



ALBANIA

2025 IFRC network country plan



Funding Requirement **CHF 2.8M**

12 March 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



60,000

Climate and
environment



16,000

Disasters
and crises



113,000

Health and
wellbeing



520

Migration and
displacement



133,000

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

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

Capacity development

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

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

Very high

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Low

Human Development Index rank

74

World Bank Population figure

2.7M

World Bank Population below poverty line

22%

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation
to Central and South-Eastern Europe, Sarajevo

Funding requirements

2025

Total 2.8M CHF

Through the Host National Society

978,000 CHF

Through Participating National Societies

185,000 CHF

Through the IFRC

1.5M CHF

HNS Breakdown

Longer term needs

50,000 CHF

Climate and environment

150,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

210,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

50,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

518,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

150,000 CHF

Climate and environment

150,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

370,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

50,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

252,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

500,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

Austrian Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Qatar Red Crescent Society

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAAL003

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

Participating National Societies bilateral support for 2025

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Austrian Red Cross	135,000		●	●			
Italian Red Cross	30,000			●			
Qatar Red Crescent Society	20,000			●			

Total Funding requirement **CHF 185,000**

Hazards



Earthquakes



Floods



Landslides



Drought



Forest fires



The Albanian Red Cross volunteers conducted a search-and-rescue drill response in November 2024. (Photo: Albanian Red Cross)

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

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

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

health promotion, youth education, and organizational development, all aimed at enhancing community resilience and well-being while promoting humanitarian values and voluntarism.

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

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



Map of the regional branches of the Albanian Red Cross

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Societies 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 80 out of 185 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. [Real gross domestic product](#) (GDP) growth is projected at 3.6 per cent in 2023 and 3.3 per cent in 2024 led by resilient private consumption, with notable strength in tourism and construction activity. The rising role of tourism has boosted confidence in the country's prospects. While growth is moderating, it is expected to remain robust at around 3½ and 3¼ per cent, respectively, in 2023 and 2024.

Inflation is gradually declining though it remains above the central bank's target amid tight labour markets. Medium-term prospects, however, are constrained by structural challenges, including shortfalls in the rule of law and emigration pressures.

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 2022 this figure reached 66.7 per cent, resulting in a narrowing gender gap. Still, in 2022, the gap in labour force participation between men and women was more than 13 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.

Albania is party to nine core international human rights instruments covering the full range of rights, as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Progress in building the national legislative framework for the protection of human rights needs to be accompanied by efforts to strengthen national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and the practical implementation of norms and standards. There is a need to follow the legislative work with consistent implementation through institutionalized practices, effective accountability mechanisms and independent monitoring.



The Albanian Red Cross provided relief support to a family affected by a local disaster in 2024. (Photo: Albanian Red Cross)



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. The country is prone to numerous natural hazards, including, hydro-meteorological hazards such as floods, droughts, forest fires, and landslides. The country is also at high risk of geophysical hazards such as earthquakes. Changes to Albania's climate, specifically the frequency of extreme weather events and temperature variations, are expected to have the most significant impacts on 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.

[Floods](#) present the most dangerous natural disaster for Albania. Dangerous floods caused by smaller rain events, and floods downriver cause great damage as they are more frequent and spread over larger areas. Albania's hydrographic profile makes riverine flooding highly dangerous and damaging. The country has a long history of flooding, specifically in its western lowlands. Historical records show that flooding has occurred in all major catchment basins of the country.

The evaluation of the [2019 earthquake](#) suggested around 23 per cent of the damages were in relation to public assets; with a concentration of exposed assets in larger cities. Average annual damage from earthquakes and flooding is estimated at USD 147 million, with a catastrophic event, such as a 1-in-100-year earthquake estimated to potentially cause over USD 2 billion in damages.

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

Planned activities in 2025

- Adapt risk-reduction activities and [early-warning procedures](#) to the changing hazards, including the need to communicate them effectively to the people at risk for recovery from more frequent, intense, or unfamiliar disasters
- Strengthen communities to respond to climate change-related emergencies through [disaster risk reduction \(DRR\)](#) activities in schools and communities at risk, alongside public awareness campaigns.
- Implement DRR activities through [community-level awareness](#) raising and skill-development initiatives
- Formulate community preparedness and [response plans](#), emphasizing building resilience to climate change and environmental crises
- Use harmonized messages to reduce, mitigate and respond to identified risks

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Albanian Red Cross with its climate and environment priorities. The IFRC will provide strategic support, technical expertise, and support resource mobilization and capacity-building efforts towards climate resilience and preparedness. The Albanian Red Cross will also receive assistance through its access to [IFRC Reference Centres](#) as well as IFRC Hubs and Labs for innovation, experimentation, learning, knowledge sharing, and networking opportunities.

As part of its cooperation with the IFRC on climate change initiatives, the IFRC will aid the Albanian Red Cross in building long-term resilience against climate disasters. Part of this cooperation is the ongoing application for [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) simplified Early Action Protocols (sEAP) in response to heat waves. A feasibility study for anticipatory actions is still in progress.



Disasters and crises

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

Albania faces a range of natural hazards, including floods, droughts, forest fires, landslides, and earthquakes. The country's [risk profile](#) indicates a high risk of natural hazards, particularly earthquakes, alongside insufficient institutional coping capacity.

Changing weather patterns have already been observed over the last 15 years with increasing temperatures, decreasing precipitation, and more frequent extreme events like 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.

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

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 2025

- 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 their vulnerabilities

- Provide needs-based emergency relief packages, [cash assistance](#), and [restoration of family links](#), [food assistance](#) to people affected by crises and disasters
- Provide psychological first aid and community-based [psychosocial support](#) to people affected by crises and disasters
- Harmonize disaster management and preparedness plans at headquarters (HQ) and branch levels with local authorities and relevant state agencies
- Ensures the operational emergency service is well-prepared to respond to disasters, emergencies, and other humanitarian crises
- Improve accessibility and availability of relevant information for the population during and after an emergency through the establishment, regular maintenance, and update of [community feedback mechanisms](#)
- Increase [first aid](#) capacities of volunteer teams through training and competitions

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides long-term support to the Albanian Red Cross in 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. Additionally, the partnership focuses on empowering affected communities to rebuild their lives and become more resilient. The adoption of approaches like [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) further bolsters the National Society's readiness to handle disasters both immediately and in the long term.



Health and wellbeing

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

Ageing populations in Albania will place a [large demand on healthcare infrastructure](#). This demographic shift will require investment in tertiary care, as well as in prevention. 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 in the near future, and immediate attention on this issue is required.

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.

Albania's public health system faces challenges due to underdevelopment, lack of funding, and inadequate resources, highlighting the vulnerability of communities.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

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

Planned activities in 2025

- Reinforce its preparedness to respond to future emergency or crises and, at the same time, promote the psychosocial well-being of staff and volunteers



Migration and displacement

Albania, like other Western Balkan countries, grapples with mixed population flows driven by socio-economic factors and global conflicts. These include refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, trafficking victims, unaccompanied minors, and stateless persons. Despite border closures, Albania faces a rising influx of irregular migrants, primarily from Greece en route to other EU nations. Insufficient resources, including border officers and asylum officials, strain response capacities.

- Provide Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) programmes, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) training and services
- Update tools and manuals on first aid and psychosocial support training
- Reinforce coordination with public authorities to promote its auxiliary role and influence country-level public health strategy through advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms
- Support communities in gaining better access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services
- Facilitate non-remunerated blood donations
- Provide MHPSS, health services, and home care services to vulnerable older people and provide vocational/orientation training and health education to disadvantaged women and girls

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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

Irregular migrant apprehensions rose by 13 per cent in 2020 and tripled in the first half of 2022 compared to 2021, with a relatively low number of Ukrainians entering (around 2000 people).

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

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

Planned activities in 2025

- Support migrants and displaced people in accessing humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes as well as access to durable solutions when appropriate
- Ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering diverse needs based on gender and other factors
- Reach migrants with food assistance and non-food items for basic needs
- Train individuals to provide Restoring Family Links (RFL) services

- Engage closely with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to assess and respond to priority needs

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide long-term support to the Albanian Red Cross in addressing the needs of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers and it will be collaborating with the National Society to aid those affected and advocate for their rights and well-being. The IFRC will further 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. This collaborative approach ensures a comprehensive and coordinated response to the evolving needs and trends in migration and displacement.

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. This network will allow the Albanian Red Cross to tap into knowledge and expertise from different countries, enhancing their understanding of migration dynamics and enabling them to implement effective programs and services.



Values, power and inclusion

Central and South-Eastern European National Societies collaborate with local authorities and ministries to implement projects that promote humanitarian values and include marginalized groups, particularly the Roma and Egyptian populations. These groups are the largest and most vulnerable minorities in the region, facing chronic, multidimensional poverty. Significant disparities exist between the Roma and the general population in housing, employment, education, and healthcare, with Roma women especially disadvantaged. Roma children are three times more likely to live in poverty, five times more likely to be malnourished, and twice as likely to experience growth delays. Their primary school enrolment is one-third lower, and their immunization rates are significantly lower compared to non-Roma children.

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

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

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

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

Planned activities in 2025

- Implement education programmes targeting children and youth to increase their knowledge of humanitarian values and promote voluntary service
- Empower volunteers, staff, and youth through life skills and leadership development
- Enhance the capacity of local branches, particularly those on the frontline, through training in protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- Systematically integrate community engagement and accountability (CEA) in activities at headquarters and branch levels

- Reach people with external awareness campaigns on the Red Cross Red Crescent emblem, Fundamental Principles, and International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
- Reach communities at risk through community-based interventions, including engaging youth as agents of behaviour and social change

Longer-term support from the IFRC Network

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

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 2018. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Albanian Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective

Response (PER) process and is in 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, in order to ultimately take necessary action to improve it. The IFRC network is committed to supporting the National Society in its development, according to its priorities.



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

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the strategic and operational coordination within the Albanian Red Cross. It will assist the National Society 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. Additionally, assistance will be provided to the National Society

regarding disaster preparedness, including contingency planning, and early warning systems. Through the IFRC

Network, 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

- Implement activities outlined in the National Society's [Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#) to focus on National Society development
- Enhance National Society development initiatives and services through proper assessment, planning, and budgeting processes
- Ensure sustainable quality service delivery that has a lasting impact on the individuals and communities supported by the National Society
- Prioritise institutional development, sustainable resource mobilization, fundraising, and the reinforcement of cooperation on an international level and domestically

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. Knowledge sharing opportunities enable the Albanian Red Cross to learn from other National Societies. The IFRC will help the National Society build a strong volunteer base, foster volunteer management practices, also through digitalisation and assist in resource mobilization efforts through diversifying funding sources and establishing partnerships.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC 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.

The Albanian Red Cross will receive collaboration from traditional partners such as the Austrian Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, and the Qatar Red Crescent for its humanitarian diplomacy measures.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

Longer-term support from the IFRC Network

The IFRC will assist the Albanian Red Cross in 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. The IFRC will also support the Albanian Red Cross in implementing monitoring and evaluating processes to assess the impact and effectiveness of its programmes and activities.

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.

Furthermore, the IFRC will support the Albanian Red Cross in capacity building and training programmes focused on enhancing the organization's agility and responsiveness. This may involve workshops on disaster risk reduction, emergency health care, and community resilience, equipping the Albanian Red Cross with the necessary skills to address emerging challenges. As part of enhancing its material resource capacity, the Albanian Red Cross develops adequate warehouse management systems, equipped premises, and ensures that logistics procedures are adequate to support National Society activities.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

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

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



The Albanian Red Cross set up stands in the city centre across the country to raise peoples' awareness of flood risks.
(Photo: Albanian Red Cross)

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

the National Society's service provision but also pave the way for potential income generation, ensuring long-term sustainability. Additionally, the project aims to strengthen ties with the government and civil society, highlighting the value of volunteer-based engagement in Albanian society. The collaboration between the Albanian Red Cross and the Austrian Red Cross also extends to technical support and expertise in cash distribution to vulnerable populations.

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

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

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

Coordination with other actors

To implement its humanitarian activities, the Albanian Red Cross cooperates with the diplomatic-consular sector in Albania, as well as with many international organizations (EU Delegation, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (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 government 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 governmental 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 2025 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 Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- 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 2025 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 Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- 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 databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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