



CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN SEA: HUMANITARIAN SERVICE POINT@SEA

CHF 2,400,000 per year funding requirement

Migration and refugee flows into Europe from sub-Saharan and North Africa and the Middle East are among the most hazardous in the world, signalling acute humanitarian needs for many people on the move.

The Central Mediterranean route from North Africa (primarily Libya, but also Tunisia and Algeria) to Italy continues to be one of the most active and dangerous routes for people crossing to Europe by sea.

The HSP@Sea Operation is part of a 3-year route-based migration plan of action of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), launched in August 2021. This plan of action spans land and maritime routes in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe and aims to provide a principled, locally adapted, needs-based response to people on the move at different stages of their journeys.

HUMANITARIAN IMPERATIVE

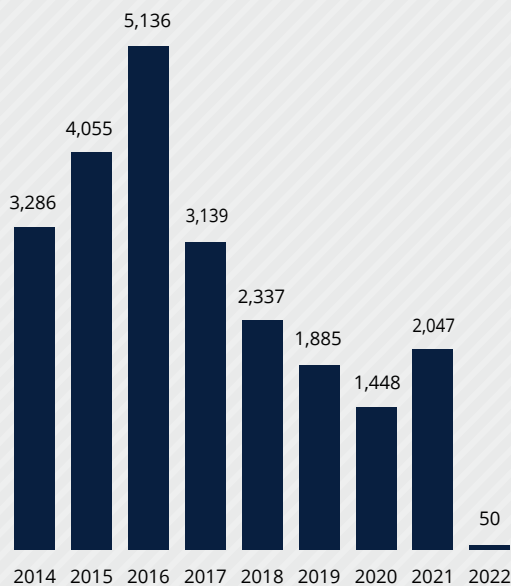
Since 2014, the Central Mediterranean has become the world's deadliest migratory sea route with over 18,800 lives lost between 2014 and 2021 (IOM).

In 2021, 2,047 people died trying to cross the Mediterranean. This is more than the number of deaths in 2020, despite all our efforts. The actual number of fatalities recorded on migratory routes is likely to be much higher, due to unreported shipwrecks.

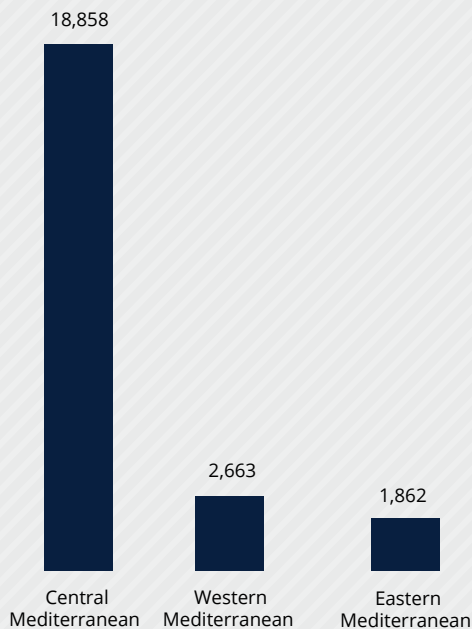
We, as the world's largest humanitarian network, cannot watch idly. This is a humanitarian imperative to which we have an obligation to respond. We cannot turn a blind eye to the tragedy of avoidable deaths at sea, or anywhere else.



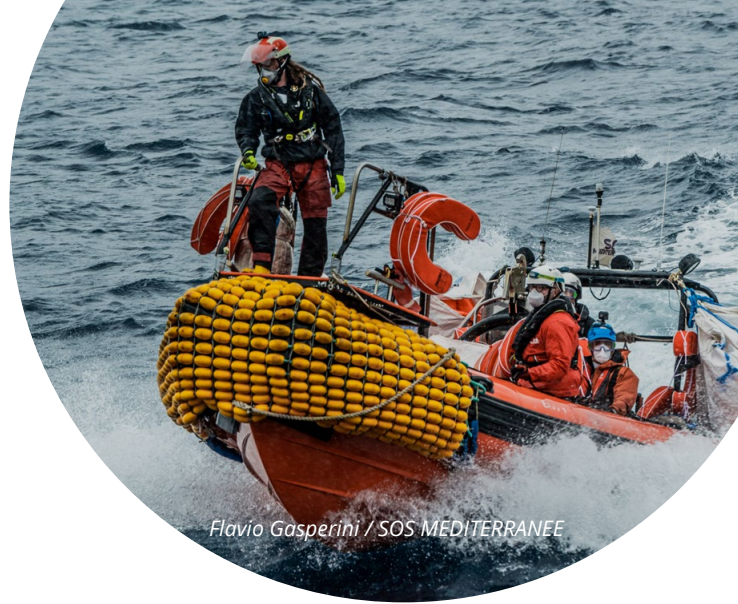
Dead and missing in Mediterranean by year



Dead and missing in Mediterranean by region



Source:
<https://missingmigrants.iom.int/region/mediterranean>
 27 January 2022



WHY IFRC?

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provide daily humanitarian assistance in their respective territories. They all work and support each other to address the needs of the most vulnerable, including people on the move, through Humanitarian Service Points and other humanitarian programs.

The Central Mediterranean, where so many lives are lost, constitutes international waters, where no National Society has a clear mandate to operate. It is for this reason that the IFRC Secretariat decided to step in, on behalf of the Movement, and provide Relief, Protection and Health services to people on the move in the Central Mediterranean.

WHY A PARTNERSHIP?

The Humanitarian Service Point at Sea (HSP@SEA) operation is built on a partnership between IFRC and SOS MEDITERRANEE (SOS MED). This partnership allows us to provide humanitarian services at sea and onboard the rescue ship Ocean Viking.

This partnership builds on the strength of both organisations: SOS MED's sea rescue expertise and IFRC's longstanding experience in providing Relief, Protection and Health-related assistance to people in need.

While SOS MED focuses on the Search & Rescue (SAR) operation, the IFRC provides post-rescue services on board the Ocean Viking.

In addition, this partnership allows us to further augment the Red Cross Red Crescent network's presence along land and maritime migratory routes.

The sole aim of this operational partnership is to reduce human suffering and prevent the loss of life through a fully resourced rescue ship in the Central Mediterranean.

IFRC CURRENT RESPONSE

Through this operation, we extend humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move at sea.

Between September and December 2021, the HSP@SEA operation saved 557 people, the youngest being an 11-day-old baby girl.

The last rotation of 2021 ended on Christmas Day.

We will continue saving lives in the Central Mediterranean in 2022, and we need your support to be able to do so.

Our only goal is to save lives and ensure health and dignity of people on the move. We provide life-saving humanitarian services to people in their moments of need, in a neutral, impartial and independent manner.

On the Ocean Viking, the IFRC provides post-rescue assistance with an on-board team, led by a Post-Rescue Team Leader, and composed of a combination of delegates with relevant profiles (Medical, Midwife, Relief, Protection, Cultural mediator, etc.).

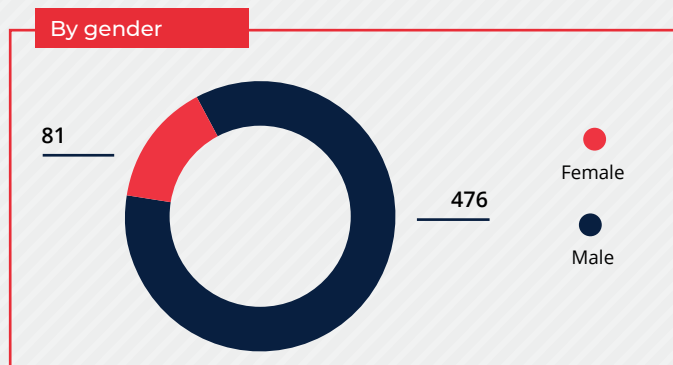
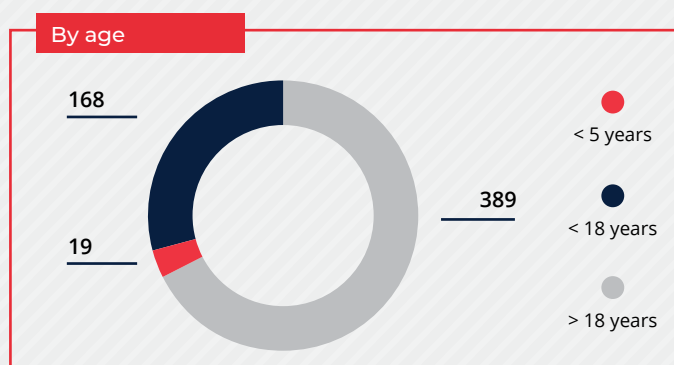
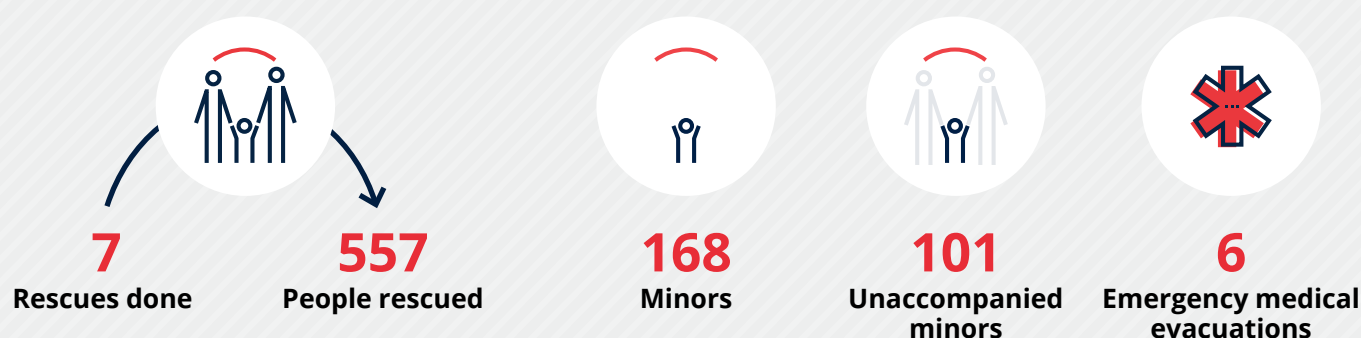
The main task of the IFRC team is to deliver essential humanitarian services, such as first aid, emergency healthcare, maternal healthcare, food, essential household items (e.g., dry clothes, blankets and toiletries), water and sanitation, protection, and other provisions, depending on needs and practical constraints.



We also provide clear and accurate information to the rescued people about the next steps after disembarkation, including how they can access essential humanitarian services through Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies.

Finally, our team provides safe and swift health-related referrals on land for people who need them. Urgent referrals are done through medical evacuations that we organize with relevant authorities. Less urgent referrals are provided through close coordination with the National Society in the country of disembarkation.

Snapshot of what we achieved (September-December 2021)





Brynja Dögg Friðriksdóttir / IFRC

FUNDING NEEDS

In 2021, 15 National Societies supported this operation, through funding and/or provision of staff. IFRC is grateful for all the support received and works on maintaining and further expanding the range of supporters in 2022, to be able to continue saving lives and respond to the unrelenting humanitarian imperative in the Central Mediterranean.

In 2021, the HSP@SEA operation was kick-started through an Emergency Appeal that ended in December 2021. The operation will continue in 2022, as part of the Operational Plan of the IFRC Regional Office for Europe, with a yearly funding need of CHF 2,4 million.

This funding need does not include the costs related to Red Cross Red Crescent team members deployed on the Ocean Viking. The cost of deployed staff is covered by National Societies making the staff available.

More than 80% of our funds covers costs related to the rental of the ship and fuel.

IFRC contribution is approximately 35% of the overall costs of the Ocean Viking operation. The rest of the costs are covered by our partner, SOS MED.

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Funding needs for 2022

Costs of ship rental and fuel	2,000,000
Relief, Protection, Health	240,000
Strengthening coordination and accountability	160,000
Total funding requirements	2,400,000

All amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

For information and to support the hsp@sea operation, please contact:

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