



GEORGIA

2025 IFRC network country plan



Funding Requirement **CHF 4.6M**

13 June 2025

In support of the Georgia Red Cross Society



39

National Society
branches



39

National Society
local units



214

National Society
staff



14,280

National Society
volunteers

People to be reached



630,000

Climate and
environment



300,000

Disasters
and crises



580,000

Health and
wellbeing



19,000

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Climate adaptation
- Health and social Care
- Disaster risk management
- Protracted displacement-related needs

Capacity development

- Resource mobilization
- Project management
- Branch development

Key country data links

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **60**

World Bank Population figure **3.8M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **15.6%**

Funding requirements

2025

Total 4.6M CHF

Through Host National Society

3.8M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

533,000 CHF

Through IFRC

204,000 CHF

HNS breakdown

Longer term needs

465,000 CHF

Climate & environment

290,000 CHF

Disasters & crises

2.3M CHF

Health & wellbeing

320,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

420,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

35,000 CHF

Climate & environment

79,000 CHF

Disasters & crises

30,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

30,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

30,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

Austrian Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross







IFRC Appeal codes

Long-term needs:

MAAGE003

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 | 113,000 | | |  | | | |
| Italian Red Cross | 50,000 | | |  | | | |
| Norwegian Red Cross | | | | | | |  |
| Swiss Red Cross | 369,000 | |  |  | | |  |

Total Funding requirement **CHF 533,000**

Hazards



Floods



Storms



Population movement



Conflict



Earthquakes



Drought

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Georgia Red Cross Society** was established in 1918 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1997. The National Society plays an auxiliary role to public authorities in the humanitarian field according to the Civil Safety National Plan and is mandated to coordinate the civil society sector before, during and after disasters and emergencies.

The National Society is the largest humanitarian organization in Georgia, with a country-wide presence and coverage across its branches and units. It operates alongside other key disaster risk reduction actors in the country to reduce the impact of natural hazards and man-made disasters and support the improvement of the disaster risk reduction sector. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Society significantly increased its reach to more than 2.7 million people, more than 60 per cent of the country's population.

Over the last decade, the National Society has gone through an intensive organizational development and capacity-building process. Central to this transformation in performance and self-reliance has been a focus on National Society development. The National Society's Strategic Plan 2021–2025 aims to enhance its capacities through learning and knowledge sharing in service delivery and advocacy. The strategic plan will also help the Georgia Red Cross to improve links between its services, volunteer activities and relevant National Society-led projects and the efforts of local authorities and corporate partners, ensuring a joint response to local needs based on an integrated approach.

In 2023, the Georgia Red Cross reached 78,553 people reached through long-term services and development programmes and 9,923 people through disaster response and early recovery programmes in 2023.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Georgia's geographic location between Europe and Asia creates unique potential for its economic, political and social development. The country has been steadily building its governance and state institutions over the 30 years of its independence, including reforming the parliament, courts, executive bodies, civil service, media environment and the civil society sector.

Georgia has experienced quite significant boosts in development in recent decades, triggered by rising domestic and external demand, higher consumption, exports, tourism and remittances. However, three consecutive lockdowns following the COVID-19 outbreak as well as increased population movement from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus had a detrimental effect on Georgia's past economic gains.

Georgia is exposed to geophysical and hydro-meteorological hazards such as frequent hailstorms, floods, landslides, and mudflows which cause regular damage to livelihoods. In some

areas, these hazards happen on an annual basis affecting the same geographical areas often damaging crops and irrigation channels, leaving small-scale farmers deprived of sources of their livelihood, unable to recover, and exposed to longer-term indirect losses.

Georgia has made progress in improving the health of its population, particularly over the past decade by implementing a number of state-based reforms in the health sector to ensure universal access to medical services, improve the primary health care system and decrease the financial risks to the population posed by high out-of-pocket expenditures on health. However, the number of communicable and non-communicable illnesses, injuries and deaths has been steadily increasing due to natural and man-made disasters, road accidents, stress, environmental problems, low awareness of health-related issues, unhealthy lifestyles and other related factors. Special attention should be paid to the climate change impact on human health. The frequency of extreme daily temperatures and heat waves has increased in Georgia, leading to immediate health concerns such as increased incidence of heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps and skin rash, aggravation of

cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, especially among the elderly, and increase in the incidence of vector- and water-borne diseases.

The population structure of Georgia is reflective of trends in the European region, such as an ageing population and a declining birth rate. The Georgian population aged 65 and above is expected to increase from 15 per cent in 2022 to 33 per cent in 2050. The increase in the share of the older population creates additional challenges for the health and social sector and society in Georgia. The ageing population is prone to chronic diseases, mainly non-communicable diseases which are among the main causes of mortality in Georgia.

As a result of the conflicts in the early nineties in the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic and in the Tskhinvali Region which erupted again in August 2008, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) represent 6 per cent of the total population of Georgia. Georgia has one of the world's highest incidences of internal

displacement relative to its overall population. Additionally, Ukraine-related population movement will further affect Georgia's migration context, both in the areas of economic growth and social protection.

Over the past two decades, Georgia has achieved notable progress in terms of ensuring gender equality and the inclusion and integration of minorities. However, gender equality remains a major issue in the country as conservative gender roles are widely accepted in society. The integration of ethnic, religious, linguistic and other minorities in Georgia remains a challenge. Minority communities' distrust of state political institutions, as well as pervasive ethno-nationalist discourse in the country often lead to their alienation and isolation. Negative attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community are slowly improving but are still widespread and systemic. People simultaneously belonging to several minority subgroups face extra vulnerabilities and hardships of equal enjoyment of their rights.



Launching the Community-Based Climate Smart Programming in Georgia, July 2024. (Photo: The Red Cross Society of Georgia)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Over the past two decades, Georgia has experienced significant economic change, urbanization and displaced populations due to conflict and disasters triggered by natural hazards. The main humanitarian challenges in Georgia impacting more than 70 per cent of the country are generated as a result of extreme weather conditions. Climate changes are causing more frequent floods, flash floods, landslides, and mudflows, which have devastating effects on infrastructure in Georgia.

Since the 1960s, Georgia has experienced increased temperatures of 0.3°C in western areas and 0.4–0.5°C in eastern areas. A marked increase in hot days has been observed, particularly in the lowlands. Georgia can experience high maximum temperatures, with an average monthly maximum of only around 12°C but an average July maximum of 24°C. The current median probability of a heat wave is around 3 per cent and Georgia faces an annual median probability of severe meteorological drought of around 4 per cent.

Desertification as a result of both natural factors such as increased temperatures, drought probability, and strong winds as well as economic factors such as agricultural practices, irrigation, and mining is causing an expansion of semi-arid and arid areas in Georgia. This has already led to the reduced quality of the soil. The predicted increase in temperatures over the coming decades is likely to compound the problem of desertification in Georgia.

Climate change is expected to impact food production via its effects on crop cultivation. While the share of agriculture in overall employment in Georgia has fallen in the past decade, the sector still accounted for 40 per cent of all jobs and is especially important to employment in poorer and more rural parts of the country. Many of the projected climate changes are likely to disproportionately affect the poorest groups in society, who are more dependent on the economic sectors that are expected to be most affected. Rural communities in Georgia rely on agriculture as their main source of income. Subsistence agriculture also makes up 73 per cent of employment in rural areas. Heatwaves, draughts and the associated lower crop yields could lead to lower incomes in rural areas, which in turn would worsen inequality at the national level and drive further outward migration from these areas.

While Georgia is rich in freshwater, rivers that are fed by glaciers and snow are projected to see reduced flow levels of between 30 per cent and 55 per cent by the end of the 21st century, posing a threat to an important source of water supply.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Georgia Red Cross Society has played a key role in national climate adaptation planning. It contributed significantly to the development of the National Heat Action Plan in collaboration with government and health institutions to outline the National Society's specific responsibilities and actions for managing heat-related risks effectively. Additionally, the National Society is also working to encourage the active engagement of youth in climate action. This is undertaken through its collaboration with the Ministry of Education and various educational institutions, which are assisting with rolling out the Youth Adapt plan.

Additionally, through the 'Civil Society Actors as Levers for a Sustainable Food System', a European Union-supported project, the Georgia Red Cross Society is cooperating with People in Need (PIN) and local authorities (civil society actors and municipalities) to reduce food waste and increase the food security of vulnerable populations in Tskaltubo municipality. The National Society is responsible for the capacity improvement of Local Civil Society Organizations through financial support to third parties to ensure food distribution to the food insecure in Tskaltubo municipality.

The National Society will further implement the Red Cross and Red Crescent Green Response Framework into preparedness work, assessment and planning, as well as the implementation of our humanitarian assistance, and strive to reduce our own climate and environmental footprint.

Some of the main objectives of the National Society are:

- Undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation
- Reduce food waste and increase food security of vulnerable populations
- Build resilience of the communities to the climate-induced extreme events by strengthening local capacities on using climate risk information, preparedness, and response to extreme events such as extreme heat and strengthening early warning early action systems
- Empower the skills and capacities of youth in the target locations to scale youth-driven climate actions aimed at reducing the impacts of climate-compounded hazards
- Enhance skills and capacities towards climate-smart programmes and humanitarian operations

Planned activities in 2025

- Ensure communities have increased capacity to address the evolving impacts of climate change and ownership over programmes addressing climate risks through increased avenues to contribute their own insights, knowledge, and ideas
- Engage in new and strengthen existing partnerships with the local and international stakeholders working in the climate change field to strengthen joint collaboration and better position in national and local climate agendas
- Develop gender-responsive methodological guidelines for identifying and supporting persons most vulnerable to food insecurity
- Facilitate the identification of people vulnerable to food insecurity, distribute food from the local warehouses, and conduct information campaign on donated food being safe
- Conduct three-day enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (eVCA) training for volunteers in target municipalities and assess 10 communities selected using the eVCA toolkit
- Conduct training for 30 community representatives (15 persons per Municipality) in community emergency preparedness (CEP)

- Undertake desk research and stakeholder mapping for the National Climate and Health Risk Assessment conducted
 - Conduct an online screening workshop to identify entry points for climate risk integration
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Georgia Red Cross Society by mobilizing resources for standalone programming of climate and environmental interventions and providing technical guidance and support with planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning. The network will mobilize its resources, including the Climate Change Centre and relevant expertise, to guide and support the National Society to address the climate and environmental needs of local communities and to position itself as a pivotal actor in Georgia's National Climate Change Strategy 2023.

The IFRC will further assist the National Society in maintaining and strengthening Implementation, in partnership with key stakeholders in Georgia. Additionally, it will also assist the Georgia Red Cross Society in building the climate-smart and gender-sensitive disaster risk management capacity.



Disasters and crises

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

Georgia is exposed to frequent geo-physical and hydro-meteorological hazards such as hailstorms, floods, landslides, and mudflows, which contribute to increased vulnerabilities of the population, at the local level. In some areas, such hazards happen annually affecting the same geographical areas and often damaging crops and irrigation channels, leaving small-scale farmers unable to recover and exposed to longer-term indirect losses. In addition, house maintenance in rural areas is often neglected, especially in deprived or economically challenged areas, which results in preventable damage to physical infrastructure, especially during heavy rains.

The effects of climate change are expected to exacerbate the situation, leading to even greater damage and losses. In recent years the escalation in both frequency and intensity of natural disasters has become a concerning trend. Areas previously

considered less susceptible to such events are now facing heightened vulnerability. This shift underscores the urgent need for comprehensive disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies across all regions. It becomes increasingly crucial to prioritize resilience-building efforts and proactive measures to minimize risks and protect communities from the adverse impacts of natural disasters.

According to the Cost Benefit of the Disaster Risk Reduction Study conducted in Georgia by the IFRC, the USD 2.4 million invested in disaster risk reduction between 2010 and 2015 paid off extremely well, ranging from 1:12.51 to 1:54.54 cost-to-benefit ratio. The study identified avoided hazard losses as the main benefit and analyzed various channels that led to loss avoidance. With frequent storms and flooding and high levels of vulnerability in the regions, it is essential to take a paradigm shift towards pre-disaster and forecast-based planning and review further existing institutional and legal structures for disaster risk reduction.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Georgian Red Cross Society is the largest humanitarian organization in the country with a country-wide presence through a wide network of branches and volunteers. It has effective and well-established partnerships with key stakeholders in the Government Emergency and Environmental departments and with other key civil society players in disaster risk reduction, mitigation, and climate change.

Disaster and emergency preparedness and response is a key strategic priority of the Georgia Red Cross Society. The local presence of the National Society's Disaster Response Teams (DRTs) in the communities of Georgia is a significant contribution to community engagement and local operational disaster response capacity.

The aim of the Georgia Red Cross Society will be to strengthen capacity building in this direction, ensuring institutional preparedness with relevant human resources at both national and local levels, as well as relevant technical assets to provide rapid support to affected people. The organization will also ensure the existence of digitalized tools (such as assessment forms) to ensure proper and timely assessment of situations and needs.

Some of the objectives of the National Society include:

- Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards
- Meet the needs of the people affected by crises and disasters through access to assistance and support that is timely, adequate, flexible and strengthens their self-agency
- Respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters, and their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well-defined and recognized
- Further develop and strengthen the cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in the National Society
- Expand its leadership in the field of Disaster Law

Planned activities in 2025

- Focus on community-based disaster preparedness, which assists communities in reducing their vulnerability to disasters and strengthening their capacities to resist them, including their ability to advocate for their disaster risk reduction needs to appropriate authorities
- Continue its activities to share information with affected communities in time and raise awareness on disaster risk reduction and response
- Increase target communities' knowledge and ability to identify actions that can be carried out by themselves

through public awareness campaigns to minimize/reduce the effects of disaster

- Build capacity of target communities in vulnerability and capacity assessment to identify and map risks as well as to define vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms
- Develop a cash and voucher assistance (CVA) approach to the beneficiaries affected by natural or manmade disasters, which provides timely, effective, and continuous cash transfer support
- Include CVA consideration into the available need assessment questionnaire and analyze feedback coming to the hotline considering the CVA
- Strengthen its activities to improve and highlight its auxiliary role to the government during emergency situations
- Provide adequate care and support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence as appropriate in disasters and other emergencies
- Formalize its auxiliary role in domestic laws and policies and enhance its advocacy capacity to more confidently influence authorities and partners for positive legal and social change

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support to the Georgian Red Cross Society in Disaster Risk Management (DRM), working together to improve preparedness at both national and local levels. This will include continuous risk assessments, updating contingency plans, and enhancing response scenarios. A joint screening process will strengthen early warning systems, enabling the National Society to take early actions when disasters are likely. The Disaster Management Department for the Georgian Red Cross Society will be supported by the IFRC, the ICRC, the Italian Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, and the Swiss Red Cross Society.

The IFRC will further provide the National Society staff comprehensive training in areas such as preparedness, anticipatory action, safety, and security during humanitarian responses, and crisis communication, ensuring they are equipped to handle emergencies effectively.

The **Italian Red Cross**, within the PPRD East Project, signed an agreement with the Georgian Red Cross Society to involve its staff member(s) as a public awareness expert.

The **Norwegian Red Cross**, within the "Twinning Cooperation" Project, will support the Georgian Red Cross Society in the development of local branches.

The **Swiss Red Cross Society** will support the National Society through the enhancement of CVA activities and by ensuring a well-established system within the country which will be easily used during different emergency situations.



Global indicators concerning the health and well-being of communities around the world have shown Georgia to have made significant improvements in recent decades. The country adopted several state-based reforms in the health sector to ensure universal access to high-quality medical services, improve the primary healthcare system, and decrease the financial risks to the population posed by high out-of-pocket expenditures on health. Georgia public health indicators also continue to show improvements on average in the health and well-being of our communities. Since 2013, the majority of citizens of Georgia have access to the universal healthcare programme.

Georgia belongs to ageing nations, growing at an average annual rate of 1.29 per cent which translates into a growing demand for care. Georgia is facing a significant demographic shift, with a growing ageing population and declining birth rates. By 2050, it is expected that nearly one-third of the population will be over 60, with an increase in those aged 80 and above. However, despite the growing needs of older adults, social services for seniors remain underdeveloped.

Mental health services in Georgia are insufficient, and they are poorly integrated into the primary care system. The current system focuses on in-patient care. There is a lack of trained social workers and other mental health professionals which leads to limiting the potential for providing services at the community level. Psychiatric care is still exclusively provided in specialized mental health institutions including hospitals and social psychoneurological centres. Rising mental health issues such as depression and anxiety place increasing strain on individuals, communities, and health systems. Linked to this are increasing rates of loneliness, involuntary isolation and emerging areas of digital isolation that prevent people from having socially connected lives.

Communicable and non-communicable diseases are on the increase in Georgia. Related challenges and interrelation create a double burden on the health system, which is already limited in its capacity to provide adequate health care to the country's population. The greatest vulnerabilities and threats to health resilience over the next decade are going to be a result of multiplier effects from changing demographics and disease patterns, urbanization, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, natural and technological disasters, and climate change, conflicts and the unprecedented number of people on the move. As a result, underlying vulnerabilities, stigma, and inequalities within and across communities will push already vulnerable and marginalized people into even more precarious states of poverty and ill health.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Georgian Red Cross Society has identified healthcare as one of its key strategic directions. The organization carries out extensive interventions in disease prevention, first aid, community health, emergency health, mental health, and promotion of healthy lifestyle. The National Society's health and care framework outlines four interconnected areas within the strategic priority: strategy, policy and advocacy, community health, emergency health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

The National Society's people-centered healthcare programming is focused on supporting the state health authorities in their efforts towards building universal health coverage (UHC), based on the principle of 'leaving no one behind'. This is to ensure healthy lives to promote well-being for all at all ages and to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. In addition, the National Society will continue to promote and advocate for universal access to quality healthcare, social well-being, and WASH for all people, regardless of where they are. While implementing healthcare activities, the Georgia Red Cross Society prioritizes the duty of care of all its volunteers and staff in all contexts. The key focus also remains on ensuring improvements in the NS' data and evidence systems, as well as capitalizing on innovative and digital solutions that are transforming the health and well-being of the population.

Some of the objectives of the National Society include to:

- Protect and improve the health and well-being of communities through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across the life course
- Maintain the health and dignity of communities in emergencies by providing access to appropriate health services
- Ensure communities have increased access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services
- Ensure communities at risk from pandemics and epidemics have increased access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services
- Capitalize on its auxiliary role to ensure its position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms

Planned activities in 2025

- Help communities identify and reduce health risks through relevant community engagement, accountability, and behaviour change approaches that ensure locally led solutions
- Expand the coverage, quality, and financial sustainability of first aid activities, including training of volunteers, staff, and the general public, as well as the development of appropriate commercial first aid models
- Meet the mental health and psychosocial support needs of communities, as well as volunteers and staff through conducting psychosocial training for the employees and volunteers on municipal and local levels, advocacy, first psychosocial support, redirecting people to relevant institutions through a hotline
- Build and maintain community-level capacity in effective prevention, detection, and response to infectious disease outbreaks
- Have a defined and active health/WASH strategy
- Promote and measure positive behavioural change in personal and community hygiene among targeted communities, including the menstrual hygiene management
- Promote and measure community awareness of pandemics and epidemics, including cholera under the One WASH Initiative, and the means to better mitigate their impact
- Become included in relevant national strategies, plans, laws and policies related to epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical support to the Georgia Red Cross Society to increase vaccination coverage in the country. It will also provide technical assistance to the National

Society in conducting prevention and advocacy activities for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) and HIV among high-risk groups and the general population.

The **Austrian Red Cross**, through the Epidemic Preparedness and COVID-19 Response, will assist the National Society in enhancing preparedness for future epidemics/pandemics. This effort will involve robust community engagement initiatives, particularly targeting the most vulnerable populations. The project will prioritize parents and children, focusing on routine immunization, and will disseminate reliable, accurate, gender-sensitive, evidence-based information on immunization, COVID-19 vaccination, and epidemic control through appropriate communication channels in close collaboration with public authorities to reach the most vulnerable populations in Armenia and Georgia. Additionally, through the 'To Be Together for Better and Sustainable Home Care Services in Georgia' project, the Austrian Red Cross will ensure the provision of home care services for vulnerable groups and through the 'Who Cares' project, it will assist the Georgia Red Cross Society in implementing evidence-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for helpers, particularly collecting evidence on MHPSS for helpers in conflicts and pandemics.

The **Italian Red Cross** will support the Georgia Red Cross Society through its focus on combatting stigma and reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS, improving the health and psychological well-being of People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs), preventing HIV/AIDS transmission and drug use, addressing stigma and discrimination among young people. It will also continue its support through the 'Healthy Living of Older People in a Safe Environment' project, aimed at increasing access to mainstream social services, resources, and community development for the most vulnerable populations, primarily older individuals, in Georgia.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will continue supporting the homecare direction within the Georgia Red Cross Society to provide homecare services to vulnerable groups, including the elderly.



Historically, Georgia has been a country of emigration. Since the mid-1990s, Georgian migrants have been moving to Western Europe countries as well as to the United States of America to flee the socio-economic challenges of the post-Soviet period. In 2020, the number of Georgian emigrants was 860,000 with 52 per cent of them residing in the Russian Federation and 21 per cent in European Union countries. The main push factors for Georgian migrants have been mainly economic. Others have moved abroad to study or for family reunification reasons, but also to flee political instability and security threats. Existing diaspora and migrant communities are also playing an important role.

In the first months of 2022, European Union countries experienced a 183 per cent increase in the number of asylum applications (8,075) received from Georgian citizens when compared to 2021. France, Germany and Italy receive almost four-fifths of all Georgian applications. Conversely, in 2024, the country was hosting 27,925 refugees and 1,128 asylum seekers. Of these, 28,640 refugees from Ukraine were recorded in Georgia, out of which 26,160 arrived since February 2022. Meanwhile, the asylum seekers belonged to Iran, Türkiye, and Ukraine.

Additionally, as a result of armed conflict, the first and the largest wave of internal displacement in Georgia took place in 1992-1993, followed by the displacement as a result of the Russian-Georgian conflict of 2008. In 2022, 308,00 internally displaced people (IDPs) due to conflict and violence were registered in Georgia. This number also includes all those people who returned to the Russian-occupied Abkhazia and South Ossetia, as well as people displaced by the 2008 conflict who were subsequently relocated or provided with housing. The government gave monthly allowances to people recognized as IDPs, promoted their socio-economic integration, and sought to create conditions for their return in safety and dignity.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Restoring Family Links is one of the National Society's primary priorities. The Georgia Red Cross Society processes tracing requests, which include tracing relatives who lost contact as a consequence of disaster and migration, requests for assistance in locating burial places (World War II), and tracing documents confirming captivity, forced departure, and labour. As a result, the Georgia Red Cross Society has joined the RFL Leadership Platform, the RFL Strategy Implementation Group, and the Application Group for the RFL Code of Conduct on Data Protection.

The Georgia Red Cross Society provides relevant RFL services to the people affected people in service of its belief that people should receive information, means, and tools from the National Society to maintain or restore contact with their loved ones

when they are unable to do so by their own means. When communication systems have broken down or risk putting people in danger, people must be offered connectivity by the components of the Movement, in cooperation with other stakeholders, to maintain and restore contact with their loved ones and to obtain relevant information. The main objectives of the National Society include:

- Increase the knowledge and understanding of restoring family links (RFL) services among the staff and volunteers
- Ensure the financial sustainability of RFL services for the provision of effective and unceasing RFL services to people in need
- Increase the accessibility and availability of RFL services for the affected people
- Strengthen partnerships with key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders/partners
- Strengthen and empower the Families of Missing Persons' Committee Network

Planned activities in 2025

- Provide restoring family links (RFL) training, workshops, and informational sessions, including RFL in emergencies, to the staff and volunteers on headquarters and branch levels
- Develop annual action plans aligned with the global and National Society's RFL strategy and incorporate RFL into disaster response plans
- Provide relevant information about the RFL services to the affected people to raise awareness regarding who to contact in case of need
- Ensure community awareness and education about missing persons' issues through the National Society network of branches and trained volunteers regarding the issues affecting families of missing persons
- Devise appropriate operational agreements and partnerships with national and local authorities and organizations focused on shared standards, cooperation, complementarity, and referrals, making use of global and regional framework agreements where they exist
- Provide mental health and psychosocial support on a long-term basis

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC The IFRC will support the National Society in meeting its objectives.



Values, power and inclusion

In Georgia, gender equality and inclusion have seen gradual progress. However, some challenges remain in fully realizing these goals, primarily due to societal attitudes and informal barriers rather than legal frameworks that have been significantly strengthened in recent decades, including the [laws on gender equality and violence against women](#), anti-discriminatory legislation and legal frameworks to secure rights for people with disabilities. Although inclusive educational practices are part of all teacher training courses, there is a shortage of teachers to provide human rights education classes in schools.

Reports also highlight the slow progress in [improving ethnic minorities' proficiency in the Georgian language](#). According to the most recent census in 2014, 44.5 per cent of Armenian-speaking and 73.9 per cent of Azerbaijani-speaking citizens report low competence in Georgian. This language barrier is further compounded by limited access to preschool education — only 25.5 per cent of children in minority-populated areas are enrolled, compared to the national average of 65 per cent. Additionally, the insufficient inclusion of Georgian as a second language in school curricula restricts non-Georgian-speaking minorities' ability to engage in everyday communication, access education, and obtain essential services. These factors significantly hinder their social integration and overall inclusion in society.

The share of youth aged 15-29 represents [17.5 per cent](#) of Georgia's total population. According to the [UN Women Georgia 2023 study](#), 31 per cent of this age group is not engaged in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET). The NEET status is higher in women, people aged 25-29, and youth living outside the capital. Youth participation in the labour force and employment has been decreasing over the past years, with only 7 per cent of youth reporting working and studying at the same time in 2023. Gender disparity has a persistent effect on youth employment and educational choices in Georgia. More young men enter the labour force compared to young women, who also suffer from a widening gender pay gap in the labour market.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Georgia Red Cross Society will actively focus on strengthening the relevant political documentation to elaborate or/revise and upgrade to ensure the integration of the direction in all the areas of the National Society's work. The main objectives of the National Society include:

- Adopt a comprehensive [protection, gender, and inclusion](#) (PGI) approach across operations and programmes
- Upgrade the [community engagement and accountability](#) (CEA) direction, elaborate the relevant strategies and

policies, as well as strengthen the Central Feedback Mechanism to ensure two-way effective communication

- Mainstream an overarching legal perspective through its overall operations through the integration of essential international, national, and local regulations into the organization's policies and practices

Planned activities in 2025

- Expand programmes and services that directly aim at facilitating the integration of groups that are marginalized or discriminated against
- Elaboration PGI, child safeguarding, and [prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse](#) (PSEA) policies.
- Integrate and implement standard operating procedures for sensitive complaints into the CEA Feedback Mechanism
- Mainstream CEA and PGI in [child-friendly spaces](#) with a focus on Child Safeguarding and the DAPS framework
- Continue its activities regarding non-formal education among youth at educational institutions to ensure the access of the youth to non-formal education and build their soft skills
- Provide participatory and inclusive [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS) through child-friendly spaces which are conducted in schools for Ukrainian children displaced in Georgia, as well as providing psychological first aid for teachers and caretakers

Longer-term support from the IFRC Network

The IFRC will support the Georgia Red Cross Society with an available Education in Emergencies (EiE) Delegate to support educational-related issues for the National Society. The IFRC will also provide support in the forms of educational objectives for child-friendly spaces, PGI, and curriculum mapping and guidance.

Additionally, the IFRC will provide support for the PGI efforts through one-on-one coaching, peer-to-peer learning, and a workshop and training series for operationalizing PGI. It will also continue strengthening the institutionalization of the CEA approach through programming and thematic support, further development of a central community feedback mechanism, headquarters and branch staff and volunteers' capacity building, and finalization of the CEA Strategy.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Georgia Red Cross Society is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening, having gone through the IFRC [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process. It is one of four National Societies to have achieved certification in 2015. The OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Actively engage and support the IFRC to address the priorities for Movement Coordination and Cooperation, as established in the Council of Delegates meeting in 2019
- Lead coordination efforts with national and local state and non-state actors within its auxiliary role to its authorities
- Further develop and fulfil its mandate to provide essential humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable populations in the country



National Society Development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Function effectively as a strong, effective, and principled local humanitarian actor in Georgia
- Strengthen volunteering development and youth engagement as catalysts of behavioural change and local action, ensuring access and nurturing trust in all contexts
- Progressively assesses the abilities and knowledge of its leaders in local branches to foster effective governance and management demonstrated in increased volunteer and youth involvement, resource mobilization and advocacy
- Elaborate on the new financial model to increase its resources and reach the financial sustainability needed for the proper functioning of the organisation at all levels

The Georgia Red Cross Society 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 analyze the strengths and gaps in their preparedness and response mechanisms and ultimately take the necessary action to improve.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Georgia Red Cross Society in maintaining sustained and transparent dialogue to ensure that cooperation within the Movement is in line with the cooperation mechanisms at both leadership and management level which ensures that the relations are effective and are based on shared respect as equal partners.

Additionally, healthcare activities will be supported by participating National Societies including the **Austrian Red Cross**, the **Italian Red Cross**, and the **Swiss Red Cross**.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Georgia Red Cross Society's [National Society Development \(NSD\)](#) efforts through the provision of representatives from the IFRC Regional Office who will offer their expertise to ensure that the National Society receives the guidance it needs.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** will assist the National Society with branch development direction and through the twinning cooperation, which will aim to build a strong connection between the two National Societies. The Norwegian Red Cross will support the NS with the development of the F2F model in the country.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will support the National Society with resource mobilization and communication direction, involving relevant counterparts to ensure comprehensive development. It will continue to support the Georgia Red Cross Society with its in-house F2F fundraising initiative.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Have a strong public profile and become an effective advocate, influencing both public behaviour and policy change at the national, regional, and global levels

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will work closely with the Georgia Red Cross Society to strengthen diplomatic ties and engagements with government

authorities at national and municipal levels across Georgia. The IFRC will collaborate with the National Society to design and implement strategic advocacy campaigns aimed at promoting the organization's mission, achievements, and ways of working to policymakers, partners, and the public. Additionally, it will also support the influencing of policy changes and updates that align with humanitarian principles and contribute to more effective and efficient humanitarian action in Georgia.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increase accountability of its management structures with the supervision of the leadership to serve the volunteers and vulnerable communities as effectively and efficiently as possible

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Georgia Red Cross Society by working towards the primary focus on bolstering the accountability of

the National Society's management structures and fortifying the organization's capacity to serve volunteers and vulnerable communities with utmost effectiveness and efficiency. It will also support the National Society in setting up, implementing, and managing a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, both as part of its strategy on community engagement and accountability (CEA) and strategic partnership and resource mobilization. The latter will streamline processes, automate donation management, and provide insights for effective resource utilization and donor engagement.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has had a presence in Georgia since 1992, supporting the Georgia Red Cross Society with strategic and operational coordination, humanitarian diplomacy and National Society development. In recent years, the IFRC has supported the

Georgia Red Cross Society through numerous Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations in relation to multiple instances of flash floods.

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 **Austrian Red Cross** has worked closely with the Georgia Red Cross Society since 2012 and runs a regional office for the South Caucasus in Tbilisi. The Austrian Red Cross support for the National Society focuses on financial and technical assistance in the Strategic Priorities 'Climate and Environmental Crisis', 'Evolving Crisis and Disasters' and 'Growing Gaps in Health and Well-being'. The Austrian Red Cross international and local staff based in Georgia have implemented programmes jointly with Georgia Red Cross Society in disaster relief, disaster preparedness, and disaster risk reduction, in health including home care, psychosocial support and pandemic response and in climate change adaptation related to awareness raising, advocacy and heatwave response.

The **Italian Red Cross** has cooperated with the Georgia Red Cross Society since 2009, in alternating phases that grew into the appointment of a designated delegate first working remotely (2018) and finally on-site from 2021. The cooperation is regulated under the Project Implementation Agreement (PIA). Currently, the Italian Red Cross focuses its support to the Georgia Red Cross Society under health and well-being in the areas of HIV health and risk reduction and most recently, with the COVID-19 pandemic, in the planning of the testing and vaccination campaign. The Italian Red Cross is also co-financing a Multilateral Project on Health & Active Ageing.

The **Swiss Red Cross** extended cooperation with the Georgia Red Cross Society in 2017 in the frame of the National Society Development, supporting the National Society in strengthening and developing the Resource mobilization and Communication direction. The Swiss Red Cross established its cooperation with the Georgia Red Cross Society in 2020, during the COVID-19 response. Based on an assessment, the parties have identified the following areas of the Georgia Red Cross Society programmatic activities to be supported by the Swiss Red Cross: development of Georgia Red Cross Society home-based care and first aid services, improved institutional preparedness by institutionalization of Cash and Voucher Assistance, further development of Georgia Red Cross Society project management and resource mobilization activities, enhanced humanitarian aid, emergency response, early recovery and reconstruction and rehabilitation activities following disasters or conflict in all parts of the country, depending on needs and capacities and based upon prior agreement of both national societies.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** cooperates remotely with the Georgia Red Cross Society within the TWINNING cooperation partnership, which started in 2016 in which local branches work bilaterally on a peer-to-peer basis. Through twinning cooperation, the Norwegian Red Cross works bilaterally and remotely with the Georgia Red Cross Society on branch development from its headquarters and two district branches. Significant work is conducted to support local branches in the development of the different fields such as disaster management, health and care including First Aid, youth and volunteering, etc., as well as supports the Georgia Red Cross Society to build its capacities in the areas of resource mobilization and communication. The Norwegian Red Cross supports the National Society's Resource Mobilization direction, supporting the In-House Face-to-Face project with expertise, including by deploying headquarters staff members to support the launch project.



The Red Cross Society of Georgia's Batumi Branch delivered basic First Aid training to the participants of regional hiking festival, July 2024. (Photo: The Red Cross Society of Georgia)

Movement coordination

The Georgia Red Cross Society 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](#) helps reconnect families separated by conflict and supports people whose lives are affected by the administrative boundary lines. It seeks to clarify what happened to missing people and provide support to their families. It works to improve the living conditions of people affected by past conflicts and of the detainees that we visit, while at the same time promoting international humanitarian law.

ICRC cooperates with GRCS across multiple areas. In the health sector, ICRC assists GRCS in first aid activities by mobilizing well-trained volunteers throughout its branch network. In the field of migration, ICRC provides technical support to GRCS in restoring family links (RFL). ICRC strengthens GRCS's mandate by supporting policy integration of international, national, and local regulations, addressing emblem misuse, and enhancing expertise in international humanitarian. In terms of strategic and operational coordination, ICRC, alongside IFRC, provides methodological tools, guidelines, training modules, and experienced facilitators to enhance GRCS's operational capacity and mobilizes resources to contribute to GRCS national society development objectives.

Coordination with other actors

The Georgia Red Cross Society is taking a proactive approach in fulfilling its coordination role authorised by governmental structures to ensure the effective delivery of humanitarian aid, as outlined in the Civil Safety National Plan adopted by Decree 508 of the Parliament of Georgia in 2015. This plan builds upon the foundation laid by the State National Disaster Response Plan on Natural and Technological Emergencies, adopted by Decree No. 415 of the President of Georgia in 2008. The Georgia Red Cross Society Disaster Management Department has active cooperation with governmental structures, such as the Emergency Management Service of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, the Ministry of Environment, and non-governmental structures, UNDP, Salvation Army, Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG), Caucasus environmental NGO Network (CENN), People in Need (PIN) etc., acting in Disaster Management field.

The Georgia Red Cross Society has been a member of the Georgian Harm Reduction Network (GHRN) since 2008 and a member of the TB National ACSM (advocacy, communication, and social mobilization) working group since 2010. Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) are signed between the Georgia Red Cross Society and National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), National Centre for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (NCTBLD), LEPL Youth Agency of Georgia, National Emergency Management Service, City Hall of Batumi, Georgian Harm Reduction Network (GHRN), one of the main Georgian HR Network Member Organization "New Vector", Jo-Ann Blood Bank, Tbilisi Blood Transfusion Station, LTD "Blood Bank" and Batumi Blood Bank "Hema 2012".

The National Society launched an MHPSS Coordination Platform, including all relevant non-governmental organizations and professional groups in the country working in MHPSS response to the COVID-19 crisis, with the aim to

contribute to sharing information, experience and lessons learned between the key stakeholders in the humanitarian sector and coordinating activities to reach and support maximum number of vulnerable people living in Georgia. The MHPSS Coordination platform continued its work and responded to the Ukrainian Crisis afterwards, as well as Shovi and other emergencies. The platform will continue working at this stage uniting up to 30 organizations.

Besides above mentioned, the Georgia Red Cross Society has established good and active partnerships with the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Ministries of Healthcare, Education and Science, Culture, Sport and Youth Affairs, Youth Agency, Emergency situations; with the diplomatic corps and development agencies, such as USAID Georgia, Embassies of Austria, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland; with the UN agencies, including UNFPA, UNDP, WHO. Strong cooperation is in place with Municipalities, Crisis Management State Department, Rescue Service, and local community authorities.

The Georgia Red Cross Society has further developed relations with the corporate, including, WAIKIKI, The Coca Cola Foundation, WISSOL, Elit-Electronics, TBC Bank, Bank of Georgia, Orbeliani Bazaar, Skillwill, Wolt, Glovo, OPPA (Paybox), GINO holding, Majorel, Golden AEA LLC, MEP solutions, Nexia LLC, Noca, Clean House, Libo Group, Kervan, Korida, GEPHA, "Mtiebi" School, Adjara Group, Marco Polo Gudauri, Gallereia Tbilisi, Georgian Football Federation, Georgian Basketball Federation, Inn Group, Tbilisi Central, City mall, Nikora, BENE, APM Terminals Poti, CARREFOUR, BADAGONI, SILKNET, Georgia Investing Group "Energia LLC", Mondelez Georgia LLC, Flat Rock Technologies LLC, The Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi, Hotel Borjomi, Hilton Hotel in Batumi, Georgian Post, Assorti, Nugbari, Beeline, Geocell, Magticom, FORBES Woman Georgia.

At international level the Georgia Red Cross Society is a member of the various IFRC working groups, among them the Global TB Working Group, the European Red Cross Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS and TB (ERNA), First Aid

European Educational Network (FAEEN) European Network on Psychological support (ENPS), IFRC Global Health Reference Group, IFRC Global Health and Climate Reference Group and the IFRC Health and Ageing Advisory Working Group (HAAWG).



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 Global Plan and IFRC network country plan](#) • [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](#)
- [IFRC Evaluation and Research Databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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