



GLOBAL ROUTE BASED MIGRATION PROGRAMME

One Year Update:
31 August 2022

Introduction

All around the world, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and other displaced people—**people on the move**—make dangerous and difficult journeys in search of safety or a better life.

Whether on land or at sea, people on the move face many risks to their lives, dignity, and rights. They die or go missing. They experience harm, abuse, and exploitation. They struggle to access food, water, healthcare, information, and other essential needs. They face discrimination and stigma and lose touch with family and friends.

The multi-year, multi-regional, **Global Route Based Migration Programme** (the global programme or programme) is the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) response. It aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along land and sea-based migration routes in Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East, taking advantage of the IFRC network's unique and collective strengths and experience.

The global programme was launched in August 2021. This update provides an overview of the main achievements of the programme in the 12 months since the launch, demonstrating combined efforts across the IFRC network. An annual report on programme activities and achievements during the calendar year 2022 will be issued in 2023.

The programme combines the experience, expertise, and reach of **57 National Societies** around the world. It seeks to strengthen collaboration and coordination along migration routes. Globally, the programme aims to support over **4.7 million people** on the move and people in host communities each year.

The programme has **three main areas of focus**:



Improving access to **humanitarian assistance and protection** for people on the move along migration routes, including through **Humanitarian Service Points or HSPs**.



Strengthening **National Society capacities** to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move and to cooperate along migration routes.



Undertaking **local to global humanitarian diplomacy** to foster enabling policy and operational environments for assistance and protection to people on the move.

Targets and key figures



4.7 million

people on the move and people from host communities to be supported each year

incl. 2.5 million

people on the move and people in host communities in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East

incl. 2.2 million

people on the move and people in host communities in the Americas



258 million CHF

to fully implement the programme in all countries from 2021-2025

incl. 70 million CHF

to fully implement the programme in 2022

Milestones over 12 months



2715

people rescued provided humanitarian services on board the Ocean Viking ship



57

National Societies included in the programme across four regions

22

new National Societies from the Americas region joined the programme in 2022

21

partners supporting the programme including 19 Partner National Societies

5

governments engaged in a humanitarian policy dialogue hosted by IFRC

The Humanitarian Service Point @ sea

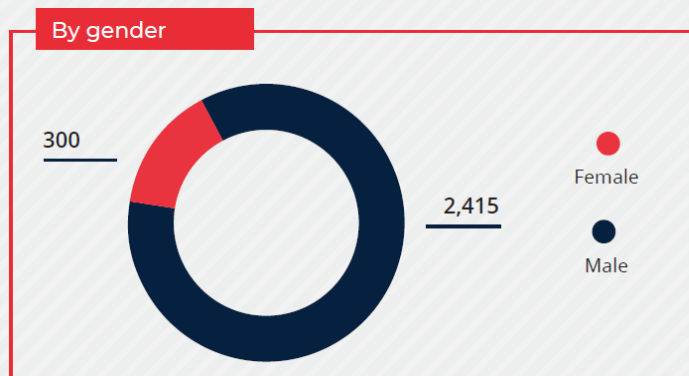
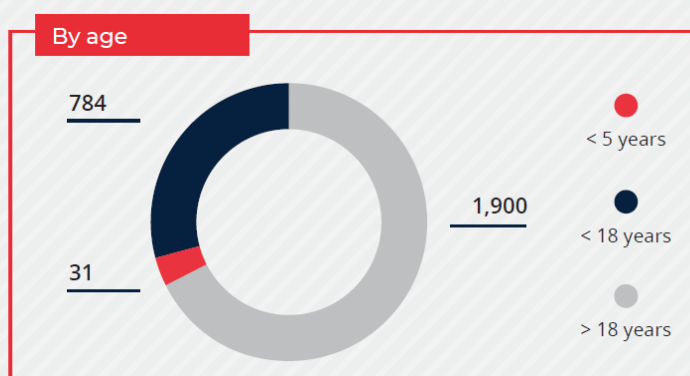
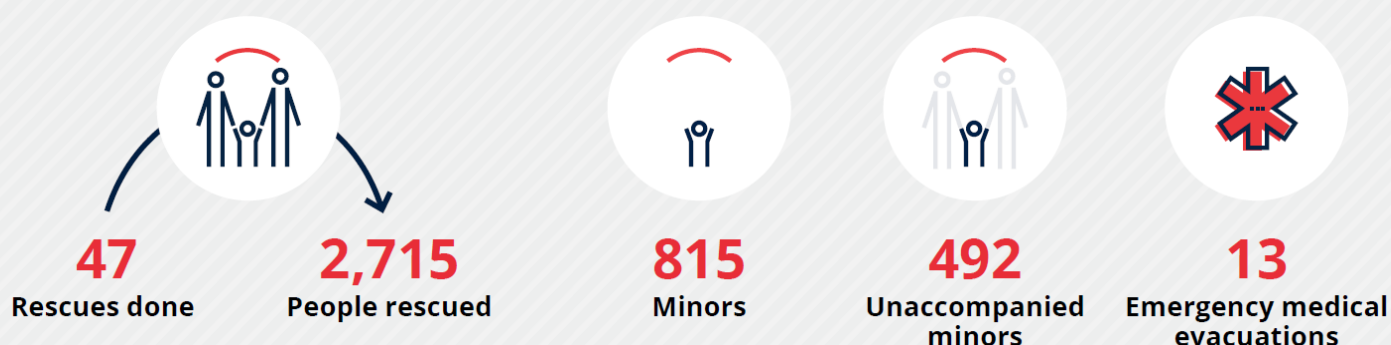
Addressing the humanitarian needs of people on the move along sea-based migration routes is an integral component of the global programme. According to the [Missing Migrants Project](#), between 2014 and 2021, at least 24,500 people died or went missing on the Mediterranean Sea. The so-called central Mediterranean route is the deadliest in the world. Almost 20,000 of the 24,500 people lost their lives or went missing on that route.

Because of the dangers and risks on the central Mediterranean route, the IFRC Secretariat entered a partnership with SOS MEDITERRANEE to provide humanitarian services on board the Ocean Viking ship, which conducts rescue operations. From September 2021 until 31 August 2022, the Ocean Viking ship conducted 10 rotations or patrols, 47 rescues and rescued 2,715 people, including unaccompanied children, pregnant women, and others in conditions of vulnerability.

The [Humanitarian Service Point \(HSP\) on board the Ocean Viking ship](#)—staffed by IFRC Secretariat and National Society delegates—provides essential humanitarian assistance and protection to rescued people, until they disembark safely at a port. Once people leave the ship, the Italian Red Cross provides post disembarkation services, offering continuity of care to the rescued people.

The partnership between SOS MEDITERRANEE and the IFRC has been critical. It epitomizes the commitment to the fundamental principle of humanity. Without the partnership, at least 2,715 more people could have died or gone missing on the Mediterranean Sea and failed to receive essential support and the prospects of a better future.

Across the IFRC network, 18 National Societies—from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China (Hong Kong branch), Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Monaco, Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America—and the IFRC Secretariat has supported the lifesaving partnership, through staffing the HSP@Sea, financial support, or both. The Netherlands Red Cross has also provided technical support.





Rescue operations take hours. The people who come on board the Ocean Viking ship have different needs. Some have faced torture, painful injuries, and paralyzing fear. Many are children, separated from their families. Some are pregnant women, new mothers and families with children, or people with disabilities.

When people first come on board the ship, they need showers, dry clothes, meals, and medical care. Some need reassurance that they are safe. Once immediate needs and concerns are taken care of, people also have chronic or serious medical conditions that need to be addressed. On average, it can take about 8 days to find a port of disembarkation. As people continue to wait, their needs amplify.

On board the Ocean Viking ship, as part of the HSP at Sea, teams of medical, maternal care, protection, relief, and cultural mediation experts provide post rescue assistance and protection. They deliver first aid, emergency and maternal healthcare, food and water, essential items such as dry clothes, blankets and toiletries, and psychosocial support. They provide information on the post disembarkation process, including on how to access services through National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. They arrange urgent medical evacuations and facilitate referrals in close coordination with relevant authorities, other humanitarian actors, and National Societies at ports of disembarkation and in other countries.

On board the HSP@Sea

The only sentence they want to hear is 'you are safe'. My name is Abdelfetah, and I am a post rescue facilitator. I work with the Italian Red Cross and now I am here with the IFRC. In 2011, I came on a small boat from Libya, and before that, I crossed the Sahara. So, this makes me closer to these people through this experience. And that is why I know this job well and I know what it needs. I have seen many things that most people cannot imagine and that makes me appreciate very much my life and what I have.

[Abdelfetah Mohamed](#) from Eritrea works as a post rescue facilitator on board the Ocean Viking ship.



The global programme in Europe

In Europe, 13 National Societies are part of the programme: from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

The programme was developed in consultation with National Societies who identified the needs of people on the move along migration routes, and National Society capacity to address them. After the programme launch, efforts focused on resource mobilization. The Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) provided a multilateral grant of CHF 3 million for three years for programme implementation in Europe.

In December 2021, a virtual meeting introduced the SDC grant to the National Societies eligible to receive funds. To ensure a fair, transparent, and effective allocation, the IFRC Regional Office developed specific criteria and a mechanism to guide the allocation process.

January to March 2022 were dedicated to detailed operational planning with National Societies, including through IFRC Secretariat field visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia. Since April, implementation began in parallel with finalizing contracts and transferring funds for the first 12 months of the SDC grant.

Regular coordination among National Societies in the Central and South-Eastern subregion has also begun. Facilitated by the IFRC Secretariat, coordination and exchange includes regular meetings, sharing of resources, and the use of joint mobile data collection tools.

In the Central and South-Eastern subregion, mobile teams and teams in reception centres reached thousands of people on the move through first aid, MHPSS support, food, and other essential assistance and protection. With support from the IFRC Secretariat, National Societies are strengthening capacities by training volunteers and government actors, and through the provision of equipment.

Research is also being conducted to strengthen evidence and knowledge on needs, priorities, and attitudes, and to develop targeted, effective, long-term interventions to support the most vulnerable. Over 1,000 people on the move and people in host communities have been surveyed.

Looking ahead to the end of 2022, efforts will focus on extending coordination arrangements to all the participating National Societies in Europe, monitoring, supporting implementation, and resource mobilization. Online and in person exchanges are also foreseen for 2022.

As of 31 August 2022, in addition to the SDC grant, the British Red Cross and the Adrian Arsht Rockefeller Foundation have also supported implementation efforts of European National Societies as part of the programme.

The Swiss Red Cross supported two experts to the IFRC. One expert joined the IFRC Regional Office for Europe in November 2021 for six months to support implementation of the programme in the region. The other joined the IFRC Secretariat in Geneva in January 2022 for 12 months.

Assisting and protecting people on the move along the Western Balkans route

People on the move continue to use the so-called Western Balkans route in Central and South-Eastern Europe as part of their migratory journeys, often as a means of transit towards the European Union. National Societies located along the route have provided assistance and protection to the adults, children and families transiting the route for years. Since the launch of the programme, many of the participating National Societies—Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Slovenia—are engaged in strengthening their support, including through HSPs. National Societies aim to prioritize the most vulnerable people on the move—people in an irregular status and people who experience barriers in accessing essential services. National Societies provide information, health services, food, water, household items, connectivity, family links, and other services through their presence or access to accommodation and reception centres or through mobile teams that travel to places where migrants transit.

The global programme in Africa

In Africa, 15 National Societies are part of the programme: from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, and Togo.

Programme implementation is beginning in the Sahel region. In the Gambia, Senegal, Mauritania, and Mali activities will aim to strengthen existing migration programming, including establishing and strengthening HSPs along migration routes; capacity strengthening, including staff and volunteer trainings; and facilitating cross border coordination. In Cameroon and Nigeria, implementation efforts will aim to strengthen capacities in migration, and to develop a migration strategy, while in Senegal, efforts will aim to strengthen contingency planning in relation to people on the move.

A video documentary of 12-15 minutes is being developed to highlight the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in responding to migration and displacement in the Sahel region, including along migration routes. The documentary will be used as a tool for awareness raising and advocacy and to inform public opinion, including among host populations, local authorities, and international audiences.

Strengthening regional migration networks—the Sahel+ technical working group on migration (Sahel+ migration network) and the newer Central and Equatorial Africa network on migration—have also been prioritized. A regional workshop was held in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2022, which included training and guidance on HSPs and focused on activities under the plan of action of the Sahel+ migration network. A recruitment process for a coordinator for the Sahel+ migration network based in the IFRC Dakar Country Cluster was finalized in August 2022. The person will work 50 per cent on coordination of the global programme in the region.

Looking ahead, an in-person meeting to facilitate exchange, support and coordination among participating National Societies and partner National Societies is foreseen before the end of 2022.

Since the launch of the global programme, the Italian Red Cross has provided multilateral, bilateral, and human resources towards programme implementation in the region, while the Swedish Red Cross has also provided multilateral support.



Coordination among National Societies in the Sahel

The Sahel+ migration network is comprised of 10 National Societies: from Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Chad, with Cameroon as an observer. It provides space for exchange of information, experience, expertise, and facilitates cross border and subregional cooperation and coordination.

In March 2022, migration focal points from the 10 National Societies joined a workshop in Senegal, to discuss migration and displacement in the subregion, including to address assistance and protection needs along migration routes through HSPs. The meeting led to a two-year plan of action.



The programme in the Middle East and North Africa

In the Middle East and North Africa or MENA, the global programme brings together seven National Societies: from Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, and Tunisia.

The design and prioritization of programme activities for the MENA region were informed by assessments undertaken in the context of developing the Red Cross and Red Crescent Activities on Migration and Displacement in Middle East and North Africa [report](#) (2021). The report was supported by the newly established MENA migration network, the IFRC MENA Regional Office, and other Movement actors, and identified the evolving and complex needs of people on the move in the region.

In Egypt, a project to ‘Support the Education and Protection of Children on the Move in Egypt’ is being implemented. The Egyptian Red Crescent is focusing on providing support to children on the move and host communities by supporting community schools and ensuring access to essential services. To strengthen capacity, workshops were also conducted with staff and volunteers on IFRC’s approach to migration and displacement and on child protection. In Syria, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent will focus on improving the livelihoods of returnees and host communities, as well as Internally Displaced Persons. The IFRC MENA Regional Office conducted two missions to the country to support project development and held a workshop to build the capacity of staff and volunteers on IFRC’s approach to migration and displacement. The Algerian Red Crescent aims to improve the living standards and reduce the vulnerability of migrants, refugees, and other displaced persons in Algeria with a focus on food assistance.

The MENA migration network, which was established in 2021 includes 15 MENA National Societies. It provides an important platform for exchange and collaboration, including on the programme. To strengthen the capacities of National Societies in the region, support is being provided to develop migration strategies, especially in Libya, Egypt, and Jordan. A meeting of the MENA migration network, scheduled for September 2022, will also convene the MENA National Societies part of the programme for an exchange and discussion.

Since the launch of the programme, the Italian Red Cross provided multilateral support for implementation focused on Algeria, Egypt, Syria, and Tunisia. The Adrian Arsht Rockefeller Foundation has also supported the programme.

The Children Red Initiative project pilot in Egypt

This initiative aims to support children on the move by providing them with essential services. The initiative adopts a comprehensive and community engagement approach in reaching its overall goal: All children on the move, irrespective of their legal standing, age, gender, or health status should have access to protection and humanitarian assistance. The pilot in Egypt targeted children and their families in Cairo at two National Society community hubs.



In recent years, we have provided people on the move with humanitarian assistance and protection and have witnessed the impact left by migration and displacement on their physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. The response to their needs, which continue to be unmet despite the efforts of multiple stakeholders, must be agile, innovative, and, above all, humane and dignified. This is what the IFRC does, all while prioritizing attention along the routes where an increasing number of human beings are facing violence, insecurity, hostile climates, discrimination and even the loss of life. The world needs to scale up its efforts to respond to this humanitarian crisis.

Martha Keays, IFRC Regional Director for the Americas

The global programme in the Americas

The Americas region is home to complex and dangerous migration journeys. People on the move, with different origins, backgrounds, and motivations transit across and within the region, and between regions, compelled or driven by persecution, violence, disaster, or a desire for better opportunities. In 2021, in Panama alone, people on the move from over 40 countries crossed the perilous Darién Gap between Colombia and Panama.

In May 2022, 22 National Societies from the Americas region joined the global programme, committed to strengthening the safety and dignity of people on the move along migration routes. The four-year Americas programmatic pillar, stretching from 2022-2025, aims to assist and protect over 2.2 million people on the move and people in host communities each year in Central America, the Caribbean, and the Andean and Southern Cone subregions. The programme includes National Societies from: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Since May, efforts have focused on resource mobilization with key partners and donors, including partner National Societies, governments, and other international actors.

Emergency Appeal: Migration Crisis in Mexico and Central America

In July 2022, an emergency appeal was launched to address a significant increase in people on the move transiting along routes through Mexico and Central America. The emergency appeal aims to increase the capacity of the National Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama to assist and protect people on the move and facilitates urgent and immediate humanitarian needs stemming from the scale of movements and upsurge in needs. The emergency appeal complements the Americas pillar of the global programme.

Engagement, partnerships, and support

Since the launch of the global programme, through a Federation wide approach, efforts have focused on strengthening engagement in the programme across the IFRC network. To provide information on the programme, and facilitate participation and support across the membership, different activities were coordinated, including with support from the British Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, the French Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Libyan Red Crescent, the Mali Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross, and the Swiss Red Cross. These included the following:

- A policy dialogue with governments and their respective National Societies in January 2022
- A discussion with heads of international of Partner National Societies in March 2022
- A dialogue with resource mobilization and migration focal points of National Societies in May 2022
- Bilateral discussions with National Societies on an ongoing basis

To underpin these efforts, the partnerships and resource development and the migration and displacement teams at the IFRC Secretariat worked closely to strengthen internal coordination and planning mechanisms. This included a mapping document setting out resource and funding opportunities with the aim to inform a Federation wide resource mobilization approach and strategy. It also included regular coordination meetings, including with focal points in the four regions.

As of 31 August 2022, the programme received approximately 8.1 million CHF in bilateral and multilateral contributions, as well as staff on loan and human resource support. Looking to the end of 2022 and beyond, efforts will focus on scaling up implementation and strengthening coordination.



IFRC Secretary General visit to Darien, Panama, in July 2022

We thank all partners and donors for their support towards the programme, and welcome continuing engagement and support to implement this Federation wide, multi-regional, multi-year, global programme to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous migration routes.

For more information

Visit the webpage: <https://www.ifrc.org/global-route-based-migration-programme> or contact:
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