

2021



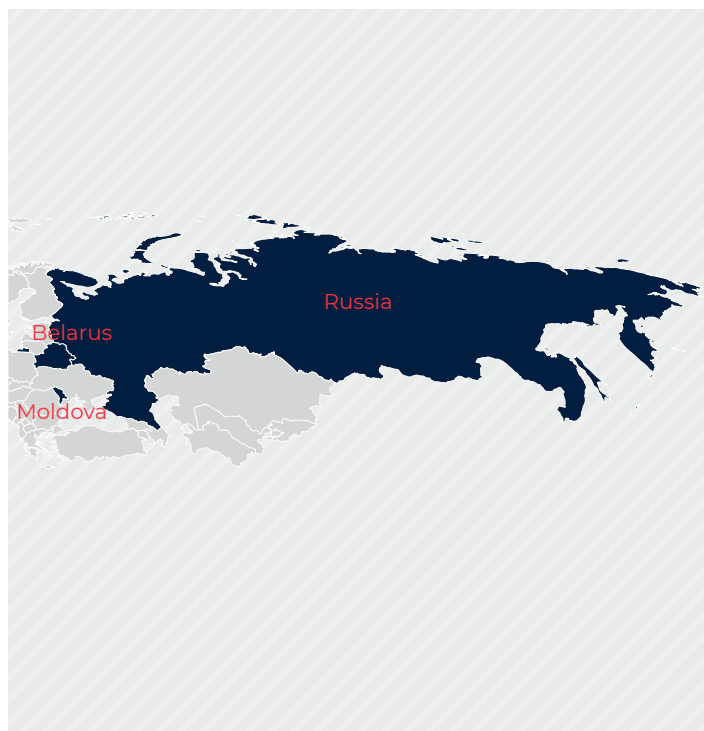
Russia © IFRC / Arthur Bondar

BELARUS, MOLDOVA, RUSSIA

IFRC COUNTRY CLUSTER

Appeal number
MAA67004

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
1,029,000



Countries

3



Staff

1,150



Volunteers

101,800

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

159 million

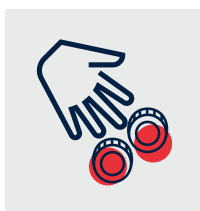
Vulnerabilities



Floods



Health Infrastructure



Poverty



Earthquakes



Migration

Belarus did not introduce any lockdown measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic but many businesses had to stop activities and some reduced their production, which led to increasing unemployment and a decrease in income for 50 per cent of the population.

The International Monetary Fund has predicted a lack of job opportunities for disadvantaged young people and other vulnerable groups. The economy became even more vulnerable due to deteriorating relations between Belarus and the European Union after presidential elections in 2020.

The country is still suffering from the aftereffects of Chernobyl, the growing incidence of trafficking in persons, tuberculosis and HIV, migration, and a serious demographic crisis, marked by declining life expectancy, high mortality and morbidity, rapid population ageing and deteriorating health.

Moldova is the least economically developed country in Europe with the national poverty rate standing at 10.5 per cent in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown measures affected industry, production and trade. The high level of inflation and the closure of businesses have already had a negative impact on the most vulnerable people. A food crisis is predicted to be of a similar scale to the one that occurred in 1947. It is expected that the unemployment rate will increase, and that people will continue losing their sources of income.

Due to the poverty and the high levels of unemployment, at least one million people work abroad, mainly in Italy, Germany, and Russia. Around 200,000 migrants who worked abroad lost their jobs and had to return to Moldova because of lockdowns in Western Europe.

At least 30 per cent of the population has reported a large decrease in income and 50 per cent of people only have resources to last for less than one month. Older people, families with children, people with chronic diseases, people staying in residential care and detention facilities are at especially high risk.

Russia has considerable variations in population distribution, ethnic composition, cultures and socio-economic contexts. The country plays an increasingly important political and economic role in global and regional development. The Russian Government aspires to become one of the top international development and humanitarian assistance donors. There are substantial opportunities to address main humanitarian and development issues both within the country, in the region and globally.

Russia is also one of the most affected by COVID-19 countries in the world with has the highest number of COVID-19 cases in Europe in 2020.



Moldova © Red Cross of Moldova

ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The **Belarus Red Cross** is the largest humanitarian organization in Belarus present in all 158 districts of the country. The National Society addresses the following strategic areas:

- Home-based care and active ageing
- Community mobilisation
- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Humanitarian aid, including COVID-19 response, to the most vulnerable households
- Refugees' integration
- Volunteer development
- Disaster preparedness and response

Over 800,000 people were reached in 2019 with the National Society's services.

Moldova is vulnerable to disasters and the share of the vulnerable population is high, but the **Moldova Red Cross** is not able to fully address the needs due to its limited capacities. The National Society is highly dependent on donor support, however due to its low programming scale and limited human resource capacity it lacks access to local and external funding. The Moldovan Government offers the National Society discounts and benefits including free office premises, discounted utility payments, and exemption from customs fees and VAT.

It is of the utmost importance to develop the capacity of the National Society and to support and train staff to implement priority activities. Creation and training of the disaster response teams in all regions vulnerable to emergencies is a priority for the near future, as is the development of First Aid, prevention of HIV, support to older people, support to the poorest people in Moldova, including the Turkish population in Gagauz region.

The **Russian Red Cross** is the oldest humanitarian organisation in Russia. Branches significantly differ in their capabilities, coverage, range of services and efficiency, though they cover almost all regions of the country. The size of regions is comparable to large European countries, necessitating substantial response capacities and extended geographic reach. The human resource capacity at headquarters is insufficient compared to the tasks and challenges the organisation needs to address.

The National Society's Strategy in 2020 aimed at:

- **Preventing** and reducing suffering of people affected by emergency and crisis situations
- **Improving** the quality of life of the most vulnerable groups of the population
- **Enhancing** the humanitarian potential of the society and to mobilise local communities

Its strategic commitments are focused on:

- **Health and care**
- **Disaster management**
- **Dissemination and promotion**
- **Advocacy**



Russia © Russian Red Cross

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Movement coordination

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Danish Red Cross		✓			✓			✓
Italian Red Cross				✓	✓			
Norwegian Red Cross		✓			✓			
Swiss Red Cross			✓			✓		✓
Turkish Red Crescent		✓			✓			

Belarus: The Movement Coordination Agreement between the Belarus Red Cross Society, the ICRC and the IFRC and Movement coordination in Belarus was signed in July 2017. So far Danish, Swiss, Bulgarian, Polish and Ukrainian Red Cross have joined this Agreement.

Moldova: The country cluster support team will continue to lead the dialogue between the Moldova Red Cross, the IFRC, the ICRC and the partner National Societies (Swiss Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent). There is no Movement Coordination Agreement signed for coordination in Moldova yet, however, the country cluster support team will encourage the National Society and the ICRC to start discussions on developing one and setting the priorities for cooperation.

Russia: The Movement Coordination Agreement was concluded by the Russian Red Cross, the IFRC and the ICRC. The agreement provides a solid base for overall coordination in case of disasters and delegates the coordination lead role to the Russian Red Cross. The Movement Coordination mechanism functions at the leadership level through ad-hoc meetings between the National Society, the IFRC and the ICRC.



Belarus © Belarus Red Cross / Dmitry Rusakov

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

6,500

People to be reached

530

Recurrent natural disasters, such as extreme temperatures, severe floods, forest fires and windstorms, cause widespread material damage as well as psychological distress to people in Belarus. The Belarus Red Cross will continue to build its capacity to further develop knowledge and the allocation of resources to mobilize urgent action to address the climate and environmental crises.

The IFRC will support the National Society in Malaysia to promote environmentally-sustainable practices such as in livelihood and shelter interventions. It will also support the National Society in Malaysia to conduct community and school-based education or awareness-raising activities on environmentally-sustainable practices in rural and urban contexts.

**1.3**

**Increase in average annual temperature
in Belarus between 1989-2019 in degrees
centigrade**

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will provide training for staff and volunteers on response to climate and environmental crises
- The IFRC will develop volunteer initiatives on involving communities to activities aimed to address climate and environmental crises



Ishim, Russia © Russian Red Cross

EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

212,000

People to be reached

1,383



Belarus, Moldova and Russia all regularly face recurrent natural disasters, such as extreme temperatures, severe floods, forest fires and windstorms. All three countries are also at risk of earthquakes, technological disasters, including potential nuclear disasters. These threats, combined with a low level of public awareness, weak preparedness and territorial planning, and institutional gaps require significant improvement.

The IFRC priorities are to support the strengthening of preparedness capacities of the National Societies adapted to different types of hazards, and to build a strong infrastructure for effective response with full adherence to National Societies' auxiliary role to the public authorities. To develop the response capacity, it is crucial to prepare the National Societies for medium and high impact events, including considerations of duty of care for staff and volunteers and of business continuity.

In Belarus, disaster response teams, equipment and pre-positioned stocks are most needed.

The Russian Red Cross and Russian Emergency Ministry is fully responsible for organising response operations during emergencies and has a large personnel base and budget. Nevertheless, there are areas that require the Russian National Society to complement the efforts of the Russian Emergency Ministry with additional support and expertise, including for long-term response and recovery, such as first aid, psychological aid and psychosocial support, volunteer management and emergency fundraising. It also includes other areas where expertise and knowledge is within the Red Cross mandate and can complement the Government's response.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the translation, adaptation and development of relevant materials in Belarus which is to be further disseminated among the communities.
- The IFRC will support National Societies in Belarus and Russia to strengthen capacity in applying Cash and Voucher Assistance in response to disasters and crises.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to strengthen their capacity to provide in-kind assistance to disasters and crises.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to develop and implement the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund, and Emergency Appeal and forecast-based proposals.
- The IFRC will provide National Societies with international best practices and guidance on cooperation with key stakeholders.

GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

279,000

People to be reached

572,760

The key health-related challenges are the COVID-19 outbreak, the HIV epidemic, the spreading of non-communicable diseases and the ageing of the population. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, testing for other diseases has reduced dramatically, showing 2020 infection rates of HIV in particular to be artificially lower than usual.

In Moldova, the HIV situation is alarmingly high. The number of HIV positive people in the country exceeds 15,000, with 24 per cent aged between 15 and 24. There are around 1,300 new HIV cases and around 500 AIDS related deaths per year. It is predicted that only 56 per cent of people living with HIV are aware of their HIV status and only 34 per cent of all people living with HIV have access to Antiretroviral Therapy. The HIV epidemic in Moldova is highly concentrated among vulnerable people, including sex workers. It is estimated that one in four sex workers in Moldova is HIV positive and only one in three is aware of their status. Moldova also has significant tuberculosis epidemics, and one of the highest incident rates in the regions.

Around 50 per cent of people in Moldova are aged over 60, many in need of home care support and information on healthy ageing.

In Russia, the number of people living with HIV exceeds 1 million. The number of people with HIV exceeds 1 per cent of the total population in 17 regions. The regions with the highest HIV prevalence in 2020 were Kemerovo, Irkutsk and Sverdlovsk. 72 per cent of new cases are people between the ages of 30 to 50. In 2019, 33.6 thousand people infected with HIV died, mainly from tuberculosis.

14 per cent of Russia's population are over the age of 65, exceeding the number of children under 16. Improving health and social services for older people is one of the main priorities for the Government's "Older Generation" project launched in 2019 to encourage healthy and active ageing and to increase life expectancy.

The Global Fund supports 50 per cent of HIV-related National Society activities in Belarus, but is reducing them despite the continued needs.

Belarus is experiencing an epidemic of non-communicable diseases, responsible for 89 per cent of all deaths in the country, creating a high probability of dying prematurely between the age of 30 and 70.

Around 22 per cent of people are over the age of 60 in Belarus, 40 per cent of whom are reported to be lonely and living alone which has a negative impact on their health and welfare. The burden on social institutions is increasing and will continue to grow if older people are not empowered and supported.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Societies to develop country level projects on Healthy and Dignified Ageing and Healthy Lifestyles and attract funding for them.
- The IFRC will ensure information and knowledge sharing between National Societies.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to provide vulnerable communities, including migrants, displaced people, homeless people and ex-prisoners with better access to health services.
- The IFRC will assist the National Societies to contribute to immunisation at the community level by reaching inaccessible populations, and extending health services to the most vulnerable people.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies with the provision of technical assistance and access to funding for initiatives that support people with HIV, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases.



Russia © IFRC / Alhur Bondar

MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
382,000

People to be reached
6,327



Migration is one of the main priorities of the National Societies. As the ICRC phases out its support to migration-related activities in Belarus and Russia, the IFRC network support to the National Societies becomes crucial. Many migrants are facing vulnerabilities and potential risks, particularly violation of human rights, restricted access to health and social services, and human trafficking. Migrants with HIV or tuberculosis have no access to diagnosis and treatment. Awareness of health-related issues is very low among migrants, and, as they are not covered by the national health system, it is necessary to focus on the promotion of a healthy lifestyle in migrant communities.

In Belarus, detained refugees and migrants require assistance to ensure dignified living and inclusion in Belarusian society. The majority of the 6,300 stateless persons in Belarus do not have access to free medical services, social benefits and have difficulties in finding job. The Belarus National Society is the only organisation with access to detention centres and which can provide them with food parcels, hygiene kits, personal social services and help to restore family links services.

Moldovan men, women, and children are subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour, including forced begging within Moldova and in Russia, Ukraine, and other countries in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and East Asia. Most victims are from rural areas and have low levels of education. Child sex tourism remains a concern and Children living on the street or in orphanages remain vulnerable to exploitation.

Russia is among the world leading destination countries for migrants. Most migrants accept low-paid, manual labour, working on construction sites, warehouses and markets and as cleaners and restaurant workers. As the COVID-19 pandemic intensified in 2020, Russia and the Central Asian countries closed their borders, stranding around 10 million people in Russia and leaving them without any source of income and struggling to feed themselves. Legal status, discrimination, and language barriers limit their access to otherwise publicly available prevention materials, health care and social services. Lack of documentation and financial resources also hinder their access to life-saving health services.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the Russian National Society in strengthening the existing humanitarian service points for migrants, including displaced people.
- The IFRC will share knowledge, tools, information and best practices with the National Societies on provision of humanitarian assistance and protection services to migrants.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies in promoting humanitarian assistance and protection services to migrants and displaced people among local and national authorities and other stakeholders.
- The IFRC will strengthen the case-management approach to ensure access of migrants to essential public services.
- The IFRC will ensure training, guidance and access to knowledge, preferably in Russian language, on the engaging of National Societies in support to migrant communities.
- The IFRC will support the Russian National Society in the development of a Migration Strategy and the Belarus National Society in the development of a Migration Policy.



Russia © IFRC / Arthur Bondar

VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

9,500

People to be reached

150

The National Societies will mainly target youth, vulnerable migrants, people with disabilities, older people and people with mental illnesses. There is a need to develop relevant policies in the National Societies and implementing existing ones. The IFRC will advocate for and try to find possibilities to make relevant tools and guidelines available for the National Societies in the Russian language.

The IFRC will encourage the National Societies to use community engagement activity approaches and introduce feedback mechanism to their programmes, as well as use various channels of spreading information to various target groups' needs.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will ensure access for the National Societies to relevant information, guidelines and tools in the Russian language on volunteering, protection and inclusion.
- The IFRC will ensure that the National Societies have proper volunteer management.
- The IFRC will ensure that Belarus National Society operates in accordance with the IFRC standards while providing support to the survivors of trafficking in persons.
- The IFRC will conduct webinars with the Belarus National Society on the implementation of gender and diversity policy.
- The IFRC will support the Russian and Moldova National Societies in the development of gender and diversity policy.



Belarus © Belarus Red Cross

ENABLER 1

ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

88,000

➔ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will ensure that the National Societies receive translated information in the Russian language.
- The IFRC will provide communications support to National Societies on important campaign days (International Volunteers Day, World Red Cross Red Crescent Day, World Humanitarian Day, World Refugee Day, World Blood Donor Day, World First Aid Day, World AIDS Day and World TB Day).
- The IFRC will build the communication capacity of the Belarus, Moldova and Russian National Societies through webinars, workshops, and with training.
- The IFRC will encourage the National Societies to disseminate information on their activities and achievements to the Government, United Nations agencies, non-government organisations, international organisations in the country and other stakeholders by sharing reports, participating in conferences, round table meetings and other events.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to use evidence-based data to advocate for the interests of the vulnerable.



Russia © Russian Red Cross

ENABLER 2

ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

10,500

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support staff development in all National Societies with participation in trainings and completion of courses on the learning platform on Integrity and Accountability.
- The IFRC will conduct regular risk register exercises.
- The IFRC will encourage National Societies to develop business continuity plans and policies on fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to ensure that all staff complete relevant courses and are aware of reporting mechanisms for fraud and corruption and sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse.



Moldova © Moldova Red Cross

ENABLER 3

TRUSTED BY COMMUNITIES, OWNED AND VALUED BY THE MEMBERSHIP WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

42,000

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the Russian National Society to promote and adopt Russian Red Cross Law.
- The IFRC will encourage the Moldova National Society to conduct an assessment of needs and capacities of the National Society.
- The IFRC will encourage National Societies to develop and adopt policies on fraud and corruption, protection against sexual abuse policy, non-discrimination, harassment, and child safeguarding policy.
- The IFRC will encourage National Societies to include youth, volunteers and members of communities in Boards.
- The IFRC will encourage National Societies to establish a caring for carers mechanism.
- The IFRC will ensure that the National Societies are aware of and use Movement-wide Commitments for Community Engagement and Accountability.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 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.

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