



MENA-MN
MENA Migration Network
شبكة نقاط الإتصال حول الهجرة
إقليم الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا



Red Cross Red Crescent activities on migration and displacement in Middle East and North Africa

SNAPSHOT 2021

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**FIRST MIGRATION
ASSESSMENT
MENA MIGRATION NETWORK**
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THE NETWORK

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The Red Cross and Red Crescent Middle East & North Africa Migration Network (MENA Migration Network) has been established in March 2021 by 15 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies¹, the IFRC MENA Regional Office and the ICRC Near Middle East Regional Office.

The Network aims to strengthen and share expertise and experiences of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies working with and for migrants including refugees², their families, host communities, in order to better address their protection and assistance needs, identify humanitarian concerns, enhance their resilience, and strengthen regional coordination and the impact of the RCRC Movement on Migration.

The MENA Migration Network works alongside the Movement partners to share expertise and experiences of its members in countries of origin, transit, destination and return. It works through shared vision and objectives, to provide strategic guidance around capacity

¹ The Algerian Red Crescent Society, the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, the Iranian Red Crescent Society, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, the Lebanese Red Cross, the Libyan Red Crescent Society, the Moroccan Red Crescent, the Palestine Red Crescent Society, the Qatar Red Crescent Society, the Saudi Red Crescent Authority, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society, the Yemen Red Crescent Society, the Tunisian Red Crescent Society, the Jordan Red Crescent Society.

² The International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement describes migrants as persons who are outside of their country of origin or habitual residence. Migrants may be workers, students and/or foreigners deemed irregular by public authorities. They can be refugees, asylum seekers and/or stateless persons entitled to special protection under international law. The Movement's description is deliberately broad to include all people who leave or flee their home to seek safety or better prospects abroad, and who may be in distress and need protection or humanitarian assistance. The description of migrants is explained in various documents, notably the international Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Policy on Migration, 2009; ICRC Internal Reference Framework on Migration, 2010.

development including activities such as peer-to-peer learning, evidence generation and knowledge management, coordination and advocacy and engagement in the delivery of innovative services and programmes.

The MENA Migration Network is a regional space for a better coordination and interaction on migration with the movement partners and other relevant organizations included but not limited to UN Agencies and/or local and International NGO.



Photo: © Yemen Red Crescent Society

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the MENA Network on Migration (MENA-MN) as stated here are drawn from the strategy 2030, and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

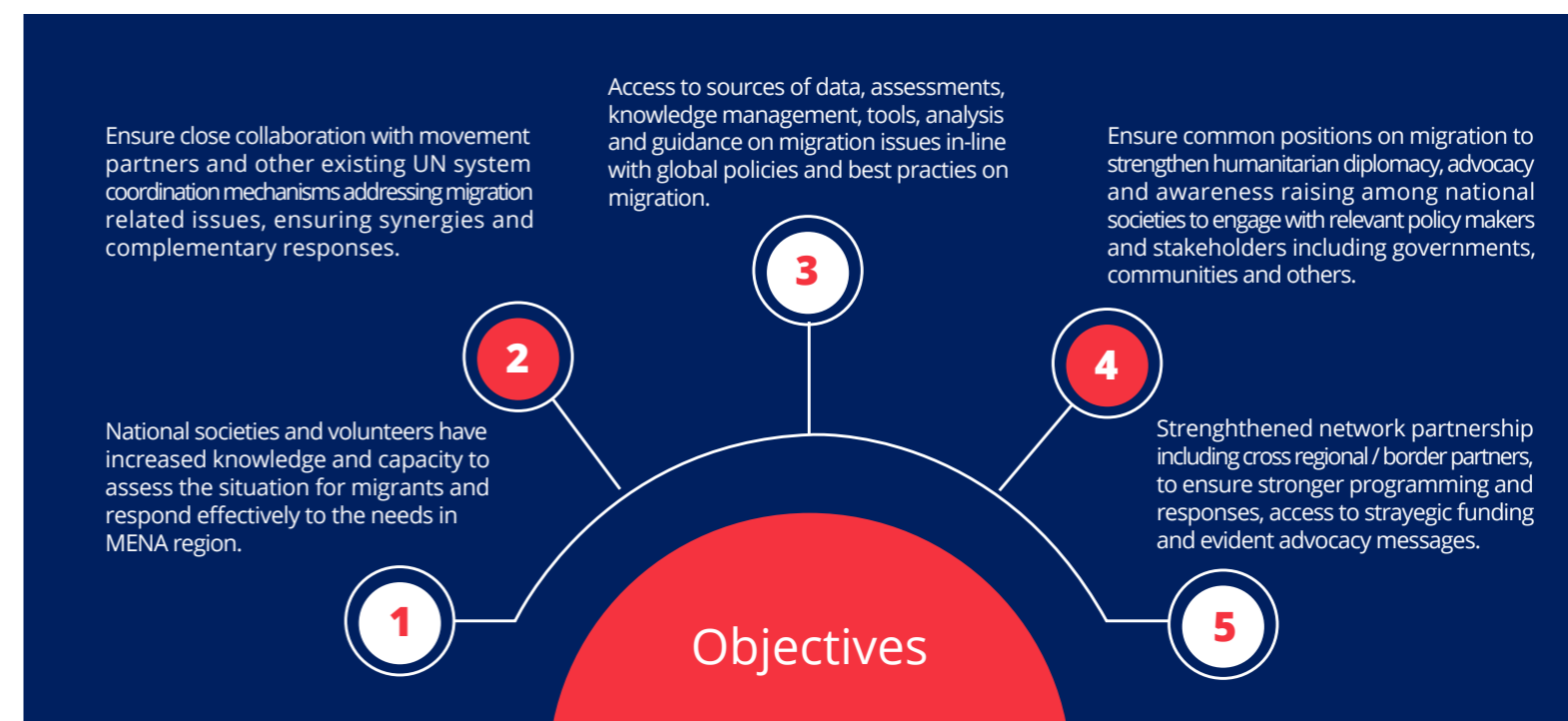




Photo: © Iranian Red Crescent Society

MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE:

The MENA Migration Network is comprised of Co-chairs (elected between the focal points of the National Societies), the Secretariat (led by the IFRC MENA Regional Office and supported by the ICRC NAME Regional Office and Partners National Societies), and the Migration Focal Points from the MENA National Societies.

- The Co-Chairs elected for the years 2021 – 2022 are Mr. Alaa Ammar from the Lebanese Red Cross and Dr. Ahmed Ragaey from the Egyptian Red Crescent Society.
- The Secretariat is led by Mr. Fabrizio Anzolini, from the IFRC MENA Regional Office, and supported by Mrs. Vanessa Iaria from the ICRC NAME Office.

THE MIGRATION SCENARIO IN MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is a region with over 400 million people facing some of the world's longest and worst protracted crises. The region has had to contend with multiple and complex humanitarian challenges due to man-made and natural threats.

The needs of affected populations are increasing in scale and exacerbated by violence, economic, political, and social crises, disasters, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic, which has stretched the capacities of public authorities and National Societies, ability to respond is also taking a heavy toll on the population of the region, aggravating existing humanitarian challenges, including increasing cross-border and internal displacement.

The MENA region is one of the largest migration transit areas in the world. There are more than 42³ million people in need, 40 million migrants⁴ and more than 11 million internally displaced persons in the region⁵.



3) from Asia towards the Middle East. Other migration routes are starting from the Middle East and North Africa: migrants are moving from this region to Europe: from North Africa through the Mediterranean, and from the Middle East through Turkey.

There are two main routes from the Maghreb into Europe: the Central Mediterranean route to Italy and Malta (predominantly from Tunisia and Libya) and the Western Mediterranean route to Spain (primarily from Morocco and Algeria, overland into the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, or across the sea to the Spanish mainland)⁶. Both routes have distinct dynamics that have fluctuated over time. While many who depart from these countries are nationals of those

³ <https://gho.unocha.org/inter-agency-appeals/middle-east-and-north-africa>

⁴ https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undesd_pd_2020_international_migration_highlights.pdf

⁵ https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/go2020/pdf/Chapter_MENA.pdf

⁶ <https://mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Mixed-Migration-Review-2020.pdf>

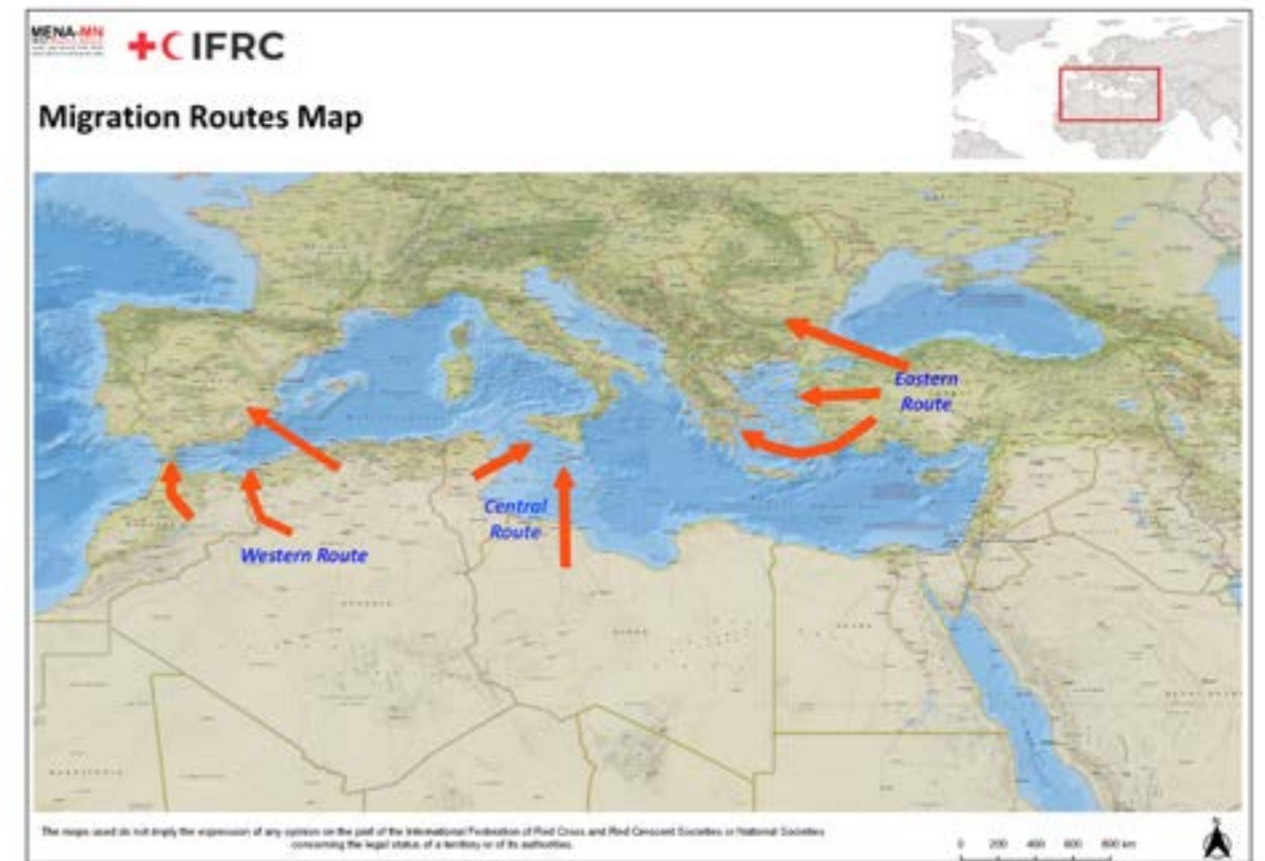
states (particularly in the case of Tunisia) or refugees and migrants from neighbouring countries, also include many refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers from sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Asia⁷. For example, a significant number of those travelling to Italy are Bangladeshi: in July 2020, almost half of all arrivals from Libya originated from Bangladesh⁸.

The main concern remains the Central Mediterranean Route, where at the end of September 2021 were recorded more than 1,445⁹deaths/disappearances of migrants and more than 46.800 arrivals only to the coasts of Italy¹⁰.

The Central Mediterranean Route is still considered as the most dangerous migration route in the world¹¹.

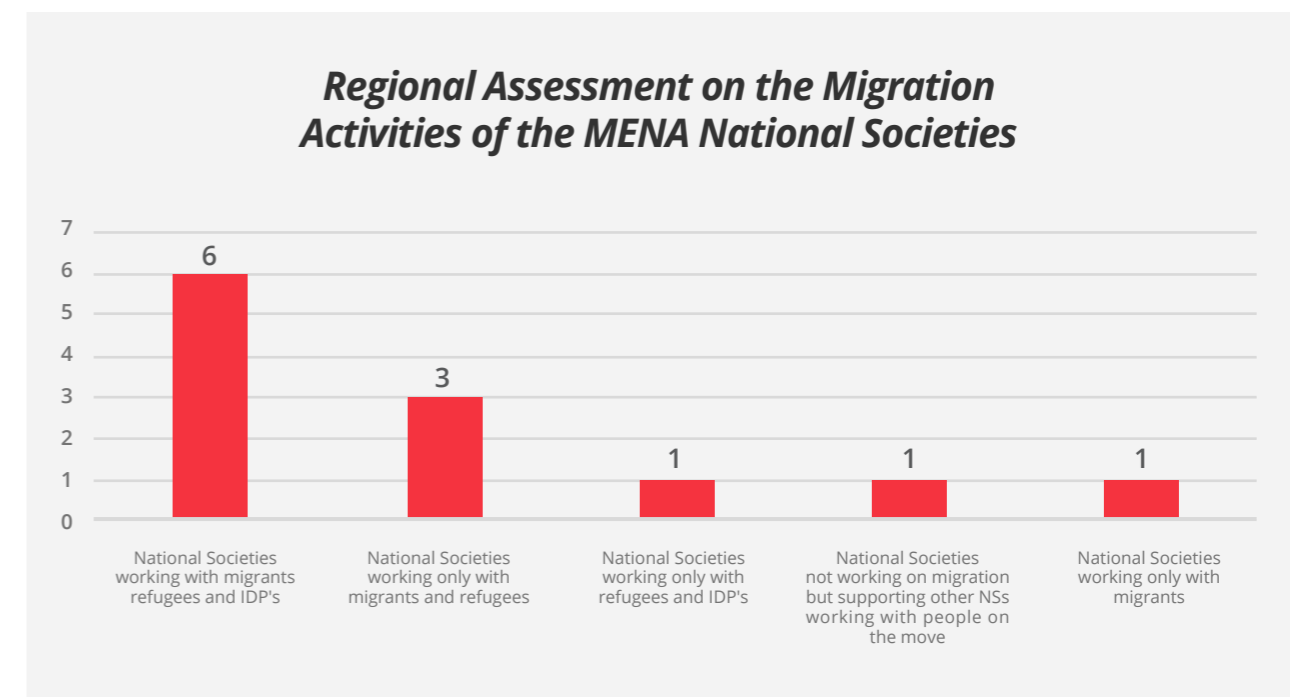
On the Eastern Mediterranean Route, migrants from Afghanistan and the Middle East are crossing towards Europe, through Turkey, including migration movements originating or transiting through war-affected areas in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria among others. Cross-border displacement due to armed conflict is a massive phenomenon, with Syria, Palestine and Afghanistan alone accounting for respectively 5.5 million, 5.6 million and 2.7 million refugees registered by the UNHCR/UNRWA.

The route going from the Horn of Africa, crossing the Gulf of Aden from Djibouti or Somalia into Yemen, towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other GCC states, originates or runs through areas affected by armed conflict. It is a route witnessing significant mixed migration movements: in 2018 more migrants crossed into Yemen than into Europe, with an estimated 160.000 migrants arriving on the country war-torn shores, according to UN sources.



REGIONAL ASSESSMENT ON THE MIGRATION ACTIVITIES OF THE MENA NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Following the formal establishment on the 3rd of March 2021, the MENA Migration Network, have decided to implement the first formal mapping of MENA National Societies working in Migration and Internal Displacement. During May and June 2021, twelve National Societies out of the fifteen of the Network have participated in the mapping exercise.



⁷ *Ibidem*

⁸ *Ibidem*

⁹ <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/region/mediterranean>

¹⁰ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/88984>

¹¹ <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/region/mediterranean>



Six National Societies are having extensive programmes with migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons: the Egyptian Red Crescent, the Jordan Red Crescent, the Lebanese Red Cross, the Libyan Red Crescent, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the Yemen Red Crescent.

Three National Society are having programmes only with migrants and refugees, the Algerian Red Crescent Society, the Iranian Red Crescent Society, the Tunisian Red Crescent.

One National Society works only with migrants, the Qatari Red Crescent, while the Bahrain Red Crescent is not working on migration and internal displacement but is supporting other National Societies working with people on the move.

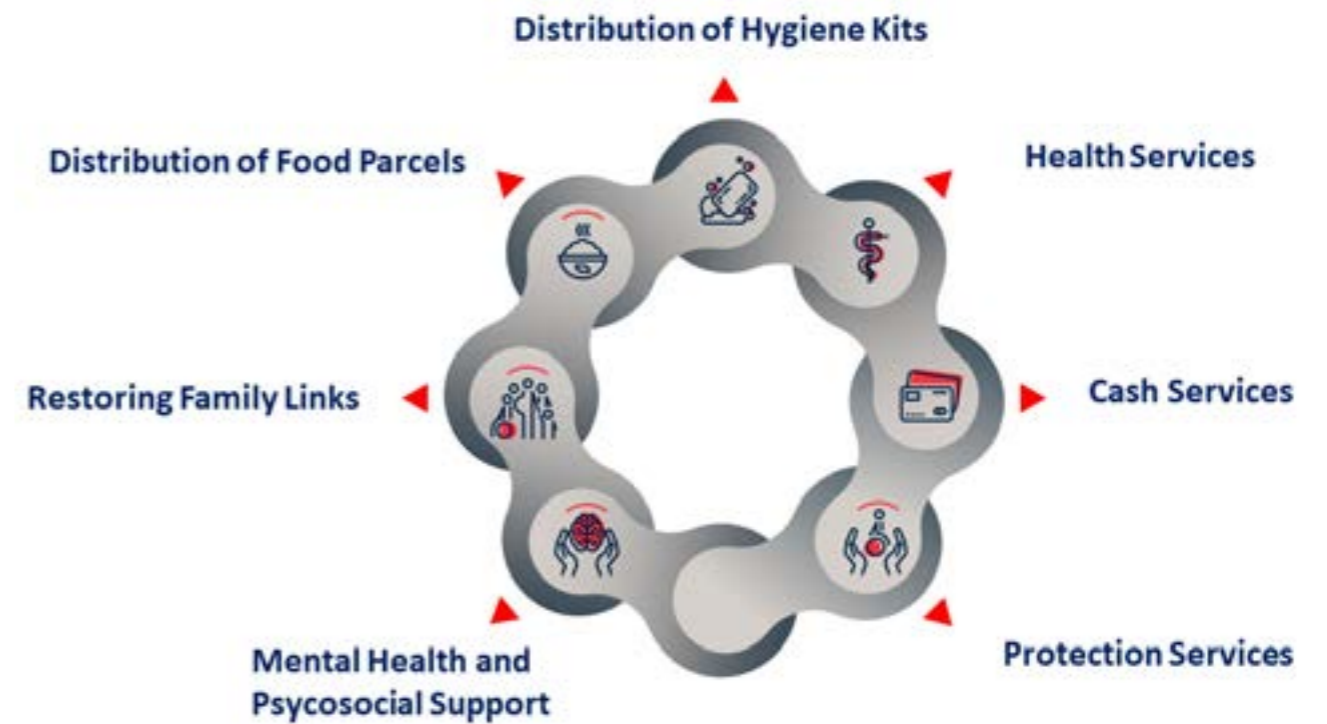
The Palestinian Red Crescent is working only with refugees and IDPs, with a unique perspective considering the complex issue of the Palestinian diaspora and the Palestinian refugees.



The map used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities

Almost all the countries from Middle East and North Africa can be considered as county of origin, country of transit and destination.

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE



The multidisciplinary assistance includes health services, food parcels, distribution of hygiene kits and / or household items, protection services for children and victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Restoring Family Links and others.



Moreover, nine National Societies out of the 12 NSs, provide cash services as part of the Livelihood programmes: the Algerian Red Crescent, Bahrein Red Crescent, Egyptian Red Crescent, Iranian Red Crescent, Jordanian Red Crescent, Lebanese Red Cross, Libyan Red Crescent, Qatari Red Crescent and Yemeni Red Crescent.

NSs in some countries have highlighted their efforts in providing further programmatic support to ensure tackling the needs at country level. In Algeria, the NS works on education, sport activities, energy programs and nutrition programs, especially for breastfeeding and pregnant women. The Jordanian Red Crescent provides capacity building trainings as part of Livelihood programmes and awareness raising sessions. The Libyan Red Crescent have included in their several programmatic interventions and integrated thematic support, the dead body management as part of the support at disembarkation points.

The survey looked at the main nationalities of migrants supported by the MENA National Societies and most spoken languages to ensure providing the big picture of the capacities needed at different NSs to ensure right skills to support the population in need in different countries.



Fabrizio Anzolini/ IFRC-Middle-East and North Africa

NATIONAL SOCIETY	 NATIONALITY	 LANGUAGE
Algerian Red Crescent	Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo, Sudan, Somalia, Senegal, Guinea.	Arabic, French, English, Hausa, Somali, Badawi, Bambara, Targui
Bahrein Red Crescent	Palestinian, Syrian	Arabic, English
Egyptian Red Crescent	Syrian, Palestinian, Yemeni, Sudanese, South Sudanese, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Nigerian, Somali.	Arabic, English, French, Dinka, Tigrinya, Somali, Amharic
Iranian Red Crescent	Afghan, Pakistani, Tajik, Iraqi, Syrian.	English, Arabic
Jordanian Red Crescent	Syriens, Yéménites, Libyens, Iraqui, Palestiniens, Sundanaise. (Jordan hosts around 52 different nationalities).	Arabic
Lebanese Red Crescent	Syrians, Palestinians, Egyptian, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Bangladesh.	Arabic, English
Libyan Red Crescent	Syrians, Palestinians, Egyptian, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Bangladesh.	Arabic, English
Palestinian Red Crescent	Palestinian, Syrian	Arabic, English
Qatari Red Crescent	Asian and African	Arabic, English
Syrian Arab Red Crescent	Syrians and other nationalities recognized in Syria by UNHCR	English, Arabic
Tunisian Red Crescent	Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Congo	English, French, and Arabic
Yemen Red Crescent	Yemenis, Palestinians, Iraqis, Syrians, Somalis, Ethiopians, Egyptians.	Arabic, English



GAPS AND NEEDS

The main concerning gaps in needs to respond to people on the move are the funding and human resources capacities. Moreover, two National Societies have also highlighted access, one safety and security.

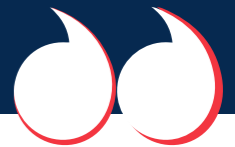
All National Societies have highlighted the need of trainings and peer-to-peer support in different thematic areas: protection, focused on migrant children, case management, MHPSS, GBV, anti-trafficking, gender and inclusion, community engagement and accountability.



HUMANITARIAN SERVICE POINTS



Number of National Societies from MENA are implementing or planning to start up in the countries the Humanitarian Service Points including the Egyptian Red Crescent Society and the Libyan Red Crescent Society and others.



The IFRC concept of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) refers to initiatives aiming to provide essential services to vulnerable people on the move during their journeys, irrespective of their legal status.

An HSP is a neutral space along migratory routes that provides a welcoming and safe environment for people on the move to access essential services.

HSPs may include fixed or mobile initiatives, reaching migrants wherever needs exist. The key objective is to contribute to the safety, dignity and protection of vulnerable migrants at all stages of their journey and to promote resilience. There is no one-size-fits-all model of operation: in certain locations, humanitarian service points may simply provide critical information; in others healthcare, food and non-food items, etc. might be provided. Services will depend on people on the move's needs and the resources and capacities of the National Society.

Thus, HSPs may take many forms. Key features of HSPs include:

- They are run by Red Cross/Red Crescent actors;
- They provide a safe and welcoming environment for all migrants – irrespective of their status to access essential services;
- They are neutral spaces; they do not take a position on encouraging, discouraging or preventing migration.
- They exist along migratory routes: in countries of origin, transit, and destination.
- They provide integrated thematic services, including safe spaces for women and children.

Two National Societies from MENA, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, and the Libyan Red Crescent Society, are implementing Humanitarian Service Points in the Region while at least other four have shown their interest in the project. The Libyan Red Crescent have started the project in 2020, establishing humanitarian service points in response to the internal displacement from Tarhuna and Sirt and, later on, for awareness raising on COVID19 with migrants inside and outside detention centres. The Egyptian Red Crescent is establishing humanitarian service points focused on people on the move, for supporting migrant and Egyptian children working in the streets.



NEXT STEPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are implementing activities in the field reaching more than **1,578,000** beneficiaries¹¹.



The first regional assessment of the Red Cross Red Crescent activities on Migration and Internal Displacement has been an opportunity to better understand the real involvement of MENA National Societies in the matter.

While all these activities are based on a clear strategy and are clearly evidence based, MENA National Societies involved in the assessment have clearly highlighted also their needs and gaps in working more effectively. The main issues are related at funding and capacity building, which can find solution in improving the Movement Cooperation between National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC. It will be crucial, improving the technical and financial support to the National Societies but at the same time, improving exchange experiences and peer to peer support between National Societies, considering the clear level of expertise that some National Societies have already shown in the field.

The role of the MENA Migration Network it will be to discuss how to improve this support from the IFRC and the ICRC and how to better coordinate initiatives on migration and internal displacement in the Middle East and North Africa.

Acknowledgements

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Special and sincere thanks to all **12 MENA National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** for their valuable inputs, and their sharing of knowledge and perspectives on the work they do on migration and displacement¹².

¹² The number is calculated according to the information received from the National Societies.