



IFRC Global Strategy on Migration 2018 - 2022

Reducing Vulnerability, Enhancing Resilience

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest volunteer-based humanitarian network. With our 190 member National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide, we are in every community reaching 160.7 million people annually through long-term services and development programmes, as well as 110 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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“In engaging in the area of migration, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have the purpose – individually and together with the International Federation and the ICRC – to address the humanitarian concerns of migrants in need throughout their journey ... to provide assistance and protection to them, uphold their rights and dignity, empower them in their search for opportunities and sustainable solutions, as well as promote social inclusion and interaction between migrants and host communities.”

IFRC Migration Policy, 2009¹

I. CONTEXT

Increasing migration is both a result of, and giving rise to, some of the most significant humanitarian challenges of the 21st century. In recent years, the large-scale movements of migrants, including refugees, in different regions such as around the Mediterranean Basin, in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, in Eastern Africa and the Horn, and in Latin America, from the Northern Triangle onward to Mexico and the United States, have dramatically highlighted the vulnerabilities and potential risks facing migrants, particularly those in an irregular situation. These movements typically include a mix of people moving due to fear of persecution, conflict and violence, human rights violations, poverty and lack of economic prospects, or natural disasters. Many people cross borders to find work, and an increasing number are moving as a result of climate change. People’s reasons for migrating are complex, and are often a combination of these and other social and cultural factors.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has a long-standing commitment to working with and for migrants. National Societies provide specific support to groups such as refugees, asylum-seekers and migrant workers, among others, and provide life-saving services to the most vulnerable, advocating on migrants’ needs and rights, and enhancing access to longer-term support. Working with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), National Societies also play a crucial role notably in Restoring Family Links (RFL), including in reuniting families when possible.

1 Available at www.ifrc.org/Global/Governance/Policies/migration-policy-en.pdf

A note on terminology

This strategy focuses on migrants who have crossed international borders. In line with the IFRC's 2009 Policy on Migration, '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. This includes migrant workers, stateless migrants, migrants deemed irregular by public authorities, as well as asylum seekers and refugees. The strategic approach elaborated here may also be relevant for some of the work undertaken by the IFRC in support of people who have moved within their own countries².

For the purpose of this document, the following terminology will be used:

- The IFRC refers to the collective work of National Societies and their Secretariat.
- National Societies or NS refers exclusively to the work of National Societies.
- The IFRC Secretariat refers exclusively to the IFRC Secretariat in Geneva, as well as its regional and liaison offices.
- Regional Offices refers to IFRC regional offices.
- Liaison Offices refers to IFRC's offices in Addis Ababa, Brussels and New York.
- The Movement refers to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement made up of the IFRC Secretariat, its National Societies, and the ICRC.

A Strategy for the Future

This strategy articulates National Societies' and their IFRC Secretariat's (hereafter, the IFRC) core strengths and common purpose in migration, setting out aims and objectives to be achieved over a 5-year time frame, from 2018 to 2022.

The IFRC's global presence, auxiliary role and focus on the most vulnerable means it is uniquely placed to prevent and alleviate suffering through humanitarian action; to help uphold the rights and dignity of all migrants; and to assist migrants in integrating into host societies.

Drawing on the actions of National Societies in 190 countries and an estimated 13 million volunteers, the strategy aims to strengthen IFRC support to migrants at different stages of their journeys. It links together IFRC assistance, protection and advocacy work in order to reduce the vulnerability of migrants, including migrants in irregular situations, and to enhance their resilience.

The strategy recognises regional and national differences and is specific enough to challenge the IFRC to achieve greater impact in support of migrants, whilst being sufficiently broad to accommodate different issues, contexts, and National Society capacity. Migration is an area of strong International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) collaboration and coordination, and this strategy is envisaged as a stepping stone towards a future Movement migration strategy, which incorporates the work of ICRC more fully.

II. THE WAY FORWARD: SUMMARY

This IFRC Global Migration Strategy sets a direction for National Societies and the IFRC Secretariat until the end of 2022. The title – *Reducing Vulnerability, Enhancing Resilience* – reflects that this is not just about meeting humanitarian needs and mitigating risk, but also supporting the resilience of migrants by integrating assistance, protection and advocacy. The following five priorities form the basis of the strategy over the next five years:

1. Greater and more consistent IFRC action on migration through increased strategic attention, understanding of vulnerabilities and response to migrants' needs.
 - 75% of National Societies undertake assessments of need and integrate migration into their strategic planning.
 - National Societies ensure services are accessible by migrants and/or scale up services in key areas, targeting

² A Movement Policy on Internal Displacement was also adopted in 2009 to define the approach of the Movement in responding to internal displacement. It recognizes the distinction between internal displacement and migration while acknowledging the possible links between the two phenomena in some cases.

Global policies and commitments: a long-standing commitment to migrants

- 2002: The Berlin Charter calls for NS “to take immediate and sustained action to address the human vulnerabilities arising from all forms of population movement, irrespective of the status of the individuals themselves”, adopted at the Berlin Conference in April 2002.
- 2006: IFRC Policy on Refugees and other Displaced People.
- 2007: Resolution 5 on International Migration, adopted at the Council of Delegates.
- 2009: IFRC Policy on Migration expands the scope of, and replaces, the Federation policy on refugees and other displaced people and proposes 10 principles for the IFRC in working with migrants, irrespective of their legal status.
- 2011: States and all components of the Movement commit to Resolution 3 on “Migration: Ensuring Access, Dignity, Respect for Diversity and Social Inclusion,” at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.
- 2015: Movement statement on migration: “Ensuring Collective Action to Protect and Respond to the Needs and Vulnerabilities of Migrants,” adopted at the Council of Delegates.

migrants and vulnerable host populations, and ensuring inclusion of migrants in an irregular situation.

- National Societies consider the relevance of the Movement’s core strengths in migration programming - food, shelter and NFIs, health, information and referral, Restoring Family Links – in their context and the potential to provide these services, considering the needs of migrants and the capacity of the National Society.
2. Stronger IFRC action along migratory trails to reduce the risks that migrants face and address migrants’ needs through assistance, protection and advocacy
 - The capacity of National Societies is developed, particularly at branch level, so that they can assess and respond to the needs of migrant and host communities at key points along migratory trails.
 3. Greater focus on the most vulnerable and marginalised, ensuring that existing services are accessible and acceptable to migrants of all kinds; and establishment of dedicated programming where necessary.
 4. Increased impact of advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy with governments, in particular through strategic use of National Societies’ role as humanitarian auxiliaries to public authorities.
 5. Strengthened partnerships, within the Movement, as well as with external actors.

III. WHO WE ARE

Our commitments to working with migrants

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has a longstanding commitment to work with governments, host populations and migrant communities to meet the humanitarian needs of migrants and host communities.³ This commitment was formally elaborated in the IFRC Policy on Migration in 2009 and recalled by States in Resolution 3 adopted at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2011.

The Movement does not encourage or discourage migration. Our approach is strictly humanitarian in keeping with our Fundamental

³ The broad humanitarian mission of the IFRC is reflected in the Constitution of the IFRC and the Statutes of the Movement. For instance, the general object of the IFRC is “to inspire, encourage, facilitate, and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.” (IFRC Constitution, Article 4; see also Statutes of the Movement, Article 6, par.3).

The 10 Principles of the IFRC Migration Policy

1. Focus on the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants
2. Include migrants in humanitarian programming
3. Support the aspirations of migrants
4. Recognise the rights of migrants
5. Link assistance, protection and humanitarian advocacy for migrants
6. Build partnerships for migrants
7. Work along the migratory trails
8. Assist migrants in return
9. Respond to the displacement of populations
10. Alleviate migratory pressures on communities of origin

Principles, and action is undertaken on the basis of migrants' needs and vulnerabilities, regardless of their legal status. We also seek to ensure respect for migrants' rights under international and domestic law, including the special protection afforded to certain categories of people, such as refugees and asylum seekers.

Migration features in the IFRC Strategy 2020's Strategic Aim 3, "Promote Social Inclusion and a Culture of Non-Violence and Peace". In December 2015, the IFRC General Assembly approved IFRC's Plan and Budget 2016–2020, which identifies migration as one of its eight strategic "Areas of Focus" for IFRC programmatic support.

IV. WHERE WE STAND ON MIGRATION

Our strength lies in the diversity of our action. The IFRC is a global network of 190 National Societies and their Secretariat providing locally-adapted, needs-based responses to migrants, at different stages of their journeys.

Our programming strengths

National Societies support migrants in many ways. Much action is tailored to emergencies, including large-scale population movements, but there are many other programmes that aim to address the longer-term needs of migrants on arrival, at their destination, in transit or upon return. Interventions seek to prevent people falling into situations of exploitation and abuse or, if they have already done so, to assist and protect them. Our programmes aim to assist and protect the most vulnerable people whether they are in transit, newly arrived in a country, adjusting to a new society or returning to their old one. Many migrants have benefitted from services provided by National Societies in more than one country. Within a broad range of activities in support of migrants – summarised briefly in Figure 1 – some core strengths consistently emerge:

- **Humanitarian assistance:** National Societies provide humanitarian support to migrants in order to address their most urgent needs. Activities vary, but often include essential items such as food, hygiene kits and clothes, shelter, emergency accommodation, and more targeted support such as provision of information to particularly vulnerable groups. Whether working in refugee camps in East Africa, with returnees in the Americas or with recent arrivals in Europe, National Societies embedded in their societies can respond quickly to the specific needs of migrant groups in different countries.



TURKISH REDCRESCENT



TÜRK KIZILAYI

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ICRC's migration work

IFRC'S migration work is undertaken with ICRC in many contexts. ICRC's key areas of activity – which are undertaken mostly in areas affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence – include:

Protecting migrants: ICRC seeks to ensure that States fulfil their obligations to protect the lives, preserve the dignity and alleviate the suffering of vulnerable migrants, through confidential dialogue with authorities; raising awareness of applicable law and increasing awareness of the vulnerabilities associated with migration.

Activities for detained migrants: ICRC helps ensure that migrants detained in both criminal and dedicated immigration detention facilities are afforded due process of law, treated humanely and held in conditions that preserve their dignity.

Restoring Family Links and missing migrants: Together with National Societies, the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency has developed a Family Links Network which helps prevent people from disappearing or getting separated, and works to restore and maintain contact between family members whenever possible. It also tries to help establish the fate and whereabouts of people reported missing.

Forensic support: The ICRC also provides humanitarian forensic support to promote best practices and standards so that human remains are handled in a proper and dignified manner; the death is documented and the person is identified if possible; that human remains are repatriated or given a proper burial; and families are notified and official death certificates are issued.

Assistance: ICRC may provide direct relief or help migrants access services provided by other National Societies.

- **Basic health services, including first aid and psychosocial support:** Health is an important priority for migrants. While most migrants are in good health, migratory journeys can involve violence, accidents or disease; pre-existing conditions can be exacerbated by the journey; or migrants may require access to services such as reproductive health care. Many migrants may not have access to services from national health systems. National Societies offer medical assistance to migrants, with services ranging from community-based health and first aid training in Jordan; assistance to migrants with disabilities in Mexico and Central America; to treatment in Sweden for migrants suffering trauma as a result of torture. Medical assistance and psychosocial support can be a key entry point for work with migrants, particularly those in an irregular situation.
- **Restoring Family Links:** Losing contact with family is a common consequence of migration, whether people are separated on the journey or lose contact with those at home. Illness, injury, lack of resources or being detained may restrict migrants' access to means of communication. The Family Links Network, made up of the ICRC and 190 National Societies, helps prevent people from disappearing or getting separated, and works to restore and maintain contact between family members. This is a unique and highly relevant service for migrants which includes activities ranging from helping avoid the separation of families along the migration routes and providing migrants with communications opportunities; to registration of unaccompanied children; tracing separated family members and supporting or implementing family reunion. National Societies working with migrants report that an initial contact to restore family links may lead to migrants raising other issues or concerns and being referred to further services.

Figure 1: A sample of IFRC programmes on migratory journeys⁴

	Assistance and social inclusion	Protection	Advocacy, communications and public awareness
Countries of destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of shelter solutions (e.g. collective shelters, rental support, emergency accommodation) • Reception centres • Food and non-food items • Health programmes, including mental health and psychosocial support • Language training and cultural orientation • Access to employment and education • Reception and integration of resettled refugees • Establishment of “safe points” • Search and rescue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoring Family Links • Family reunion • Counselling, orientation, referrals and legal assistance • Pre-departure support to returnees under certain conditions • Responding to needs in immigration detention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications and awareness-raising activities aimed at countering discrimination, fostering peaceful-coexistence and social inclusion of migrants • Advocacy for safe and legal routes for migrants • Advocacy to ensure migrants’ access to services • Reminding authorities of their obligations towards migrants
Countries of transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of shelter solutions (e.g. collective shelters, rental support, emergency accommodation) • Food and non-food items • Health programmes, including mental health and psychosocial support • Community engagement and accountability • Camp management and coordination • Establishment of “safe points” • Work at points of first reception & reception centres • Refugee resettlement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoring Family Links • Counselling, orientation, referrals and legal assistance • Support to victims of trafficking and slavery • Responding to needs in immigration detention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications and awareness-raising activities aimed at countering discrimination, fostering peaceful-coexistence and social inclusion of migrants • Awareness raising activities regarding onward journeys • Reminding authorities of their obligations towards migrants • Advocacy on access to services • Provision of information to migrants on options for legal migration
Countries of origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience programming • Vocational trainings, livelihoods and income-generating activities • Reintegration assistance to returnees, including health and psychosocial support • Assistance to families of missing migrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of information to migrants (pre-departure briefings) • Restoring family links • Responding to needs in immigration detention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications and awareness raising activities aimed at providing information to would-be migrants to reduce potential risks on the journey or at destination • Reminding authorities of their obligations towards migrants

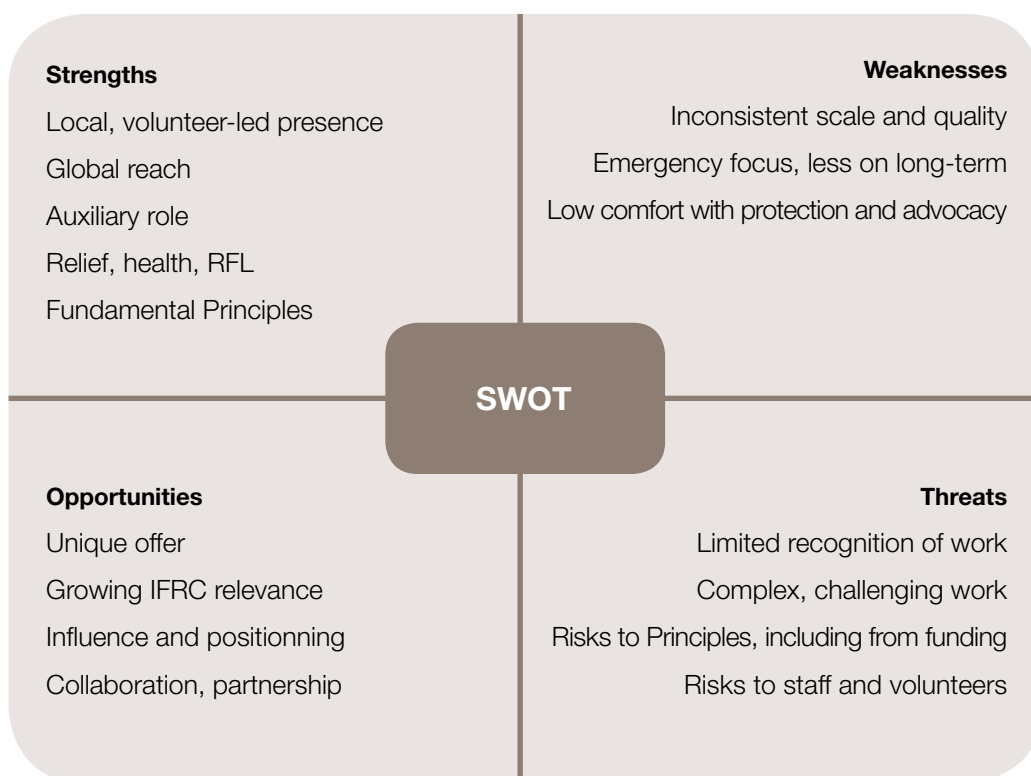
4 This table is non-exhaustive



Diana Coulter/IFRC

Playing to our strengths

The Movement has a unique approach to migration. Our broad humanitarian mandate and longstanding commitment to working with migrants irrespective of legal status means that we focus on vulnerability and need, working with people who may fall in the gaps between the organisational mandates of other actors engaged in migration. The presence of well-known and trusted National Societies in virtually every country in the world means that we are easily identifiable to migrants, and allows us to assist them at all stages of their journeys. The unique status of National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field provides opportunities for dialogue with governments to offer support in ensuring that the needs of migrants are met, their rights are ensured and their dignity is protected. Thanks to our voluntarism, we are embedded in our societies. This means that we can help strengthen integration and social inclusion, and tackle discrimination.



While our migration work will always be needs-based, adapted to the national context and dependent on the capacity of the National Society, there are opportunities to strengthen the scale, consistency and quality of our offer to migrants; not least as migrants may encounter different National Societies along their journeys. Working to address the humanitarian needs of migrants requires us to mainstream migration issues into our ongoing work, as well as to develop targeted migration programmes where these are required. Our Fundamental Principles demand that we remain neutral, independent of political and other motivations, but in certain contexts political sensitivities have caused a hesitancy to use humanitarian diplomacy to affect change in migrants' lives, or to work with migrants in an irregular situation. More can be done to mainstream protection into our programming and to take account of longer-term considerations in our humanitarian work; both crucial to working on migration.

The IFRC is a large and well-recognised global humanitarian actor, but its work on migration is less well known. It is better able than some organisations to attract funding for its work with migrants, but such funding is often focused on short-term or emergency activities. Funding for work on migration can be highly politicised, including being linked to the management of migration. As we consolidate our work on migration, we must continue to base our interventions on need alone, refusing funding that creates a conflict – or the perception of conflict – with our Fundamental Principles. More consistent and diverse funding will help support a longer-term, more strategic approach to our work on migration. Our embeddedness in society and our auxiliary status are strengths, however they can also present challenges for National Societies to avoid being swayed by negative societal attitudes to migration, for example. Easy access to government often afforded by the auxiliary role can have implications for National Societies’ ability to remain independent.

Working along migratory trails, across borders and often with mobile populations requires more coherent ways of working, and increased partnership, within and outside the Movement. Cross-border dynamics and regional issues can create challenges for coordinated working within the IFRC, but a shared humanitarian purpose should allow for stronger peer-to-peer dialogue, analysis and response on migration, including through regional IFRC networks, which could be strengthened further. Collaboration on migration is strong between ICRC, National Societies and the IFRC Secretariat, particularly on areas like detention and RFL, where ICRC has a leading role. Efforts to strengthen collaboration should continue to bring the strengths of the whole Movement and its complementary mandates to bear on reducing the vulnerability of migrants. Beyond the Movement, more effective external partnerships will allow for more effective work. Opportunities include sharing analysis and experience; deepening our engagement and advocacy with governments; strengthening strategic dialogue and programmatic partnerships with key migration actors to increase our reach and impact. Partnership must be more than just funding relationships. We must forge a new vision of partnership that is strategic and feasible, ensuring that our partners’ skills complement ours, that they share our values and respect the Fundamental Principles, and that migrants are actively involved and their voices heard.

V. OUR APPROACH

Protection and Do No Harm

As outlined in the IFRC Migration Policy, assistance to migrants must be accompanied by efforts to provide protection against abuse, exploitation and the denial of rights. Protection encompasses “...all activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law, i.e. human rights law, international humanitarian law, and refugee law”. Protection is first and foremost a responsibility of authorities, who have a responsibility to uphold the rights of all individuals within their jurisdiction. The importance of protection for migrants was highlighted in IFRC’s Policy on Migration and Resolution 3 due to the challenges that migrants often face in exercising their rights.

National Societies engage in a range of activities to promote the protection of migrants. This includes work in immigration detention, restoring family links, working with survivors of trafficking and slavery, social inclusion, provision of legal support, and information and advocacy activities. Many of these are specialist programmes, requiring high levels of expertise and experience. The ICRC, which has a specific mandate in protection, provides a framework for NS working in RFL and detention, as well as direct support and leadership where desired.

In addition to dedicated protection programmes, it is important that all work with migrants mainstreams protection and conforms to the principle of 'do no harm'. This requires that, at the very least, humanitarian activities do not increase the risks migrants face, either by act or by omission. The IFRC should also take a protection-focused approach by seeking to understand, and respond to, the risks faced by different groups, including migrants in an irregular situation, women, people with disabilities and children, especially unaccompanied minors. Some National Societies are undertaking excellent specialist protection work or in mainstreaming protection. However, more attention to promoting the protection of migrants is required to increase the scale, relevance and quality of the IFRC's work with migrants. ICRC is increasing its efforts to support National Societies in the field of protection. This is a welcome development, which is of significance for migration activities.

Advocacy and Humanitarian Diplomacy

National Societies are often in a privileged position to conduct advocacy on behalf of migrants due to their role as humanitarian auxiliaries to the public authorities. Advocacy, humanitarian diplomacy and communications are essential tools for ensuring that migrants receive the protection to which they are entitled under international and domestic law, including the special protection afforded to certain categories of people, such as refugees and asylum seekers. These tools are important for raising awareness of the humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and seeking means for these to be addressed. The focus of IFRC advocacy will be on the safe and dignified treatment of people migrating at all points of their journeys, regardless of legal status. This includes advocating in favour of policies to support social inclusion and non-discrimination.

This strategy gives effect to, and integrates, the IFRC Migration Communication and Advocacy Framework, 2016. It creates a platform for increased strategy and policy engagement so as to underpin more impactful humanitarian diplomacy at global, regional and national levels. It proposes more evidence-based and collective advocacy drawn from the unique, community-level presence of National Societies along migratory trails, as well as their privileged position as humanitarian auxiliaries to public authorities. It recognises that advocacy can be sensitive and urges increased support to National Societies so that it can be undertaken appropriately, in line with the Fundamental Principles, and in the interests of migrants. It highlights the importance of a coordinated and coherent Movement approach to external engagement and humanitarian diplomacy, where possible.

The Fundamental Principles in Action

It is within the prerogative of States to regulate the presence of migrants within their jurisdiction. In all situations, governments must comply with their obligations under international law, including the principle of *non-refoulement*,⁶ and the Movement will, when necessary, engage with States to seek to ensure that these obligations are fulfilled.

The involvement of the IFRC in return-related processes is complex. The IFRC Policy on Migration 2009 indicates that National Societies should avoid participation in deportations due to the risk of being perceived as supporting coercive action, but that the provision of humanitarian assistance is possible under stringent programming conditions. More recent IFRC⁷ and ICRC⁸ guidance indicates that National Societies should refrain from providing assistance during deportations due to the risk of association with coercive action. Migrants in the process of return may be subject to increased vulnerabilities and National Societies may therefore decide to provide pre-departure support or reintegration assistance. However, the IFRC Advisory Note and ICRC's guidance highlight the importance of considering the risks of association with return processes, including the risk of providing unintended humanitarian legitimacy to a process which may have serious humanitarian consequences, and the risk of loss of credibility and trust with both migrant and host communities. All support should be undertaken on the basis of the Fundamental Principles, in particular humanity, neutrality, independence and impartiality; important considerations for reintegration assistance where the returnee will become part of the local population.

Fundamental Principles and Migration

Migration has become increasingly contentious, both socially and politically. In such a climate, there is an increased risk that humanitarian action in support of migrants is politicised, or perceived as such. The best way for the IFRC to manage these risks is to demonstrate that their work is humanitarian, based on migrants' needs, and rooted in the seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.⁵

- Our principles of humanity and impartiality compel us to prioritise those most in need, irrespective of their legal status or reason for migrating. For this reason, this strategy urges a focus on migrants in an irregular status who are often amongst the most vulnerable, but may be difficult to access because of living below the radar due to their lack of legal status. However, these principles also demand that we do not privilege migrants over members of the host community, who may have greater or equally compelling needs.
- Our neutrality allows us to advocate on humanitarian issues on behalf of those who are most vulnerable. While we must refrain from entering political debate, this does not mean we are silent; the IFRC will raise issues of concern directly with authorities, or more broadly where appropriate. Our principle of independence is key to ensuring National Societies can act autonomously, and can work in areas of greatest need, even when these may be challenging. Included among such challenging areas are commitments in the IFRC Policy on Migration, specifically to 'assist migrants in return' and 'alleviate migratory pressures on countries of origin'. These are sensitive areas given the risk of association with the efforts of States to regulate migration, in countries of origin, transit and destination. High levels of migration can be indicative of issues that may be addressed through resilience or development programming. It is vital, however, that such programming is aimed at addressing developmental issues, rather than attempting to reduce migration, and that decisions to assist are undertaken on the basis of need alone.

This strategy recognises that National Societies may provide critical humanitarian support to migrants in highly sensitive areas, such as pre and post return-related processes. Given the complexity of each situation, it urges caution so that engagement is based on a rigorous assessment of need, undertaken with the free and informed consent of the migrants concerned, provides opportunities to raise issues of humanitarian concern with authorities, and is in full compliance with the Fundamental Principles and Movement policies.

⁵ Available here: <http://www.ifrc.org/who-we-are/vision-and-mission/the-seven-fundamental-principles/>

⁶ The principle of non-refoulement prohibits the transfer of persons from one authority to another where there are substantial grounds to believe that they would be in danger of being subjected to violations of certain fundamental rights. This is in particular recognized for persecution, torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, or arbitrary deprivation of life. Depending on the applicable universal or regional instruments, other grounds need to be considered.

⁷ IFRC Advisory Note 'Action to assist migrants in return', available at http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/89397/new-docs/Advisory%20Note%20Return_EN.pdf

⁸ ICRC perspectives regarding the Movement's participation in return-related activities (2016) and ICRC Position regarding participation by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the expulsion of migrants by the public authorities (2010).

Including migrants in humanitarian programming

The IFRC Policy on Migration states, “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.” National Societies undertake specialist and targeted programming for migrants in a range of contexts, as highlighted by the 2016 IFRC global study on Smart Practices.⁹ What is less common is for ongoing programmes to take the unique needs and vulnerabilities of migrants into account, ensuring that all services are accessible to migrants. This mainstreaming is critical because assistance, health, and RFL programmes provide critical opportunities for migrants to seek further assistance and support. This is particularly true of migrants in an irregular situation or victims of trafficking, who may not seek assistance unless and until their need is urgent. Irrespective of the type of programming, the IFRC needs to reinforce community engagement and accountability; ensuring migrants have opportunities to raise issues and concerns. We must make a space for migrants to be heard and to ensure that their needs and concerns guide our humanitarian action.

VI. GLOBAL MIGRATION STRATEGY: REDUCING VULNERABILITY, ENHANCING RESILIENCE

This strategy establishes an over-arching goal and sets out three strategic aims in addition to three enabling actions that describe how we will deliver these priorities. The strategic aims and enabling actions elaborate a set of outcomes we will seek to achieve, a direction for getting there, and key priorities for the next five years.

Goal:

At all stages of their journeys, and irrespective of their legal status, migrants find the IFRC ready to respond to their needs, enhance their resilience, and advocate for their rights.

⁹ IFRC, *Smart practices that enhance the resilience of migrants*. Available at: <http://media.ifrc.org/global-review-on-migration/participation-by-the-International-Red-Cross-and-Red-Crescent-Movement-in-the-expulsion-of-migrants-by-the-public-authorities> (2010).

Strategic Aim 1: Save lives and ensure dignity

People migrating, irrespective of their legal status, receive the necessary humanitarian assistance and protection at all stages of the journey including addressing the specific needs of the most vulnerable migrants

Outcomes	Strategic direction	Priority actions
<p>1. Migrants, including migrants in an irregular situation, have meaningful access to assistance, information and referrals to other services at key points on migration routes or in areas with large populations of migrants.</p>	<p>National Societies will expand work to identify and meet needs along migratory trails. Over the course of the strategy, there will be a scale-up in the number of National Societies engaged in migration and giving consideration to providing programmes in line with the Movement's core strengths: food, shelter and NFIs, health, information and referral, and Restoring Family Links.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS and IFRC regional offices identify key points of need and vulnerability, including at border areas. By the end of 2022, 75% of NS undertake needs assessments and integrate migration into their strategic planning. • An increased number of local National Society branches have the capacity to provide relevant services to migrants, particularly in border areas or areas with high numbers of migrants in need. • NS ensure current services are accessible to migrants and mainstream migration considerations into their current work. • NS scale up services for migrants where required, targeting migrants and vulnerable host populations and ensuring inclusion of migrants in an irregular situation. Consideration will be given to whether it is possible and appropriate to provide services in line with the Movement's core strengths in migration programming. • NS establish referral mechanisms either as part of other services or as a stand-alone activity, and volunteers and staff are provided with the training to do so.
<p>2. Migrants are able to restore and maintain contact with their families. Family separation is reduced and family reunification is promoted and facilitated.</p>	<p>National Societies and the IFRC Secretariat will work with ICRC to reinforce Restoring Family Links, and innovate to ensure a consistent and quality approach, particularly along migratory trails. Special attention will be given to the needs of particularly vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied minors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Societies provide RFL services and ensure that broader identified needs are met, either by NS or through referral. The IFRC Secretariat will work with the ICRC to enhance the strategic integration of RFL into National Societies' organizational development and their operational response and strategic plans. Advocacy is undertaken to ensure family reunification where entitlements exist. • Good practice is shared between National Societies to develop regional and trans-regional links, including systems that allow for the confidential and safe sharing of information along migratory routes. The ICRC and its Central Tracing Agency will continue to play a leading and coordinating role in this field and support the Family Links Network. • RFL activities for migrants, including missing migrants, is strengthened by a new RFL strategy from 2019. This will include a focus on trans-regional cooperation along migratory trails and integrated approaches involving prevention, search for missing persons, and support to families of the missing.
<p>3. Migrants have access to medical assistance and other health services according to their needs.</p>	<p>IFRC reinforces its healthcare provision and/or referral to save lives and reduce suffering, and to act as a critical entry point for engagement with migrants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS are able to provide or refer migrants to emergency first aid and basic healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support. • Training is developed and provided to ensure ongoing NS health services are available, accessible and acceptable to migrants, including those in an irregular situation, and to facilitate referral to other services as required. • Health staff and volunteers are trained on key protection issues for migrants, including trafficking, and can refer appropriately. • NS advocate to authorities for migrants' access to a full range of health services to be available and accessible to migrants.

Outcomes	Strategic direction	Priority actions
<p>4. Migrants, including refugees in sudden-onset, large-scale population movements, receive assistance and protection.</p>	<p>The IFRC will reinforce work on large-scale population movements, in camp and non-camp settings, strengthening quality and capacity, and taking account of the longer-term needs of migrant populations. Protection activities will be mainstreamed into these interventions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency response tools are reviewed for their adaptability and appropriateness to large-scale, migrant populations, taking into consideration the need for livelihoods and education support, and the needs of migrants in an irregular situation. • Working with ICRC, IFRC strengthens its protection approach to ensure that protection is mainstreamed into responses, and understanding of protection risks, appropriate responses and safe referrals is increased. • IFRC develops emergency response plans that contain, from the outset, a longer-term vision for migrants given the likelihood of protracted displacement, with efforts made to increase the resilience of migrants as well as opportunities for integration and social inclusion.

Strategic Aim 2: Enable safe and resilient living

The needs, aspirations and entitlements of migrants and their communities are met, and they are made more resilient.

Outcomes	Strategic direction	Priority actions
<p>1. Migrants will be better informed about their rights and potential risks, to ensure that decisions to migrate are made voluntarily, in safety, with all necessary information, and potential risks are mitigated.</p>	<p>National Societies, with support from the IFRC Secretariat, will adapt and expand programming to provide information to migrants, to ensure they have access to safe, credible information about their rights and risks they may face on their journeys, including at pre-departure, transit and on arrival, which will assist them to develop strategies to manage risks and increase their resilience. This will be developed into a core service over the lifetime of the strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices in pre-departure programming will be shared across the IFRC, to ensure migrants, including prospective irregular migrants, are informed of their rights and of potential risks. • Best practices on information provision and community engagement and accountability will be shared and disseminated to strengthen support to migrants. Information on, and referral to, services provided by other actors will be a key component of information provided. • Migrants will be systematically included in all services to ensure that information is communicated effectively. Wherever possible, and in line with guidelines and good practice, migrants will be involved as staff and volunteers.
<p>2. The resilience of individuals and communities with high levels of migration will be increased</p>	<p>National Societies may undertake programming aimed at increasing the resilience of communities in areas with high levels of migration so that communities can recover from crises, and prepare for, resist and overcome shocks. Such work will be undertaken to reduce the underlying causes of vulnerability, on the basis of humanity and impartiality, and not with the aim of controlling migration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFRC will extend its strategic and policy engagement on resilience and migration in order to improve understanding of negative 'push' factors, and the potential for resilience programming to reduce these, with a view to the development of a coherent IFRC approach and guidance, so that NS can make informed decisions on engagement; and ensure effective, relevant and appropriate programming. • Resilience programmes may include a range of different activities, such as community-based livelihoods initiatives; DRR, food security programming; integrated primary health care; and water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion. • National Societies will not, as humanitarian auxiliaries to public authorities or otherwise, play a role in migration control. Any resilience programming will be undertaken in accordance with the Fundamental Principles.

Outcomes	Strategic direction	Priority actions
<p>3. Migrants in the process of return have their rights, safety and dignity respected and their needs addressed</p>	<p>The IFRC will remind States of their obligations regarding migrants' needs and rights during return processes. NS may provide humanitarian services during pre-departure or post return, on the basis of humanity and impartiality, where this does not undermine the Fundamental Principles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All components of the Movement will continue policy dialogue and development of policy guidance on its role in return processes, with a view to assisting National Societies to make informed decisions on engagement; ensuring strong guidance where this occurs; and drawing lessons from engagement. • National Societies will not, as humanitarian auxiliaries to public authorities or otherwise, play a role in coercive action or migration control or accept assignments that could conflict with the Movement's policies or Fundamental Principles. • NS may engage with the authorities in both transferring States and countries of return on issues of humanitarian concern to ensure that the needs, rights, and dignity of migrants are upheld during return processes in compliance with international law, in particular the principle of non-refoulement. NS may also provide humanitarian assistance to migrants during pre-departure or post return. This will be done on the basis of a review of compliance with the law; a rigorous assessment of need; the capacity of the National Society and the balancing of risks, including perception. In so doing, they will coordinate with other relevant components of the Movement ensuring, to the degree possible, a coherent Movement approach.

Strategic Aim 3: Promote social inclusion of migrants

Communities are supported to strengthen social inclusion and respect for diversity, and to break down barriers and misconceptions.

Outcomes	Strategic direction	Priority actions
<p>1. Migrants have access to information, resources and opportunities in their new communities.</p>	<p>NS will support the integration of migrants into new societies, or the reintegration of returnees, through the provision of information, assistance and services tailored to their contexts and needs; support in accessing their entitlements and advocacy so that their rights are upheld.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS will, where possible and relevant, provide or refer migrants to language and skills training to support integration and education, livelihood and employment opportunities. Migrants will be supported to access health and psychosocial services. • NS will either provide services or refer migrants to information and legal assistance and other support to help them access programmes and services. • NS undertake advocacy for migrants' access to entitlements and services, including the inclusion of migrants within national public health policy and programmes. Where relevant, NS will advocate for migrants' right to work.
<p>2. Migrants feel accepted and included in communities, and have meaningful and ongoing interaction with local people.</p>	<p>National Societies will reinforce work to build trust, understanding and empathy for migrants, including returnees, amongst receiving communities. National Societies will serve as a bridge between migrants and communities, using our voice and influence to break down barriers and misconceptions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS will adopt holistic approaches to migrant-focused programming, ensuring that vulnerable host communities also benefit. • NS will be supported to take action in communities and in local and national media to shape public attitudes towards migrants and tackle myths. • National Societies develop partnerships with national and local organisations, including grassroots and voluntary groups, to promote acceptance of migrants.

VII. HOW WE WORK

Enabling Action 1: Build strong National Societies

Outcomes	Strategic direction	Priority actions
<p>1. National Societies have increased knowledge and capacity to assess the needs of migrants, respond effectively and measure their impact.</p>	<p>National Societies and the IFRC Secretariat develop information, training and technical support to enable National Societies to provide services to migrants, including adapting and innovating more effective programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A NS toolbox on migration is developed with the Federation Secretariat and ICRC to help ensure that NS have the requisite guidance and support to implement the strategy. This includes guidance on needs assessment, mainstreaming migration into current humanitarian action, protection mainstreaming and other key considerations. • Needs assessments and other tools are adapted as necessary to more directly target migrants, including those that may otherwise be difficult to detect. • Mapping of Smart Practices in migration is continued and expanded, and results shared so that NS can learn from one another in creating effective programming for migrants, including migrants in an irregular situation. • NS are supported to develop systematic data collection for monitoring and evaluation and evidence-based advocacy. • Guidance is provided to support National Societies in mainstreaming the needs of migrants into existing programmes
<p>2. National Societies understand and contribute to a collective response to the vulnerabilities of migrants along migratory routes.</p>	<p>National Societies develop cooperation with sister NS on migratory trails in order to increase shared analysis and opportunities for aligned (or joint, where feasible) programming and funding opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity of NS branches at key points on migratory trails is reinforced in order to provide enhanced services to migrants and host populations. • NS are supported to expand programming, particularly in areas considered core to the IFRC, and also in providing coordinated or regional responses. • Sister NS undertake joint assessments/visits to build shared understanding, peer exchange and learning, and more opportunities for cooperation. • Review of the roles of NS networks (e.g. APMN and PERCO¹⁰) to capture and potentially extend their work and expand into other regions.
<p>3. Individual volunteers and staff, including at leadership levels, understand the risks and vulnerabilities of all migrants and are supported to be proactive in responding to them</p>	<p>National Societies improve and expand awareness within their Societies of migration issues and the role that the Movement plays in responding, and train frontline, branch-level staff and volunteers in detection, support and referral of migrants of all kinds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An internal communications campaign is conducted to raise awareness among National Societies of the commitment to working with migrants, including migrants in an irregular situation, and how to approach this in a politically sensitive way. • NS develop minimum standards on support and supervision to staff and volunteers working on migration. • Volunteers and staff are informed about migrants' vulnerabilities and learn to adapt programmes to make them accessible to migrants, or to facilitate referral to other services. • Volunteers and staff are aware of the commitments of the Movement on migration, the scope of work and how the Fundamental Principles apply to this area of work
<p>4. National Societies' staff and volunteers reflect the values of acceptance and diversity they want to inculcate in the community.</p>	<p>Through training and awareness-raising, as well as targeted recruitment of migrants and people from minority backgrounds, National Societies become more diverse, tolerant, and alert to the presence and needs of migrants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and support packages are developed and rolled out that can be adapted to specific contexts, and that help National Societies to ensure the orientation of their staff. • National Societies identify and target branch offices or regions in particular need of diversity training and support in integrating migration. • National Societies conduct recruitment in a way that specifically targets and encourages the participation of migrants and minorities.

10 APMN is the Asia Pacific Migration Network and PERCO is the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants

Enabling Action 2: Pursue humanitarian diplomacy and partnerships¹¹

Outcomes	Strategic direction	Priority actions
<p>1. Evidence- and rights-based advocacy improves the safety and well-being of migrants in all countries where the IFRC provides assistance, protection and support.</p>	<p>National Societies, together with the IFRC Secretariat, develop timely evidence- and rights-based advocacy to support migrants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS and the IFRC Secretariat invest in systems to document, collate and share information and testimonies from work with migrants. This includes the number and type of safety/protection issues and proposed solutions at national and international levels. • The IFRC Secretariat enables increased joint advocacy across the network on migration through coordinating collective communications, policy and advocacy, particularly at regional level. • The IFRC develops robust systems to ensure data protection and non-disclosure of sensitive information, as well as clear systems for obtaining informed consent so that advocacy can be conducted without putting migrants at risk. • The IFRC Secretariat and NS coordinate advocacy initiatives with ICRC to ensure a coherent Movement approach.
<p>2. Increased advocacy at international and regional levels enables positive change for migrants, including irregular migrants, so humanitarian needs are met and rights respected.</p>	<p>The IFRC Secretariat, working with NS and IFRC regional offices in strategic capitals, improves the impact of its humanitarian diplomacy on global and regional policy developments, such as the Global Compact on Migration. It is a sought-after stakeholder in high-level policy forums.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IFRC Secretariat deploys the capacity and influence of the network with governments in strategic capitals, through its Liaison Offices and its Observer Status at the UN, and in other international fora to achieve positive change for irregular migrants. • The IFRC Secretariat, working with key NS in different regions, invests in the capacity to analyse and review and develop policy on sensitive and evolving issues such as return, externalisation policies and the inter-relationship between the Fundamental Principles and migration.
<p>3. National Societies deepen their dialogue on migration with governments as part of their role as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field.</p>	<p>National Societies increase long-term dialogue and exchange with government regarding the rights and vulnerabilities of migrants of all kinds, including returnees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS undertake dialogue and humanitarian diplomacy with authorities at all levels on the rights and needs of all migrants drawing on evidence and experience from their programmes. • NS initiate and maintain discussions with governments about their roles in support of migrants, and their Fundamental Principles. This will include the possibility of MoUs on action in the event of increases in migrant arrivals, as well as other migration services. • The IFRC Secretariat increases the capacity of NS to contribute to national policy debates through provision of policy, guidance, tools and support that can be adapted to different contexts.
<p>4. IFRC expanded and strengthened network of partnerships supports stronger programming and advocacy, as well as access to more strategic funding opportunities.</p>	<p>The IFRC Secretariat and key National Societies develop a proactive external engagement strategy on migration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IFRC Secretariat and NS work together at regional and global levels to identify partners with whom to develop operational, advocacy and funding relationships. • The IFRC reviews its role in migration and identifies how to adapt its relationship with mandated agencies on migration, to maximise benefit from these relationships in programming, advocacy and funding for IFRC work with migrants, ensuring close coordination with ICRC where relevant. • IFRC pursues external funding to expand its Migration Fund to increase independence.
<p>5. The IFRC is respected for its role, analysis and policy positions on migration.</p>	<p>The IFRC Secretariat and NS increase the scale and quality of IFRC strategic and policy engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The senior leadership of the IFRC Secretariat and NS increase external engagement with governments, key agencies in migration, and policy forums, coordinating with ICRC to ensure a coherent Movement approach. • IFRC Secretariat, working with key NS in different regions, invests in the capacity to analyse and develop policy on sensitive and evolving issues relating to migration and influence the broader strategic agenda around migration, ensuring a coherent Movement approach where relevant.

¹¹ More details can be found in the Federation-Wide Migration Advocacy and Communications Framework, which accompanies this strategy. Available at <https://fednet.ifrc.org/en/resources/communications/communication-packs/-ifrcs-new-federation-wide-migration-advocacy-and-communication-framework/>

Enabling Action 3: Function effectively as the IFRC

Outcomes	Strategic direction	Priority actions
<p>1. The IFRC Secretariat provides strong internal leadership to ensure Federation-wide priorities can be delivered by both the collective and individual National Societies.</p>	<p>There is increased leadership and cooperation within IFRC and across the Movement, greater Geneva-regional engagement and current silos between assistance, protection and humanitarian advocacy on migration are reduced due to adequate resourcing of the Secretariat and Regional offices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to strengthen cross-Movement coordination, cooperation and collaboration on migration are strengthened, including through the development of a Movement migration strategy. • Review responsibilities and accountabilities (leadership and management) so that a vision and strategy for migration can be instilled across the membership. • Designate and clarify roles and responsibilities across different functions engaged in migration, paying particular attention to roles between Geneva and the regions. • Geneva, regional and liaison offices have sufficient staff with the right background to provide technical support and strategic guidance. • Greater investment in IFRC Secretariat capacity at regional levels to position the organisation externally, engage in strategic discussions, support NS and seek partnerships. • Migration Expert Roster is rolled out and incrementally expanded as lessons are learned. • Regional networks are supported and reinforced to provide strategic guidance, and transfer of learning and experience between them is facilitated. • The migration team in Geneva, regional focal points and liaison offices develop and provide training and tools to NS for working with irregular migrants, including on working with and/or advocating to governments to agree entitlement to information and services.
<p>2. The IFRC's vision, strategy and global policy positions on migration are effectively communicated and have influence.</p>	<p>The Secretariat defines strong, strategic policy and thought leadership to deliver on its strategic and humanitarian diplomacy objectives, working with the expertise of National Societies, and disseminated with their support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish strong policy positions at global level that reflects IFRC field work and priority concerns. • Strengthen dialogue with ICRC to ensure joint and complementary messaging to maximise Movement impact. • The IFRC Secretariat strengthens capacity to develop, disseminate and support the enactment, with the support and involvement of NS, of strong policy guidance on emerging issues in relation to migration, working in coordination and cooperation with the ICRC where appropriate.

Outcomes	Strategic direction	Priority actions
<p>3. IFRC responds rapidly and effectively to the emergency needs of migrants and provides effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting.</p>	<p>Emergency responses, including to large-scale movements, are effectively coordinated and include both mainstreamed and targeted programming for migrants, including assistance and protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IFRC Secretariat provides timely and effective coordination with and between NS and the ICRC, defining clear roles and responsibilities. NS receive support and have the capacity and resources to assess need and deliver effectively. • The IFRC Secretariat provides leadership in engaging with key external partners, including cluster leadership. Where necessary and appropriate, the IFRC Secretariat will lead dialogue with governments and UN mandated actors to identify a specific role for the IFRC within and across borders. • Responses include targeted programming for migrants, but migrants are also mainstreamed into all response activities, encompassing both assistance and protection. • Increased strategic engagement between the IFRC Secretariat Migration team in Geneva and other programme and policy/ communications functions to ensure there is recognition of migration as a cross-cutting issue, and mainstreaming of migration into programme, advocacy and communications work of the IFRC. • Longer-term livelihoods and resilience work, including cash transfer programming and alternative shelter solutions, are considered from the outset of a response to better uphold human dignity. • Systems for collecting, sharing and disseminating information are in place to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation, advocacy, communications and humanitarian diplomacy. • Global tools are available and adapted to migration responses, and take account of the often-protracted nature of responses
<p>4. The IFRC internationally, regionally and at national levels has adequate, independent funds to undertake consistent, quality work.</p>	<p>IFRC Secretariat, regional and liaison offices provide strong strategic guidance and leadership to help National Societies and their Secretariat to shift the balance of power with donors, strategically creating funding opportunities rather than pursuing programming because funding is available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IFRC Secretariat, working with key NS in different regions, develops and implements a long-term fundraising strategy on migration to identify increased and longer-term funding to accompany this strategy. • Improved strategic relationships and consistent dialogue with key migration donors helps IFRC complement emergency response and project-oriented migration work, longer-term engagement and enhanced local capacities. • IFRC explores potential for increasing the Migration Fund to allow for flexible, long-term funding of strategic priorities. • The IFRC Secretariat, working with NS, develops a principled-based approach to institutional funding of migration activities to help ensure funding does not compromise Fundamental Principles



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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.