Belarus and Russia
IFRC Cluster Plan

2022 funding requirement in Swiss francs
2.9 million

As part of a total Federation-wide funding requirement in Swiss francs 3.3 million

This document details the IFRC’s support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this plan, listed here as funding requirements. For information on the IFRC’s emergency operations, please visit ifrc.org/appeals.

* Total for IFRC and National Societies working internationally. Not including the country National Society’s funding requirements.
Vulnerability to disasters

Both Belarus and Russia have been strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and are at an increased risk of disasters, including those linked to climate, including floods and forest fires.

The pandemic has contributed to rising unemployment and loss of income in Belarus, while food prices have been rising quickly in Russia.

Both countries are under sanctions, so humanitarian diplomacy, to position the IFRC and National Societies as neutral humanitarian organizations focused only on humanitarian impact, is an important priority for the IFRC. The IFRC will continue strengthening existing trust and will advocate for effective partnerships and fundraising.
Belarus Red Cross is the largest humanitarian organization in the country. Its services reach over 285,000 people. Its priority areas of work include international humanitarian law, medical and social care, emergency and crisis preparedness and response, volunteer development, and organizational development.

The Russian Red Cross Society is the oldest humanitarian organization in the country, provides services through more than 600 local branches. It welcomed a new leadership team in 2021 and is undergoing a period of organizational change to redefine its strategic priorities, restructure human resources and identify new partnerships. Its priority areas of work include emergencies and crises, improving the quality of life of the most vulnerable groups, enhancing society’s humanitarian potential, and mobilizing local communities.
Local action – strong National Societies

Both National Societies have had changes in leadership, and the IFRC will work closely to transition both management teams into the Movement, maintaining business continuity, sustaining and upgrading the organizations’ core strengths.

Going to scale on humanitarian action and risk reduction

The National Societies will prepare for, adapt to and respond to disasters and crises throughout 2022. Staff will be trained in rapid response tools to enhance this domestically, to prepare staff for further training and surge deployment as part of disaster response mechanisms.

Global cash leadership

Cash and voucher assistance is present in Russia. The National Society in Belarus commenced the initiative in 2021 and will continue to introduce, develop and maintain its cash and voucher assistance capacities.

Global health security – epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response

The IFRC will continue to support COVID-19 response actions of both National Societies in first aid, mental health and psychosocial support services, risk communication and community engagement, ensuring an inclusive and resilient recovery from the pandemic.
Belarus faces significant climate change-related threats from temperature fluctuations, floods and droughts, which have all begun to diverge from historical patterns and leave forests vulnerable to outbreaks of disease and forest fires.

Russia expects to see intensifying wildfires, floods and other extreme weather events in the coming decades. Russia is warming roughly 2.5 times faster than the planet as a whole. Large areas of permafrost, which covers 65 per cent of its territory, will likely disappear.

In 2022, the IFRC will support the National Societies in mobilizing urgent action to address climate and environmental crises. It will support National Societies to build their capacities, knowledge and resources through training, volunteer initiatives and social media communications.

**TARGETS**

- IFRC and National Society staff and volunteers have the knowledge, capacity and resources to serve as agents of change and mobilize urgent action to address the climate and environmental crises.

**SUPPORT**

- Train staff and volunteers to respond to climate and environmental crises.
- Develop volunteer initiatives that involve communities in activities to address climate and environmental crises.
- Use social media to communicate climate change and environmental messages.
The Belarus Red Cross' Disaster Response Teams are included in the state emergency response plan at district and regional levels and Emergency Response Commissions. The Ministry of Emergency Situations of Belarus is exploring IFRC tools for international disasters response and psychosocial support for their Centre of Psychology in Minsk.

In Russia, populations are affected by floods, and around 200,000 people are affected by earthquakes each year. The framework cooperation between the National Society and Russian Emergency Ministry (EMERCOM) is under review. The National Society will strengthen its rapid response capacity to prepare for domestic and international disaster response.

In 2022, the IFRC will provide training for the National Societies, and community disaster management committees will be set-up to upscale community-led disaster risk reduction in urban and rural areas. This includes developing and implementing community action plans, building resilience and sharing translated materials with communities.

The IFRC will ensure that needs assessments and feedback mechanisms are in place to strengthen National Societies' capacities to use cash, vouchers and in-kind assistance to respond to disasters and crises.

The IFRC will support the National Societies to continue participating in emergency response coordination mechanisms with key stakeholders and partners. It will also support them to build their Disaster Management capacities, providing technical support to strengthen their work in urban contexts and building capacity for Rapid Response Teams.

**TARGETS**

- National Societies analyze and address the needs of people affected by crises and disasters.

**SUPPORT**

- Scale-up community-led disaster risk reduction in urban and rural areas.
- Strengthen capacities to use cash, vouchers and in-kind assistance.
- Build Disaster Management capacities.
- Participate in emergency response coordination mechanisms with key partners.
More than 27,000 people live with HIV in Belarus, and non-communicable diseases are responsible for 89 per cent of deaths. With an ageing population, social isolation impacts health and welfare, and ageing is seen negatively.

In Russia, about 900,000 people live with HIV. International support has been reduced and the number of cases is rising. Russia deports migrants with HIV, leading some to stay illegally without treatment.

About 25 per cent of the population is over pension age. The Government is piloting improved home-based care with non-profit organizations and will extend this across the country.

In 2022, the IFRC will support National Societies to engage in public health advocacy and develop projects on healthy lifestyles, non-communicable diseases, and dignified ageing.

National Societies will participate in community immunization and help vulnerable people like migrants, homeless people, and ex-prisoners access health services.

The IFRC will ensure training for rapid response teams in first aid in disaster-prone regions. Russian-language training, tools and strategies will improve the mental health and psychosocial support capacity of communities, staff and volunteers.

Covid-19 remains prevalent. The IFRC will ensure that the National Societies receive training, materials and advice on hygiene services for vulnerable communities during the pandemic.
In Belarus, there are around 6,300 stateless people. The majority cannot access free medical services or social benefits and have difficulty finding work. The National Society is the only organization that can provide them with food parcels, hygiene kits, psychosocial support and restoring family links services. As of mid-September, the National Society had access to support the group of people from Afghanistan on the border with Poland. It is monitoring the situation and is ready to continue providing humanitarian support if it escalates.

Labour trafficking is the predominant form of human trafficking in Russia, but sex trafficking also occurs.

In 2022, the IFRC will assist National Societies to advocate for migrants and displaced people to access essential public services, strengthening their case-management approach. It will ensure that National Societies have training and guidance to support migrant communities.

The IFRC will support the National Society in Russia to develop a Migration Strategy and the National Society of Belarus to develop a Migration Policy. Existing humanitarian service points for migrants and displaced people will be strengthened.

**TARGETS**
- The IFRC coordinates, facilitates and provides National Societies with migration and displacement support, appropriate training, advice, and clear direction to guide their engagement in line with the targets and commitments of the IFRC Global Migration Strategy and other Movement frameworks.

**SUPPORT**
- Advocate for access to essential public services for migrants and displaced people.
- Develop a Migration Strategy (Russia) and Migration Policy (Belarus).
- Strengthen existing humanitarian service points.
The National Societies in Belarus and Russia respond to the needs of marginalized communities such as young people, disabled people, migrants and older people.

Both National Societies manage social service programmes, including the Day Centre of the Red Cross in Grodno in Belarus, which supports children with disabilities and their families, and the Mercy Service of the Russian Red Cross.

There is a need to develop policies on volunteering, protection, and inclusion that support volunteers who help run services. The IFRC provide National Societies with Russian-language tools and guidelines to enable this and will ensure proper volunteer management is in place.

In Belarus, the IFRC will ensure that the National Society operates in line with IFRC standards to support survivors of trafficking of people. It will also conduct training with the National Society to develop and implement a Gender and Diversity policy.

**TARGETS**
- National Societies’ operations, programmes and services provide dignity, access, participation and safety for all affected marginalized and excluded people.

**SUPPORT**
- Ensure National Societies can access tools in Russian that support them to develop volunteering, protection and inclusion policies.
- Ensure that the National Societies have proper volunteer management.
- Develop a Gender and Diversity policy in Belarus.

**VALUES, POWER AND INCLUSION**

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

200,000
In 2022, the IFRC will work with the National Societies to develop their networks within and outside the Movement, connecting them with reference centres and providing relevant training in the Russian language.

To help the National Societies be effective advocates that influence public behaviour and policy change, the IFRC will support them with communications, public advocacy resources and advice.

The IFRC will support the National Societies in strengthening dialogue with key ministries and developing joint plans and programmes.

**TARGETS**

- National Societies are supported and accompanied as needed to strengthen their auxiliary role, positioning and voice in humanitarian and development fora.

**SUPPORT**

- Expand and engage its Russian-speaking social media audience and showcase National Societies’ work.
- Support the National Society of Russia to promote and adopt Russian Red Cross Law.
The IFRC will support both National Societies to ensure effective, efficient financial systems and eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy and duplication within their systems while providing effective leadership training and support.

To ensure that financial resources are safeguarded and managed effectively, efficiently and transparently, the IFRC will ensure that the National Societies follow IFRC financial and procurement procedures. To assist in this, it will provide relevant information, tools and training, preferably in Russian. Regular risk register exercises will be conducted, and National Societies will be encouraged to develop business continuity plans.

**TARGETS**

- The IFRC organizational risk management addresses risk management culture at all levels, with a clear link to accountability and quality assurance.

**SUPPORT**

- Support the National Society of Russia to facilitate a seminar on resource mobilization.
- Ensure that the National Societies follow IFRC financial and procurement procedures.
- Conduct regular risk register exercises.
In 2022, the IFRC will support the National Societies to build trust with communities, government ministries, partners and other stakeholders while helping them to become more agile, efficient and accountable.

It will encourage National Societies to develop or adopt policies on fraud and corruption, preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, non-discrimination, harassment, and child safeguarding and update policies around youth and volunteering.

Prioritizing Movement coordination and cooperation, Movement contingency planning and joint Movement response actions in case of disasters will be implemented in Belarus, and regular Movement partner meetings will be supported in Russia.

**TARGETS**

- National Societies services are more sustainable.
- National Society development needs, legal base, statutes and strategic and development plans are reviewed and revised.

**SUPPORT**

- Promote the adoption of Russian Red Cross Law.
- Encourage the establishment of a caring for carers mechanism.
- Train National Societies in collecting and analyzing data.
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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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society