

Terms of Reference

Red Cross/Red Crescent Focal Points on Migration

BACKGROUND

On the 4th of March 2011 a High Level Movement Cooperation meeting was organized by the Italian Red Cross, together with the IFRC and the ICRC, in order to discuss the crisis in North Africa and its humanitarian consequences resulting from the increased migration flows towards Europe.

As a follow up to that meeting, one year later, on the 22nd and the 23rd of March 2012, representatives of the National Societies of Italy, Malta, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and the CCM, the ICRC, the IFRC and PERCO network met in Rome to discuss about how National Societies dealt with migration flows, and to strengthen the Movement's humanitarian response in the field of migration.

The IFRC Mena Zone and the National Societies of Algeria, France, Greece, Morocco and Turkey were also invited but unable to attend. On the afternoon of the 22nd, representatives of the International Organization for Migration, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Caritas Italy and Save the Children were also present.

The meeting highlighted the need for a better and regular coordination and information sharing within RC/RC Movement in order to tackle the humanitarian consequences of migration. In order to achieve this objective, Mediterranean National Societies are asked to nominate **focal points** for this particular platform who will be acting as entry points for all issues related to migration.

ACTION FRAME

Working with and for vulnerable migrants is one of the long-standing traditions of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In 2007, the 16th General Assembly of the IFRC requested the Governing Board to establish a Reference Group on Migration to provide leadership and guidance and to develop a Federation policy on migration. The IFRC policy on migration was endorsed by the 17th General Assembly in 2009. The approach of the Movement to migration is strictly humanitarian and focuses on the needs, vulnerabilities and potentials of migrants, irrespective of their legal status, type or category.

The 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent also underlined the humanitarian concerns related to migration: its declaration “Together for Humanity” acknowledges the role of National Societies in providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants, irrespective of their legal status.

The 31st International Conference, with its resolution no. 3, not only underlined the role of RC/RC National Societies in protecting vulnerable migrants and advocate in their favour, but also recognized the importance of promoting their social inclusion.

It also highlighted the need of a better cooperation within and outside the Movement: “...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), non-governmental organisations and the private sector...”.

SCOPE

Every RC/RC National Society in the Mediterranean region will nominate, within their existing Human Resources, a person who will stand as a **focal point** for platform of the High Level Movement Cooperation Meeting. The appointed person will not necessarily be a specialist in the field of migration, but should respond and facilitate information, as well as provide the necessary contacts, depending on the various scenarios and needs which may arise both at local and at regional level.

The general objective of selecting such focal point is to establish a network of Mediterranean RC/RC focal points on migration to facilitate the information flow within specific NS and thus contribute to the overall functioning of the Mediterranean network.

Moreover, the network would contribute to the promotion and dissemination of Red Cross and Red Crescent best practices on migration and to their exchange at Mediterranean level.

SPECIFIC DUTIES, RESPONSABILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES OF FOCAL POINTS

- 1) be aware of migration issues in his/her own national context
- 2) be able to provide, when required, specific contacts - within his/her own National Society- of staff and/or volunteers who have specific knowledge and experience in any of the fields of action mentioned above
- 3) exchange information with the other focal points
- 4) disseminate relevant information within his/her National Society as well as best practices with the CCM who will compile them in a data base and make them available to all interested parties

EXPECTED RESULTS

The overall result that is expected through the designation of focal points is a better and regular coordination within the specific RC/RC National Society in the Mediterranean region and effective information sharing about migration issues, including migration programmes and RFL services.

Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean
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