A response plan to meet the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants

A Movement coordinated approach focusing on the Mediterranean and neighbouring regions
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world’s largest volunteer-based humanitarian network. Together with our 189 member National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide, we reach 97 million people annually through long-term services and development programmes as well as 85 million people through disaster response and early recovery programmes. We act before, during and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people. We do so with impartiality as to nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class and political opinions.

Guided by Strategy 2020 – our collective plan of action to tackle the major humanitarian and development challenges of this decade – we are committed to ‘saving lives and changing minds’.

Our strength lies in our volunteer network, our community-based expertise and our independence and neutrality. We work to improve humanitarian standards, as partners in development and in response to disasters. We persuade decision-makers to act at all times in the interests of vulnerable people.

The result: we enable healthy and safe communities, reduce vulnerabilities, strengthen resilience and foster a culture of peace around the world.
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Farah and her parents are from Iraq. Each day they come to wait at the police station to find out if their registration process is complete.
Introduction

International migration looks set to continue to increase in the short-and medium-term. It is a truly global phenomenon. In the new wave of global migration, the great majority of migrants are showing extraordinary resilience and courage as they make dangerous and difficult journeys and adapt to new environments. In the last decades, faced with limited opportunities for safe and regular migration, migrants often rely on the services of smugglers and embark on dangerous sea and land voyages to make unauthorized border crossings. Equally, many host communities show great tolerance and are accommodating as they cope with considerable change.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) has a long standing commitment to work with governments, host populations and migrant1 communities to meet the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants. This commitment was formally elaborated in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies’ (IFRC) Migration Policy in 2009 and recalled by States in Resolution 3 adopted at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 2011. This Resolution in turn responded to an earlier Declaration adopted by the 30th Conference, Together for Humanity, which noted “the importance of examining ways and means to reinforce international cooperation at all levels to address the humanitarian concerns generated by international migration.”

In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of casualties of migrants moving from Africa and the Middle East as they attempt to reach and cross the Mediterranean. In 2014, more than 3,400 people are estimated to have died attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea. During the first seven months of 2015, more than 2,000 people have lost their lives in the Mediterranean Basin trying to reach Europe from North Africa and Turkey. This situation has led the IFRC to mobilize a Migration Coordination Cell to develop a new Response Plan, with the contribution of the ICRC, which adapts existing instruments and operational capacities towards a global coordinated approach.

A response plan with a global call

This Response Plan, with its initial emphasis on the Mediterranean region, outlines concrete measures being undertaken to respond to current migration challenges while adhering to the aforementioned Declaration and Resolution on migration. This new Response Plan identifies specific humanitarian strategies, activities and partnerships that are being developed across the Movement and which will form the basis of a common and coordinated Movement approach to the protection and assistance of vulnerable migrants in the years ahead, while equally taking into account the roles and mandates of other institutions and organizations assisting and protecting migrants.

The overall goal is to enhance the Movement’s response in terms of assistance, protection, non-discrimination and public awareness and promotion of respect for diversity, non-violence and social cohesion. The overarching approach will aim to reduce the vulnerability of migrants through a coordinated and trans-regional support to migrants along the length of their migratory routes. It also aims to strengthen and better coordinate advocacy efforts towards governments, corporate sector, partners and other organizations to engage with the Red Cross Red Crescent network and deploy all efforts in the protection of migrants.

The scope of this Plan is to respond to the humanitarian and protection needs of migrants and their families around and en route to the Mediterranean, with the aim of replicating this approach globally.

While each region and country will identify and develop a modified approach that reflects their specific social, policy and humanitarian context, the Movement will work with decision-makers, in accordance with its Fundamental Principles, to ensure an increased understanding of the drivers and vulnerability of migrants and urges the following actions amongst all appropriate government institutions and origin, transit and host communities.

At this time of demographic change and policy uncertainty around migration, the Movement seeks to reaffirm the Fundamental Principle of humanity as it works with vulnerable migrants of all kinds. In doing so, we seek the support of States and the general

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1 Refer to Annex I for definition of migrants.
2 According to the IOM, as of 14 August 2015: www.iom.int/sites/default/files/infographic/IOM-Mediterranean-Update-Aug14.pdf
public to ensure that vulnerable migrants are given assistance and protection so they can live in dignity while their future is determined by their own initiative, by law and by States.

In conjunction with the announcement of this Response Plan at the Movement’s meeting with States in Tunis, a Global Call for increased support for the Movement’s work and greater understanding of vulnerable migrants will also be launched. Concurrently, as we bring more focus and coordination to our humanitarian work with vulnerable migrants, we are using the opportunity of the Plan’s launch to ask States and the general public for support in two important ways:

- We are calling on the public hosting vulnerable migrants to respect their humanity and dignity and to be sensitive to the vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs of migrants living among them.
- We are calling on States for sustained financing and practical cooperation with the Movement’s distinct humanitarian work with vulnerable migrants.

Situational analysis and ongoing response

The number of international migrants worldwide reached 232 million in 2013, up from 175 million in 2000 and 154 million in 1990. In 2014, there was a substantial increase in mass displacement reaching unprecedented levels in recent history: 59.5 million. In July 2015, a record 107,500 migrants crossed the European Union’s borders outstripping the previous monthly record of 70,000. During the first seven months of the year, there were nearly 340,000 migrants,

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4 These included 19.5 million refugees: 14.4 million under UNHCR’s mandate and 5.1 million Palestinian refugees registered with United Nation Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The global figure also included 38.2 million internally displaced persons (source: IDMC) and close to 1.8 million individuals whose asylum applications had not yet been adjudicated by the end of the reporting period: www.unhcr.org/gr14/index.xml
According to the UNHCR, as of 13 August 2015: http://data.unhcr.org/ www.unhcr.org/gr14/index.xml

terranean-eu-150819022218296.html

According to the IOM, as of 14 August 2015: www.iom.int/sites/default/ files/infographic/IOM-Mediterranean-Update-Aug14.pdf

See also World Disaster Report 2012. The report analyses the complex causes of forced migration and its consequences and impacts on displaced populations, their hosts and humanitarian actors. It looks at the significant gaps in humanitarian protection for ever-increasing numbers of forced migrants who do not fit into conventional categories of protection, and the public health challenges caused by forced displacement, particularly for women, children and those with mental ill-health problems. It examines the ‘urbanization’ of forced migration, the role of climate change and environmental factors in forced displacement and how new communications, information and social networking technologies are reshaping the links between aid providers and migrants. It also tracks humanitarian funding for forcibly displaced populations, as well as the positive and negative economic impacts they have on host communities and countries - www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/world-disasters-report/world-disasters-report-2012-focus-on-forced-migration-and-displacement/

With regard to specific activities for and with migrants, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – individually and collectively with the IFRC and ICRC – have a long-standing commitment to address their humanitarian needs. National Societies act as auxiliaries to their respective public authorities and provide a range of services in the humanitarian field including disaster relief, health and social programmes and, assist affected civilian populations in wartime. These activities have both a direct and indirect impact on the well-being of migrants in transit and destination countries.

The ICRC’s actions on behalf of vulnerable migrants and their families mostly take place in areas affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence. At all times, the ICRC remains available to provide technical advice and/or operational support to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in its areas of expertise, such as restoring family links (RFL), activities for detained migrants and other protection-related aspects.

The Movement has longstanding experience and expertise in the area of RFL between family members separated as a result of armed conflict and other situations of violence, as well as natural and man-made disasters. Following the adoption of the RFL Strategy for the Movement 2008-2018, the focus of restoring family links has been expanded to include services also to those separated as a consequence of migration. The Family Links Network, made up of the ICRC and 189 National Societies, has sought to improve its services provided to migrants and their families, by adapting them to the needs identified and recognizing the challenges of RFL across numerous borders.

The IFRC coordinates operational support to a number of National Societies around the Mediterranean region as well as in other parts of the world in responding to the needs of migrants. While examples of the main responses are outlined in subsequent sections of this Plan, it should be noted that there are many other small-scale responses that are being undertaken by National Societies in countries of origin, transit and destination.

up from 123,500 during the same period last year. The on-going crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, new conflicts in the Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan and the Ukraine, among others, has caused suffering and massive displacement. As a consequence, millions of people have been forced to flee from their homes in order to reach safety and protection. Currently over four million refugees have fled the conflict in Syria – amounting to approximately 18 per cent of the total Syrian population. The majority of the Syrian refugees are mainly located in surrounding countries. 132,375 in Egypt; 251,690 in Iraq; 630,099 in Jordan; 1,172,753 in Lebanon and 1,805,255 in Turkey.

Since January 2015 more than 340,000 people, mostly from Afghanistan, Eritrea, sub-Saharan countries and Syria have arrived in Europe, 102,000 of them having landed in Italy alone. Additionally, available statistics show record numbers of people arriving in rubber dinghies and wooden boats on Greek islands, adding strain on services and resources. Arrivals there have grown from 737 in January to 5,000 in April and over 7,200 in May, totaling 160,000 by August. At the same time, an increasing influx of migrants has been noted in countries along the Balkan migratory route.

Factors affecting migrants’ vulnerabilities along migratory routes are numerous: absence of legal-status, family separation, impoverishment and socio-economic hardship, unsafe journeys through hostile environments (area of conflict, desert, open sea), violence and torture as well as the increasing use of detention to manage migration flows. Gender, as well as other indicators of diversity (i.e., age, nationality and disability), plays a crucial role, in many cases exacerbating these vulnerabilities.
The response plan

Methodology

In order to develop a tailored operational response, an internal and detailed mapping on 25 countries along the main migratory routes was undertaken. The mapping took into account the migration context, needs of migrants, migration related activities by the Movement, including the work undertaken by National Societies in countries of origin, transit and destination. While the humanitarian situation in these countries should be considered in priority, in view of evolving trends and the constant readjustment of migratory routes, other countries of focus could be considered.

In parallel to the mapping exercise, a number of Movement-wide consultations and workshops took place in Africa, Europe and the Middle East. This Plan will be extended to include the analysis of other regional contexts and will, as such, guide the development of a future global strategy aimed at enhancing a coordinated Movement approach.

Addressing vulnerabilities, enhancing resilience

The Red Cross Red Crescent aims to address migrants’ vulnerabilities, as noted in the IFRC’s Strategy 2020 this includes “provision of assistance and protection, reducing the risks that they face along migratory routes, empowering them in their search for long-lasting and appropriate solutions, and promoting wider understanding of migrants’ rights and their social inclusion within host communities.” In order to deliver at the scale required and to enhance the resilience of communities, the Red Cross Red Crescent’s demand-driven community-based approach places greater focus on linking to local efforts, drawing on resources and needs in countries of origin, transit and destination.

Cognizant that social and economic distress and the lack of services and opportunities for development are among the push factors for migration, the Red Cross Red Crescent aims to reduce the underlying causes of vulnerability through its work along the relief-to-development continuum reflected in risk reduction, livelihoods and social development activities for communities and individuals. These activities will be further reinforced across the main lines of response proposed in this Plan.

Self-reliance and resilience building will be promoted also through raising awareness on the migratory process and its inherent challenges, including providing information on risks associated with smuggling and trafficking. National Societies will provide assistance and information without seeking to encourage nor prevent migration.

11 Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Gambia, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

12 Identified crossing-points in currently existing migratory routes: the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Gevgelija, Kumanovo and Valandovo), Egypt (Sinai), Greece/Turkey (e.g., North Aegean and Dodecanese Islands including Chios, Kos, Leros, Lesvos, Rhodes and Samos), Libya, Morocco/Spain (Ceuta and Melilla), Niger (Agadez), Serbia/Hungary and Sudan.

Ayaat from Syria waits for a train north to the Serbian border with her one and a half year old daughter Hasar. John Engedal Nissen/IFRC
Three main lines of humanitarian response

The Response Plan aims to deliver on principles and other objectives set out in the IFRC’s policy and the Conference Resolution by focusing the Movement’s work along three main lines of response, which have been identified in the mapping:

- assistance
- protection
- public awareness.

Each operational line will also include a distinct advocacy element, as required by Principle 5, to engage States, international organizations, civil society and the public in support of the Movement’s humanitarian work. Point 5.5 of this Principle foresees that National Societies base “their advocacy on behalf of migrants on concrete experience that they or other components of the Movement have gained in working with and for the migrants.” Most importantly, this three-line approach will be extended along the length of the migratory routes as required by Principle 7.

Scaling-up effective activities

The Response Plan will build on activities that have worked and will be scaled-up and coordinated going forward.

First line: assistance

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other components of the Movement will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants, irrespective of their legal status, to address their most pressing needs and to respond to the most vulnerable groups. Such services will include providing shelter and emergency accommodation, distributing essential items such as food parcels, hygiene kits and clothes, and delivering social and health services. These activities will meet the objectives of Principles 1 and 2.

Principle 1: Focus on the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants (IFRC Migration Policy)

“The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement strives to adopt an integrated and impartial approach, combining immediate action for migrants in urgent need with longer-term assistance and empowerment. It is therefore important that National Societies be permitted to work with and for all migrants, without discrimination and irrespective of their legal status.”

Principle 2: Include migrants in humanitarian programming (IFRC Migration Policy)

“National Societies can opt for different approaches in assisting and protecting migrants. Some focus on migrants through special, targeted programmes or projects; others include migrants in their general humanitarian action, addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of the population in its diversity. Both approaches required sustained effort by National Societies to guarantee impartiality and non-discrimination, taking into account the humanitarian needs of the host population.”
The following examples of Movement activities from the mapping analysis represent a range of important assistance activities that will be developed along other migrant routes.

- **Post-rescue and landing assistance at harbours**
  On migrant arrival, National Societies will provide impartial services and assistance (such as health, food, non-food items, social and legal counselling) in accordance with identified needs and giving priority to the most vulnerable. This has worked effectively in Greece, Italy, Libya, Spain and Tunisia.

During the process of identification, National Societies will provide counselling, orientation and medical assistance to all migrants. A monitoring role has also proved valuable in ensuring that authorities provide adequate shelter and assistance. If shelter is inadequate, National Societies will provide appropriate reception facilities as they have done in Italy and Tunisia.

- **Assistance at land borders**
  At airports in France and at land borders in Egypt, Italy and Turkey, National Societies have provided food and non-food items. This has also been carried out in Cyprus, Egypt, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Serbia, Spain and the United Kingdom. Provision of services in reception centres or refugee camps has also been carried out in Cyprus, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon, Serbia, Spain and Turkey. Particular provision of services for unaccompanied minors has been developed in France and Lebanon. Provision of humanitarian aid in detention centres has been carried out in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary and Serbia. Such border assistance will be developed and scaled-up.

- **Shelter and emergency accommodation**
  Shelter assistance will vary greatly depending on the context, local capacities, scale of the need and resources available. The goal of humanitarian shelter solutions will be dignified life-saving. Shelter solutions will include tents, accommodation in reception centres and in public buildings or in host communities. Beyond survival along the migratory routes and in countries of settlement, key shelter considerations are to provide protection from the climate; ensure privacy and dignity; and providing personal safety and security. Successful shelter facilities need to be planned alongside solutions for water and sanitation, cooking and heating fuel, waste management and settlement planning. At the same time communal facilities such as schools, play areas and health clinics need to be available to migrants. Monitoring and delivering these shelter and settlement activities has been developed in Egypt, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon, Serbia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. Shelter will continue to be a Movement priority, where necessary.

- **Health activities**
  Living beyond their traditional support systems, migrants often face difficulties accessing health and social services that respect their basic needs and dignity. Medical care and psychosocial support will continue to be an essential part of the activities provided by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to migrants. Many offer free healthcare for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants, irrespective of their legal status, in health clinics, medical centres and mobile clinics often staffed by volunteer doctors and nurses. When good quality services are available, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have guided or referred migrants to local services and monitored their access and experience. A number of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provide specialized psychosocial support to migrants that have experienced particularly traumatizing situations.

Various health services are already a strong feature of the Movement’s response. First aid at border points have been developed in Egypt, Italy, Lebanon and Spain and in-country in Gambia, Hungary and Lebanon. Mobile teams have been pioneered in Egypt, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Lebanon. Provision of basic and community-based healthcare in-country has proved important in Egypt, France, Italy, Lebanon, Libya and Niger, and in refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon and reception centres in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary and Tunisia. Information and advice on health care services in-country have been important in Egypt, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Italy and Niger. Psychosocial support for all migrants or in reception centres/refugee camps has been developed in Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon and Libya. Hygiene improvements at key transit points have been particularly effective in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Lebanon and Serbia. All these health initiatives will continue to be deployed.


• Advocacy
Evidence shows that advocacy in support of assistance is best focused on ensuring that relevant laws and procedures are in place to enable National Societies to enjoy effective and safe access to all migrants and on designing good procedures at borders to allow for the delivery of services, as agreed in Resolution 3 of the 31st Red Cross and Red Crescent International Conference.15

The following National Societies are already elaborating a specific needs assessment of migrants’ vulnerabilities in their respective countries in order to implement and/or reinforce specific actions in the field of assistance: Chad, Cyprus, Egypt, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Gambia, Greece, Hungary, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Tunisia and the United Kingdom.

Second line: protection
National Societies and other components of the Movement will develop protection activities that aim to protect lives, human well-being and secure respect for individuals. Protection aims to ensure that authorities and other actors respect their obligations and the rights of individuals in order to preserve the safety, physical integrity and dignity of migrants. This definition of protection also includes activities that seek to make individuals more secure and to limit the threats they face, by reducing their vulnerability and/or their exposure to risks.

Protection remains a constant concern for the Movement and a particular priority for the ICRC.16 Principles 4 and 5 of the IFRC’s Migration Policy focus on protection. Resolution 3 from the 31st International Conference also asserts the importance of protection for vulnerable migrants.

Principle 4: Recognize the rights of migrants
(IFRC Migration Policy)

“National Societies provide assistance and protection to migrants, irrespective of their legal status. Yet, the degree to which migrants are able to enjoy their rights is an important factor in addressing their vulnerability. By working with migrants to ensure that their rights are respected – including the right to determination of their legal status – National Societies will also promote their social inclusion and their aspirations.”

Principle 5: Link assistance, protection and humanitarian advocacy for migrants
(IFRC Migration Policy)

“Assistance to migrants goes hand in hand with efforts to protect them against abuse, exploitation, and the denial of rights. In making these efforts, National Societies will respect the migrants’ own interest, and the imperative of doing them no harm. To enable migrants to overcome abuses and pressures, National Societies can provide legal advice, refer them to other relevant and competent organisations or entities, or undertake discreet or public forms of humanitarian diplomacy.”

Resolution n°3, 2011

“Calls upon States, within the framework of applicable international law, to ensure that their national procedures at international borders, especially those that might result in denial of access to international protection, deportation or interdiction of persons, include adequate safeguards to protect the dignity and ensure the safety of all migrants. States are also called on, in line with such relevant international law and national legislation, to grant to migrants appropriate international protection and to ensure their access to relevant services, such as Restoring Family Links. States and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are invited to consult in the implementation of the aforementioned safeguards, as appropriate.”

15 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Resolution 3 – Migration: Ensuring Access, Dignity, Respect for Diversity and Social Inclusion, November 2011.
• **Immigration detention**

The strong focus on detention led by the ICRC will continue to develop. The ICRC works in immigration detention alone or in collaboration with National Societies in several countries along migration routes. In addition to monitoring places of detention and seeking to improve treatment, conditions of detention and respect for due process of law through a constructive dialogue with the authorities, they provide direct assistance and RFL services where those are needed. The ICRC will continue to support the work of National Societies by organizing workshops on immigration-related detention, which is an opportunity to discuss best practices and ways the Movement can help detained migrants more effectively. National Societies also work independently in immigration detention mainly, but not exclusively, providing RFL and assistance such as in France, Greece, Italy, Libya, Spain and the United Kingdom.

• **Restoring family links**

The Movement will leverage its long experience and expertise in RFL in response to the humanitarian needs of separated migrants. The Family Links Network, made up of the ICRC and 189 National Societies, has improved its services provided to migrants and their families, most notably by adapting to the challenge of restoring family links across numerous borders.

RFL describes various activities that will be used to support vulnerable migrants. RFL will prevent separation, restore and maintain contact between family members, and clarify the fate of persons reported missing, sometimes using forensic services. RFL also involves forwarding of official documents and issuing of ICRC travel documents. It can give material, legal, psychosocial and physiological support to families with missing relatives.17

National Societies are already providing various levels of RFL services for migrants around the Mediterranean crisis, such as in Egypt, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, Sudan, Tunisia and the United Kingdom. These kinds of RFL activities will continue as a major priority.

• **Broader protection activities**

More general protection initiatives will be deployed alongside specific programmes for detainees and separated families. General rights awareness programmes and advice on particular legal entitlements will be developed, having proven important in Egypt, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Libya and Spain.

Particular care will be developed for unaccompanied minors which has worked well in France. Border monitoring to gauge and improve the respect and treatment of migrants has also emerged as an important role for the Movement. Borders are potential flashpoints for protection concerns and border procedures are a useful indicator of more general State practice.

• **Advocacy**

National Societies will engage in the promotion and protection of migrants’ rights in line with the Fundamental Principles and to meet humanitarian needs. This has been undertaken in France, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Serbia, often in joined-up programmes along migration routes.

Experience from the Mediterranean region suggests that advocacy can be used successfully to address key issues in meeting migrants’ humanitarian needs in a range of areas. These include securing access to all migrants; ensuring the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and other vulnerable migrants; developing strategies to address and respond to the humanitarian consequences of trafficking; improving detention conditions; improving the conditions and respecting the rights of asylum seekers whose claims were unsuccessful, and developing legal avenues for migration. These advocacy areas will be developed and coordinated in the Response Plan.

The following National Societies are already elaborating a specific needs assessment of migrants’ vulnerabilities in their respective countries in order to implement and/or reinforce specific protection actions: Chad, Cyprus, Egypt, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Gambia, Hungary, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia and Tunisia.

17 In RFL context, secondary separations refer to the loss of family links due to the intervention of smugglers but also to the actions of authorities and humanitarian actors, mostly during rescue and/or control operations. As opposed to “primary separations,” which are a direct result of a crisis (armed conflict, natural disasters...), secondary separations imply a human intervention, whether intentional or not. The Red Cross Red Crescent action will also aim to address the RFL needs caused by secondary separation.
Third line: public awareness and promotion of respect for diversity, non-violence and social cohesion

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will conduct a wide range of activities to foster the integration of migrants into local communities in line with Resolution 3. These will include language courses, support in accessing housing and the labour market, provision of vocational training or educational support for children and youth which have all proved useful to date.

In their awareness-raising, National Societies will promote respect for diversity and counter intolerance, prejudice and discrimination through a series of positive imaging programmes. These will focus on raising awareness among the local host population on the realities of all migrant experience and the challenges faced by migrants. These programmes will also emphasize the value, talent and contribution that migrants can bring to society and the positive opportunities that global migration presents.

Resolution n°3, 2011

“Strongly encourages enhanced cooperation between public authorities, at all levels, and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to pursue practical actions in formal and non-formal settings: - to promote respect for diversity, non-violence and social inclusion of all migrants; - to enhance cultural awareness between migrant and local communities; - to promote through formal and non-formal education, humanitarian values and the development of interpersonal skills to live peacefully together; and - to enhance social cohesion through the engagement of local and migrant populations and civil society organisations in voluntary service, community and sport programmes.”

Principle 3 and Resolution 3 activities

The integration of migrants – including returnees – will be a strong feature of the Movement’s response. Integration will focus on inclusion in local communities and National Society.

Local and national integration projects will be supported and reinforced by key messages from the IFRC’s Global Campaign to sensitize the global public to the realities of migration and the importance of respect, tolerance and social cohesion. Additionally, information regarding protection and risks migrants may encounter – smuggling, trafficking of human beings and dangerous desert and sea crossings – will be provided. A key part of this will be to train and sensitize Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers.

The following National Societies are already elaborating a specific needs assessment of migrants’ vulnerabilities in their respective countries in order to implement and/or reinforce specific actions on public awareness that promote respect for diversity, non-violence and social cohesion: Chad, Egypt, Libya, Senegal, Somalia and Sudan.

Principle 3: Support the aspirations of migrants (IFRC Migration Policy)

“Migrants have a legitimate claim to hope and opportunities to achieve their potential. They are also an important social, economic and cultural factor. Their skills, experience, resilience can be valuable contribution to their host communities. National Societies will consider migrants own needs and interests, and support their social inclusion, integration, and their aspirations.”

A man prepares to leave the registration centre in Kos, carrying relief items provided by the Hellenic Red Cross. Stephen Ryan/IFRC
Working together with governments and the public

The Movement and its new Response Plan cannot succeed without the support and participation of concerned States and the general public. This is the purpose of the Global Call that we are launching alongside this Plan.

The Movement will need to work with national and local decision-makers, in accordance with its Fundamental Principles, to ensure increased understanding of migrant vulnerability and migrant value, and to gather support for the Movement’s humanitarian role.

To this end, we have a number of more specific “asks” which make up our Global Call. These more detailed asks are for governments and communities. If they are answered positively, the Movement will be able to meet the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants all around the world much more easily.

We are asking governments

- To review policy, legal frameworks and services to ensure the rights and dignity of all migrants irrespective of their legal status are protected.
- To communicate publicly the government’s commitment to ensure the dignity and rights of all migrants.
- To develop a plan with civil society actors, such as the Red Cross or Red Crescent in respective countries, to protect the dignity and ensure the safety of all migrants irrespective of their legal status.
- To promote respect for diversity, non-violence and social inclusion through public campaigns and local services.
- To ensure appropriate laws and procedures are in place for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to have unfettered access to all migrants irrespective of their legal status.
- To ensure that opportunities for legal and safe migration that preserve the dignity and rights of all migrants entering a given country are identified. These may include opportunities for employment, support for family reunification and access to international protection.18

In asking the above, the Movement respectfully reminds States of the Resolution on migration adopted at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in November 2011, whereby States agreed to ensure National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies enjoy effective access to all migrants, irrespective of their legal status, in order to deliver humanitarian assistance and protection services without being penalized.21 States agreed also to ensure that within the framework of applicable international law, their “national procedures at international borders, especially those that might result in denial of access to international protection, deportation or interdiction of persons, include adequate safeguards to guarantee the dignity and safety of all migrants.”22

We are asking host communities

- To participate in the Red Cross Red Crescent global campaign to raise awareness and sensitivity towards migrants.
- To engage in a global call to stop indifference about the plight of people on the move, recognizing a universal responsibility to protect humanity.
- To develop local services and programmes that promote inclusion and respect for migrants.
- To promote tolerance, diversity and integration in particular by exploring possibilities to support more migrant friendly public perceptions and media reporting in countries of transit and destination in particular.


19 As requested in the Florence Call for Action.

20 At the International Conferences, representatives of the components of the Movement meet with representatives of the States Party to the Geneva Conventions. Together they examine and decide upon humanitarian matters of common interest and any other related matter.

21 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Resolution 5 – Migration: Ensuring Access, Dignity, Respect for Diversity and Social Inclusion, November 2011

22 Ibid.
Expected outcomes from the response plan

The implementation of the specific activities outlined above will reduce migrants’ vulnerabilities and respond to their needs. Humanitarian assistance to migrants will be provided to the most vulnerable, irrespective of their legal status in areas where migrants are most at risk.

These activities will contribute to a guarantee that all migrants have access to the services they need, based on an assessment of their needs and vulnerabilities throughout the migratory routes in countries of origin, transit and destination.
Coordination, technical support and advocacy

The IFRC will support National Societies in delivering the activities in the Plan. In doing so, we will work in a coordinated and complementary way with the ICRC. Together, we will scale up Movement coordination and offer technical and advocacy support along the following lines. If we are asking things of governments and communities, we must also ask things of ourselves.

To scale-up coordination we will

- Improve reporting and information-sharing capacity through the establishment of a network of migration focal points in National Societies and in IFRC field offices along the migration routes.
- Facilitate communication between existing Movement platforms and networks on migration.
- Organize and facilitate thematic events to facilitate joint-planning, mutual learning and exchange of good practices across regions.
- Support National Societies in identifying opportunities for peer-to-peer support within the same region and between regions.
- Support programme mainstreaming by ensuring close interaction with those who design disaster management, disaster risk reduction, health and social services programmes in order to integrate appropriate interventions that address migrants’ needs.
- Scale-up emergency humanitarian assistance when peaks or crises occur, through the preparation of contingency plans (where appropriate) and the activation and use of IFRC global disaster management tools, where appropriate, including DREF, Emergency Appeals and Surge.

To provide more technical support we will

- Boost National Society capacity to carry out risk-informed vulnerability, capacity and needs assessments that focus on the situation of migrants in their respective contexts.
- Support National Societies in improving their monitoring capacity of people movements at borders or crossing points, and establishing tools for improved analysis and decision-making.
- Provide National Societies with needs-based expertise in policy, programme/operations design and advocacy areas, as identified in their respective country plans.

- Provide support in the adoption and implementation by National Societies of the relevant policies and programmes.
- Strengthen technical support through dissemination, adaptation and/or technical guidance in key areas such as: search and rescue; post-land activities; promoting youth and child social inclusion; dealing with undocumented migrants and non-registered children, minimum standards for working in/with reception centres, delivering health services and humanitarian assistance.
- Support National Societies to design gender and culturally sensitive tools and approaches.
- Support National Societies to identify specific vulnerabilities and specific needs of migrants who have experienced traumatizing or violent situations such as victims of human trafficking, exploitation or inhuman and degrading treatment.
- Support National Societies to boost migrants’ self-protection approaches that reduce vulnerability along the migratory routes.

To support advocacy and sensitization we will

- Support National Societies in leveraging their auxiliary role and in designing and carrying out advocacy initiatives that influence policy development, application and change as well as the development of legal frameworks that take into account respect for human dignity and the fundamental rights of all migrants.
- Continue to bring attention to the suffering of people on the move and their situations of high risk and vulnerability, as well as to value of migration, including the economic and social contribution migrants make to the countries in which they settle.
- Work with academic and policy institutions to gather statistics, data, and support evidence-based advocacy as well as the development of human stories to sensitize public opinion.
- Support community engagement initiatives in sensitizing public opinion and informing the design of holistic programmes that consider the needs of the host community and migrants, so that assistance and protection activities benefit from two-way communication with the communities themselves.
- Strengthen the media engagement capacity of National Societies to build on the Global Campaign and develop contextualized messaging that will raise public awareness on migration issues.
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

An appropriate Federation-wide monitoring and reporting plan will be developed as part of the operationalization of this Response Plan. Specific planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting plans will be developed as part of the individual country plans.

Risk management

There are three main risks associated with the operationalization of this framework as well as specific and contextual risks associated to the individual country plans that will be included in each plan.

1. In the highly politicized environment around migration, external advocacy carries risks that have to be thoroughly assessed. Advocacy efforts will be carried out in strict accordance with our Fundamental Principles so as to prevent controversies, ensure access to the most vulnerable and maximize the benefits to migrants.

2. Partnerships may also carry risks and will be judged carefully so as to ensure that the credibility and reach of the National Societies is not put at risk.

3. Dealing with very polarized public perceptions of migration may undermine the neutrality and independence of National Societies. Mitigation measures such as dissemination of fact-based information to communities, political actors and other relevant players will be taken.
A Hellenic Red Cross worker takes details of people who have received relief items at a First Reception Centre near Marmi on the island of Lesbos. Stephen Ryan/IFRC
Annex I: Overview of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Migration

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) has a long-standing commitment to work with and for vulnerable migrants. It is rooted in its Fundamental Principles and universal character as well as in its volunteer and community basis. The approach of the Movement to migration is defined by the IFRC Migration Policy (2009) and Resolution 3 adopted at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (2011). This approach is strictly humanitarian and based on the recognition of each migrant’s individuality and aspirations and focuses on the vulnerabilities of migrants, irrespective of their legal status.

According to the IFRC migration policy, “in order to capture the full extent of humanitarian concerns related to migration, our description of migrants is deliberately broad: migrants are persons who leave or flee their habitual residence to go to new places – usually abroad – to seek opportunities or safer and better prospects. Migration can be voluntary or involuntary, but most of the time a combination of choices and constraints are involved. Thus, this policy includes, among others, labour migrants, stateless migrants, and migrants deemed irregular by public authorities. It also concerns refugees and asylum seekers, notwithstanding the fact that they constitute a special category under international law.”

National Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own countries in the humanitarian field and provide a range of services. While providing assistance to migrants national societies do not seek to encourage, prevent or dissuade migration. Their aim is to reduce migrants’ vulnerability by focusing their actions on the needs of the migrant while maintaining impartiality, neutrality and independence.

Annex II: IFRC’s Migration Policy

The IFRC’s migration policy includes the following principles:

1. **Focus on the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants**
   The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement strives to adopt an integrated and impartial approach, combining immediate action for migrants in urgent need with longer-term assistance and empowerment. It is therefore important that National Societies be permitted to work with and for all migrants, without discrimination and irrespective of their legal status.

2. **Include migrants in humanitarian programming**
   National Societies can opt for different approaches in assisting and protecting migrants. Some focus on migrants through special, targeted programmes or projects; others include migrants in their general humanitarian action, addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of the population in its diversity. Both approaches require sustained efforts by National Societies to guarantee impartiality and non-discrimination, taking into account the humanitarian needs of the host population.

3. **Support the aspirations of migrants**
   Migrants have a legitimate claim to hope and opportunities to achieve their potential. They are also an important social, economic and cultural factor. Their skills, experience, and resilience can be a valuable contribution to their host communities. National Societies will consider migrants’ own needs and interests, and support their social inclusion, integration, and their aspirations.

4. **Recognize the rights of migrants**
   National Societies provide assistance and protection to migrants, irrespective of their legal status. Yet, the degree to which migrants are able to enjoy their rights is an important factor in assessing their vulnerability. By working with migrants to ensure that their rights are respected – including the right to the determination of their legal status – National Societies will also promote their social inclusion and their aspirations.

5. **Link assistance, protection and humanitarian advocacy for migrants**
   Assistance to migrants goes hand in hand with efforts to protect them against abuse, exploitation, and the denial of rights. In making these efforts National Societies will respect the migrants’ own interest, and the imperative
of doing them no harm. To enable migrants to overcome abuses and pressures, National Societies can provide legal advice, refer them to other relevant and competent organisations or entities, or undertake discreet or public forms of humanitarian advocacy.

6. **Build partnerships for migrants**
The humanitarian challenges of migration reach across borders, regions, and cultures. There is a Movement-wide responsibility for capacity-building, mutual support and coordination. Regional cooperation among National Societies is equally essential. In working with external partners on migration, a common and principled approach of the Movement is indispensable.

7. **Work along the migratory trails**
The Movement is in a unique position to help bridge the gaps of assistance and protection for migrants. National Societies in countries along the migratory trails will work together to optimise their humanitarian action, including the restoration of family links. This requires a focus on situations and conditions in which migrants all along their journey are especially susceptible to risks. National Societies may sensitize potential migrants about risks of migration, but must not seek to encourage, prevent or dissuade migration.

8. **Assist migrants in return**
Return to the place of origin is not the necessary end or solution of migration. Migrants may prefer to stay where they are, for an extended period or permanently. While providing counselling and informing migrants about their options, National Societies cannot and shall not decide what solution is the best, and must at all times maintain their impartiality, neutrality and independence. When migrants do return they face particular challenges; to assist and protect them, cooperation and agreement between National Societies in countries of destination and return is essential.

9. **Respond to the displacement of populations**
Armed conflicts and violence, natural or man-made disasters, but also development or relocation schemes can force populations to leave their homes, leading to accelerated and collective, even massive movements. The displaced populations might seek assistance and protection within their own country, or might find refuge across international borders. Displacement of populations and migration of individuals and groups are distinct but often interrelated phenomena; where they are interrelated, National Societies will strive for a coordinated action that covers both, the displaced and the migrants.

10. **Alleviate migratory pressures on communities of origin**
Migratory pressures on communities of origin can be related to social and economic distress; they can be linked to environmental degradation as well as natural or man-made hazards; and they can be due to persecution, armed conflict, and violence. By supporting disaster preparedness and building resilience at community level, National Societies contribute to alleviating pressures that can induce people to migrate against their will and desire.

**Annex III: Resolution 3 Adopted at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (2011)**

**Resolution**
*Migration: Ensuring Access, Dignity, Respect for Diversity and Social Inclusion*

The 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

acknowledging the importance of respect for the human dignity and protection of all migrants, and expressing its deep concern about the continued suffering of those migrants that may live outside conventional health, social and legal systems and for a variety of reasons may not have access to processes which guarantee respect for their fundamental rights;

recognizing, the many benefits of migration and acknowledging the contributions of migrants to countries of origin, transit and destination as well as the challenges that international migration may present; recalling the Declaration “Together for Humanity” (the Declaration) adopted by the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent which reaffirmed “the importance of examining ways and means to reinforce international cooperation at all levels to address the humanitarian concerns generated by international migration;”

recalling further that the Declaration acknowledged “the role of governments, within the framework of national laws and international law, especially international human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law, to address the humanitarian needs of persons negatively affected by migration,”
including families and communities, and to take effective measures;”

reaffirming as set out in the Declaration “the role of National Societies, based on the principles of humanity and impartiality, and in consultation with the public authorities, in providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants irrespective of their legal status;”

expressing concern about the often alarming humanitarian situation of migrants in situations of vulnerability, at all stages of their journey and ongoing risks that migrants, in situations of vulnerability, face in regards to their dignity, safety, access to international protection as well as access to health care, shelter, food, clothing and education;

recalling previous commitments made by States and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to engage in the promotion of non-violence, respect for diversity and social inclusion of all migrants;

recalling the responsibility of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to act at all times in accordance with the Fundamental Principles and the Statutes of the Movement;

welcoming the background report highlighting progress achieved in carrying out the commitments undertaken at the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and the Policy on Migration adopted by the 17th Session of the General Assembly of the International Federation and endorsed by the Council of Delegates in 2009;

recognising that, acting in accordance with the Statutes of Movement, in particular Article 3 (1) National Societies should enjoy effective access to all migrants, irrespective of their legal status, in order to deliver humanitarian assistance and protection services without being penalised, both in their role as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field at all levels and under their general humanitarian mandate;

1. Requests States, in consultation with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to ensure that relevant laws and procedures are in place to enable National Societies, in conformity with the Statutes of the Movement and, in particular, the Fundamental Principles, to enjoy effective and safe access to all migrants without discrimination and irrespective of their legal status;

2. Calls upon States, within the framework of applicable international law, to ensure that their national procedures at international borders, especially those that might result in denial of access to international protection, deportation or interdiction of persons, include adequate safeguards to protect the dignity and ensure the safety of all migrants. States are also called on, in line with such relevant international law and national legislation, to grant to migrants appropriate international protection and to ensure their access to relevant services, such as Restoring Family Links. States and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are invited to consult in the implementation of the aforementioned safeguards, as appropriate;

3. Strongly encourages enhanced cooperation between public authorities, at all levels, and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to pursue practical actions in formal and non-formal settings:
   a. to promote respect for diversity, non-violence and social inclusion of all migrants;
   b. to enhance cultural awareness between migrant and local communities;
   c. to promote through formal and non-formal education, humanitarian values and the development of interpersonal skills to live peacefully together; and
   d. to enhance social cohesion through the engagement of local and migrant populations and civil society organisations in voluntary service, community and sport programmes.

4. Encourages States and the Components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in conformity with the Fundamental Principles and Statutes of the Movement, to continue to collaborate and build partnerships which recognise the role of the Movement in working with migrants and which could include relevant partners from international organisations (such as IOM and UNHCR, UNODC), nongovernmental organisations and the private sector.

5. Requests the International Federation to submit to the 32nd International Conference in 2015 a report on the measures taken in implementing the provisions of this resolution.
Annex IV: List of Red Cross Red Crescent Networks and Platforms

National Societies across several regions have come together to create platforms and regional networks in order to discuss migration issues of common concern and interest. The following provides a list of existing platforms:

- **Africa**
  - RFL network
  - RFL regional meetings (in north and west Africa, in central and South Africa)

- **Asia**
  - Central Asia Labour Migration Network
  - Asian Pacific Migration Network
  - RFL regional meetings

- **Europe**
  - PERCO platform
  - RFL regional meetings

- **Latin America**
  - Migration Network in progress
  - RFL regional meetings

- **Mediterranean region**
  - Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean
  - Mediterranean Platform for Migration

- **Russia**
  - Russian speaking network

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Annex VI: Mapping

The map below provides an overview of current migratory routes, however, the dynamically changing context of migration in the Mediterranean region needs to be constantly borne in mind, owing to waxing and waning of migration flows, policies, and so on.
Annex VII: The resourcing ask

An indication of the IFRC’s financial requirements for operationalizing this plan over a period of 18 months is provided in the table below. It should be noted that these requirements are partly covered by ongoing response operations (DREF, Emergency Appeals) as reflected here.

These financial requirements do not include the programmes the ICRC implements in relation to migration. These programmes will be reflected in the ICRC appeal and/or other mechanisms.

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This joint family is from eastern Syria and western Iraq. The parents, two brothers, their wives, and other children are travelling together. The parents explain that they decided for the sake of their children.
The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

**Humanity** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

**Impartiality** It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

**Neutrality** In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

**Independence** The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

**Voluntary service** It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

**Unity** There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

**Universality** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.