



ROMANIA

2025-2027 IFRC network country plan



Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 20.6M**

7 April 2025

In support of the Romanian Red Cross



47

National Society
branches



604

National Society
local units



533

National Society
staff



7,314

National Society
volunteers

People to be reached



100,000

Ongoing
emergency
operations



10,000

Climate and
environment



50,000

Disasters
and crises



80,000

Health and
wellbeing



30,000

Migration and
displacement



30,000

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Population Movement Crisis

Longer term needs

- Disaster Preparedness
- Community Based and Emergency Health
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
- National Society development

Key country data links

INFORM severity rating **Low**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **53**

World Bank Population figure **19.1M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **21.2%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Poland,
Czech Republic, Romania and Moldova,
based in Warsaw

Funding requirements

2025

2026**

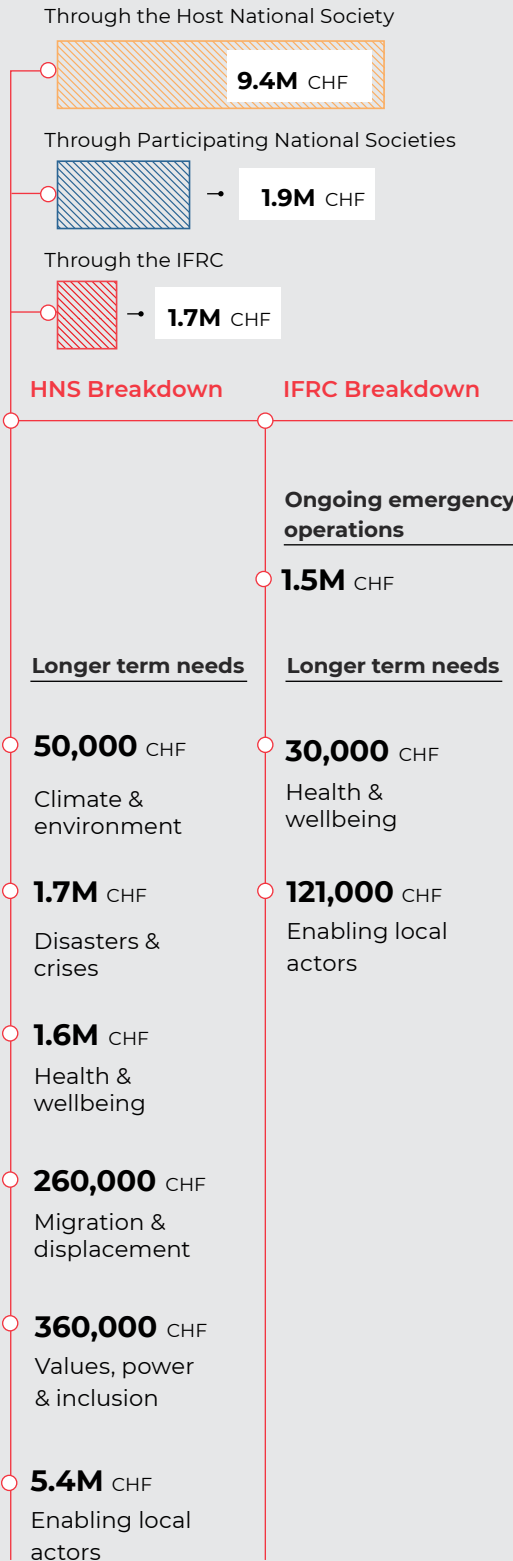
2027**

**Projected funding requirements

Total 13M CHF

Total 5M CHF

Total 2.6M CHF



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
British Red Cross	520,000		●		●	●	●
French Red Cross	450,000			●			●
Italian Red Cross	430,000		●	●			●
Swedish Red Cross	450,000	●	●	●	●	●	●

Total Funding requirement **CHF 1.9M**

Hazards



Earthquakes



Landslides



Floods



Extreme heat and cold



Population movement

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross

Danish Red Cross*

French Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross

**National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2024.*

IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

MGR65002 Ukraine and Impacted Countries

Long-term needs:

MAARO002

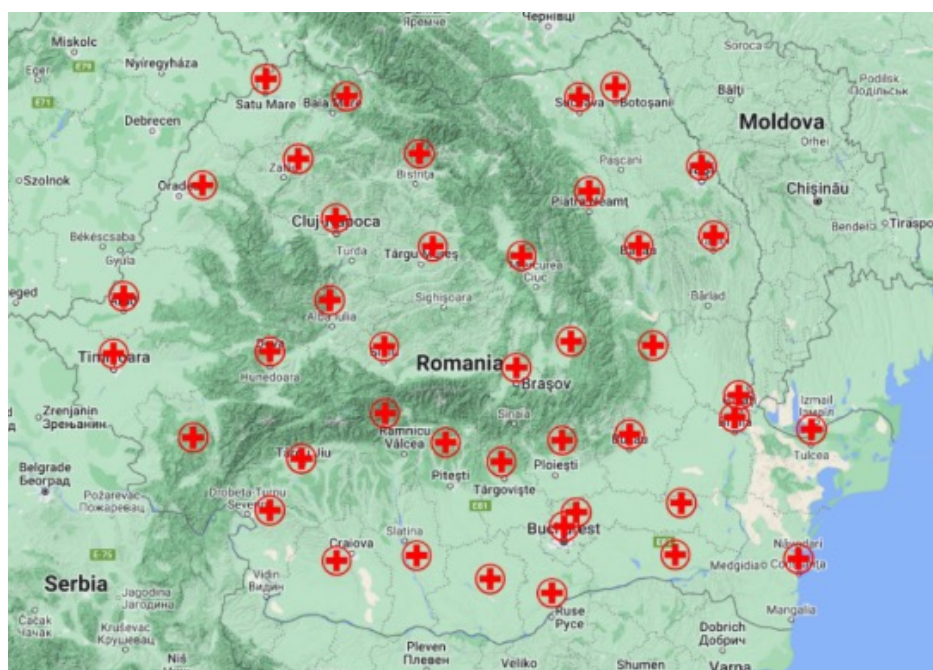
NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Romanian Red Cross** was established by law in 1876 and revised in 1995, with further amendments made in 2004 by the Romanian Parliament. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1919. The National Society operates as an independent, non-governmental, apolitical and non-commercial organization.

As an institution of public benefit, the National Society engages in humanitarian activities as a voluntary aid organization and an auxiliary to the public authorities. The Romanian Red Cross enjoys the protection and support of the state and has the right to request the support of all public authorities, and they have the obligation to grant it. It plays a vital role in preventing and alleviating human suffering in all circumstances, treating everyone equally without discrimination based on nationality, race, religion, age, sex, social condition or political or military affiliation. It acts as an auxiliary during armed conflicts and peacetime, ensuring preparedness in various situations.

The National Society strengthens community health and alleviates suffering through mutual aid while providing emergency services to disaster victims at both national and local levels. Additionally, it recruits, trains and instructs personnel for its mission and promotes youth involvement while educating the public about its activities and principles. The Romanian Red Cross authorizes the use of its emblem in accordance with the law and collaborates with various organizations, ministries and institutions to achieve humanitarian goals. It also participates in health programmes, recruits blood donors, combats epidemics and offers mandatory courses for volunteers, providing first aid training for at-risk professionals.

In 2023, the National Society reached approximately 57,000 people with its long term services and development programmes and 44,000 people with its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of Romanian Red Cross branches in Romania

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

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Romania, located in southeastern Europe, boasts diverse geography, including the Carpathian Mountains, plains and a Black Sea coastline. Its historical role as a cultural and commercial crossroads has shaped its identity as a bridge between eastern and western civilizations. While the Carpathian Mountains offer resources like minerals and timber, the fertile plains support agriculture. However, the [Black Sea's strategic importance](#) has increased due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, leading to security concerns. Despite these challenges, Romania's geographic diversity has profoundly influenced its cultural heritage, economic pursuits and historical engagements.

[Romania's population](#), totaling about 19.1 million, consists of slightly more females than males. The average life expectancy in 2025 is close to [77 years](#), a 0.18 per cent increase from 2024, with variations between genders. The [birth rate](#) in 2025 is 9.204 births per 1000 people, a 0.48 per cent decline from 2024, while the death rate stands at around 13 deaths per 1,000 people. The ethnic makeup is diverse, with ethnic Romanians being the majority, alongside minority groups like Hungarians, Roma, Ukrainians and Germans. Emigration, driven by economic challenges since the fall of the dictatorship

in 1989 and the 2007/8 global financial crisis, has led to an aging population and labour shortages, resulting in a [significant drop](#) in Romania's population over the past three decades, from 23 million in 1991 to just over 19 million in 2024.

Romania functions as a semi-presidential republic with a bicameral parliament, marked by the overthrow of the communist regime in 1989 and subsequent democratization efforts. Economically, Romania boasts a diverse, high-income economy, ranking among the top EU nations in terms of nominal GDP and purchasing power parity. However, persistent challenges include a notable budget deficit, significant unemployment rate of 5.4 per cent and economic inequality, with a quarter of the population at risk of poverty. Inflation [surged over 15 per cent in 2022](#) due to the Ukraine conflict, exacerbating affordability issues, particularly in housing. Despite progress, Romania remains one of the EU countries with the [highest poverty rates](#), concentrated mainly in rural areas and smaller cities.

The country's high risk of poverty has had a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of Romanians, particularly those belonging to rural communities, historically marginalized groups such as Roma communities and certain groups of migrants. The escalation of the conflict in Ukraine has also increased the people's risk of falling into poverty due to an increased national inflation rate, rising cost and scarcity of affordable housing, rising food costs and other factors.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Emergency Operation	Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis
Appeal No	MGR65002
Duration	Until December 2025
Target Areas	22.7 M (total); 600,000 (in Romania)
Funding requirement	Total: CHF 800 M (IFRC); CHF 2.7 billion (Federation-wide) Romania: CHF 100.19 M (IFRC); CHF 117.66 M (Federation-wide)
Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal
Operational strategy	Revised Operational Strategy Romania Response Plan
Link to Operational Update	Operational Update No.11

Following the escalation of the international armed conflict in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the IFRC launched an emergency appeal covering Ukraine and other countries impacted by the population movement triggered by the conflict. The Romanian Red Cross, as a direct neighbour to Ukraine, immediately began responding to the needs of people displaced by the armed conflict.

As of September 2023, approximately 4.6 million individuals, including third-country nationals, have fled the conflict in Ukraine and Moldova, seeking refuge in Romania. Currently, about 87,000 displaced individuals from Ukraine reside in Romania, with over 142,000 registered for temporary protection. The number of arrivals is expected to increase during winter due to worsening conditions in Ukraine. Many face challenges accessing essential services and employment due to language barriers and financial constraints. The Romanian Red Cross has played a crucial role in the national response, particularly in bordering counties. The government's National Action Plan, initiated in July 2022, focuses on housing, employment and social welfare programmes, complemented by efforts from IFRC and Romanian Red Cross in collaboration with national authorities.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Romanian Red Cross has supported over 325,000 people displaced from Ukraine who have crossed the border into Romania and thousands more people who remain in Ukraine with essential relief items. The highlights of the assistance are:

Health and care

Deployment of emergency response units and establishment of mobile health units in affected area. Delivery of and support to community-based and primary health services such as training

in first aid and community-based health and care. Provision of psychological first aid and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to the affected population.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Provision of drinking water, hygiene items and menstrual hygiene kits to the affected populations. Reconstruction of toilets and restoration of water connection.

Shelter, housing and settlements

Distribution of essential household items such as clothing, blankets, bed linens, mattresses, foldable beds and tarps to target groups. Provision of modular houses to internally displaced persons. Provision of short-term rental assistance through cash and voucher assistance (CVA), as well as repair or retrofitting and reconstruction support as required.

Livelihoods

Provision of multi-purpose cash grants and language training, work permits and job placements.

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

The operational strategy integrates PGI and CEA as pivotal elements in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities includes the provision of dignity kits and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms. The strategy emphasizes local voice amplification, collaborative engagement and transparent communication, extending into long-term resilience building. Migration related activities include establishment of humanitarian service points (HSPs) to provide CVA, MHPSS, accepting applications for family reunification (RFL).

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Romania's temperate-continental climate experiences distinct seasons, from hot summers to cold winters, with climate change altering patterns and expected to continue impacting the country. Projections indicate rising temperatures, more frequent heatwaves and shifts in precipitation patterns, leading to intense rainfall and prolonged droughts. Various regions face distinct risks; coastal areas may suffer from sea-level rise and erosion, while inland regions could encounter water scarcity and heat-related challenges.

The country has already felt the effects of climate change. In September 2024, Storm Boris caused severe flooding in the counties of Galați and Vaslui, resulting in at least seven deaths, thousands of evacuations, and damage to approximately 6,000 homes. Prolonged heatwave in 2024 also led to severe crop damage. Climate-related events have strained sectors such as agriculture, transportation and energy, leading to substantial economic losses. The European Environment Agency reported that weather- and climate-related extremes caused economic losses estimated at EUR 738 billion in the European Union from 1980 to 2023, with over EUR 162 billion (22%) occurring between 2021 and 2023.

As an EU member, Romania is committed to combating climate change, exemplified by its ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2015. The EU aims for a climate-neutral economy by 2050, with interim targets, including a 55 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. Romania's Working Group on Fighting Climate Change has identified seven key challenges in combating climate change.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Romanian Red Cross seeks to enhance its ability to address and adjust to the threats posed by climate change, implementing proactive measures to minimize its effects. For this, the National Society's goals are to:

- Undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises and prepare the communities as well as the staff and volunteers
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation

Planned activities in 2025

- Enhance the knowledge and capacity of the staff and volunteers enabling them to take urgent action to adapt to the climate crisis.
- Integrate and anticipate the short and longer-term impacts of climate change into programmes, operations, plans and strategies
- Implement programmes (and where possible, operations) to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks and manage residual risks

- Ensure that communities have increased capacity to address the impacts of climate change and ownership over programmes addressing climate risks
- Minimize its carbon footprint and any adverse environmental impacts resulting from its operations
- Promote environmentally sustainable practices in its offices and promote environmentally sustainable practices in communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will primarily focus on implementing actions outlined in the regional Climate Action Roadmap, which serves as the main framework for guiding and scaling up climate action in the Europe Region in 2025 and beyond. The Climate Action Roadmap Community of Practice serves as a platform for shared learning, collaboration and addressing climate and environmental challenges in Europe and Central Asia. This includes leveraging new tools, facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges and providing technical and capacity-building support through IFRC network entities, including the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. Emphasis is also placed on regional coordination and supporting increased funding opportunities. Proposals for regional and multi-country climate resilience projects will be developed. National Societies in Europe and Central Asia are collectively and individually committed to upholding the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will support the advancement of the Romanian Red Cross' climate and environment objectives by providing technical support for establishing green response systems.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page Romania

Romania's geography boasts diverse landforms, with plains, hills and plateaus and mountains distributed almost equally across its surface. With altitudes ranging from sea level to Mount Moldoveanu's peak at 2,544 meters, Romania's average altitude is approximately 420 meters. While Romania possesses a low overall risk and moderate resilience to disasters, it still contends with various threats such as earthquakes, landslides, extreme temperatures, communicable diseases, forest fires and floods.

The recent escalation of the conflict in Ukraine has heightened concerns about a potential radiological disaster from the

Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Southeast Ukraine, as well as the expansion of conflict into the Republic of Moldova.

Earthquakes pose a significant risk to Romania due to its high seismic activity, particularly in the Vrancea subduction zone. The 1977 Vrancea earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.2, caused extensive casualties and economic damage. Additionally, external earthquakes from neighboring countries occasionally impact Romania, highlighting the nation's vulnerability.

Floods, often triggered by heavy rainfall and river overflow, are recurrent hazards in Romania, particularly during spring and autumn. Climate change may exacerbate flooding by intensifying extreme rainfall events, affecting low-lying areas and regions with inadequate flood management infrastructure.

Landslides are common in Romania's hilly and mountainous regions, often occurring after heavy precipitation or snowmelt events. Deforestation and improper land use practices increase the risk of landslides.

Extreme temperatures, including heatwaves, pose significant risks to Romania's population and economy. With temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius in recent years, the frequency and duration of heatwaves are expected to rise due to global warming, leading to increased hospitalizations and fatalities.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

As the sole humanitarian organization mandated by law to support public authorities in disaster prevention and intervention, the Romanian Red Cross is well-equipped to respond promptly to disasters through its territorial organization, human resources and logistical capabilities. It establishes disaster base camps, triage points and delivers first aid immediately after disasters strike.

The Romanian Red Cross seeks to empower communities to take action to enhance their resilience to evolving shocks and hazards. It will focus on raising public disaster risk awareness by informing communities on how to prepare and respond to disasters and emergencies. The Romanian Red Cross aims to support at-risk communities by enabling them to access actionable risk information and take steps to reduce their vulnerability and exposure to hazards. The Romanian Red Cross aims to strengthen its disaster risk management capacity to respond effectively to evolving crises and disasters. It seeks to enhance coordination and collaboration with national and sub-national actors, civil society, civil protection mechanisms, the private sector and research institutions. It will also advance disaster risk reduction programmes in rural areas, addressing the lack of information and preparedness in these regions.

The Romanian Red Cross will invest in developing disaster management learning pathways for staff and volunteers, revising its training curricula and integrating modules like Psychological First Aid. It seeks to run training exercises to test volunteer capabilities, promote the use of IFRC disaster management mechanisms, and build staff and volunteer expertise in disaster response.

The Romanian Red Cross aims to expand its capacity to influence national disaster law and strengthen its auxiliary role in disaster preparedness and response. It seeks to clarify its role within national legislation, secure greater support from authorities, and ensure proper use and protection of the Red Cross emblem. These efforts include reviewing the national disaster law framework and aligning it with the Red Cross law to enhance the Romanian Red Cross's agility and effectiveness during disasters and emergencies.

Planned activities in 2025

- Raise awareness and create training curriculum for the public, including the development of family plans for emergency preparedness
- Prepare and distribute emergency kits to households in at-risk areas
- Involve volunteers trained in disaster management in instructing the public in disaster preparedness and response and raise awareness of communities in disaster-prone areas
- Increase capacity to analyze and address the needs of people affected by crises and disasters
- Develop regional disaster response teams, including an urban Search and Rescue (SAR) team with 40 trained members
- Develop an emergency operations centre at the headquarters in Bucharest
- Establish a national radio/emergency communications system
- Create an early warning/anticipatory action protocol
- be prepared to support cross border information exchange and increase sub-regional preparedness in southeastern Europe
- Strengthen its CVA preparedness and become a "cash ready" organization
- Pre-position inventory for the needs of up to 100,000 people along with sufficient in-house logistics and procurement capabilities
- Establish a national volunteering programme for community-based disaster risk management with a nation-wide volunteer management database
- Revise the disaster management training curriculum and integrate psychological first aid as a training module to address mental health and psychosocial needs (MHPSS) needs during emergencies

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. The IFRC will also help to develop the National Society's knowledge and capacities in disaster risk management by tapping into the knowledge and experiences of other EU National Societies, particularly newer EU Member States, such as Slovakia or Bulgaria. To better align support to the Romanian Red Cross and leverage resources, the IFRC also acts as co-convenor for Movement coordination working groups. The IFRC provides technical and financial support in key areas

including mainstreaming [MHPSS](#) into disaster management trainings and interventions and logistics development support.

Support is also available through the regional risk financing project to scale up National Society preparedness, integrating their capacities in regionally developed solutions for sharing stocks in emergency situations. National Societies can benefit from such cooperation by increasing their capabilities to quickly mobilize regional support through deployments of relief items in case of urgent needs. As part of the same project, mini grants are available for covering smaller scale emergency responses.

The **British Red Cross** will provide technical support and guidance to prepare the Romanian Red Cross in cash readiness and to help clarify and strengthen its auxiliary role on disaster risk management.

The **French Red Cross** is supporting the development of the National Society's emergency health services.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the development of national Disaster Response Teams, an emergency operation centre, warehousing and logistics capacities and providing in-country support for disaster management, with special focus on earthquake preparedness through technical staff placement.

The **Swedish Red Cross** works with the National Society to mainstream [protection, gender and inclusion \(PGI\)](#) and [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) into the disaster management development process, helping to facilitate [the Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) process, developing the National Society's volunteering development and training curricula and advising on developing green response practices in logistics.

Under wider Movement support, **the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** is committed to the Romanian Red Cross through support in [Restoring Family Links \(RFL\)](#) services in emergencies and advising on the [Safer Access Framework](#) and linking to other tools such as the PER process.



Health and wellbeing

The health and well-being landscape in Romania is undergoing significant transformation, as outlined in the Romanian [National Health Strategy 2023-2030](#), titled "Together for Health." This strategy builds upon previous efforts and recognizes the profound impact of political, economic and social changes over the past three decades on the population's health and the healthcare system. Despite improvements, Romania faces challenges such as disparities in healthcare access, particularly in rural areas and persistently low life expectancy compared to EU averages. In 2023, urban areas had 13,700 independent specialty medical practices, while rural areas had significantly fewer, with only 793 practices. This disparity results in a higher number of residents per general practitioner in rural areas, with 2,312 residents per general practitioner compared to 1,157 in urban areas.

Key concerns include under-five mortality rates, infant mortality rates and neonatal mortality rates, which place Romania in the [lower quartile](#) among European countries. Over four million children in Romania encounter barriers to accessing [adequate healthcare](#), highlighting the need for targeted interventions, particularly in poverty-stricken areas.

Avoidable deaths due to preventable and treatable causes remain a pressing issue, with Romania reporting notably higher mortality rates compared to other EU nations. Dietary risks, tobacco, alcohol and air pollution are identified as primary risk factors contributing to this trend.

The national health strategy emphasizes citizen-centered healthcare, aiming to empower individuals in managing their health and promoting preventive measures. It advocates for a transition from a patient-centered to a citizen-centered approach, focusing on public health promotion, accessible healthcare services and efficient healthcare system management.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Romanian Red Cross seeks to contribute to improving health, preventing diseases and alleviating suffering through programmes that promote mutual aid for the benefit of communities. As an auxiliary to the public, the National Society aims to enhance the national health strategy's implementation, with a focus on key national objectives. These include professionalizing health education and health promotion, improving response

capacities to challenges posed by demographic change and epidemiological trends and reducing mortality and morbidity linked to communicable and non-communicable diseases.

The Romanian Red Cross will continue to expand its services and activities, particularly in areas aligned with the national health strategy. These areas include health promotion interventions, health education and campaigns that encourage healthy behaviours. The National Society's existing initiatives, such as the Health Caravan and the dental health programme in schools, will be further developed with increased resourcing to provide more preventive interventions.

Additionally, the Romanian Red Cross aims to strengthen its mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities at the branch level. This will help address national mental health priorities, such as improving access to mental health services, diversifying services, and fostering community-based mental healthcare.

Planned activities in 2025

- Develop a National Health Programme Framework consolidating existing activities contributing to standardization, sustainability, cooperation, expansion and innovation
- Explore the health and well-being gaps of excluded, marginalized and vulnerable groups to facilitate adequate access and reach appropriate support
- Establish cross-border cooperation when developing the national health programme framework, particularly regarding developing approaches to reach the Roma community and other mobile and marginalized groups

- Develop the current first aid training into a standardized national programme for both the commercial and public sector
- Establish a National Education Team to strengthen first aid training
- Develop a curriculum for community health volunteering and increase the volunteer base by up to 50,000 volunteers
- Conduct stakeholder mapping to identify critical actors in the health sector and establish partnerships

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Romanian Red Cross in developing its Community Health Programme and general health activities, including mainstreaming and integrating mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in all relevant programmes and first aid.

The **French Red Cross** will provide support to the Romanian Red Cross in the development and maintenance of the Mobile Health Caravan project and the development of a first aid database and ambulance services. The French Red Cross is also supporting the National Society to obtain its [Global First Aid Reference Centre](#) certification, engaging in humanitarian diplomacy to advocate for a national first aid law and broadening health awareness and education in schools through expanded topics and the introduction of national competitions and health clubs. The French Red Cross is also supporting the development of a national first aid law.



Romania Red Cross distributing drinking water, food and fruit to people affected by the floods in the Galați county, in September 2024
(Photo: Romanian Red Cross)



Migration and displacement

Migration and displacement in Romania present a multifaceted landscape influenced by historical trends, geopolitical factors and contemporary crises. Historically a country of emigration, Romania witnessed a surge in emigration following the 1989 revolution, a trend further accelerated by its accession to the European Union in 2007. This emigration phenomenon, characterized by approximately 3.15 million Romanian citizens living abroad as of 2023, has significantly impacted Romania's social and economic fabric.

While predominantly an emigration country, Romania also serves as a transit and to a lesser extent, a destination country for migrants, including refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced individuals. Geographically positioned adjacent to Ukraine and a member of the EU, Romania has experienced an influx of migrants, particularly amid the international armed conflict in Ukraine. While in 2020 UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) estimated that there were 705,300 migrants in Romania, since the escalation of the international armed conflict in Ukraine, almost 5 million people are estimated to have entered Romania from Ukraine and Moldova (as well as via Hungary, Serbia, and Bulgaria).

Displaced persons from Ukraine, comprising a diverse demographic including adults and children, have sought refuge in Romania, adding to the complexity of migration dynamics. A substantial number of unaccompanied or separated minors have been recorded, underscoring the vulnerability of certain migrant populations. As many as 167,048 refugees obtained temporary protection in Romania since the escalation of the conflict.

In addition to those fleeing conflict, Romania receives asylum claims from various countries, with Ukraine being a significant source alongside nations such as India, Bangladesh and Syria. In 2023, Romania received 10,099 asylum applications, with the majority originating from Bangladesh, Syria and Pakistan. Before the Ukraine conflict, Romania also experienced migration from other countries, with Moldova, Hungary and Italy being among the top origins of migrants.

Apart from migration driven by conflict and asylum-seeking, Romania grapples with internal displacements associated with disasters, though these numbers have generally remained in the hundreds annually. However, significant events like the 2022 flood caused by the failure of the Tăul Mare Dam led to internal displacements, highlighting the country's vulnerability to natural hazards.

Romania also faces challenges related to human trafficking, with individuals trafficked for sexual and labour exploitation both domestically and internationally. Approximately 50 per cent of all human trafficking victims in Romania are children, with over 90 per cent of sexually exploited child victims being

girls from rural areas. Despite government efforts to combat trafficking, instances persist, impacting vulnerable populations.

Migration and displacement in Romania reflect a complex interplay of historical, geopolitical and socio-economic factors, ranging from emigration-driven by economic opportunities to the influx of refugees and asylum seekers fleeing conflict.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Romanian Red Cross plays a key role in engaging with people on the move and host communities to assess, understand and respond to their priority needs more effectively. The Romanian Red Cross aims to develop, institutionalize and standardize a Migration and Integration framework and programme to guide its interventions at both national and local levels. It seeks to sensitize and train staff and volunteers on migration and displacement-related topics, with a strong focus on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) mainstreaming. The National Society will focus on improving national and local capacities to address trafficking in persons, restoring family links services and strengthening mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for migrants. It will also increase cross-border collaboration with neighbouring National Societies and engage with Movement migration networks.

Planned activities in 2025

- Develop sustainability and capacity of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) and other points of contact with people on the move
- Train staff and volunteers on conducting needs assessments, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and other tools to identify the needs and preferences of people
- Improve coordination and engagement with government and other stakeholders by engaging in dialogues and establishing agreements with the national authorities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC is providing a range of technical and financial support for enhancing migration and displacement capacities of the Romanian Red Cross. This includes guidance and funding for the development of Humanitarian Service Points, technical support for MHPSS in migration and displacement and helping to strengthen the humanitarian diplomacy and auxiliary role of the National Society. The IFRC is also supporting the Romanian Red Cross to develop migration-related policies and good practices connected to CEA, PGI, safeguarding and other relevant areas.

The **British Red Cross** provides broad strategic, technical and funding support to the Romanian Red Cross for migration and displacement work in Romania (closely linked to the Ukraine

crisis country [response plan](#)) including related cross-cutting areas as possible.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the Romanian Red Cross in integrating CEA in migration and displacement.



Values, power and inclusion

In Romania, the dynamics of values, power and inclusion manifest through a range of [social, legal and economic factors](#), often intersecting to shape the experiences of different communities within the country.

Violence and discrimination, particularly against marginalized groups, present significant challenges to inclusion and social cohesion. Identity-based violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, remains a pervasive issue, with efforts to address it reflected the [Gender Equality Index](#). Human trafficking, while showing a decline in detected victims, continues to threaten vulnerable populations, highlighting the need for ongoing vigilance and protection measures.

Gender disparities persist in various spheres, including labour force participation and representation in leadership positions, despite notable progress in certain areas. Romania faces challenges in [LGBTQIA+ inclusion](#), ranking poorly in terms of respecting the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals. [Hate speech and targeted violence](#) against marginalized groups further exacerbate social divisions and undermine efforts toward inclusion and equality.

The Roma community faces systemic discrimination, particularly in the labour market and housing, with forced evictions exacerbating their marginalized status. Limited awareness about equality and nondiscrimination impedes progress toward a more inclusive society.

Economic disparities intersect with social exclusion, affecting vulnerable groups such as older people, those with low income and individuals below the poverty line. [Access to education](#), while generally strong, needs to address the proportion of youth not engaged in employment, education, or training to prevent long-term exclusion.

Government initiatives, in collaboration with civil society organizations like the Romanian Red Cross and local NGOs, aim to amplify community voices and enhance participation in decision-making processes. Community-based organizations play a crucial role in disaster preparedness and response, engaging local communities in risk assessment and policy development.

Communication channels, including social media and emergency messaging systems, facilitate the dissemination of information about disaster preparedness and support services, empowering communities to take proactive measures for their safety and well-being.

The ICRC is supporting the development of the Restoring Family Links (RFL) capacities of the Romanian Red Cross.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Romanian Red Cross aims to be safe and inclusive, ensuring dignity, access and participation for people of all identities. It also aims to empower people and communities, vulnerable to and affected by crises, to influence decisions affecting them and trust Romanian Red Cross to serve their best interest. It will achieve this by strengthening institutional capacities, resources and commitments to address violence, discrimination and exclusion from the headquarters to the branch level.

The National Society also seeks to expand its support to marginalized and underserved groups including in [health and wellbeing services](#), [financial support](#), food and basic needs assistance, social inclusion activities and [MHPSS](#) support.

Planned activities in 2025

- Integrate a [PGI approach](#) across all operations, programmes and services, ensuring that the specific needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of the affected population are met, including the [minimum standards for PGI in Emergencies](#)
- Strengthen its understanding of and capacity to implement [CEA approaches](#) at all levels, from programme and operations staff to senior leadership
- Develop a mainstreamed, centralized, nation-wide feedback mechanism with multiple channels for providing feedback and roll out across its branches
- Develop external communications and information capacities of the staff and volunteers by expanding the resources and information being provided by the help line
- Expand the scope of the helpline by training staff and incorporating additional information in more languages

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC the **British Red Cross** and the **Swedish Red Cross** will continue providing the Romanian Red Cross with technical and financial support, in the development of a [CEA strategy](#) and to embed [safeguarding standards](#) across its branches and work.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Romanian Red Cross is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2018. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Romanian Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process. The PER Approach is a

continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and take necessary action to improve it.

The IFRC network is committed to support the National Society in its development according to its priorities.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increase its cooperation and coordination with Movement partners, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions along with sustainable development of the organization
- Establish strategic, operational, and technical level platforms to develop and adopt strategic directions; oversee implementation through inclusive and problem solving coordination, and implement operations by involving relevant Movement and external expertise

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Romanian Red Cross in its strategic direction and governance, and in strengthening its partnerships with the government, UN agencies, and other partners. It also supports the National Society in exchanging knowledge with other National Societies in the region.

The **Swedish Red Cross** offers the National Society targeted resource mobilization and partnership development.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop a national strategic plan 2024-2030 and associated programme frameworks
- Complete its statutory revision in coordination with the [Statutory Revision](#) Committee
- Continue to facilitate the emblem law implementation
- Localize and develop programmatic approaches, organizational standards, and policies on [community engagement and accountability](#) (CEA), [cash and voucher assistance](#) (CVA), [protection, gender and inclusion](#) (PGI), [safeguarding](#) and the [Safer Access Framework](#) (SAF)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC endeavours to provide technical or [financial assistance](#) to support various aspects of the development objectives of the Romanian Red Cross including [legal framework](#) development, legal base development including the strengthening of the Red Cross law; branch development, volunteer management, logistics development and financial sustainability.

The **British Red Cross** will assist in cash and voucher assistance (CVA), preparedness and [safeguarding](#). Additionally, it will support the development of the auxiliary role of the Romanian Red Cross.

The **French Red Cross** is supporting the development of a national first aid law. It will also contribute to volunteering development.

The **Italian Red Cross** will support disaster risk management, logistics, warehousing and supply chain development efforts.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will contribute to enhancing the safety and well-being of the volunteers through the [Volunteering in](#)

[Conflict and Emergencies](#) (VICE) initiative and strengthen volunteering management.

The **ICRC** is supporting [Safer Access Framework](#) and [legal base](#) development for the Romanian Red Cross.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop a [humanitarian diplomacy plan](#) focusing on key issues at the national, regional and local levels to reinforce and better position itself
- Develop communications and public advocacy guidance to contribute towards building public trust and understanding of its role and activities
- Expand and clarify its role in disaster preparedness and response and to enable greater agility, flexibility and effectiveness
- Develop its auxiliary role to ensure the National Society's relevance and contributions to public health strategies advocacy and policy discussionss

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will guide and support the National Society in prioritizing advocacy and communications, humanitarian diplomacy, and engaging with donors. It supports the communications development process with financial and technical assistance. The IFRC also helps to facilitate meetings between the Romanian Red Cross and its government counterparts.

The **ICRC** is supporting the Romanian Red Cross by strengthening the Red Cross law and use of the emblem.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen policies, systems and practices to prevent and mitigate potential [integrity](#) risks
- Raise the knowledge and awareness of staff and volunteers on integrity issues, rules, reporting mechanisms, and their own protections and obligations
- Strengthen and develop a more cohesive and comprehensive staff safety and security framework in the event of disaster and emergency situations
- Raise the knowledge and awareness of staff and volunteers on integrity issues, rules, reporting mechanisms, and their own protections and obligations
- Implement policies to ensure the [minimum standards for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse](#) (PSEA). These policies should be supported by robust systems and procedures designed to identify and address any misconduct by staff and volunteers

- Conduct a safeguarding self-assessment and develop a plan to respond to identified gaps
- Strengthen and develop a more cohesive and comprehensive staff safety and security framework in the event of disaster and emergency situations
- Transform the organization and its capacities through [digitalization](#)
- Develop policies and systems for planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting (PMER), information management (IM) and quality assurance

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Romanian Red Cross by providing technical support at the country, cluster, regional and headquarter levels. This will include bringing in experts to help develop policies and systems on integrity, safeguarding and PSEA and facilitating working groups. The IFRC will also support the National Society in programmatic approaches (such as [CEA](#), [PGI](#)), safeguarding, risk management, monitoring,

evaluation and reporting (PMER), information management and digitalization.

The **British Red Cross** will provide a full safeguarding package of support, as well as technical support for PMER, CEA and quality assurance.

The **French Red Cross** will contribute to digitalization, volunteering development and human resource development.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will institutionalize PGI and CEA support.

The **ICRC** will provide support for awareness of safety and security issues.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

In Romania, the IFRC is dedicated to strengthening the humanitarian efforts of the Romanian Red Cross through technical, financial and long-term programme support, aiming to enhance its role as a trusted and agile leader in humanitarian action. Initially focused on aiding those affected by the conflict in Ukraine, the IFRC transitioned to a longer-term development approach, establishing a Country Office in Bucharest in 2023. Guided by [Strategy 2030](#) and the [Agenda for Renewal](#), the

IFRC promotes consistency and coherence within its network to improve effectiveness. The IFRC country office in Romania emphasizes National Society development across sectors, prepares the Romanian Red Cross for various challenges, ensures accountability, enhances humanitarian diplomacy, facilitates learning and fosters effective communication among partners.



*Romania Red Cross volunteers undertaking rescue operation in for people affected by the floods in Galați county, in September 2024
(Photo: Romania Red Cross)*

IFRC membership coordination

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 following participating National Societies support the Romanian Red Cross with their in-country presence:

The **British Red Cross** provides integrated assistance through [CVA](#) or multipurpose cash support.

The **French Red Cross** supports the National Society in its health and wellbeing initiatives including [MHPSS](#) and [first aid](#) and for National Society strengthening.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the Romanian Red Cross in National Society strengthening as well as in increasing its warehouse capacity.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the National Society in expanding and enhancing the humanitarian service points, [CEA](#), [PGI](#) and National Society development.

Movement coordination

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

The ICRC in Romania supports the humanitarian response to the international armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine. In partnership with the Romanian Red Cross, it seeks to restore contact between family members separated by the conflict and promote the proper use of the red cross emblem. It also supports the Romanian Red Cross in emergency preparedness and communications.

Coordination with other actors

As a crucial member of various humanitarian coordination platforms in Romania, including the Refugee Response Coordination mechanism and national working groups, including basic needs, protection, [MHPSS](#) and [cash](#), the Romanian Red Cross collaborates closely with international organizations, humanitarian actors and civil society groups to complement the efforts of national and local authorities. In fulfilling its auxiliary role, the Romanian Red Cross actively engages in regular coordination meetings with Romanian authorities at both levels, facilitating effective and evidence-based humanitarian

interventions. Additionally, the Romanian Red Cross fosters partnerships with private sector entities to expand its reach and resource mobilization capabilities, with plans to further strengthen these collaborations in 2025. Through participation in inter-agency groups and initiatives, such as those focused on [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#), the Romanian Red Cross ensures alignment with global standards and enhances its capacity for data sharing, analysis and community engagement, thus maximizing its impact and effectiveness in addressing humanitarian needs.



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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