithuania, followed by 871 refugees from Syrian Arab Republic and 574 from Belarus. Approximately 50,000 refugees from Ukraine, who have arrived since February 2022 enjoy temporary protection across Lithuania.

Majority of refugees fleeing Ukraine have been granted temporary protection status, which provide access to essential services as general education, healthcare and employment assistance. However procedural challenges and language barriers have created challenges in fully accessing these resources. Many Ukrainians have difficulties finding jobs that match their qualifications due to limited Lithuanian language proficiency and issues with recognition of their credentials. Other nationality applicants for international protection are accommodated in reception centres, where their basic needs are met, however, they are faced with significantly more negative political and societal attitudes, and humanitarian conditions on the Belarus border continue to be concerning. With the number of applicants decreasing, the reception conditions are improving, but still there is a gap in terms of social activities and interactions for the people awaiting decisions. People

granted international protection settle in municipalities, where the integration programme is carried out by NGOs under the government funded project. However, these activities are mostly focused on finding accommodation, employment, learning the language, with not enough community engagement in social activities or relationships.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society is committed to improving its services to migrants, with a particular focus on basic needs integration and MHPSS. The Lithuanian Red Cross Society aims to expand its provision of health, protection and inclusion services and humanitarian assistance to people on the move, while working with local communities to combat negative perceptions of migrants and displaced people.

The National Society also aims to:

- Scale up its activities to negotiate agreements and legal provisions with local and national authorities to strengthen its auxiliary role in supporting people on the move
- Promote and provide humanitarian assistance through engaging with authorities, host communities and affected populations
- Expand the range of safe services provided through humanitarian service points (HSPs) across all the branches

- Increase the capacity of branches to assist displaced people in emergencies by strengthening case management, community-engagement, legal-aid to asylum seekers and establishing language clubs
- Collaborate with partners for peer-to-peer support for restoring family links (RFL) activities
- Improve the implementation of CVA activities in supporting migrants and people on the move through localization and cash preparedness

Planned activities in 2024 and 2025

- Enhance communication efforts to ensure that information about available services and ways of access them is clear and easily accessible to all
- Collaborate with local communities to counteract negative perceptions of migrants and displaced individuals

- Define clear role of Lithuanian Red Cross Society in assisting displaced people, scale up the negotiation of agreements and legal provisions with local and national authorities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Lithuanian Red Cross Society with enhancing its migration and displacement programming and capacity to ensure that migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes as well as access to durable integration solutions. It will also work together with the National Society to more effectively assess, understand and respond to people's needs, through mainstreaming protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) in its migration and displacement programming.



Values, power and inclusion

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

Lithuania has two essential laws that provide for the consistent and systematic implementation of programmes, measures, and projects to foster gender equality: the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (1998) and the Law on Equal Treatment. The Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men forbids any direct or indirect discrimination on the grounds of sex, including sexual harassment. The Law on Equal Treatment has been reformed several times and is now entirely in line with the EU acquis and other international instruments.

Tensions exist among various ethnic minority groups in Lithuania, particularly Polish and Russian speaking populations who feel marginalized. Many of these individuals reside in a specific geographical area and attend schools in their native languages, deepening their sense of separation from broader society. The arrival of refugees from Ukraine, Belarus and Russia has further complicated these dynamics. A significant portion of the Russian-speaking community engages with Russian media, which can create a disconnect from the prevailing Lithuanian perspective on public matters, causing tensions. In response to this, the Lithuanian government and various NGOs are working

to foster collaboration among different ethnic groups and build a sense of belonging.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society will continue to advocate for humanitarian values and principles by encouraging young people to share their knowledge of humanitarian principles in their communities. The National Societies will also mainstream PGI in strategy and programme planning to ensure that interventions are tailored to the diverse needs and problems of specific vulnerable groups.

The National Society will also:

- Invest in educating youth in humanitarian values and fundamental principles
- Scale up financial support for youth programmed activities targeting communities in tandem with organizing activities for older people such as engaging them in volunteering activities
- Scale up specialized support provided to vulnerable groups such as case management, social consulting and legal consultations
- Ensure that PGI approach is mainstreamed in all Lithuanian Red Cross Society programmes and operations, establish minimum PGI standards for emergencies
- Integrate CEA in the Lithuanian Red Cross Society strategies, services and operations

- Establish an integrity line and a system for investigating complaints

Planned activities from 2024 to 2026

- Promote humanitarian values and principles among young individuals
 - Establish an integrity line and a system for investigating complaints
 - Train staff and volunteers on PGI, CEA and safeguarding
 - Mainstream PGI and CEA in all Lithuanian Red Cross Society operations
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Lithuanian Red Cross Society to contribute to a positive change in communities through a broader understanding, ownership and concrete application of humanitarian values and fundamental principles, focusing primarily on young people's knowledge, skills and behaviour. It will assist the National Society in adopting comprehensive PGI and CEA approaches across operations and programmes.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening, it has been working on improving its structure, HR policies and processes, ensuring proper staff and volunteer training. The National Society completed its [PER](#) self-assessment and is currently in the work plan phase. In 2024 [PGI](#) and [CEA](#) self-assessments will also be completed.

- Implement practical and pragmatic approaches at the community level and with local authorities to alter the organization's position vis-à-vis the government
- Establish referral pathways and further discuss with civil society organizations to establish a network coalition that will serve people in need



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increase visibility and relevance of the National Society within the national context, building improved partnerships with the government

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide the National Society technical support as well as support to develop a resource mobilization strategy that considers accountability and strengthening of systems. The IFRC will also support the Lithuanian Red Cross Society in enhancing cooperation with local municipalities and communities and build partnerships with authorities in the humanitarian field.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Follow up on PGI, CEA, PER, CVAP self-assessments and BOCA, implement key findings
- Diversify income sources including income generation activities that enable the organization to have a funding to support further development of sustainable services
- Establish a system for human resource development for both staff and volunteers that provides opportunities for growth and personal development

- Expand the volunteering base, further develop a volunteer management system which will support volunteers in building their skills and competencies, clarify processes for managing regular and spontaneous volunteers

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Lithuanian Red Cross Society in establishing and strengthening volunteer development, including a volunteer database with comprehensive human resource systems.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Engage with public institutions, key state agencies, ministries, local authorities, and international agencies such as the UN and diplomatic corps to reinforce its auxiliary role
- Ensure strong visibility and public understanding of Red Cross and Red Crescent activities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Lithuanian Red Cross Society by promoting its work and strategic goals in and outside the Movement. It will also work with the National Society to promote its auxiliary role, and the added value of the global IFRC network to Lithuanian society in preparedness and in responding to future crises. The IFRC will support the National Society in developing and localizing humanitarian diplomacy and communication resources/toolkits for leadership and staff in and out of emergencies.



Lithuanian Red Cross Society volunteers distributing water, hygiene kits and clothes, as well as providing vital information and legal assistance to migrants and refugees from Belarus. (Photo: Lithuanian Red Cross Society)



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Review and update human resource procedures for peacetime and emergencies
- Expand project management and accounting capacities to increase project volume ceiling
- Establish training plan for the data collection, humanitarian analysis, and information management capacity building

- Improve information and communication technology capacities of the National Society and its staff to deliver quality services efficiently

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to enhance human resource development in terms of systems, processes, policies, training and development. It will also support the National Society fostering digitalization to improve data collection, quality reporting, internal communication and the flow of information.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has supported the Estonian Red Cross through its Cluster office since April 10, 2022, following the appointment of the head of the Country Cluster Delegation. The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation based in Warsaw, Poland, oversees seven countries: Poland, Moldova, Romania, Czechia, Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia. It provides technical support to the Baltic countries through a programme office based in Lithuania.

The IFRC supports the Lithuanian Red Cross Society on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including strengthening its auxiliary role. Its aim is to ensure access for Lithuanian Red Cross Society to key technical and sustainable financial resources, particularly in disaster preparedness and

operational capacities such as in mental health programming, cash and voucher assistance, information management, provide support to improve corporate systems and policy standards, facilitate collaboration with neighbouring National Societies, build fundraising capacity and facilitate building long term partnerships.

The IFRC also supports the Lithuanian Red Cross Society in further elevating its programming quality through mainstreamable approaches such as protection, gender and inclusion and community engagement and accountability. In addition, the IFRC will support the Lithuanian Red Cross Society in increasing public and state recognition of its mandate and auxiliary role in the humanitarian field.

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 **Canadian Red Cross Society** is developing a long term bilateral remote partnership with Lithuanian Red Cross Society, with **German Red Cross** and **Finnish Red Cross** also being partners providing remote support historically. There are no participating National Societies with in-country presence.

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society is part of several regional networks which contribute to the technical cooperation between European national societies. The National Society actively contributes to or leads regional thematic groups sponsored by the IFRC, such as the climate change adaptation roadmap initiative and the protection, gender, and inclusion regional working group.

Movement coordination

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society engages in regular meetings with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and participating National Societies, to align support and action between Movement partners. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society and the Federation will engage with the ICRC on preparedness and coordinated advocacy with state and non-state actors for increased awareness and recognition of the Movement's role in preparedness and response to disasters and crises, including armed conflict. The ICRC promotes understanding of and respect for principled humanitarian action and international humanitarian law. The ICRC is mentioned in the Unified Plan because it supports the

Lithuanian Red Cross Society to achieve some of the strategic priorities laid out in the Unified Plan. Although ICRC's activities are not coordinated through the Unified Plan and the ICRC is not an IFRC member, given that support provided by Movement actors should be mutually reinforcing and complementary, most ICRC activities with the Lithuanian Red Cross Society are reflected in the Unified Plan. They are coordinated via the in-country Movement coordination mechanisms.

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

Coordination with other actors

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society is coordinating with several local partners and businesses for the launch of its humanitarian aid number 111 for people affected to provide:

- Items (clothing, hygiene kits, food, stationery, special tools and household goods)
- Counselling, mediation and accompaniment
- Psychological and psychosocial support
- Financial support

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



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 Lithuanian Red Cross Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC Strategy 2030, representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process, and will serve joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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