



ALBANIA

2026-2027 IFRC network country plan



16 December 2025

In support of the Albanian Red Cross



39

National Society branches



39

National Society local units



58

National Society staff



2,800

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



70,000

Climate and environment



17,000

Disasters and crises



100,000

Health and wellbeing



2,000

Migration and displacement



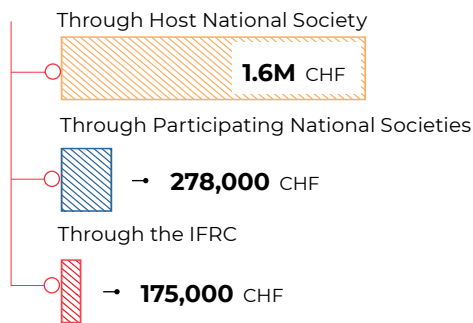
120,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 2.1M CHF



2027

Total 220,000 CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

Austrian Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Qatar Red Crescent Society

IFRC Appeal code

Longer-term needs:

MAAAL003

Hazards



Earthquakes



Floods



Landslides



Drought



Forest fires

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 links

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **71**

World Bank Population figure **2.7M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **20%**



Albanian Red Cross conducting community interviews under the Flood Resilience Project (Photo: Albanian Red Cross)

Detailed funding requirements

	2026	2026
	Host National Society	IFRC
Ongoing emergencies		
Longer-term needs		
Climate and environment	10,000	100,000
Disasters & crises	280,000	
Health & wellbeing	400,000	
Migration & displacement	100,000	75,000
Values, power & inclusion	120,000	
Enabling local actors	700,000	
Total	1.6M	175,000

Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Austrian Red Cross	2026	232,000	232,000		108,000	86,000		38,000	
	2027	220,000	220,000		146,000	54,000		20,000	
Italian Red Cross	2026	30,000				30,000			
Qatar Red Crescent Society	2026	16,000						16,000	

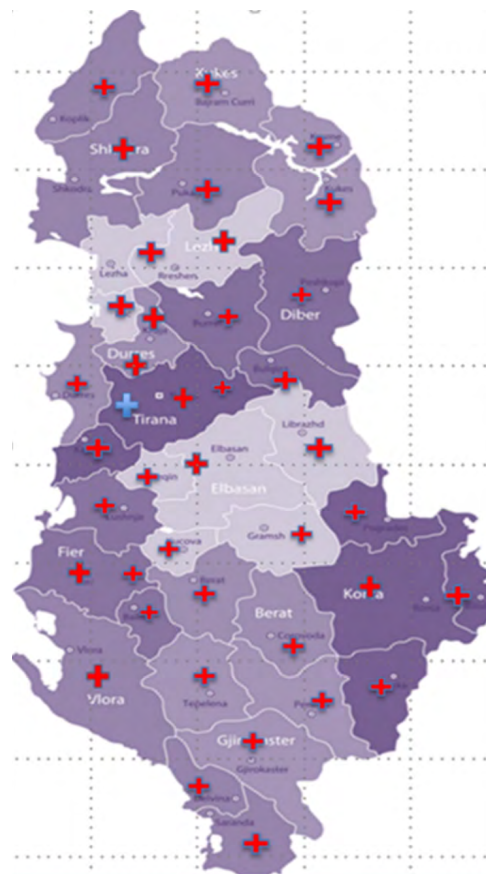
NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

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.

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 a competitive advantage and alleviate people's suffering
- Build on past achievements to make new progress and shape the future through investing in the development of an empowered National Society
- Serve to support people in need and affected by emergencies helping them to stay physically healthy and develop resilience to psychosocial challenges

In 2024, the Albanian Red Cross reached 1,400 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of the regional branches of the Albanian Red Cross

The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Albania is located in southeastern Europe in the western part of the Balkan Peninsula and covers an area of about 28,748 square kilometres. Placed in a strategic geographic position, Albania is bordered by Montenegro to the northwest, Kosovo to the northeast, North of Macedonia to the east, Greece to the south and southeast and Italy 72 kilometres across the Adriatic Sea.

According to [the latest census data](#), the population of Albania indicates a decrease of approximately 14.5 per cent in Albania's population over the span of the last 12 years. According to the United Nations (UN) medium projection scenario, the number of people living in Albania is projected to decline by 20 per cent or more in the next three decades.

Due to a combination of political, geographic and social factors, Albania is recognized as [vulnerable to climate change impacts](#), ranked [82 out of 187](#) countries. Albania is very susceptible to the impacts of climate change, with agriculture, hydroelectricity and tourism particularly at risk. Developing and implementing effective climate change adaptation strategies is essential to mitigate the adverse effects on the economy and the livelihoods of the population.

The economy in Albania has emerged as one of the stronger performers in the region. This [growth](#) is primarily driven by the booming tourism and construction sectors, strengthened by strategic investments and favourable economic conditions. The government aims to sustain this positive trajectory, with annual growth rates averaging 3.9 per cent from 2025 to 2027.

Inclusion of vulnerable people in the labour market is a challenge. More than half of the poor population is [inactive or unemployed](#), and people living in remote areas are often completely excluded. Female labour force participation in Albania has improved, but the [gender gap remains significant](#). In 2010, about 54 per cent of women aged 15–64 participated in the labour market, while in 2023 this figure reached 68.6 per cent, resulting in a narrowing gender gap. Still, in 2024, the gap in labour force participation between men and women was [more than 14 percentage points](#). The gender gap is slightly smaller than in other Western Balkan countries (by about 2 percentage points) but about 5 percentage points larger than the EU-27 average.

Like other Western Balkan countries, Albania has been impacted by mixed population flows resulting from not only [socio-economic conditions](#) but also various global conflicts. The categories of population arriving in the country include refugees and asylum seekers, migrants, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied and separated minors and stateless persons.

Emigration has long been a defining issue in Albania, but recent data suggests that the current wave of departures surpasses even the post-communist exodus of the 1990. With an average of 50,000 Albanians leaving the country annually, the population has dwindled from 3.2 million in the early 90s to 2.4 million today. Rural areas such as Kukës in North Albania, are experiencing extreme depopulation, leaving behind empty villages, struggling businesses and older people with no family support. Cities are also affected, as professionals, particularly young and educated people, seek opportunities abroad. This 'brain drain' is weakening key sectors, from healthcare to education and limiting the [country's ability](#) to develop sustainably. Combined with an ageing population, it also puts additional pressure on the pension system, raising concerns about its long-term sustainability.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Albania is vulnerable to the [impacts of climate change](#), with increased vulnerability due to its infrastructure needs, and poverty in rural areas. Changes to Albania's climate, specifically the frequency of extreme weather events and temperature variations, are expected to have the most significant impacts to the country's key sectors, its economy and population. Natural hazards also have the potential to adversely impact crop and livestock production among others, as well as cause significant amounts of damage to critical infrastructure, such as irrigation systems, livestock shelters and storage facilities.

Heatwaves have become one of the most pressing consequences of climate change, and their intensity and frequency are increasing in many regions, including Albania. The country has begun to acknowledge these challenges, with the government starting to develop strategies to mitigate the effects, including the establishment of an early warning system. The rapid growth of tourism in Albania has led to increased environmental degradation, including coastal erosion, pollution and strain on natural resources such as water. These impacts are exacerbated by climate change, threatening biodiversity, infrastructure and long-term sustainability.

[Wildfires](#) have become an increasingly severe issue in Albania, particularly in its forested and mountainous regions. The combination of climate change, dry summers and human activity has heightened the frequency and intensity of these fires, posing significant threats to local communities and ecosystems. In response, Albania has been working on improving fire management strategies, including firebreaks and early warning systems, with support from regional and international partners. However, more proactive measures are needed to address the growing risk of wildfires and mitigate their impact on the environment and economy.

In certain regions, access to clean, drinkable water is limited, with some areas facing a crisis of trust regarding the safety of their water supplies. This mistrust is compounded by the quality and sustainability of water resources, which necessitates urgent attention to improve infrastructure and filtration systems. The country faces significant challenges in recycling, with plastic waste often ending up in rivers and waterways, exacerbating pollution and environmental degradation.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Albanian Red Cross 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; (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The National Society's overarching objectives are to:

- Support people in need and affected populations by helping them maintain physical health and build resilience to psychosocial challenges
- Enable people to anticipate, respond to and recover quickly from emergencies and crises, while strengthening communities to withstand multi-hazards and climate change
- Adapt risk-reduction activities and [early-warning procedures](#) to evolving hazards
- Ensure effective communication to at-risk populations for improved recovery from increasingly frequent, intense, or unfamiliar disasters

Planned activities in 2026

- Implement the simplified Early Action Protocol ([sEAP](#)) for the period from 2025 to 2027, to enhance preparedness and resilience through anticipatory action
- Establish capacities and systems to be able to act ahead of extreme heat in Tirana, Berat and Elbasan to reduce negative health impacts on the most vulnerable
- Establish a phone helpline for the public, support selected vulnerable households with heat preparedness services, cash and essential household items and set up public heat preparedness points ahead of extreme heat
- Align its activities with the Programme for Climate-Resilient Urban Development in Albania ([ALBAdapt](#)), supported by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) through the Green Fund
- Implement the ALBAdapt (2024-2030) aimed at [addressing climate impacts](#) in Albania to mitigate and adapt to the challenges posed by climate change, particularly in sectors vulnerable to its effects, such as agriculture, water management and infrastructure

- Further strengthen its position as a main climate preparedness stakeholder in the Western Balkans
- Engage media outlets to raise awareness and highlight climate resilience efforts, along with donor contributions
- Introduce the greening of the National Society, promoting sustainable practices across all operations and activities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide strategic support to the Albanian Red Cross with technical expertise and assistance in resource mobilization, while also supporting capacity building for climate resilience and preparedness. The Albanian Red Cross will have

access to IFRC Reference Centres, as well as IFRC Hubs and Labs, for innovation, experimentation, learning, knowledge sharing and networking opportunities.

The IFRC supports the National Society to build long term resilience against climate disasters, and is actively supporting the simplified Early Action Protocol (sEAP) in response to heatwaves since June 2025, with a two-year operational timeframe. With a budget of CHF 199,966, the National Society aims to assist 17,000 vulnerable people in Tirana, Elbasan and Berat.

The **Austrian Red Cross** along with the GeoSphere Austria supports the Albanian Red Cross in implementing the sEAP for the period from 2025 to 2027.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on IFRC emergencies, visit IFRC GO page Albania.

Albania is one of the most vulnerable regions in Europe to changing climate trends, with increasing temperatures, decreasing precipitation and more frequent extreme events such as floods and droughts. Projections indicate a decline in summer rainfalls of about 20 per cent by 2050. Two sectors that are acutely impacted by these shifts in climate are energy and agriculture. The country's Mediterranean climate, with mild and humid winters followed by hot and dry summers, experiences rainfall primarily during the second half of the year.

According to World Bank data, Albania is second only to Russia in terms of extreme event risk, which underlines the need for proactive action to minimize the risk of exposure to such events through various adaptation mechanisms.

Flooding in Albania is a recurrent issue, exacerbated by heavy rainfall, snowmelt and the country's mountainous terrain. The Drin, Vjosa and Seman rivers are particularly vulnerable to overflow, especially during the wet season (November to March). Major floods have occurred in 2010, 2019 and 2020, displacing thousands, damaging infrastructure and disrupting agriculture. Climate change is worsening the situation, with more frequent and intense flash floods expected. The country's increasing urbanization has increased flood risk locations due to the absence of functioning water drainage systems. By the end of the decade more than a third of coastal areas will suffer direct consequences of flooding, according to the National Civil Protection Agency.

By 2030, Albania is expected to have been struck by numerous costly natural disasters, with an increasing frequency in recent years due to climate change. Climate projections for Albania include rising temperatures, more extreme weather, floods, droughts, heatwaves and rainfall variability. Heatwaves and

floods are anticipated to be among the biggest challenges the country will face in the future due to climate change.

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 2026

- Reach community members with awareness and effective mitigation activities to allow them to better analyse their vulnerabilities to disaster, including floods, and to allow them to enhance their capacities to prepare, respond to and reduce the impact of these vulnerabilities
- Implement disaster risk reduction activities in schools and communities at risk, alongside public awareness campaigns
- Identify multi-hazard and climate risks and develop branch preparedness and response plans with a strong focus on community involvement
- Demonstrate how awareness and mitigation efforts have effectively reduced the impact of disasters by showcasing tangible results and improvements
- Provide regular, data-driven updates and community impact reports to highlight progress, ensuring transparency and fostering continued engagement with stakeholders

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides long-term support to the Albanian Red Cross in disaster and crisis 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.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal will be drawn on as needed for National Society responses to crises and disasters.



Health and wellbeing

Albania's healthcare system is grappling with a range of challenges, including the resurgence of measles, which underscores the need for stronger vaccination programmes and public awareness. The country's emigration crisis has led to a shortage of skilled healthcare professionals, especially in rural areas, complicating the delivery of services.

Extreme weather events, air quality and communicable diseases are identified as priority health risks under a changing climate. Heat-related deaths, especially among older persons, present the most immediate threat to the Balkans. Albania is additionally vulnerable to climate-health impacts due to its current underdeveloped public health system. Primary healthcare lacks appropriate funding and human resources. The coverage of insurance-based care is low, the public hospital sector remains underdeveloped, and the private sector is growing without sufficient regulation.

While healthcare in Albania is free, access is often hindered by bureaucratic barriers, especially for medications and specialized treatments. Improvements in healthcare infrastructure have been more prominent in larger cities, but rural areas still face significant gaps in service availability. The mental health sector is also underdeveloped, with a lack of capacity and a persistent stigma surrounding mental illness, particularly outside urban centres.

Efforts to address mental health challenges are underway, with government policies and some schools offering psychologists. However, the lack of trained mental health professionals and the growing demand for services remain major concerns. Additionally, addiction issues including tobacco, alcohol and internet abuse among youth are rising.

Older people also face difficulties accessing proper caregiver services, relying on informal, untrained caregivers, further stressing the need for more structured and professional support. In Albania, families – specifically female family members – have traditionally been the main provider of social care for older persons. However, the high level of emigration and decreasing fertility rates mean that other means of support,

i.e., social care services, will be needed soon, and immediate attention on this issue is required.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The National Society's goals are to:

- Contribute to the improvement of health and the reduction of human suffering by providing first aid, road safety education and MHPSS, promoting voluntary blood donation and implementing interventions to address both communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Collaborate with public authorities, community structures and partner organizations with the overarching goal of fostering a healthier, safer and more resilient population across the country

Planned activities in 2026

- Provide community-based health and first aid (CBHFA), MHPSS and home care services to vulnerable older people
- Provide humanitarian assistance to families in vulnerable situations, addressing their immediate needs and helping restore their dignity, in close coordination with local authorities and community networks
- Reinforce coordination with public authorities to promote its auxiliary role and influence country-level public health strategy through advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms
- Facilitate non-remunerated blood donations
- Consolidate the Advanced First Aid (AFA) team and pilot the initiative with the ambulance service
- Create a comprehensive database for all blood donors to streamline donation tracking and coordination

- Establish mobile teams to facilitate blood donation drives, ensuring wider access
- Set up remote MHPSS services and establish a Greenline to provide accessible assistance for mental health needs
- Provide vocational/orientation training and health education to disadvantaged women and girls
- Update tools and manuals on first aid and MHPSS training and implement health promotion activities and group counselling in day care centres

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 and promoting vaccinations. 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 people in vulnerable situations in Albania.



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.

Albania serves as a transit country along the Balkan route, with migration flows remaining low but consistent over time. While the numbers may not be high, the steady movement of people through the country underscores its important role in regional migration dynamics. Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, in collaboration with the Border and Migration Police in Albania, plays a crucial role in border monitoring, working to manage the flow of migrants and ensure safety along Albania's borders.

There are 10 reception centres near its borders to accommodate migrants and asylum seekers. However, the only operational facility with 250 beds for asylum seekers is in Tirana. The reception system includes key activities such as identification of needs, safe referrals, monitoring of border communities and providing translation services for those in need. Despite these efforts, there are ongoing gaps in emergency services and aid delivery to people in more remote border areas, which complicates timely responses to migrant needs.

In November 2023, Italy and Albania [signed a five-year deal](#) allowing Albania to host up to 3,000 migrants monthly while Italy processes their asylum claims. Italy agreed to fund and manage two reception centres in Gjader and Shengjin, each with a 3,000-person capacity, excluding children and pregnant women. However, implementation has faced repeated legal setbacks. The first transfer in October 2024—16 migrants—was overturned by Rome's Court of Appeals, citing protection concerns. Subsequent attempts in November and January brought 8 and 49 migrants, but courts halted operations pending a European Court of Justice ruling. As of February 2025, the centres stand unused,

symbolizing a stalled plan caught between political ambition and judicial constraints.

In 2024, Albania hosted [6,592 Asylum-seekers](#) and 2,098 stateless people. Of these, 6465 people were refugees from Ukraine while the remaining originated from Serbia and Kosovo or Syria.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

- Ensure the timely and dignified delivery of essential services, protection and inclusion support to affected people, while working closely with national authorities and partners
- Mobilize communities to build inclusive and peaceful environments, while ensuring that people affected by migration have access to public services
- Strengthen its internal capacities by investing in staff training, coordination mechanisms and operational readiness to respond effectively to the needs of migrants, asylum seekers and displaced people

Planned activities in 2026

- Support interpretation, pre-screening monitoring, referrals and protection incident reporting under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) project
- Engage border communities and provide information and counselling to those in need
- Continue providing cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)) to asylum seekers residing in private accommodation in two cities

- Develop a Migration Policy and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and tools to guide humanitarian actions in migration settings
- Provide comprehensive support to migrants in reception centres by distributing essential items such as food, water and hygiene kits, alongside protection services, [MHPSS](#) and safe referrals
- Assist in family reunification through the Restoring Family Links ([RFL](#)) programme, ensuring affected families are connected and supported
- Establish and equip mobile teams to provide essential humanitarian needs, including [first aid](#), Psychological First Aid ([PFA](#)) and RFL services
- Provide technical expertise in protection and assistance along migratory routes, support cross-border response planning and promote integration and inclusion. Enhance data-driven decision-making, facilitate the development of multi-sectoral contingency plans and strengthen the

capacity of field actors through harmonized technical standards and integrated monitoring mechanisms

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will work closely with the Albanian Red Cross to develop and implement policies, action plans and coordination mechanisms that address the specific challenges faced by migrants and displaced populations. The IFRC will also facilitate coordination and collaboration among National Societies involved in migration activities. It will provide a platform for sharing information, resources and best practices across borders. In line with the Integration and Inclusion Framework plans developed by the Albanian Red Cross, the IFRC will provide guidance, technical expertise and resources to support the National Society in implementing inclusive programmes that promote protection and gender equality.



Teams from the Albanian Red Cross carried out activities for World Restart a Heart Day in 2024 (Photo: Albanian Red Cross)



Values, power and inclusion

Social inclusion remains a challenge for several marginalized groups in Albania. Although there have been improvements in education, healthcare and infrastructure, there are still disparities. Women, particularly in rural areas, often face discrimination in terms of access to employment, education and decision-making processes. Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a prevalent issue, despite efforts to pass laws protecting women's rights. In Albania, [violence against women and girls](#) remains a very concerning issue, and often sexual violence cases remain underreported.

Youth unemployment is alarmingly high, especially in rural areas where job opportunities are limited. Young people face challenges accessing higher education and training programmes that match the needs of the labour market. Poverty levels are higher in rural regions, where lack of access to services, poor infrastructure and limited economic opportunities lead to social exclusion. The Roma community remains one of the most vulnerable groups in Albania, with high levels of illiteracy and 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 steps in several areas to enhance the living standards and integration of Roma and Egyptians, particularly in civil registration, social housing and education.

Emigration remains a major issue, with many Albanians seeking better opportunities abroad due to economic hardship and lack of prospects. The country's brain drain is particularly severe in sectors such as education, healthcare and engineering.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The goals of the National Society are to:

- Empower communities to adopt inclusiveness and peace, prioritizing people's wellbeing and driving positive changes to enhance resilience and alleviate suffering
- Promote dignity, inclusion and the protection of groups in vulnerable situations by strengthening its capacity to prevent discrimination, reduce inequalities and ensure the meaningful participation of affected people in all aspects of humanitarian response

Planned activities in 2026

- Conduct community outreach to raise awareness on rights, services for groups in vulnerable situations
- Organize [awareness campaigns](#) on tolerance, non-discrimination and human rights in [schools](#) and communities
- Maintain feedback mechanisms to ensure affected people can safely voice concerns and suggestions and support youth volunteers to lead local initiatives promoting inclusion
- Integrate women into the labour market through vocational training, MHPSS and awareness raising on GBV
- Work closely with local groups representing communities in vulnerable situations to co-design and implement tailored responses that address their specific needs and priorities
- Train service providers, staff and volunteers on protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) standards, non-discrimination practices and humanitarian values

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC in collaboration with participating National Societies provides technical expertise, resources and capacity-building initiatives, knowledge sharing and collaborative projects to the Albanian Red Cross. This support ensures the Albanian Red Cross to effectively plan, coordinate and implement humanitarian activities that align with the country's priorities and the needs of its most vulnerable populations.

In partnership with the IFRC and participating National Societies, the Albanian Red Cross organizes a range of educational programmes, training sessions and workshops focused on [PGI](#), community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) as well as the dissemination of humanitarian values among its staff and volunteers and the public as well.

The IFRC also supports the National Society to undertake various projects aimed at promoting fundamental human values and encouraging the inclusion of marginalized groups, such as older people living alone, women at risk, poor families and people with disabilities.

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 as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Albanian Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response process and is at the action and accountability 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.



Strategic and operational coordination

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
- Establish and maintain effective cooperation and coordination mechanisms with Movement partners present in the country and/or other partners
- Reinforce cooperation on international level and domestically



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Youth engagement strategies
- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy
- PSEA Action Plan

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Albanian Red Cross in developing strategic plans and improving programme management. The IFRC will also promote collaboration between the Albanian Red Cross and external partners, enhancing coordination structures and processes. Through the IFRC, the Albanian Red Cross will gain access to technical tools and resources as well as strengthen its effectiveness in delivering humanitarian assistance.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop and approve the National Society's Strategic Plan for the period 2026-2030, outlining clear goals and actions to guide future growth and impact
- Ensure institutional development, sustainable resource mobilization and fundraising, financial management and branch development
- Implement the branch enhancement activities under the Capacity Building Fund (CBF) initiative by conducting seven Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) exercises to strengthen organizational capacity and improve service delivery at the local level
- Conduct BOCA analysis to define common needs and trends in branch enhancement
- Develop, update and support the Plan of Action of branches to ensure alignment with strategic goals and strengthen local branches' capacities

- Invest in staff retention, enhance volunteer and youth engagement by implementing a comprehensive volunteer database system to be implemented across all branches
- Provide governance training for board members and Presidents of branches to strengthen leadership and good governance

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical expertise, guidance and capacity building to the Albanian Red Cross in areas such as governance, leadership, organizational development, branch strengthening, volunteer management and development and resource mobilization. It will support the Albanian Red Cross in strengthening governance structures, enhancing leadership and implementing international standards. Training and mentoring will also be provided in strategic planning, programme and financial management, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society in the creation of the Strategic Plan. The IFRC will also provide the Albanian Red Cross CBF for its branch development initiatives.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Enhance the visibility of its work and mandate by highlighting its auxiliary role and the importance of its activities at all levels
- Establish agreements with local and central governments to define its role clearly
- Implement special measures for regular communication and advocate stronger partnerships with public authorities for service expansion
- Organize regular partnership events to coordinate efforts and communicate progress
- Communicate important messages effectively to decision-makers and authorities
- Strengthen humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy activities to enhance its positioning and profile among the public and key stakeholders

- Increase visibility and broaden partnerships with the media to promote a wide range of activities beyond health, blood donations and first aid
- Launch public awareness campaigns on humanitarian issues to increase public engagement, particularly among affected communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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



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) across all levels of the National Society
- Building on the risk management training, develop and establish a systematic risk management tool to support ongoing risk monitoring and mitigation
- Strengthen communication capacities by establishing a PMER system
- 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 establishing robust governance mechanisms and structures. This includes promoting accountability at all levels of the organization, ensuring adherence to ethical standards and enhancing financial and administrative systems. To foster agility, the IFRC will help the Albanian Red Cross develop strategies and systems to quickly adapt to changing humanitarian contexts. This includes providing guidance on emergency preparedness and response, enabling the Albanian Red Cross to efficiently mobilize resources, activate response mechanisms and coordinate with relevant stakeholders during emergencies.

Additionally, the IFRC promotes the use of innovative approaches and technologies to enhance the Albanian Red Cross's agility. These may include implementing information management systems, digital tools, and data analysis techniques that facilitate timely decision-making and effective humanitarian action. The IFRC also supported the National Society for its capacity building by organizing a risk management training in 2025.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC through its Country Cluster Delegation to Central and South-Eastern Europe located in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and its Regional Office for Europe (located in Budapest, Hungary) maintains close collaboration with the Albanian Red Cross, providing ongoing support to enhance its operational capacity, improving preparedness and response systems and promoting the implementation of humanitarian programmes in line with international standards.

The IFRC provides various types of support to the Albanian Red Cross, including technical assistance, capacity building and the IFRC CBF for innovation and digitalization. The IFRC also provides technical support such as guidance on disaster risk reduction, health programming, MHPSS, volunteer management and community resilience.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, agree on common priorities and jointly develop common strategies. This includes addressing issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian acceptance and access, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging, and monitoring progress. It also entails ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action while linking with development assistance and contributing to reinforcing 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 the Qatar Red Crescent Society. Their support includes:

The **Austrian Red Cross** has been a longstanding partner of the Albanian Red Cross, supporting the development of the National Society's first aid system and contributing to the earthquake response in 2019 in Albania. Since 2021, the Albanian Red Cross and the Austrian Red Cross have been cooperating in strengthening volunteering in first aid and disaster preparedness. From 2024, the Austrian Red Cross has been supporting the Albanian Red Cross in the development and implementation of a holistic home care service in the country. This includes capacity building at the branch level, training of trainers and volunteers, piloting home help services and knowledge exchange.

As part of this cooperation, financial support is also provided to the National Society's daily centres for older people, where health promotion and MHPSS services are offered. Additionally, in 2026, vocational training will be provided for 100 women in vulnerable situations in Albania. With funding

from the City of Vienna, this initiative will also raise awareness of GBV and empower these women.

The **Italian Red Cross** is providing technical guidance and financial support in the implementation of the 'Home Care Cross Border Project: Albania-Montenegro-Bosnia and Herzegovina' which is foreseen to implement its sixth phase in 2025 and 2026. Throughout the project, the Albanian Red Cross branches will be supported to run home care visits to older people as well as to conduct social inclusion activities to reduce discrimination and promote their active participation in the society. The Albanian Red Cross volunteers and staff from branches will be also joining cross-border regional training courses to gain new skills in the assistance of older people.

The Italian Red Cross is also planning to expand its decentralized cooperation, with Italian Red Cross branches providing direct support to Albanian Red Cross branches in the areas of social assistance and disaster management.

Since 2018, the **Qatar Red Crescent Society** has been providing financial support to assist vulnerable families by meeting their basic needs, primarily through food packages. In addition to this, the Qatar Red Crescent Society also played a significant role in supporting the Albanian Red Cross during emergency field operations following the earthquake in Albania in November 2019.

In 2025, the Qatar Red Crescent Society pledged to provide support to the Albanian Red Cross, particularly focusing on assisting families in need. This support may include the distribution of food packages and essential supplies and initiatives designed to strengthen community resilience.



Albanian Red Cross volunteers distributing relief items during the wildfires in 2025 (Photo: Albanian Red Cross)

Movement coordination

The Albanian Red Cross ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross 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 [RFL](#) 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 the diplomatic-consular sector in Albania, as well as with many international organizations (EU Delegation, UNHCR, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Vision).

The Albanian Red Cross enjoys a high level of autonomy and independence to act in accordance with its mandate and [auxiliary role](#) in Albania. In general, the relationship with the public authorities is satisfactory. The National Society maintains

good relationships with ministries, various departments and government institutions and there is cooperation in several areas. However, the Albanian Red Cross cooperates more closely with public authorities, especially on disaster preparedness and its first aid programme.

According to the National Plan of Civil Protection, the Albanian Red Cross is a member of the Albanian disaster management structure on local, regional, and national levels. In terms of first aid training, the Albanian Red Cross is certified by the [Global First Aid Reference Centre](#) (formerly the European Reference Centre for First Aid, EFAC).



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 16 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.

About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 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 for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC network databank](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
 - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
 - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC network databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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