

# 2022



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# GREECE

## IFRC COUNTRY PLAN

2022 funding requirement in Swiss francs

**1.7 million**



National Society  
branches

**86**



National Society  
staff

**430**



National Society  
volunteers

**4,500**



People to be reached

**52,000**

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](https://www.ifrc.org/appeals).

# SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

## Population

**10.7 million**

## Human Development Index Ranking

**32**

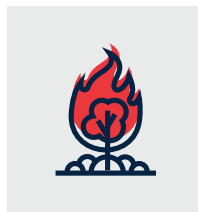
## Vulnerability to disasters



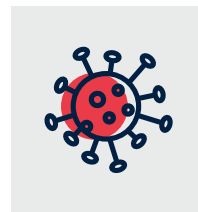
**Migration**



**Drought**



**Wildfires**



**COVID-19**

Greece faces a myriad of challenges, ranging from environmental crises and the COVID-19 pandemic to vast numbers of migrants and refugees living and transiting through the country. Greece has also faced a decade-long economic crisis that has resulted in austerity measures which have had a negative impact on the provision of services, particularly in healthcare.

With the arrival of the Delta variant, cases skyrocketed adding pressure to an already strained public health sector. Thousands of health care workers protested about challenging working conditions during the pandemic, insufficient staff, medicines and testing capacity.

The Hellenic Red Cross adopted a pandemic response plan to address the health and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. With support from the IFRC, local authorities and the private sector, the National Society played a key role in Greece's nationwide COVID-19 response. Notably, the National Society provided more than 208,000 vaccinations in a three-month period in 2021.

Although the pandemic resulted in smaller population movements, 4,500 migrants and refugees still arrived in Greece in 2021. Despite a drop in numbers from 2019, when there were 75,000 new arrivals, living conditions for migrant and refugee communities in camps remain dire. With thousands of people living in shipping containers surrounded by barbed wire fences, mental health and psychosocial wellbeing remain significant concerns. The camps are increasingly securitized and segregated from the rest of society, hindering access to livelihoods, goods and services.

People in Greece also faced record-breaking heatwaves and drought in 2021, which led to devastating wildfires over the summer months. The frequency of these extreme weather events is expected to increase in the future, posing yet more risks to communities across Greece in 2022 and beyond.



## ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Hellenic Red Cross is the largest humanitarian organization in Greece. It engages in a wide range of activities across health, social welfare, migration, search and rescue, disaster preparedness and response, restoring family links and first aid.

The Hellenic Red Cross is one of the oldest members of the IFRC. The National Society has made significant progress towards its transformation for future relevance and impact, including a complete revision of the National Society's governing statutes, an increase in the National Society's membership, the organization of a General Assembly, and the design of a recovery plan. The implementation of the National Society's recently approved Organisational Development Plan and recommendations from the Compliance and Mediation Committee will be key pillars of its regeneration efforts in 2022.





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## MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Between 2019 and 2021, only the German Red Cross was active in Greece. Despite this, movement cooperation in Greece is well established with bi-weekly strategic and operational meetings between the National Society, the ICRC and the IFRC. These three partners coordinate to strengthen humanitarian response while avoiding any duplication of efforts during disasters and crises. In 2022, the IFRC plans to strengthen this cooperation by engaging other partner National Societies around thematic areas relevant to Greece, including migration.





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## GLOBAL FLAGSHIPS

### **Local action – stronger National Societies**

The IFRC will focus on strengthening local communities' trust in the National Society through enhanced community engagement and accountability activities. This will include inviting affected communities to share their views on ongoing programmes. The IFRC will also encourage greater local ownership and localization within the National Society.

### **Going to scale on humanitarian action and risk reduction**

The IFRC will support the National Society to be better positioned to respond to humanitarian disasters at scale by investing in preparedness activities, as well as contingency and response planning processes.

### **Global cash leadership**

In 2022, the IFRC will support the National Society in ensuring that people affected by crises are empowered to make decisions about their own needs and priorities through the provision of cash modalities. It will support the National Society to improve and enhance its cash transfer programming by launching cash preparedness initiatives in Greece.

### **Global health security – epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response**

The IFRC will support the National Society to continue to support the government's vaccination campaign. It will also support the National Society in providing health and mental health support to COVID-affected populations through its own medical services.





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## CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**60,000**

People to be reached  
**10,000**



Rising temperatures had devastating consequences in 2021 when wildfires burned more than 100,000 hectares across Greece. These fires also resulted in billions of dollars' worth of damages.

Following these wildfires, the Government of Greece created the Ministry of Climate Change and Civil Protection to prepare for and address the impacts of climate change. The Government has also developed a National Energy and Climate Plan which was shared with the European Union. This plan sets out how Greece will reach its national targets and achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

The National Society has prioritized climate change within its 2020–2025 strategy. Over the coming years, with support from the IFRC, the National Society will assist communities that are vulnerable to climate-related disasters. It will also strengthen people's and communities' resilience to crises and disasters that result from climate change.



**120,000 acres**  
of forest burned in 2021

### ➔ SUPPORT

- Exploration of opportunities for pilot activities linked to climate change.
- Development of an action plan on climate and environmental crises.
- Organization of a Red Cross conference in Greece related to climate change.
- Adoption of climate and environment-friendly operations.



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## EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**220,000**

People to be reached

**12,000**



Greece ranks 122 out of 191 countries on the INFORM Global Risk Index and has a higher risk profile than most of its neighbouring countries with the exception of Turkey. Its most significant risk factors are earthquakes, tsunamis and epidemics, followed by floods and droughts.

The National Society is focused on strengthening its capacity in disaster response. With support from the IFRC, the National Society has integrated cross-cutting approaches on community engagement, accountability, protection, gender and inclusion into disaster response and preparedness programming.

The IFRC will support the National Society to improve its emergency preparedness to enable humanitarian response within 24 hours of a crisis or disaster and strengthen its disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction, immediate action and post-acute recovery interventions. More specifically, it will support the National Society to implement early warning early response mechanisms that operationalize response plans; this action will institutionalize disaster management, making it more efficient and transparent. The IFRC will also provide training on contingency planning processes to ensure National Society staff and volunteers are better prepared to respond in emergencies.



**122**

Greece's rank out of 191 countries  
on the INFORM Global Risk Index

### ➔ SUPPORT

- Strengthen capacity in cash preparedness systems.
- Improve systems and reinforce preparedness and response capacity.
- Provide technical support to update contingency plans.
- Promote the strengthening of local response capacities through Branch Disaster Response Teams.



## GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**90,000**

People to be reached  
**25,000**

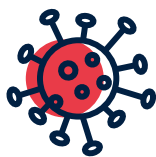


The pandemic has reduced the capacity of Greece's health system and placed increasing strains on its healthcare workers who have gone on strike to protest against the working conditions and insufficient public hospital capacity to combat the virus. The Government launched a vaccination campaign to mitigate the spread of the virus, and the National Society has played a key role in this response, delivering over 208,000 vaccinations over a three-month period.

Due to an increase in life expectancy and low fertility rates, people aged 65 and over are expected to compose a growing proportion of the Greek population in the coming decades. By 2040, this demographic is expected to make up over 30 per cent of the population. Meanwhile, Greece has a higher rate of chronic disease and disability than the average in the European Union. Combined, these factors will increase pressure on Greece's already strained health system.

The National Society has identified health as a key area of focus and a core component of its future planning. In 2022 and beyond, the National Society will focus on mitigating vulnerabilities caused by Greece's ageing population and addressing future epidemics and disease outbreaks. Core elements of the National Society's programming will focus on health education, hygiene promotion, sexual and reproductive health and a focus on healthcare for people with special needs.

In 2022, with support from the IFRC, the National Society will expand medical care, nursing, home care and physiotherapy programmes and explore additional means of delivering health programming to hard-to-reach communities. The National Society will roll out "Health Clubs" that will promote health and wellbeing among groups over the age of 50 through information and awareness campaigns. The National Society will also consider a "Nursing at Home" programme in Athens, Thessaloniki and Patras to provide health, hygiene, accident prevention and self-care training to older people and caregivers.



more than  
**389,000**  
COVID-19 infections in 2021

### TARGETS

- 5 National Society Branches develop regular "Health Clubs".

### SUPPORT

- Develop regular "Health Clubs" to promote health and wellness through targeted information campaigns.
- Explore further development of a "Nursing at Home" programme.
- Improve access to vaccines for vulnerable populations including migrants and refugees.



# MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**530,000**

People to be reached

**8,000**



Because of COVID-19, the number of people migrating to and through Greece dropped sharply. In the first eight months of 2021, UNHCR reported that 4,506 migrants and refugees arrived in Greece; in 2019, there were over 75,000 new arrivals. Despite this, many people still make the treacherous journey to reach Europe, but increasingly harsh border controls have restricted movement and many people have been pushed back into less secure conditions.

Living conditions for migrant and refugee communities in Greece are becoming increasingly dire, particularly for people living in camps, which are increasingly securitized and segregated from the rest of society. This restricts access to livelihoods, goods and services and takes a toll on mental health.

Cash assistance has been an essential tool to help people on the move meet their basic needs. However, the provision of cash modalities changed dramatically in 2021 as the government took over the UNHCR's cash transfer programme and implemented new rules that restricted eligibility for cash assistance. This has left many refugees and asylum seekers in a precarious situation.

The IFRC has been supporting the National Society as it reviews its migration programmes and services and develops new initiatives focusing on migrant integration, livelihoods support and employability. In 2021, the IFRC and the National Society launched a migration working group to support these efforts and coordinate the Movement's strategic direction in Greece in 2022.

Over the next three years, the IFRC and the National Society aim to expand the provision of lifesaving services, humanitarian assistance and protection services to people on the move while supporting host communities along migratory routes to improve inclusion and social cohesion. The IFRC and the National Society will also enhance data collection and analysis efforts to ensure all migration activities are evidence-based.

Efforts will also be made to scale up and improve cross-border and cross-regional coordination with National Societies along migratory routes. This will facilitate greater information exchange – including information on available services and alerts concerning new arrivals – which will strengthen cross-border referral mechanisms and enable joint advocacy engagements.

## TARGETS

- Migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes as well access to durable solutions when appropriate.

## SUPPORT

- Continue essential services, including multifunctional centres in Athens and Thessaloniki and mobile health units in relevant migrant sites.
- Strengthen capacity to anticipate new emergencies related to migration.
- Raise awareness around initiatives for migrants and refugees.
- Increase coordination with Movement actors on migration in Greece.



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## VALUES, POWER AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**40,000**

People to be reached

**5,000**

Principles of dignity, access, and inclusivity will guide the National Society's work in 2022 and beyond. To combat inequality and imbalanced power structures, the IFRC will support the National Society to amplify the Red Cross Red Crescent voice and advocate for equality, inclusion and safety for all, regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation or legal status.

### **SUPPORT**

- Development and implementation of a policy on preventing sexual assault and exploitation.
- Training of youth and volunteers on IFRC fundamental principles and values.
- Translation of IFRC Gender and Diversity policy into Greek.
- Development and implementation of a gender and diversity policy.





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## ENABLER 1 – ENGAGED

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**350,000**

The IFRC has supported the National Society to influence national and international policy decisions through engagement in national and international fora with government ministries and UN partners.

In 2022, the IFRC will continue this work through ongoing humanitarian diplomacy and joint advocacy with the National Society. As part of this, the IFRC will encourage the National Society to adopt enhanced communication strategies and support the National Society as it undergoes a digital transformation. These actions will ensure that the IFRC network has a strong voice at major intergovernmental and inter-agency events.

### **SUPPORT**

- Building capacity on advocacy and influencing methodologies.
- Promoting partnerships with the public and private sector, including universities and research centres to strengthen joint activities.
- Digital transformation efforts, including information management initiatives.





## ENABLER 2 – ACCOUNTABLE

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**140,000**

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society to enhance its accountability across all programmes and operations. This support will build on the Hellenic Red Cross' National Society Development Strategy and Plan and is aligned with the Recovery Plan.

In 2022, the IFRC will ensure that the National Society is prepared for internal and external audits, and ready to act accordingly in response to their findings. The IFRC will also support the National Society to strengthen its capacity for financial management and risk mitigation.

The IFRC will support the National Society to enhance its fundraising capacity through drafting a multi-year strategy. This will assist in fundraising for emergencies while also securing regular resources and increasing autonomy for longer-term project sustainability.

### **SUPPORT**

- Improve risk analysis capabilities.
- Carry out a comprehensive risk assessment for IFRC presence and programmes in Greece.
- Roll out digital fundraising platform.





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## ENABLER 3 – TRUSTED

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**170,000**

In 2022, coordination will be strengthened between the Red Cross Red Crescent members in Greece – specifically the ICRC, the IFRC and the National Society. This will allow the IFRC to capitalize on the combined strengths of the in-country Movement partners to maximize collective humanitarian action. This enhanced coordination will further reduce duplication of efforts and provide better value for money. The IFRC will ensure that these relations are effective and based on mutual respect as equal partners, in full alignment with the IFRC’s humanitarian principles. The IFRC will also encourage the National Society is included in all strategic and operational discussions.

The IFRC will prioritize National Society Development in 2022, investing in branch development and local capacity building to provide more effective and community-driven programmes. As part of this, the IFRC will support the National Society to integrate mechanisms for communication, participation, feedback and complaints across all operations and plans. This will ensure that communities that are vulnerable to and affected by crises feel empowered to influence the decisions affecting them; it will also help to ensure these communities trust the National Society and the IFRC to act in their best interest.

### **SUPPORT**

- Adoption and implementing a Code of Ethics.
- Provide community engagement and accountability training for all National Society staff and volunteers.
- Integrate feedback mechanisms into all plans and programmes.
- Implementation of Branch Office Capacity Assessments in priority National Society Branches.



**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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and Red Crescent Society

