



LATVIA

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

8 November 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 5.5M**

In support of the Latvian Red Cross



6

National Society branches



2,139

National Society staff



1,400

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



3,900

Ongoing emergency operations



12,000

Climate and environment



32,000

Disasters and crises



40,000

Health and wellbeing



5,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Population movement

Longer-term needs

- Disaster preparedness and response
 - Health
 - Social care

Capacity development

- Multi-stakeholder engagement
 - Volunteer development

Key country data

Population **1.9M**

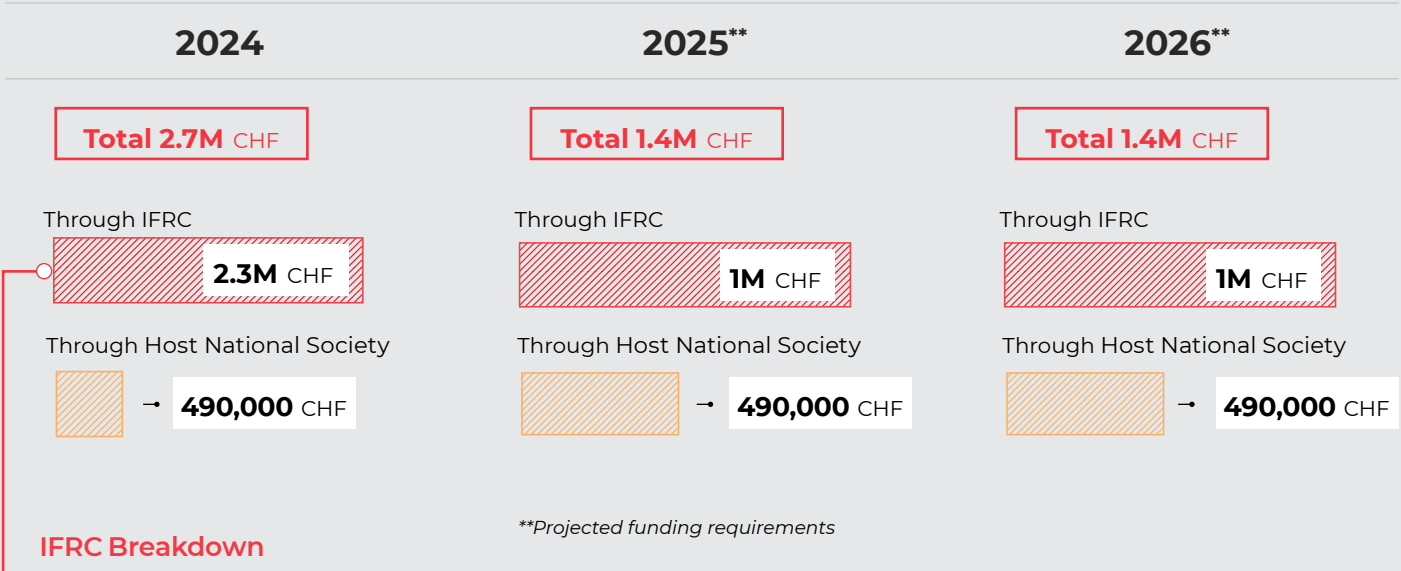
INFORM Climate Risk Index **Very low**

Human Development Index rank **37**

Population below poverty level **25.6%**

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

Funding requirements



Participating National Societies

Finnish 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:
MAALV001


Hazards




Armed conflict preparedness




Floods



Wildfires



Epidemics



Industrial accidents

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Latvian Red Cross was formed in 1918, two days after the Republic of Latvia was proclaimed an independent democratic state. It was admitted to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1923. During the initial period of the Latvian Republic, the Latvian Red Cross took care of refugees and prisoners of war from the recently ended First World War. The Latvian Red Cross operations were briefly interrupted after Soviet occupation and then the interruption of the German authorities. However, the Latvian Red Cross resumed operations after the conclusion of the Second World War.

The Latvian Red Cross is currently present in all territories of Latvia through its six regional branches in the areas of Dienvidlatgale, Kurzeme, Vidzeme, Latgale, Zemgale, and Riga. The National Society supports the public authorities in their humanitarian tasks according to the needs of the people in Latvia. The Latvian Red Cross has accumulated years of experience working with population that are vulnerable to social exclusion – individuals, groups, families with children, asylum

seekers, refugees, among others. It helps people in crisis regardless of their nationality, race, religious beliefs, class, or political opinions.

The Latvian Red Cross Strategic Plan 2020-2030 focuses on the following overarching objectives:

Strengthen the National Society, including and especially at the level of departments and committees

- Promote compliance with and apply the principles of humanity in everyday life
- Work effectively within the IFRC and become an active cooperation partner in international projects
- Develop and improve cooperation of the Latvian Red Cross with the State and local government institutions, entrepreneurs, and private individuals

In 2022, the Latvian Red Cross reached more than 50,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes.



Map of the Latvian Red Cross branches

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Latvia is located in Eastern Europe and borders the Baltic Sea between Estonia and Lithuania. The country is characterised by low-lying plains and rolling hills, with numerous lakes and rivers scattered throughout and 53.8 per cent of the territory covered by forests. Coastal areas feature sandy beaches along the Baltic Sea, while inland regions offer fertile agricultural land. Due to its proximity to the Baltic Sea, Latvia experiences a temperate maritime climate, with average temperatures in summer ranging from 17 degrees Celsius to 20 degrees and temperatures in winter ranging from -6 degrees to -2 degrees Celsius in the winter.

As of 2022, Latvia has a population of around 1.9 million people, with the largest concentration of the population situated around the port and the capital city of Riga. Latvia's low birth rates, its high rate of emigration, coupled with rapid urbanization poses both demographic and socio-economic problems for the country. Latvia's territory is sparsely populated with an average of 30 people per square kilometre (5th lowest in Europe) with its eastern region being the most scarcely populated. Latvia has land borders with Lithuania (610.3 km), Estonia (343 km), and extensive border with Russia (214 km) and Belarus (173 km).

Latvia is a parliamentary democracy with a coalition government of five parties. Since leaving the Soviet Union in 1991, Latvia is a parliamentary democracy. Several political parties compete in elections and play important roles in shaping government policies and agendas. Coalition governments are common, given the proportional representation of the electoral system, which often requires parties to form alliances to achieve parliamentary majorities. The country faces a range of security challenges, both traditional and non-traditional, demanding comprehensive responses from its government and internal partners. The geopolitical landscape has changed significantly, with the risk of economic, social, informational, cyber interference by the Russian Federation, and the threat of armed conflict becoming a priority for the Latvian state since 2022. Key among these threats is Russian aggression and hybrid warfare, with concerns about military activities, cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, and efforts to undermine Latvia's sovereignty. As the country has a Russian ethnic minority of 23.4 per cent and has 9 per cent of its residents as "non-citizens", Latvia faces constant tension between Latvian and Russian speaking groups of population, which has become more acute after the escalation of armed conflict in Ukraine and arrival of Ukrainian refugees.

Climate change and environmental degradation also present risks to Latvia's security, with impacts on agriculture, infrastructure, and public health. The impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly evident in the country, posing significant challenges to its infrastructure and population. Shifts in the Gulf Stream and altered cyclone patterns have led to a rise in both summer heat waves and intense precipitation events, including hail and heavy rainfall. This threat is exacerbated by the fact that the country's housing stock generally lacks air conditioning systems and features outdated, lightweight roofing materials that are ill-equipped to withstand extreme weather events. The country's low-lying geography makes several regions particularly vulnerable to the growing risk of flooding.

Latvia has a market economy and is a member of the European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). According to the World Bank data for 2022, Latvia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) stood at 40.93 billion USD and the annual GDP growth was 3.4 per cent. Its robust GDP growth is maintained largely due to exports, foreign investments, and domestic demands. Major industries include machinery, wood processing, and Information Technology. While the economy benefits from a favourable business environment, challenges such as demographic decline and income inequality persist. Historically Latvian economy has been tightly linked to Russian resources and markets. While shifting towards Western partners, Latvia still is greatly impacted by sanctions and reduced business opportunities in CIS countries and the economy remains volatile and highly dependent on global changes. Alongside these challenges, the country faces issues related to poverty, access to healthcare, food insecurity, impacts of crises and disasters, and a range of environmental concerns.

Latvia is home to large aging groups of population without accumulated savings and no possibility to provide for old age. Meeting increasing demands for social services and the burden on the pension system remains a significant challenge for the state. Latvia also faces challenges of income inequality, marginalisation of ethnic and social groups, and de-population of rural areas.

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.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, visit [IFRC GO page Latvia](#).

Emergency Appeal name	Europe Ukraine and impacted countries crisis
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MGR65002
Duration	46 months (28/02/2022 – 31/12/2025)
People to be assisted	Ukraine: 17 million Neighbouring countries: 5.65 million Latvia: 3,900
Target areas	Ukraine, Slovakia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkiye, Russia, Moldova, Georgia, North Macedonia, Lithuania, Greece, Montenegro, Latvia, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania
Funding requirements	Federation-wide funding requirement: 2.7 billion CHF Funding requirement through the IFRC Appeal: 800 million CHF Funding requirement for Latvia: 1.36 million CHF
Link to Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal Ukraine and impacted countries crisis
Link to Operational Strategy	Operational strategy Ukraine and impacted countries crisis Operational strategy Ukraine and impacted countries crisis
Link to latest Operations Update	Latest Operations Update
Link to National Society Response Plan	Latvia Response Plan

Since the armed conflict in Ukraine began and escalated over time, the conflict has grown in complexity, producing multi-faceted and wide-reaching impacts. Humanitarian needs are particularly severe among those who remain at home in conflict prevalent areas and with internally displaced persons (IDPs). At the start of 2023, the number of IDPs within Ukraine was estimated at 5.4 million. The spread of hostilities in Ukraine has resulted in over 20.4 million movements out of Ukraine since the escalation of the armed conflict. Most of the displaced people from Ukraine have entered the immediate neighbouring countries, primarily Poland, Russia, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Moldova. Following the action of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) by the European Union, 5 million displaced people from Ukraine have registered for temporary protection in EU countries.

Latvia continues to be both a destination and a transit country for displaced people from Ukraine. 45,299 displaced people from Ukraine have been registered with the Latvian Ministry of Interior (CAK- Civil Support Information Registry) for temporary protection. The number is expected to increase throughout 2024 and beyond.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through this emergency operational strategy, the Latvian Red Cross aims to address the immediate and changing needs of 3,900 displaced people from Ukraine in Latvia. This

response operation will continue till 31st December 2025 and will prioritize displaced people in most vulnerable situations – mainly single mothers, children with disabilities, and seniors, who have lived in Latvia for more than 120 days (the end date of primary support based on the Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians). This target group has not the same integration options, and often is left out of the labour market and has difficulties in adapting, integrating, and surviving in current circumstances. The planned operations under this response plan include:

Health and care: The National Society will provide information about health promotion and prevention (including [Mental Health and Psychosocial Support](#)) in two health rooms in Riga. It will also provide first aid training for 200 displaced persons from Ukraine.

Shelter, housing and settlements: The National Society will provide and distribute household items and provide full range of support and mentoring for displaced people from Ukraine during their stay in two Red Cross accommodation facilities. It will provide housing – dormitories for displaced people for up to 200 individuals. This support will also include full mentoring for residents, Latvian language course, integration activities, and free time activities for families with kids.

Cash and voucher assistance: The National Society will provide cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to support affected people to cover practical expenses after the reduction of state

aid after 120 days in Latvia. It will also support acquisition, transportation, delivery, management, and disposal of 2,500 cash cards.

Protection, gender and inclusion: The National Society will provide child-friendly spaces in the Red Cross regional

branches in Adamova, Rezeknes, Daugavpils, Vecbebri, and Koneses regions.

Community engagement and accountability: The National Society will establish one feedback mechanism for the Latvian Red Cross and organize primary data collection system for the displaced people from Ukraine in Latvia.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Latvia is low lying land, strongly impacted by Gulf Stream and global weather patterns. The country is relatively well equipped for cold weather in winter, but with tighter environmental restrictions on emissions and Europe-wide competition for renewable energy resources, is increasingly challenged to provide affordable heating energy sources, especially for low-income homes. Moreover, as a result of environmental legislation, several traditional industries such as peat production, small-scale farming and fossil fuel related heating sectors have been abandoned or changed dramatically, thus marginalising regional and social groups.

Historically, summers have been mild and most of the housing stock is built in Soviet era and houses are not equipped with ventilation and air conditioning. However, over the last 10 years, heatwaves during summer have become more intense and longer, which leads to dangerous conditions for elderly people.

Additionally, global warming increases intensity of cyclones, which leads to more intensive rainfall, stronger winds and large hail storms. This increases hail damage and flooding risks to homes, cars and agriculture as well as direct threat to inhabitants, especially in low-lying areas and river deltas.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Latvian Red Cross aims to promote environmentally sustainable practices and share the knowledge of identifying and reducing climate change risks in communities. It will work on integrating sustainable practices into its programmes and operational planning and invest in training staff and volunteers to increase their capacity to identify, address, and promote climate risk reduction practices. As part of its efforts to promote environmentally sustainable practices, the National Society will work on recycling and energy-saving practices in its offices.

The Latvian Red Cross will establish new services or scale up existing ones to respond to the adverse effects of climate

change, such as also providing clothing and shelter to vulnerable groups during winter, assist people affected by extreme weather events, create new initiatives via the youth movement, support marginalized populations affected by economic restructuring due to climate change, and support their reintegration into the labour market.

Planned activities in 2024 and 2025

- Provide heating assistance to vulnerable groups during winter months
- Conduct check-ups and distribute aid to older people and remote communities during coldwaves, heatwaves, high winds and floods
- Support to marginalised employees impacted by climate change to re-integrate them into modern society and labour force
- Prepare and distribute informational materials for various age groups
- Target the capacity of staff and volunteers around climate risk reduction practices
- Develop crises and major accident preparedness information and education programme through various interventions

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Latvian Red Cross to undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from climate and environmental crisis by fostering closer collaboration with local authorities and community. It supports the National Society in making continuous and measurable contribution to improve environmental management and climate change mitigation efforts.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit [IFRC GO page Latvia](#).

According to the [INFORM country risk profile](#), Latvia is categorized as a low risk country when comes to natural hazards. However, the country is prone to natural hazards and man-made disasters. These include floods, wildfire, extreme weather events, industrial accidents, and public health emergencies.

Floods are a recurring hazard, particularly during period of heavy rainfall or snowmelt, causing damage to infrastructure and agriculture. Wildfires pose risks, especially in forested areas during dry and hot weather conditions. Extreme weather events, such as storms and heatwaves, can disrupt transportation, utilities, and public services.

Latvia faces significant risks due to the unstable geopolitical situation brought by the escalation of armed conflict in Ukraine in 2022. Armed conflict is seen as a risk scenario with extreme high potential impact, necessitating an equal response in preparedness efforts. This threat places considerable strain on Latvia's defence budget and resources, while also instilling a sense of fear and uncertainty among the population, leading to psychological impacts on their well-being.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Invest in advocacy efforts to expand the role of the Red Cross in national crisis preparedness and response, defining a clear role and offering the significant assets the Red Cross can contribute with to the national disaster risk management framework
- Develop an emergency response plan to enhance preparedness, coordination and rapid response capabilities

- Increase its capacities in disaster management and strengthen relations with authorities in this field
- Develop information and education programmes to strengthen community preparedness

Planned activities in 2024 and 2025

- Carry out cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to support vulnerable people in need
- Organize training on the basics of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the [fundamental principles](#) of the Movement for staff and volunteers
- Enhance [disaster preparedness](#) through the development and the distribution of information materials

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Latvian Red Cross in its preparedness to respond to natural disasters and man-made disaster or crises by providing financial support to improve material and technical base. It will also support in Humanitarian Diplomacy efforts aimed to expand the role of the Latvian Red Cross in crisis preparedness and response. IFRC will also support by facilitating operational linkages and establishing pre-disaster agreements and joint stocks with neighbouring Baltic Red Cross societies, as part of a 2-year preparedness project aimed at improved cross-baltic coordination and response capacities.

In recent years, the **Finnish Red Cross** has been supporting the coordination of consecutive preparedness projects to strengthen Baltic National Societies' capacities to operate evacuation centres in coordination with various emergency support services. There are, however, no current long term partners supporting Latvian Red Cross.



On September 14, the Latvian Red Cross successfully concluded the National First Aid competition. (Photo: Latvia Red Cross)



Health and wellbeing

Latvia's National Health System ensuring universal population coverage, the benefits package is rather limited in scope and co-payments are required for several services as well as for reimbursable medicines. Health spending has increased since the beginning of the decade and in 2019, represented 6.6 per cent of the GDP. Nevertheless, per capita spending in Latvia is among the lowest across EU countries and within the WHO European Region.

Based on the State of Health in the EU's Country Health Profiles 2021 Report for Latvia, Latvia has a low life expectancy compared to other EU countries due to the high prevalence of behavioural risk factors, such as alcohol consumption, obesity, and smoking. The COVID-19 pandemic also disrupted the life expectancy trend in 2020 and exposed the challenges of the health system, which is underfunded and understaffed. The government has made additional funding available to support the health system during the pandemic and has developed plans and policies to reduce the risk factors in the future.

Latvia has a high mortality rate from preventable and treatable causes, such as cancers and diabetes that can be detected by timely examinations. The Ministry of Health has a strategic focus on prevention and health promotion, but resources are limited. Many people in Latvia face unmet needs for health care due to high out-of-pocket expenditure, a narrow benefits package, and a quota system. The geographical distribution of health professionals is also uneven.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Tailor first aid trainings to population needs to increase preparedness in emergency situations

- Engage children and youth in first aid training initiatives
- Organize regional and national first aid competitions annually
- Expand initiatives supporting healthy aging and community-based mental health programmes

Planned activities in 2024 and 2025

- Provide first aid training and services at public events throughout the territory of the Republic of Latvia
- Promote and encourage blood donation in cooperation with the National Blood Donor Centre and other national and local institutions
- Provide tailored healthcare assistance to socially excluded groups

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Latvian Red Cross by providing materials, study visits, and by supporting the National Society in health promotion events. It supports the National Society to establish long-term cooperation model with international businesses and encourages them to become permanent partners in solving social problems. The IFRC also supports the National Society in dialogue with national and local authorities on social security and health promotion issues.



Migration and displacement

Before the Ukraine crisis, Latvia had limited experience in handling significant number of refugees. With influx of refugees from Ukraine, Latvian society and government has been struggling with many issues related to such influx on economic, political and social arenas. While there has been a lot of good will and strong movement to help at the start of the war, as crisis is prolonged and there is no end date to the displacement, new challenges related to integration and acceptance appear. This is particularly difficult given the poor integration of the Russian-speaking minority in Latvia, who have been marginalized and remain in Russian information space. While the majority of Latvians welcome Ukrainian refugees, many Ukrainians in Latvia use Russian for communication, risking marginalization themselves. Very strong effort is

needed to provide language teaching and social integration in order to overcome this trend. Importantly, Latvian and Russian ethnic groups have to be considered and supported along with Ukrainian refugees in order to attain better social cohesion.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Provide psychological support and social inclusion activities for refugees
- Provide assistance for integration in labour market for refugees
- Provide material support for newly arriving refugees or vulnerable groups to cover their basic needs

Planned activities in 2024 and 2025

- Psychological aid and social integration support through Ukrainian and joint nationality groups
 - Language and children's education support, especially in inter-ethnic groups
 - Training, re-profiling, re-licensing and traineeships to increase added value of Ukrainian specialists
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Latvian Red Cross 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 solutions when appropriate. It will also work together with the National Society to engage with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to more effectively assess, understand and responding to their priorities. This will include mainstreaming protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) minimum standards in its migration and displacement programming.



Values, power and inclusion

According to several reports from [Amnesty International](#), Latvia has issues related to violence, discrimination, and exclusion towards certain individuals, including people affected by gender inequality and racialized people. For example, the state of emergency introduced in August 2021 at the border with Belarus was renewed repeatedly, allowing unlawful pushbacks of refugees and migrants and preventing NGOs' oversight of the area. In October 2021, research was published documenting violent pushbacks to Belarus, arbitrary detention in undisclosed areas of the border, possibly constituting enforced disappearances, ill-treatment sometimes amounting to torture, and the use of force and deception to return people to their country of origin.

Regarding economic, social, and cultural rights, the European Committee on Social Rights [reported](#) failings in health and safety at work and rights to health, social security, and social assistance. The number of people with "non-citizen" status decreased but remained significant (9 per cent). "Non-citizens" continue to face restrictions, including on their right to vote and gaining employment in the public sector. With regards to LGBTQIA+ rights, following a Supreme Court decision, administrative courts started recognizing the status of same-sex couples to implement the Constitutional Court's rulings, given the parliament's failure to approve a law on civil unions. In December, the parliament discontinued its work on this legislation.

Gender differences in the distribution of tertiary entrants across fields of study are significant. Women tend to be under-represented in certain fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). In Latvia, women represented 23 per cent of new entrants in engineering, manufacturing, and construction programmes and 20 per cent in information and communication technologies. In contrast, they represented 90 per cent of new entrants to the field of education, a sector traditionally dominated by women. In

Latvia, men represent 16 per cent of teachers across all levels of education, compared to 30 per cent on average across OECD countries. Young women are less likely to be employed than young men, particularly those with lower levels of education. Only 50 per cent of 25-34 years old women with below upper secondary attainment were employed in 2020 compared to 70 per cent of men in Latvia.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Latvian Red Cross aims to maintain a strong culture of protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) which will be mainstreamed across all the programmatic areas and the operations of the National Society. It will work to enhance and develop its PGI policies and ensure that complaints and feedback mechanism is accessible to staff and volunteers of the National Society.

- Mainstream PGI and CEA approach across all programmatic areas and operations
- Ensure that the complaints and feedback mechanisms is accessible for both staff and volunteers
- Extend cooperation with probation service to provide physical and mental health support to prisoners

Planned activities in 2024 and 2025

- Promote and support equitable access to quality education for all children affected by disaster, crisis, or displacement
- Restart providing psychological and social help to incarcerated people nearing their sentence term
- Ensure that complaints and feedback mechanisms take into consideration the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and adults

- Ensure community engagement and accountability (CEA) in all the National Society programmes and initiatives
- Conduct PGI sensitization training for National Society staff and volunteers
- Conduct PGI self-assessment and create an action plan to mainstream PGI in all operations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Latvian Red Cross to adopt a comprehensive protection, gender, and inclusion approach across all its operations and programmes. It supports the National Society to provide services to people and communities that are vulnerable to and affected by crises and empowers them to influence decisions that directly affect them.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Latvian 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 2013. As part of its commitment to its own development, the Latvian Red Cross has undergone significant changes in the structure and the management of the organization. This has been done to create larger and stronger

regional committees that are able to offer a wide range of services in close proximity to where the beneficiaries reside. By harnessing the power of digital tools and technologies, the National Society has able to streamline its operations, enhance communication and collaboration among regional committees, and improve the overall efficiency of its service delivery.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Establish active dialogue and cooperation with state and municipal institutions and activate cooperation with other NGOs operating in Latvia
- Actively engage with partner organizations and develop independent international projects

- Explore possibilities for resource mobilization strategies
- Develop clear agreements with local and national authorities on disaster preparedness or civil protection

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides technical and financial support to the National Society in strengthening its network and increasing its engagement with local and international stakeholders.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Explore possibilities for resource mobilization strategies
- Support the strengthening of volunteer and youth initiatives and retention
- Contribute to the efforts of Latvian Red Cross to standardize the quality of services and further strengthen branches

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Latvian Red Cross in exploring possibilities for creating a sustainable resource mobilization plan. It also supports the Latvian Red Cross in organizing international projects and events including youth to offer young people the opportunity to acquire skills, knowledge and competencies through various events including non-formal education.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Work towards increasing the visibility of the Latvian Red Cross and promote its impact and activities in Latvian society
- Advocate for vulnerable individuals and promote Red Cross messages through the National Society's communications strategy
- Disseminate information on the fundamentals of International Humanitarian Law to volunteer military groups

- Develop an international and external communication campaign on International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society to engage in humanitarian diplomacy with various stakeholders and actively promote the National Society's activities to increase its visibility. Increased emphasis will be given to promoting and explaining fundamental principles, and supporting the expansion of the role of the Latvian Red Cross in preparedness plans as well as crisis and disaster management and recovery.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Continue to work on a human resources development strategy, including an induction training package on the Movement's core values, employee onboarding process, and mentoring and shadowing programmes
- Continue working on the digital transformation of the National Society, including digital literacy of staff and volunteers

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Latvian Red Cross in developing clear and transparent procurement procedures to improve donor accountability. The IFRC will support the National Society in developing a unified database and a system record people reached via projects in a way that aligns with existing systems for long term services.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Latvian Red Cross through its country cluster delegation in Warsaw, Poland, and its programme office based in Lithuania. The IFRC supports the Latvian Red Cross on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including strengthening its auxiliary role. Its aim is to ensure access for the National 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 policy standards, facilitate collaboration with neighbouring National Societies and facilitate building long term partnerships for the Latvian Red Cross.

The IFRC also supports the Latvian Red Cross in further elevating its programming quality through mainstreaming approaches such as protection, gender and inclusion and community engagement and accountability. In addition, the IFRC will support the National 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 Latvian Red Cross has historically engaged with the Hamburg branch of the **German Red Cross** and has been supported via a series of joint projects by the **Finnish Red Cross**. There are no participating National Societies with in-country presence. The Latvian Red Cross often receives study visits by other National Societies, sharing know-how especially on social service provision.

Movement coordination

The Latvian Red Cross ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles, and the newly-adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The Latvian Red Cross 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.

As of 2024, eight countries neighbouring Ukraine are covered by the ICRC's regional delegation based in Warsaw. Its protection work supports ICRC's bilateral confidential dialogue with Ukraine and Russia, while its support to the National Societies focuses on the protection of family links and the promotion of the proper use of the Red Cross emblem. It also promotes understanding of and respect for principled humanitarian action and international humanitarian law. In addition to Poland, it covers Hungary, Romania, Czechia, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Coordination with other actors

Active collaboration occurs both at national level and through direct committee representation. In particular, the Latvian Red Cross works with state and local government institutions in disaster preparedness and civil protection, social care and

support, home care, first aid, health promotion, humanitarian aid, blood donation promotion, and youth programmes. In reference to blood donations, the National Society engages with the National Blood Donor Centre.



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 Latvian Red Cross, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with the [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.

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