

Our policy is built on the imperative for humanitarian action



Working with and for vulnerable migrants across the world is one of the long standing traditions of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We have a role in providing humanitarian protection and assistance to those in need irrespective of their legal status. The adoption of the Policy on Migration by the Council of Delegates in November 2009 clarified our mandate to address the humanitarian concerns of migrants 'living at the margins of conventional health, social and legal systems', throughout their journey.

Our policy...

Describes migration in an inclusive manner

The International Conference insisted that migrants' needs must be addressed, "irrespective of their legal status".

General principles for action:

1. Focus on the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants
2. Include migrants in humanitarian programming
3. Support the aspirations of migrants
4. Recognize 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

Focuses on migrants' needs and vulnerabilities – rather than their legal-administrative status...

The approach is strictly humanitarian and based on the recognition of each migrant's individuality and aspirations.

Promotes integrated programming

We will combine immediate response to the needs of migrants with programmes designed to reduce vulnerabilities, and protect and empower them. ([Art. 1.1](#))

Defends the principle of humanitarian access

Ensure that migrants have access to humanitarian assistance, essential services, and legal support... and obtain effective and unconditional access to all migrants, irrespective of their legal status. ([Art. 1.2](#))

Requires humanitarian access to and for irregular migrants

Take into account the needs and vulnerabilities of irregular migrants. We shall take steps to respond to their needs, either through direct assistance, referral, or humanitarian advocacy efforts. ([Art. 1.3](#))

Aims at humanizing migrants, rather than excluding them

We will involve migrants in their host communities ([Art. 3.2](#)) and integrate members of migrant communities as staff and volunteers into the National Society. ([Art. 3.3](#))

Addresses legal issues as they concern needs + vulnerabilities...

Sensitize partners and the public to the principle that no migrant is without rights, regardless of their legal status. ([Art. 4.2](#))

Aims at individual assistance and protection in mixed migration

Support the right of mixed migrant groups to be considered on an individual basis and assist them to assert individual claims through adequate procedures. ([Art. 7.4](#))

Mobilises against migratory pressures

Migratory pressures can be related to social and economic distress; linked to environmental degradation, natural or man-made hazards, or due to persecution, armed conflict, and violence. Supporting disaster preparedness and building resilience, we can contribute to alleviating pressures that induce people to migrate against their will and desire.

Neither prevents nor promotes migration

However: National Societies may raise awareness of potential risks of migration, particularly irregular migration...whilst avoiding to become instruments of governmental policies, aimed at preventing migration as a whole. ([Art. 7.5](#))

Articles cited are from the [policy guidance document](#) available on www.ifrc.org/migration.

Available on www.ifrc.org/migration

[Background document](#)

[Council of Delegates Resolution on migration \(2007\)](#)

[IFRC policy on migration \(2009\)](#)

[Council of Delegates Resolution on migration \(2009\)](#)



For further information, please contact:

Sue Le Mesurier
Senior Policy and Programme Officer, Migration
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 17 chemin des Crêts, 1211 Geneva 19 – Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 730 4369
Mobile: + 41 79 326 4281
e-mail: sue.lemesurier@ifrc.org

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