



ESTONIA

2025-2026 IFRC network country plan



Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 4M**

1 April 2025

In support of the Estonian Red Cross



16

National Society branches



29

National Society staff



533

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



10,000

Ongoing emergency operations



5,000

Climate and environment



10,000

Disasters and crises



1,000

Migration and displacement



12,000

Health and wellbeing



1,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency Response

- Population movement

Longer-term needs

- All-hazards preparedness and response
 - Mental health
 - Social care

Capacity development

- Financial sustainability
- Strengthening branches and services
- Volunteer development, preparedness

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating **Very Low**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Very Low**

Human Development Index rank **33**

World Bank Population figure **1.4M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **22.5%**

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

Funding requirements

2025

2026

Total 2.7M CHF

Total 1.31M CHF

Through the Host National Society

722,000 CHF

Through the IFRC

2M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Ongoing emergency operations

750,000 CHF

Longer-term needs

75,000 CHF

Climate and environment

300,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

390,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

100,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

65,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

305,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Through the Host National Society

312,000 CHF

Through the IFRC

1M CHF

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross*

French Red Cross*

Swedish Red Cross*

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

IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing Emergency Appeals:

MGR65002

Longer-term needs:

MAAES001

Hazards



Armed conflict preparedness



Floods



Population movement



Climate change

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Estonian Red Cross** was established on February 24, 1919, and its statutes were approved by the Estonian government on January 11, 1922. That same year, it was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) officially recognized the Estonian Red Cross on December 17, 1991. It was re-established based on continuity in 1993. In its auxiliary role to public authorities, the Estonian Red Cross focuses on reducing and preventing vulnerability to disasters and crises within the community. It operates through 17 branches, with 30 staff and 456 volunteers. The vision of the Estonian Red Cross is to become the country's leading organization in ensuring first aid education and training systems to prepare communities for accidents, crises and emergencies.

The strategic goal of Estonian Red Cross is to develop into a National Society of the international humanitarian movement of the Red Cross that meets the needs of the communities it serves, is well-functioning and has solid financial sustainability. It has needed to reevaluate its strategic objectives due to several crises over the last few years including COVID-19, the Ukraine crisis, migration influx and border crises. Training the population in first aid and psychosocial first aid remains one of the most critical objectives.

Since its re-establishment in 1993, the Estonian Red Cross has primarily focused on educating local communities in first aid and promoting preparedness. With recent crises (COVID-19 and Ukraine) ERC has widened the scope of its activities and involvement in various new sectors which in turn has brought in a demand for increased capacities. ERC's overall role is rapidly growing and close collaboration with various government actors is becoming increasingly important. Estonian Red Cross is aiming to clarify its mandate and auxiliary role, and is building long term partnerships with various ministries, agencies and municipalities for the scenarios of mass evacuation, armed conflict, migration crises, health crisis and response to major incidents.

The Estonian Red Cross Strategic Plan is currently under revision, as past years' crises have impacted the national context significantly. New strategic directions include increased focus on disaster and crisis preparedness, a prominent national role in mental health programming and know-how, transforming branches and the HQ capacity to serve as a multifunctional community centre and continued focus on First Aid.

In 2022, the Estonia Red Cross reached 207 people by long-term services and development programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Estonia, nestled in Northern Europe along the eastern Baltic Sea shore, boasts a rich landscape characterized by dense forests, countless lakes, and an extensive coastline. Sharing borders with Russia to the east and Latvia to the south, Estonia's Baltic Sea coastline stretches approximately 3,794 kilometers, adorned with picturesque peninsulas, tranquil bays, and charming islands. The northern reaches, encompassing the North Estonian Plain, are predominantly flat and low-lying, hosting the bustling capital city of Tallinn and serving as the heartland for the majority of the country's inhabitants.

Estonia has built a modern and forward-thinking economy anchored in technology and innovation. Renowned for its vibrant tech startup scene, Estonia has earned global acclaim as a beacon of digital advancement, boasting a sophisticated digital ID system that enables seamless access to a myriad of

government services online. In 2023, growth slowed down in Estonia due to global economic uncertainties, inflation, and the impact of the conflict in Ukraine. Despite a slight increase during the COVID-19 pandemic, Estonia has maintained a relatively low unemployment rate, 6.5% in 2023. Following the breakout of the international armed conflict in Ukraine, national security has become high priority with significant state efforts invested into increasing society-wide preparedness.

Nevertheless, despite its economic prowess, Estonia grapples with significant regional disparities, notably between thriving urban centers and dwindling rural communities plagued by depopulation and limited economic opportunities. Moreover, the country faces ongoing challenges in fostering social cohesion, particularly in integrating its sizable Russian-speaking

minority into Estonian society. The influx of people fleeing from Ukraine adds further complexity to this dynamic.

As of 2024, Estonia's population is approximately 1.36 million. The country has experienced a slight increase in population in recent years, largely due to the influx of refugees from Ukraine. This growth contrasts with Estonia's previous trend of population decline, driven by low birth rates and high emigration. A significant portion of the population is aging, with 17.7% over 65 years old, which puts pressure on social services and the labor market. Despite these demographic pressures, Estonia holds a commendable position in terms

of human development, ranking 33rd out of 191 countries worldwide.

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

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Emergency Operation	Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis
Appeal No	MGR65002
Duration	July 2022 – December 2025
People to be assisted	22.7 M (total); 12,000 (in Estonia)
Funding requirements	Total: CHF 800 M (IFRC); CHF 2.7 billion (Federation-wide) Estonia: CHF 4 M (IFRC); CHF 9.2 M (Federation-wide)
Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal
Operational Strategy	Revised Operational Strategy Estonia Response Plan
Last operation update	Operation Update No.9

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

First launched in February 2022, the IFRC Emergency Appeal was revised in May 2023, in support of the work of 18 National Societies including the Estonian Red Cross who are responding to the crisis. The revised Emergency Appeal presents a substantial increase in people targeted, funding requirement and geographical coverage, to support the National Societies in assisting people in Ukraine and other impacted countries affected by the crisis. It also represents a shift in response

from an emergency phase to a protracted crisis scenario, while recognizing the need to remain agile and proactive in what continues to be a highly dynamic environment.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through this revised emergency appeal, the Estonian Red Cross is providing targeted assistance to about 12,000 people. Interventions consist of:

Health and care including water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

Under the [EU4Health](#) programme, provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) training and services to Ukrainians and Estonians. Conduct first aid training for 1,000 Ukrainian refugees and Rapid Response Teams assisting medical staff in temporary accommodation centres for Ukrainian refugees and organize first aid kits for Ukrainian schools.

Conduct needs assessment among Ukrainian refugees and distribute hygiene supplies at humanitarian service points ([HSPs](#)).

Shelter, housing, and settlements, multi-purpose cash

Provide cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)) to Ukrainian refugees with a total amount of EUR 100,000. Conduct CVA preparedness and training for the National Society.

Protection, gender, and inclusion ([PGI](#)), community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)), migration

Create child friendly spaces in four central HSPs in the targeted region. Organize three-day integration camps for UA/EST children in the forest, five-day summer camps for Ukrainian

children with their family members with the presence of a psychologist and organize training of intercultural communication for the Estonian Red Cross volunteers.

The operational strategy for integrating CEA involves collaborating with various government institutions, consulting with local communities, and setting up community complaints and feedback mechanisms, such as a helpline. It also includes the procurement and distribution of relief items based on needs assessments.

Migration related activities include establishment of humanitarian service points ([HSPs](#)) to provide [CVA](#), [MHPSS](#) and accepting applications for family reunification ([RFL](#)).

Bilateral support is being extended to the Estonian Red Cross in its response to the Ukraine crisis by the **Finnish Red Cross**.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

According to the [Climate Risk Profile for Estonia published by the World Bank](#), Estonia falls within the mixed forest sub-region of the Atlantic continental region in the temperate zone. Situated at the boundary between maritime and continental climates, it experiences moderately warm summers and moderately cold winters. In February, temperatures range between -2.5°C and -7°C, while July sees averages of 16–17°C. Extreme temperatures range from 35.6°C to -43.5°C.

According to the [International Energy Agency](#), Estonia has been experiencing an average of 0.2 – 0.3°C increase per decade since 1951, exceeding the global average rate of warming of the past two decades. As such, the country has been more prone to heatwaves and droughts. Due to the impacts of climate change, Estonia is more frequently exposed to downpours,

resulting in flash floods and flooding. The rising sea level risk is another worrying impact of climate change, making coastal areas more vulnerable to flooding.

Certain groups, such as children aged 0-4 and people over 65, are particularly vulnerable to heatwaves. Rural and coastal populations face additional risks from rising temperatures, storms, and sea level rise. Sectoral impacts include potential decreases in crop yields and increased risks from pests and diseases in agriculture, reduced water availability and heightened scarcity in water resources, and a rise in heat-related illnesses and vector-borne diseases in the health sector. Regionally, coastal areas are at risk of flooding and erosion due to rising sea levels, while rural areas are susceptible to prolonged power outages from storm impacts on electric infrastructure.



Since May 2022, the Estonian Red Cross has hosted over 30 camps for children displaced by the conflict in Ukraine, offering nature hikes, campfire cooking, and sports. With the school year, they've added language and integration classes to their outdoor programs, December 2022. (Photo: Estonia Red Cross)

According to the [Global Forest Watch](#), in 2010, over 60 per cent (2.73Mha) of the country's land was covered by natural forest. By 2023, this figure has been reduced to 2.3Mha due to deforestation activities, as well as wildfires.

The government of Estonia has developed several policies and legal frameworks aimed to address climate change and environmental issues. These include the [National Climate Change Adaptation Development Plan until 2030](#) and the [National Strategy on Sustainable Development until 2030](#).

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Enhanced preparedness for increased risk of heatwaves and floods due to changing climate
- Communities, especially vulnerable populations better equipped to protect themselves from adverse consequences of climate change
- Promote [environmentally sustainable practices](#) and share the knowledge of identifying and [reducing climate change-impacted risks](#) in communities
- Work on integrating sustainable practices into programme and operational planning



Disasters and crises

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

Estonia is exposed to an array of natural hazards. Floods, extreme weather events, heatwaves, and epidemics are the most recurring events. The projected rise in temperature, rising sea levels, and extreme events are expected to exacerbate these risks while increasing the frequency or emergence of other natural hazards. According to the [INFORM country risk profile](#), Estonia is mainly prone to natural hazards like floods, droughts and coastal floods.

Following the adoption of the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction \(2015 - 2030\)](#), the Ministry of Interior established a National Focal Point within the Department of Rescue and Crisis Management Policy in Estonia. Furthermore, a task force for civil protection was established to raise [public awareness](#) of potential crises (including natural disasters), as well as increase preparedness.

Due to the current geopolitical situation, armed conflict and hybrid attacks have emerged as a primary concern for various state actors in Estonia. With that in mind, preparedness has become more critical than ever before, putting in place numerous agreements, conducting exercises, strengthening mass evacuation capacities and improving coordination among key actors. The ERC is enhancing its role by clearly defining its responsibilities during emergencies, highlighting

Planned activities in 2025 and 2026

- Include climate-change related risks and emergencies in a detailed crisis and major accident plans within the Estonian Red Cross
- Dialogue with authorities to solidify the role of the Red Cross in climate-related disasters
- Enhance the capacity of staff and volunteers to effectively respond to climate change-induced emergencies

Longer-term support from the IFRC Network

The IFRC supports the Estonian Red Cross to undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving climate and environmental crisis risks by exploring funding and partnership opportunities, by mobilizing international know-how on disaster preparedness, and by supporting the recognition of the Red Cross in climate crisis scenarios.

the need for growth and development, particularly in crisis situations. Strengthening its auxiliary role to support the government during times of need has become a top priority. As of Q4 2024, negotiations are in progress for signing MoUs to clarify the ERC role with the Rescue Board (CP), Police and Border Guard, Health Board and Social Insurance Board.

The National Society realises the importance of cross-border coordination in case of significant accidents and has been working with its neighbouring countries to improve preparedness. In 2025-2026 ERC, together with Latvian and Lithuanian Red Cross Societies will implement the "Baltic civil defence cooperation for complex emergencies" project. This project will involve numerous national and international simulation exercises and trainings, along with investment into warehousing systems and development of a joint emergency stock platform between Baltic National Societies. Therefore, working together with partner organisations in future years to further develop disaster preparedness and preventiveness and advance the capacities of national society in logistics and procurement in crises are the next steps forward.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society will work on enhancing its auxiliary role during crises by developing relevant capabilities and fostering

collaboration with various national government bodies and regional stakeholders. It will:

- Develop cash and voucher assistance (CVA) preparedness and readiness by implementing the multi-year plan
- Sign MoUs with various government bodies to clarify Estonian Red Cross role in various disaster and crisis scenarios, especially mass evacuation, floods, armed conflict, mental health, epidemics and population movement
- Create detailed crisis and major accident plans and roll out a long-term disaster management structure within the Estonian Red Cross
- Establish overnight accommodation facilities for extended-duration programmes and emergency response efforts, ensuring the organization's capacity to scale up activities when needed
- Create a dedicated first aid rapid response team to support governmental agencies during emergencies and crisis situations

Planned activities in 2025 and 2026

- Develop capacities in information management during crises and start implementing the CVA multi-year work plan
- Foster cross-border cooperation and preparedness with neighbouring National Societies for crises and major accidents

Longer-term support from the IFRC Network

According to the OECD Country Health Profile on Estonia (2023), Estonia has seen significant improvements in life expectancy over the past two decades. Between 2000 and 2019, life expectancy at birth increased by 8.9 years, from 71.1 to 79 years. However, the global COVID-19 pandemic caused a temporary decline in life expectancy by 1.8 years between 2019 and 2021, reaching 78.2 years. Women in Estonia live on average 8.7 years longer than men, this is the third largest gender gap in life expectancy in the EU after Lithuania and Latvia.



Health and wellbeing

According to the OECD Country Health Profile on Estonia (2023), Estonia has seen significant improvements in life expectancy over the past two decades. Between 2000 and 2019, life expectancy at birth increased by 8.9 years, from 71.1 to 79 years. However, the global COVID-19 pandemic caused a temporary decline in life expectancy by 1.8 years between 2019 and 2021, reaching 78.2 years. Women in Estonia live on average 8.7 years longer than men, this is the third largest gender gap in life expectancy in the EU after Lithuania and Latvia.

Estonia's health system is centralized, with a single health insurance fund, the Estonian Health Insurance Fund (EHIF). This fund operates as a semi-autonomous public organization. Major hospitals, which are publicly owned, provide both inpatient and outpatient specialist care, ensuring broad access to essential health services.

The projected impacts of climate change on Estonia's public health system are considerable. Extreme weather conditions, such as heatwaves and heavy rainfall leading to droughts and floods, are expected to increase morbidity and mortality rates. Heatwaves pose significant health risks, including dehydration and heat stroke, necessitating enhanced public health capacities during the summer months.

According to the first Estonian National Mental Health Study 2022, in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, Estonia is facing significant challenges in mental health. The study

revealed that 1 in 4 adults were at risk of depression, 1 in 5 were at greater risk of generalised anxiety disorders and 1 in 4 reported unmet mental healthcare needs after the COVID-19 crisis. In 2022, a Mental Health Action Plan 2023-2026 had been adopted, which aims to alleviate the burden on specialised mental healthcare services by strengthening the role of primary care, putting emphasis on low-intensity interventions, ensuring prevention and promotion in mental healthcare. ERC recognized the urgent need to support the government in tackling these unmet mental health needs.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The multi-year high level objectives of the Estonian Red Cross in health and wellbeing are to:

- Improve health and mental health of the population through community-based First aid and Psychosocial support
- Become a centre for excellence in mental health programming and major service and assistance provider, complementing capacities of authorities
- Institutionalize psychological first aid and psychosocial support (MHPSS) as long term sustainable services in the ERC structure, with sustainable resourcing

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Planned activities in 2025 and 2026

- Support local health authorities in emergency situations in line with crises and major accident priorities
- Improve psychological first aid and psychosocial support (MHPSS)
- Improve population health and reduce vulnerability by establishing and enhancing WASH competencies and skills through health WASH activities
- Develop a first aid competence centre to support public and private stakeholders

The IFRC will guide and support the National Society to capitalize on its auxiliary role to ensure their position on relevant country level public health strategies, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms. The IFRC works together with the Estonian Red Cross on ensuring that the health and dignity of communities and vulnerable people are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across their life courses. This includes scaling up and institutionalizing first aid as well as community-based and commercial first aid within the Estonian Red Cross. It also includes strengthening the capacity of the Estonian Red Cross to deliver community-based health education that complements the efforts of the public healthcare system.



Migration and displacement

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

By 2023, Estonia has received over 46,000 application for temporary protection by Ukrainian citizens, which enables access to healthcare, education, and the labour market. Although the temporary protection status grants access to vital services, Ukrainian refugees still face trouble in accessing these services and securing employment. The most pressing needs include language training, mental health support and

job skills training. Although half of Ukrainians have found work in Estonia, many are employment in lower-skilled, lower-paying jobs due to their qualifications not being recognized in Estonia. In addition to Ukrainian citizens, there is an increasing trend and risk of instrumentalization of vulnerable migrants on the eastern border, with risk of localized crisis situations due to temporarily increased arrival of migrants seeking entry and asylum, similarly to the crisis situation on the Belarus border in late 2021.

As of mid-2022, the migration situation in the region was relatively stable; however, based on humanitarian analysis and in-depth discussions with governmental actors and authorities, there is a clear need to maintain and expand these actions and prepare longer-term assistance for refugees in the country.



The Estonian Red Cross has dispatched 14 truckloads of bedding, sleeping bags, and essential hygiene items, including diapers, wet wipes, soap, and toothpaste, to Ukraine. This represents the largest humanitarian donation ever collected in the history of Estonia, December 2022 (Photo: Estonia Red Cross)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Continue assisting people arriving or transitioning through Estonia by providing health services, information, livelihoods support, CVA to meet basic humanitarian needs
- Scale up the development of needs assessment capacities to improve the accuracy and responsiveness of programmes
- Standardizes roles and services within the ERC and clarify the role of ERC in population movement crisis scenarios vis-a-vis key agencies

Planned activities in 2025 and 2026

- Strengthen branch capacities for delivering integration services locally and establish mobile HSP capacities in response teams
- Improve overall ability and preparedness by training staff and volunteers effectively

- Implement a systematic approach to respond to emergencies, and a cooperation structure to collaborate with the respective authorities and governmental actors
- Improve services to migrants with a focus on basic needs, integration, and MHPSS
- Expand its provision of health, protection and inclusion services and humanitarian assistance to people on the move, while working with local communities to combat negative perceptions of migrants and displaced people
- Continue to scale up the negotiation of agreements and legal provisions with local authorities to strengthen its auxiliary role in supporting people on the move

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to engage with authorities to provide humanitarian assistance to host communities and affected populations and expand the range of safe services provided to migrants through humanitarian service points (HSPs) across all its branches.



Values, power and inclusion

Estonia has been committed to promoting women's rights and gender equality on both national and global levels. According to [UN Women](#), Estonia ranks 28th in the Gender Inequality Index and 52nd in the Global Gender Gap Index. The main forms of violence against women are domestic violence or intimate partner violence and trafficking for sexual exploitation, which is addressed by the Estonian government through the establishment of shelters and safe accommodation for women.

The country's [Welfare Development Plan for 2023 – 2030](#) was formulated with the overarching goal of ensuring care, equality, the reduction of poverty as well as employment with five sub-goals targeting various groups, including older people and children.

In 2023, Estonia launched the Cohesive Estonia Strategy 2030, a comprehensive initiative aimed at addressing significant challenges related to the integration of ethnic minorities within the country. Current data indicated that nearly one-third of Estonians do not have a Russian individual in their social circle, while one-tenth of non-Estonians do not have an Estonian in their social circle. This situation has resulted in substantial language based segregation, leading to inequalities across various sectors. This segregation may foster societal polarization and conflicts among individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. Arrival of Ukrainian refugees has intensified these tensions, highlighting the urgent need for effective integration strategies.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Estonian Red Cross will focus on protecting and promoting positive change for humanity, based on humanitarian values and principles. To achieve this, it aims to:

- Adopt comprehensive protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) approaches across operations and programmes Develop a network of safeguarding focal points at the branch level, and policies, procedures and mechanisms to build on and strengthen safeguarding mechanisms within the Estonian Red Cross to remain accountable towards the population

Planned activities in 2025 and 2026

- Train staff and volunteers on PGI and increase the overall knowledge and understanding of PGI
- Review and update all organizational policies related to protection and inclusiveness
- Conduct safeguarding self-assessment and making sure that there is a developed plan to respond to any gaps identified
- Develop diverse youth movement and youth activities in cooperation with Movement partners

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC supports the national society to contribute to a positive change in communities through a wider understanding, ownership and concrete application of humanitarian values and fundamental principles, focusing especially on young people's

knowledge, skills and behaviour. Furthermore, IFRC will aim to mobilize international resources to initiate protection-related services to overcome the initial financial barriers of expanding into new operational areas, as well as ensure the availability of technical expertise guiding development.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The National Society in Estonia is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening and has carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2020. The

self-assessment part of the 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

- Develop new, long term partnerships with Movement partners and other actors for increased preparedness and response capacities. Engage in regional operational cooperation with neighbouring National Societies, also facilitating cross-country engagement of key national stakeholders
- Strengthen communication and cooperation with national crisis management and social service stakeholders and authorities

- Demonstrate leadership in strengthening society-wide preparedness through simulation exercises, trainings and promoting cooperation between key actors.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Estonian Red Cross in enhancing cooperation with neighbouring countries, developing new partnerships, mobilizing support from other Movement actors, and representing the added value of the IFRC network with national and local authorities, and communities.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Improve core function components through repeated cycles of organizational development to guarantee a rapid growth of services provided to the communities, sustainability of the organization and recognition of the Red Cross in society
- Strengthening branch capacities, broadening range of local services, establishing regional structures
- Establish a dedicated community centre to serve as a multifunctional hub equipped with adequate space for

training sessions, storage facilities, volunteer coordination and youth engagement initiatives

- Establish overnight accommodation facilities for extended-duration programmes and emergency response efforts, ensuring the organization's capacity to scale up activities when needed
- Create a dedicated first aid rapid response team to support governmental agencies during emergencies and crisis situations
- Improve core function components that guarantee improvement of the services provided to the communities

- Create a dedicated multifunctional rapid response teams to support governmental agencies during emergencies and crisis situations
- Strengthen financial sustainability by developing a resource mobilization strategy that increases awareness of the value of Red Cross work, considers accountability, strengthens systems Strengthening the volunteer management systems and capacities, including

capabilities for quick scale-up and spontaneous volunteer management in emergencies

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Estonian Red Cross with technical advisory, partnership facilitation and resource mobilization for all key development areas.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen the Estonian Red Cross auxiliary role, advocate for a national Red Cross Law and ensure ERC's involvement in national disaster management plans
- Invest in targeted advocacy for better awareness of fundamental principles, and added value and role of the Red Cross in natural disasters and armed conflict scenarios
- Promote domestic implementation and coordinate domestic peacetime activities of international humanitarian law
- Improve crisis communication capacities and promote better societal awareness of the role and services of the National Society

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Estonian Red Cross in implementing a strategic approach to achieve its advocacy objectives, with priority given to the auxiliary role, and understanding of state and non-state actors of the fundamental principles, and the roles that Red Cross can take. Support will include accompanying the ERC and co-facilitating representative events and visits, providing tools, expertise and advisory, coordinating multi-country efforts in establishing forums and engage in coordinated advocacy and aligned messaging.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop the information management capacities in the Estonian Red Cross and incorporate digital tools and solutions
- Improve data-driven and digitally enabled humanitarian services, and continue to explore innovative methods of providing services

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC The IFRC supports the Estonian Red Cross in developing information management capacities and strengthens the use of digital tools, data analysis and data literacy, as well as in the development of corporate systems further enhancing accountability.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

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

The IFRC supports the Estonian Red Cross on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including strengthening its auxiliary role. Its aim is to ensure access for ERC to key technical

and sustainable financial resources, particularly in disaster preparedness and operational capacities (such as in mental health programming, cash and voucher assistance, information management), provide support to improve corporate systems and policy standards, facilitate collaboration with neighbouring National Societies, build fundraising capacity, and facilitate building long term partnerships for ERC. In addition, the IFRC will support the ERC in achieving public and state recognition of its mandate and auxiliary role in the humanitarian field.

In Estonia, the IFRC has assisted specifically with cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)), [shelter](#) and [National Society development](#).

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity

of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Estonian Red Cross also enjoys partnerships with the **German Red Cross** on an ambulance project, and the **Finnish Red Cross** on evacuation readiness and second-hand store items.

Movement coordination

The Estonian 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 Estonian Red Cross and the Federation will engage with the ICRC on preparedness and coordinated advocacy with state and non-state actors for increased awareness and recognition of the Movement's role in preparedness and response to disasters and crises, including armed conflict.

The ICRC is mentioned in the Unified Plan because it supports the Estonian Red Cross to achieve some of the strategic priorities laid out in the Unified Plan. Although ICRC's activities are not coordinated through the Unified Plan and the ICRC is not an IFRC member, given that support provided by Movement actors should be mutually reinforcing and complementary, most ICRC activities with the Estonian Red Cross are reflected in the Unified Plan. They are coordinated via the in-country Movement coordination mechanisms. The ICRC supports the Estonian Red Cross in [restoring family links](#) programming, promotes understanding of and respect for principled humanitarian action and international humanitarian law, and supports efforts to establish a Red Cross law in Estonia.

Coordination with other actors

The Estonian Red Cross has been working closely with government actors and national stakeholders in the national response framework to respond to the Ukraine crisis. Close cooperation with the National Insurance Board and police and border control board has made the Estonian Red Cross a trusted partner with specific strengths and skills.

During the border crisis, the Estonian Red Cross was actively involved with its volunteers to support and assist the arriving refugees. Furthermore, the Tallinn City Council has been a partner of the Estonian Red Cross for an extended period and has signed an agreement to support the Ukrainian Red Cross in providing humanitarian aid to the people of Eastern

Ukraine. Also, an agreement was made with the Tallinn City Council and the second-hand store of the Estonian Red Cross to support Ukrainian refugees with essential items on their arrival to Estonia.

The Estonian Red Cross works with several local partners, including the Ministry of Social Affairs on [MHPSS](#) and [first aid](#) training, the provision and establishment of a response system, and implementing a [CVA](#) programme; the Ministry of Education and Research on the Boomerang project; the Ministry of Interior on the Kobo Toolbox project; and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on humanitarian diplomacy and international humanitarian law.



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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