

The situation

As of today, more than 1,070,000 people are reported to have crossed to Europe since the beginning of 2015. The main migratory entry point remains Greece, with over 915,000 arrivals registered (856,723 in 2015 and 58,547 until 30 January 2016).¹

91% of the migrants arriving to Greece are composed of nationals of Syria (55%), Afghanistan (25%) and Iraq (11%).² Other countries of origin represented in the region are Eritrea, Pakistan,³ Nigeria, Somalia, Morocco, Bangladesh, among others.

Demographically, we can still see a majority presence of adult males among the migrants on the move (57%), but we encounter more families, which is translated into an increasing number of children (27%) and women (17%). The proportion of children amongst refugees and migrants has continued to increase over the past three months. According to national sources, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the ratio in December was 37 percent, compared to 23 percent in September. In Serbia, the figures were 36 percent in December compared to 27 percent in September.⁴ A recent report from Amnesty International indicates that women and girls coming into Europe are facing violence and sexual harassment at every stage of their journey.⁵



Hellenic RC rescue and first aid teams hypothermia cases in Lesvos, Greece on 20 January 2016. Photo: Caroline Haga/IFRC

The main current humanitarian concerns are the selective entry procedures, registration and entry limits and the effect the deteriorating weather conditions may have on the humanitarian response.⁶

The combination of strong winds, high waves and lower water temperatures in recent weeks has made the journey across the sea to Greece more difficult, resulting in lower arrival numbers. Due to deteriorating weather conditions, several rescue operations took place on the waters near Lesvos, Kos and Samos for boats in distress. As of 29 January, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) recorded the deaths of at least 244 refugees and migrants who tried to reach Europe via the Mediterranean Sea, nearly three times the 82 people who died last January, and overwhelmingly more than the 12 people who died in January 2014.⁷

The migratory flow still continues in spite of worsening weather conditions or border restrictions, and the situation remains unpredictable.

¹ Source: <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/country.php?id=83>

² Source: <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php>

³ If we consider the regional overview, 78% of the migrants come from these three nationalities (Syria 48%, Afghanistan 21%, Iraq 9%).

⁴ Source: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53039#.VqjUlvkrKUM>

⁵ Source: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/01/female-refugees-face-physical-assault-exploitation-and-sexual-harassment-on-their-journey-through-europe/>

⁶ Source: <http://acaps.org/img/documents/a-acaps-mapaction-refugee-migrant-in-europe-situation-analysis.pdf>

⁷ Source: <http://www.iom.int/news/migrant-arrivals-europe-2016-top-55000-over-200-deaths>

Changes on border policy controls developed by nations such as Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which are limiting the entry into their territories to nationalities (Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans) continue to be implemented. Tensions among the migrants remain vivid due to the uncertainty of their situation. The results of the border restriction policies are making migrants look for alternative routes, which include Bulgaria and Albania (the latter leading towards Italy).

Moreover, six Schengen countries (Austria, Germany, France, Sweden, Denmark and non-EU member Norway) have reintroduced additional checks and restrictions at their respective borders. While more and more European countries are imposing border controls, Germany warned that Afghan nationals would not be considered as refugees and they may face the risk of being sent back to Afghanistan in case they want to apply for asylum in Germany. After re-introduced border controls in EU countries, Austria announced on 20 January 2016 a cap on asylum-seekers and warned that it would take only 37,500 in 2016.

On 25 January 2016, the EU Interior Ministers gathered in Amsterdam for informal talks to discuss the migration situation and border control related issues. Regarding the re-introduced border controls in the Schengen area, the Ministers agreed that shorter-term dispensations for border controls, which end in May, could be extended for an additional two years.

European Union policies regarding migrant issues so far have only been slowly implemented and the anticipated effects on migration issues still have to be seen. After eight months of summits, debates and joint declarations, the EU has yet to implement policies it has agreed to, for example regarding the relocation process.⁸

There were hopes that the relocation scheme would result in a more even distribution of asylum seekers across the 28 EU member states. Since the agreements by the European Council in September 2015 to relocate a total of 160,000 asylum seekers from the “front-line” states of Greece and Italy to other EU states over two years, only 414 asylum seekers have been relocated in the past four months.⁹ Austria has recently suspended its participation in the relocation scheme, while Hungary and Slovakia are challenging in court the quotas they are supposed to receive, and Denmark and the UK opted out from the beginning. Overwhelmed, Sweden has reversed its involvement, aiming to become a sending rather than a receiving country.

The IFRC is closely monitoring the situation and it is ready to adjust its response taking into account the evolving situation and factors which may trigger different scenarios to be implemented.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



605,000+
People reached



7,110,763
Meals & Food parcels



747,894
Health interventions



77,182
Volunteers mobilized



1,678,583
Beddings & clothes



608,103
Hygiene items

Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies continue implementing their emergency response to meet the humanitarian needs of the migrants across the migratory route. Mostly due to weather conditions and also border restrictions in place, the current flow of migrants has decreased, although current daily arrival rates in Greece are still quite significant and the humanitarian needs remain there for those migrants on the move. While most of the National Societies supported by multilateral funding, especially in the entry and transit countries, focus their activities on health (basic health care, first aid provision and psychosocial support), relief distributions (food and non-food items), restoring family links (RFL) and community engagement, others focus also on integration programmes and/or shelter.

In **Greece**, the response to the main needs of people on the move remains critical but with the anticipation of Athens potentially becoming a longer term destination for the migrants. As a result, the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) is increasing its support in Athens, specifically at the transit centres which are opened and managed by the Greek government. HRC's support on both levels include the provision of relief items which are constantly being adapted to make them more relevant, light weight and portable; health services; RFL and community engagement. Basic health care services have been provided to migrants by the Spanish RC Emergency Response Units (ERUs) in Samos and

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ As of 25 January 2016: 14 to Belgium, 140 to Finland, 62 to France, 21 to Germany, 10 to Ireland, 4 to Lithuania, 30 to Luxembourg, 50 to Netherlands, 26 to Portugal, 18 to Spain and 39 to Sweden)

Chios since October, and the Norwegian/French/Canadian Red Cross Societies` ERU in Idomeni as of October 2015. To date, all ERUs have been or are in the process of handing-over their operations to the HRC, which will continue to ensure basic health care to migrants in these locations both through existing and newly recruited local staff.

With the ceaseless and continued flow of migrants coming to Greece, IFRC has extended the timeframe of the Greece emergency operation until September 2016 to provide on-going assistance to migrants and strengthen the efforts of the HRC in this regard. Partner National Societies are continuing their assistance in various capacities, with German Red Cross's support of relief goods and Danish Red Cross supporting health services in the northern area of Lesvos with hygiene promotion, PSS activities and RFL services. British Red Cross has been supporting HRC in water and sanitation and distribution of food, water and hygiene kits, and is now looking into supporting the start-up of cash transfer programming. ICRC continues to collaborate with HRC and IFRC on RFL support, forensic advisory services as well as monitoring visits to immigration detention centres throughout Greece. Swiss Red Cross is currently supporting the salary of a HRC migration officer based in Lesvos and supported with a logistics delegate. Additional human resources support as staff on loan to the IFRC has been provided by the Australian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross and Luxemburg Red Cross with field coordinators, and Norwegian Red Cross with a Head of Country Office. An RDRT from the Palestine Red Crescent was deployed in coordination with the Middle East and Northern Africa Region to support PSS activities.

In **Italy**, the Emergency Appeal was revised in November 2015, allowing the IFRC to support the Italian Red Cross to assist up to 105,000 people (increased from 85,000 in the original version) by adding contingency stock provision for 20,000 (including mainly shelter and hygiene items) as a preparedness measure during the ongoing migration crisis that could partially be used for to meet the urgent needs in other affected countries around the region. Currently, the Italian RC is in the process of procuring these stocks in coordination with the Global logistics services of the IFRC. The Italian Red Cross has been focusing its support on the provision of basic food and non-food items; health care; including First Aid and Psychosocial Support; hygiene promotion; Restoring Family Links (RFL) services, as well as building the response capacities of the National Society.



Hellenic Red Cross assisting migrants. *Photo: Caroline Haga/IFRC*

In the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, the National Society is currently revising the Emergency Appeal for the first time to extend the activities until September 2016 and assist about 250,000 people. The Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is focusing its support on the provision of basic food and non-food items, additional assistance for winterization, hygiene promotion, health care including First Aid, Restoring Family Links services, beneficiary communications as well as building the response capacities of the National Society through contingency stocks. According to UNHCR data, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has received a daily average of 2,899 people per day during December, whilst in the first two weeks of January the average was 1,900 people.

The Red Cross of **Serbia** is revising the Emergency Appeal for the second time in order to adapt its response to the current needs of the migrant population. The National Society is focusing its support on the provision of basic food and non-food items (with a focus on hot tea and soup provision); hygiene promotion activities, provision of First Aid kits; Restoration of Family Links services, beneficiary communication as well as building the response capacities of the National Society through contingency stocks and field kitchen equipment. On the basis of the recent assessments conducted, the Revised Plan of Action aims to cover additional winterization needs of the target population as well as additional response capacities of the National Society required for the efficient implementation of the foreseen activities in the operation period. With this revision, the IFRC is aiming to support the Red Cross of Serbia to assist some 380,580 people in the on-going migration crisis. The current average of people entering on a daily basis has decreased in the last weeks, but an increase is expected as the weather conditions improve. The Regional Office for Europe deployed a Disaster and Crisis Response Delegate to support the Red Cross of Serbia in the revision of the Appeal and to meet key donors. The ICRC provided RFL kits (consisting of lap-tops, tablets, printers and phones with data and sim cards, and basic furniture) to the Red Cross of Serbia for its RFL Communication Points in Sid and Presevo reception centres.

The **Croatian Red Cross** is working with the support of a DREF operation plus substantial support from corporates, public funding and other institutions. The Croatian RC will scale up its response and an Emergency Appeal based on the reassessment of the main emergency needs will be published next week. This Emergency

Appeal seeks 2.6 million CHF to respond to the needs of some 175,000 people over the period of six months. The operation will focus on the distribution of food and non-food items (NFIs); protection activities including, screening, referral and psychosocial support, restoring family links (RFL); distribution of hygiene items and National Society capacity building. The operation activities are concentrated at the Slavonski Brod Transit Winter Camp which is the entry point in Croatia where the migrants are received, registered and sheltered.

The **Slovenian Red Cross** is also responding to the basic needs of migrants on the move mainly through a DREF allocation. In December 2015, the DREF operation's Plan of Action was revised, to increase the number of the vulnerable people assisted from 10,000 to 15,000 people and to extend the operational timeframe until March 2016. The needs in the field have also changed due to the development of the situation, and the distributed hygiene and food kits have been adapted to those needs.

So far, the Slovenian RC has reached approximately 400,000 people in need since the beginning of the influx, while also strengthening their volunteer management system. In order to continue their support and maintain their services in the next coming months the launching of an Emergency Appeal is being considered. To support this effort, the IFRC Regional Office for Europe deployed a Disaster and Crisis Response Delegate in January to work with the NS in reassessing the needs, discuss priorities and update the response plan of action. The process will be further supported by a visit early February of the Organizational Development Coordinator and the Head of Country Cluster.

More than half of the registered Syrian population in the countries bordering Syria are residing in **Turkey**. However, initial assessments suggest this refugee population is not moving to Europe in great numbers - most Syrians arriving in Greece are coming (almost) directly from Syria without residing in Turkey for longer periods of time.¹⁰ Turkey is aiming at improving the socio-economic situation of Syrians within Turkey. Arrivals in Greece remain high, indicating the challenges in border controls. According to public statements, a decree granting access to formal employment to registered Syrians has recently been passed. If materialised, this is a welcome development, as there are over one million Syrians of working age (between 18 and 59) registered in Turkey. As of 8 January 2016, Syrians travelling by sea or air require a visa to enter Turkey, a turn-around from the prior policy which allowed visa-free entry. As a result, Syrians using Turkey as a transit country, including the often used Damascus-Beirut-Istanbul route, are no longer able to travel to Greece.¹¹

Among its other activities, the **Turkish Red Crescent** launched its Community Centre Project to provide vocational trainings and psychosocial support to the Syrian population. Mainly, there are six active programs that are: Child Programme, Adult Programme, Referral Services, Seminars, Orientation with Host Communities and other social services (e.g. art therapy, support to staff, etc.). Currently, there are three active Community Centres in Turkey that are Sanliurfa, Istanbul, and Konya. The Ankara Community Centre will commence functioning in early February 2016. TRC is planning to establish 12 more community centres in different cities of Turkey in three years. Each community centre has a standard model, though they are also adaptable to fulfil the local requirements. Community centres are developing projects based on the local needs and implementing with their local capacities. In order to increase skills of Syrians in Turkey, TRC is aiming to provide livelihood support with several trainings as carpentry, hairdressing, shoe-making, etc. In 2016, Turkish Red Crescent will be playing more active role in coordinating the work of different NGOs operational in different community centres for displaced. The ICRC conducted a mission to Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir to establish a cooperation framework between the ICRC and the Turkish Red Crescent in the domain of RFL with a focus on Migration and Disaster Management on 8-22 December 2015.

In addition to the National Societies currently supported by IFRC emergency response tools, most National Societies in Europe are responding to the humanitarian needs brought forward by the increase of the migrant flow. The following is a summary of the information received so far of the response across the continent, with more to come as the situation evolves.

The **Austrian Red Cross** supports migrants each day at border crossings and major train stations with food, water, non-food items, and emergency medical services. The NS also manages transit shelters across the country as well as permanent and temporary facilities. Altogether, some 12,000 Red Cross volunteers and staff have been mobilized since 5 September 2015 (on average 80 staff members and 450 volunteers daily).

In addition to the support provided to the humanitarian response of the Red Cross in Greece and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the **German Red Cross** has been highly active in the operation of emergency accommodation centres and provision of aid services to migrants at national level, running more than 470 emergency accommodation centres. More than 20,000 Red Cross volunteers and staff are working on the operation, providing a variety of services to vulnerable migrants: medical assistance, psychosocial support, family tracing

¹⁰ Source: http://www.acaps.org/img/documents/a-160111-acaps_mapaction---an-introduction-to-the-balkan-migrant-crisis.pdf

¹¹ Source: <http://acaps.org/img/documents/a-acaps-mapaction-refugee-migrant-in-europe-situation-analysis.pdf>

services and assistance in the asylum procedure, among other. As auxiliary to the German federal authorities, the NS is tasked with setting up and operating two camps in Bavaria. The camps have received in-kind and operational support by NS of Denmark, Finland, Canada, USA, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland as well as the ICRC, making this the first German Red Cross relief operation with coordinated international support within Germany in recent history. The NS is also carrying out social inclusion programs across the country, piloting a volunteer program for refugees and migrants and providing a variety of information products in relevant language outputs.

In Sweden, Red Cross volunteers are present at main entry and transit points to provide guidance and assistance to arriving migrants. At these locations, approximately 150 volunteers work in shifts. The **Swedish Red Cross** provides regular support to vulnerable migrants upon arrival with Restoring Family Links services, psychosocial support (also for staff and volunteers), first aid, asylum advisory services, voluntary return assistance and treatment of victims of torture. The ICRC initiated the discussion on its support to the Swedish Red Cross in light of the scale up and further development of its detention activities in favour of migrants.

The **Finnish Red Cross** is currently operating more than 100 reception centres and emergency shelters, and it is responsible for more than fifty per cent of all the reception centres in Finland. Many of the asylum seekers have arrived through the check points of Salla and Raja-Jooseppi by the Russian border in Lapland, the northern most part of Finland. The amount this year is already over half of the total amount in 2015.

Volunteers and psychosocial support teams of the **Norwegian Red Cross** are present at national registration centres, providing counselling and guidance, in particular to unaccompanied minors and families with small children who have recently arrived in Norway. The NS also provides hygiene items in emergency accommodation facilities across the country and has set up emergency shelter for asylum seekers waiting to be registered with the Police in Oslo. This shelter is reserved mainly for unaccompanied minors.

The **Danish Red Cross** manages accommodation centres and first reception centres for new arrivals. Services include accommodation, clothes and hygiene parcels, medical and psychological screenings, health care and psychosocial support, RFL, childcare, vocational training, and various volunteer-based activities. In cooperation with the Danish Refugee Council and the Danish Medical Association, the Red Cross is also operating a health clinic for migrants which is run by volunteer doctors and nurses. Approximately 900 staff and 3,000 volunteers provide support to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** has been responding in 117 different locations providing clothes, beds, blankets, hygiene kits and first aid. More than 5,000 medical cases have been treated. Approximately 135 staff members have been mobilized and 12,000 volunteer shifts (one volunteer can be involved in several) during the response.

The French-speaking and Flemish-speaking branches of the **Belgian Red Cross** have together established accommodation for thousands of arrivals. In addition to standard welcome centres for asylum seekers, the Red Cross branches manage a welcome centre for unaccompanied minors; a centre specialized in mental health as well as a pre-registration ("pré-accueil") centre for those who have not started the procedure for their admission into Belgium.

The **British Red Cross** worked with the **French Red Cross** to send an emergency relief convoy to deliver aid to refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in Grand-Synthe camp, northern France, and four smaller satellite camps in December. The emergency relief convoy included supplies for up to 3,000 people, including rain ponchos, blankets, scarves, gloves and hats, toiletries and information about asylum. The British Red Cross continues to provide its regular support to refugees and asylum seekers including newly arrived migrants. This includes the provision of food and non-food items, emergency cash and support in cultural integration, as well as support to people going through the family reunion process. The British Red Cross is also involved in helping to provide reception and support services in a number of areas taking part in the first phase of the Syrian Resettlement Programme.

The **Cyprus Red Cross** is providing support at arrival centres and in the main reception centre with emergency supplies, Restoring Family Links services and legal support. The NS has also completed a three-month psychosocial support programme for migrants at the country's main reception centre.

Since August 2014, the **Icelandic Red Cross** has provided asylum seekers with legal representation in asylum requests. The number of applications has surged in 2015 totalling 285 as of 13 November compared to around 180 in the whole of 2014.

The **Irish Red Cross**, on their part, is the only civil society member appointed to the Government Taskforce for the Protection of Refugees. The taskforce is an inter-departmental body developing policy and procedure for the reception and integration of vulnerable migrants coming to Ireland over the next two years. The Red Cross coordinates the public offers of charitable pledges of accommodation, goods and services.

The **Maltese Red Cross** has provided Restoring Family Links services (phone calls and tracing) and psychosocial support by staff and approximately 10 volunteers. With the support of the ICRC, the Red Cross of Malta has finalized its RFL contingency plan and purchased equipment.

The **Spanish Red Cross** is working to increase the hosting capacity in preparation of the vulnerable migrants to be resettled in the country. The Red Cross is also actively supporting main arrival and transit countries (12 interventions in six countries) including shipments of medicines, raincoats, hygiene kits, mobile units, and kits for psychosocial support.

Since November, volunteers from **Swiss RC** headquarters, branches and Swiss Samaritans are assisting the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration in the management of one of their centres supporting asylum seekers upon their arrival in Switzerland. In general, the Swiss Red Cross branches and headquarters provide social services to refugees and asylum seekers in four Swiss states or 'cantons' as well as assistance in restoring family links, integration services, voluntary return and treatment of torture victims.

The ICRC conducted a two-day training on RFL for staff and volunteers of the **Romanian Red Cross**, in Bucharest on 5-6 December 2015.

During October-December 2015, an increasing number of migrants crossed the borders from Russia to Norway and to Finland. Norwegian and Finnish authorities informed Russian migration services that migrants from the Middle East, Afghanistan and some African countries that crossed borders with Norway and Finland from Russian side will be returned back to Russia. Three branches of **Russian RC** are involved: Murmansk branch that is located on the border with Norway and the Karelia branch bordering on Finland. Saint Petersburg branch is also involved because from there, they have direct transport facilities to Finland and traditionally, a large number of migrants are concentrated in this region.

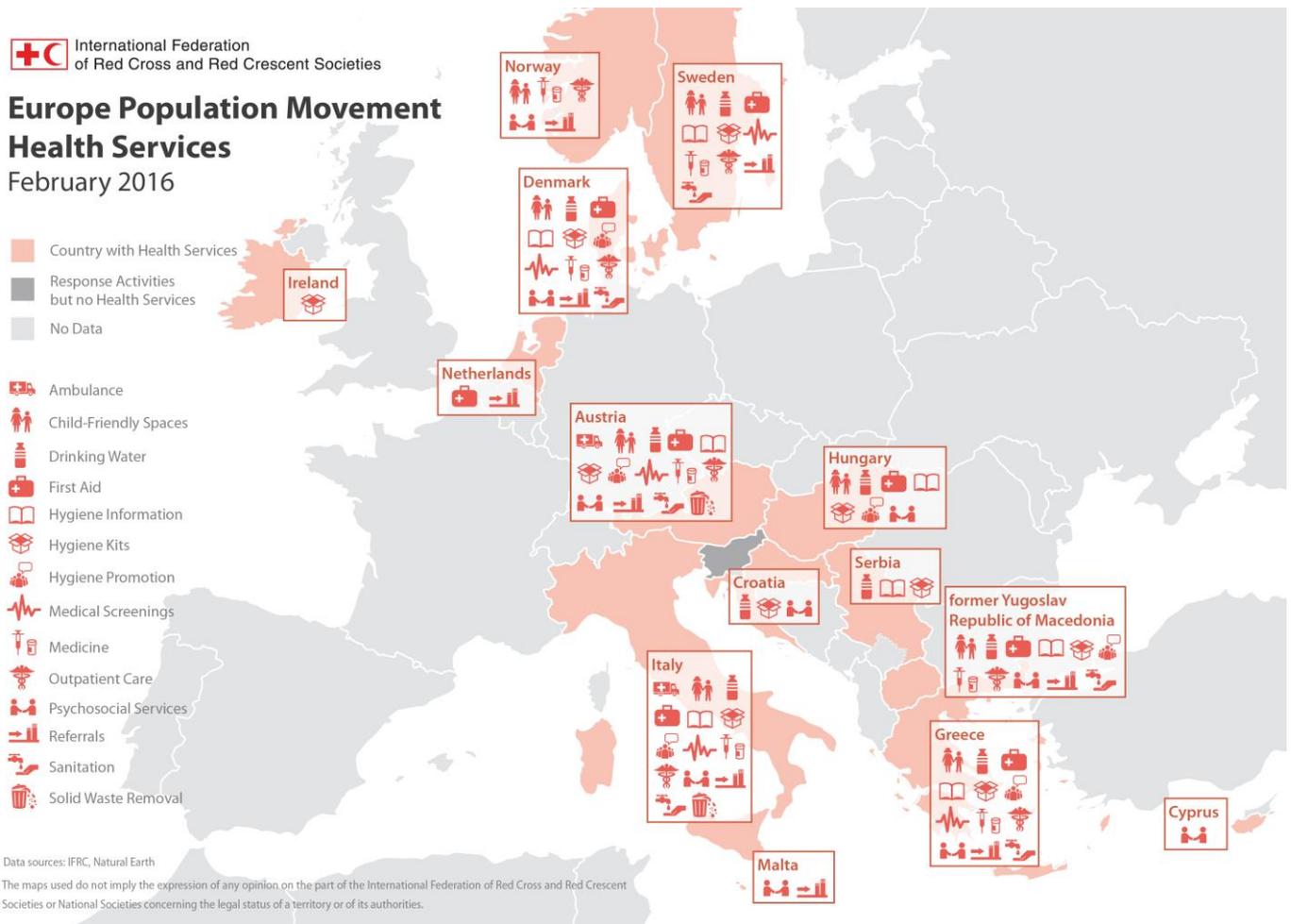
Migration authorities of Norway started returning migrants back to Russia. However, migration authorities of Russia mentioned that only those migrants that have valid visa or residence permit in Russia will be allowed to cross the border. The position of the Russian authorities is based on the fact that these migrants did not enter Russia during the recent migration flow to Europe, but have lived in Russia in the past 1-2 years and when the massive migration flow to Europe started, they decided to move to Europe as well. Currently, IFRC Russia jointly with Russian RC HQ and relevant branches closely monitors the situation and is in contact with the Russian migration authorities. IFRC Russia from its side, is in contact with HQs of Norwegian RC and Finnish RC.

As part of IFRC role in the coordination of these humanitarian efforts, the **Regional Emergency Appeal** keeps focusing on providing surge capacity to National Societies requiring additional resources either remotely or in-country for response and preparedness. To accomplish this without interfering with normal duties across the region, an IFRC Europe Migration Management Unit was formed, which is now fully functional with the arrival of some pending positions. The unit is currently formed by the Operations Manager, a PMER delegate, a roving Community Engagement and Accountability delegate, two disaster and crisis response positions, an information management delegate, a logistics delegate, two communications delegates, an emergency health delegate, a water and sanitation delegate, and a resource management delegate.

Continuous efforts are in place to enhance **logistics** and **procurement** coordination as well as to provide **capacity building** across the region. National Societies engaged are supported to ensure that procurements of the required products for the operations are continuously being done in compliance with the procedures for procurements of IFRC aligned with of the National Societies standards, processes and procedures, consequently enhancing capacity and ensuring full audit trail requirement. Regular and continuous support was provided to the National Societies of Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Hungary and Slovenia ensuring appropriate logistics activities coordination and simultaneously further increasing the National Societies' logistics response capacity.

The building of a regional contingency stock project is in the final stages with the Italian RC; the procurement of stocks is in progress. After completion of these activities, National Society and movement response capacities will be supported with a contingency stock for some 25,000 people. Storage and transport arrangements are in final stages as well to be made in cooperation with Italian RC, and stocks are made available through procurement activities of IFRC's Global Logistics Services (GLS). The regional contingency stock will be combined with Italian RC's EA contingency stock to be made available for other European National Societies along the migration route.

Health activities include first aid services, primary health care services, field clinic & mobile health services, psychosocial support and health monitoring and screening services. This can be seen clearly in the info-graphics mapping out the current health services being provided by various National Societies across the migratory trail after arriving in Greece (please refer to the map below).



Many of the NS have the interest to build up their services in having preparedness or adding to their current staff and volunteers. There is a build-up in staff, volunteers and professional team structure around emergency response models. National Societies are building up their capacity by being able to provide psychosocial support for staff and volunteers. There will be a Balkan Youth Network meeting to sensitise participants, volunteers and staff, involved in the migration crisis. Up till now there has been more than 71,599 volunteers and 12,573 staff involved in the migration crisis. There is interest for the inclusion of sexual and gender based violence and violence prevention topic to be integrated into the health services that is being developed by National Societies working in the crisis. This would be a very vital focus as to the security and social needs on unaccompanied minors, children and women.

In order to better respond to the adverse weather conditions, the IFRC has provided National Societies with some informational brochures about dealing with hypothermia. This is necessary to provide the correct and useful information for volunteers and migrants. The information is to prepare and allow the volunteers to educate and raise the awareness of the migrants during the short time that migrants spend at the distribution centres. This information will be available in the necessary languages, can be used for training or printed out or as brochures or even as posters. An IFRC press release related to this issue can be found via <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/press-releases/europe/greece/ifrc-appalled-by-migrant-deaths-as-hypothermia-claims-three-lives-in-greece/>.

The IFRC Europe Region Health Team will continue to support the development of various topics to allow the comprehensive service for addressing the needs of the migrants including nutrition, protection, MCH, NCD and community-based programmes.

As part of our **Information Management (IM)** efforts, we have set up a portal-page (http://brcmapsteam.github.io/Europe_response/) where a range of IM products are shared with the National Societies. Here the latest indicator data of activities throughout Europe can be found as well as the latest response

figures and deployment maps. Currently we are working on creating a set of indicators about our health activities in the various countries.

The response to IFRC emergency appeals has been very strong with several operations fully covered. However, as the crisis is likely to intensify again in spring and continue throughout the year, all country appeals are being revised and timeframes extended (with the exception of Hungary which is no longer part of the migratory route). The biggest funding gap is currently in the Greece population movement appeal, with over CHF 2m still needed to fully implement the operation, and as was mentioned before, a new appeal will soon be launched for Croatia for 2.6m. More support is also needed for the Regional Appeal to help coordinate, support and prepare for shifting needs.

The ICRC's migration-related support to National Societies was consolidated for 2016. It involves: salary support to RFL staff at migration points in Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia; participation to RFL/migration conferences; trainings in migration detention for the Bulgarian and the Croatian Red Cross; RFL needs and capacity assessment in Croatia and Romania; round tables with national authorities in Croatia, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Other issues that require special attention

- The IFRC EU Office called on the EU and its Member States to enhance reception capacities so as to avoid threatening the rights, dignity and well-being of all asylum seekers.¹²
- In the spirit of the Florence Call for Action adopted by the RCRC Regional Conference in June 2014, the IFRC Regional Office for Europe is trying to think ahead and plan for the future on how to integrate migrants and how to create a culture of peace between the receiving communities and the migrants.
- IFRC is coordinating with UNHCR and other actors at regional level as well as country level. The IFRC Regional Office for Europe is interacting with diplomatic missions and supplying them with information about the situation so they can advocate with their Governments on behalf of vulnerable migrants. A common concern shared by the Embassies is the integration process and the question of how to balance a welcoming attitude towards migrants while respecting the culture of host communities. The topic of integration was also prominent in the 'Humanitarian Imperative Programme' of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, last week, where the IFRC SG participated representing IFRC. A diplomatic briefing on the RCRC response to Migration in Europe is planned in Budapest on 4 February 2016.
- The upcoming RCRC Europe Migration Conference in London on 15-16 February will focus specifically on the needs of migrants arriving in Europe and in transit; migrants integrating and adapting to permanent or semi-permanent situations and migrants stuck in 'informal' situations. The purpose is to think about and reflect on what happened in 2015, to build on the work done together thus far and to generate new ideas, actions and commitments culminating in an agreed set of actions for 2016. It aims to foster cooperation and mutual accountability in response to the ongoing migration challenge. The key focus areas will be: (1) Enhanced operational responses and coordination between the National Societies and Movement components; (2) Policy coordination and positioning (e.g. RCRC role in asylum process; rejected applications and returnees; longer term integration work with migrants and communities); (3) One RCRC voice through advocacy.

To address these focus areas, the conference will include panel discussions and more importantly four workshops to address the following areas: (1) **Responding operationally** to the Europe migration challenge; (2) Determining our position on **complex issues** in the migration response; (3) **Advocating and communicating** about the needs of migrants in Europe; (4) Ensuring the **capacities, co-ordination and resources** to respond.

¹² Statement issued by the IFRC EU Office after the PNSs conference on the reception of asylum seekers.

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.
