

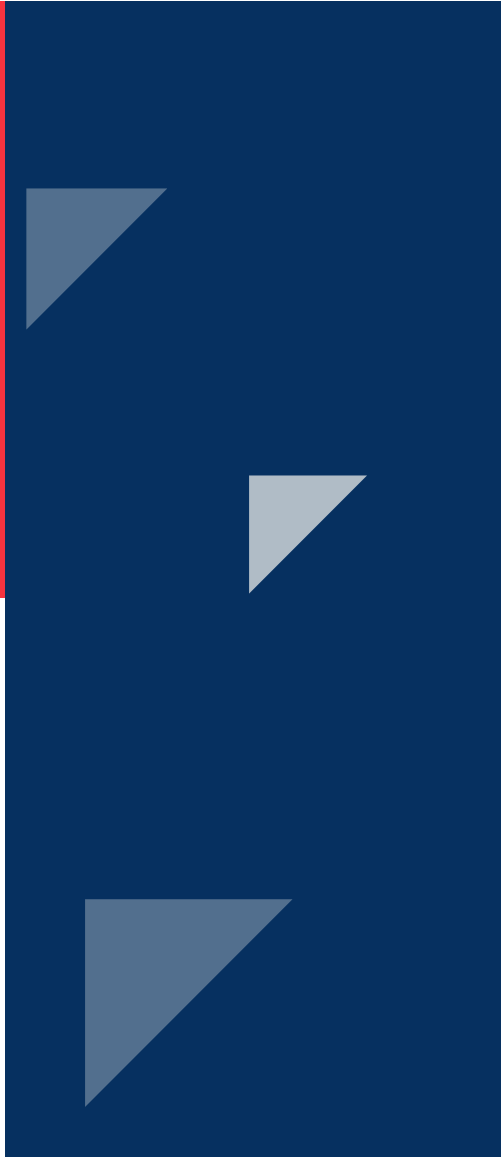


MENA-MN
MENA Migration Network
شبكة نقاط الإتصال حول الهجرة
إقليم الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا

THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA MIGRATION NETWORK

Fourth Annual Meeting Report

September 21- 22, 2023
Dubai, UAE





Contents

Background of the MENA Migration Network	04
The MENA Migration Network Fourth Annual Meetings	05
• Welcoming Remarks	05
• IFRC Global Priorities and Perspectives on Migration and Displacement	06
• Capacity- Building Needs Assessment Survey	06
• Training: Climate Change and Displacement	07
• Training: Humanitarian Service Points	08
Conclusion and Next Steps	10
Appendices	11
• Appendix 1 : Participants	
• Appendix 2 : Agenda	

Background of the MENA Migration Network

The MENA Migration Network (MENA MN) consisting of fifteen Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, the IFRC MENA Regional Office, and the ICRC Near and Middle East Office, aims to strengthen and share expertise and experiences to work with and for migrants, including refugees, their families, and host communities. The collaboration helps to better address their protection and assistance needs, identify humanitarian concerns, enhance their resilience, and strengthen regional coordination and the impact of RCRC Movement on Migration.

The MENA MN works alongside the Movement partners to share the expertise and experiences of its members in countries of origin, transit, destination, and return. It works through shared vision and objective, to support strategic direction around capacity development including activities such as peer-to-peer learning, evidence generation and knowledge management, coordination, advocacy, and engaging in innovative service delivery programs.

The Network constitutes a regional space for better coordination and interaction on migration amongst Movement partners and other relevant organizations including but not limited to UN Agencies and/or local and International NGOs.

From 2021- 2023, the MENA MN achieved the following:

- The Network's Terms of Reference approval, and the Co-Chairs were elected for 2021-2022.
- The MENA MN held three General Annual Meetings since its establishment in 2021. The first two meetings on March 3rd, 2021, and on November 10th, 2021, took place online due to COVID-19 Pandemic. The third meeting was held in-person on September 26, 2022.
- First 2021 Regional Assessment on the gaps and needs of MENA National Societies.
- First in-person annual meeting in Jordan in September 2022
- Workshops on Climate Change and Displacement, Protection, Gender, and Inclusion provided in September 2022
- The endorsement of the MENA Migration Network Plan of Action 2022-2023 in September 2022
- Movement Migration Strategy Regional Consultations



The MENA Migration Network Fourth Annual Meeting

On September 21st-22nd, 2023 the MENA MN Fourth Annual Meeting was organized by the IFRC MENA Regional Office bringing together Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in the MENA region, the IFRC MENA Regional Office, and the ICRC Near and Middle East Office.

The meeting was held in Dubai, UAE at the Metropolitan Hotel as the second in-person annual meeting of the network.

Participants

- 12 MENA National Societies In- Person and Online (see Annex 1)
- IFRC MENA and Global Offices, and ICRC NAME

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Alaa Ammar from the Lebanese Red Cross and Dr. Rasha El Masry from the Egyptian Red Crescent (co-chairs of the MENA Migration Network), Dr. Hosam Faysal IFRC MENA HDCC Lead, Ms. Yasmin Hakim, IFRC MENA Migration and Displacement Officer (MENA MN Secretariat), Ms. Eman Sabaa Ayoun IFRC MENA Migration and Displacement Intern, and supported by Mrs. Vanessa Iaria, ICRC NAME Regional Migration Adviser.

The facilitators of the meeting were the MENA MN Co-Chairs, and Yasmin Hakim, IFRC Migration and Displacement Officer for the Middle East North Africa Region.

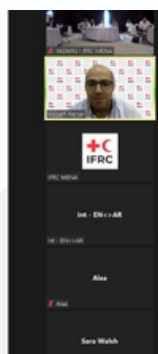
The primary objectives were as follows:

- Discuss the outcomes of the 2023 needs assessment survey, the IFRC global priorities, and the rotations of the co-chairs for 2024-2025
- Provide introduction training on Climate Change and Displacement and Conflict
- Provide introduction training on Humanitarian Service Points

Welcoming Remarks

Speakers Dr. Hosam Faysal, IFRC Regional Head of HDCC for MENA, Dr. Fawzi Amine, IFRC Head of HCC Cluster Office, Ezekiel Simperingham, IFRC Global Migration and Displacement Manager, Clare Dalton, ICRC Head of the UAE Delegation, and Dr. Rasha El Masry from the Egyptian RC and Mr. Alaa Ammar from the Lebanese RC (Co-Chairs of MENA Migration Network)

Facilitator Yasmin Hakim, IFRC MENA Migration and Displacement Officer



The MENA Migration Network Fourth Annual Meeting commenced with a formal welcoming remarks to all MENA National Societies, acknowledging their commitment and dedication towards the work of migration and displacement in the MENA region.

Additionally, highlighting the region's current unprecedented compound crises and the response undertaken by National Societies in supporting migrants.

IFRC Global Priorities and Perspectives on Migration and Displacement

Speakers: Ezekiel Simperingham, IFRC Global Migration and Displacement Manager
Facilitator: Yasmin Hakim, IFRC MENA Migration and Displacement Officer

The session on IFRC Global Priorities and Perspectives on Migration and Displacement, Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham, IFRC Global Migration and Displacement Manager, addressed several topics namely, **the Movement Migration Strategy, Advocacy and communication, and the Global Migration Task Force Meeting**. Furthermore, he addressed the importance of a two-way approach on the reciprocal exchange of ideas and understanding between the global and regional levels to ensure collective efforts to reflect the regional priorities and challenges faced to better support and assist migrants.

01 Movement Migration Strategy

Mr. Ezekiel presented the development process of the Movement Migration Strategy, which began at the council of delegates last year, involving a period of consultation, and the development of a zero-draft strategy. The finalized strategy is set to be adopted at the 2024 Council of Delegates, providing a concrete commitment outlined in Strategy 2030.

Recommendations raised by MENA NS on the strategy are as follows:

- addressing migrant workers in the strategy, emphasizing the need to promote awareness against xenophobia in host countries.
- the crucial involvement of MENA NS during the drafting and discussion phase of the strategy to ensure their needs are addressed.

Mr. Ezekiel concluded by emphasizing the importance of involving all National Societies in the process of conducting the Strategy to ensure a sense of inclusion and contribution to the strategy. While, this year focused on the various regional consultations and conferences, next year's focus will be on two key aspects: technical implementation of the strategy and ensuring political understanding and support.

02 Advocacy and Communications

Mr. Ezekiel emphasized the Red Cross Red Crescent crucial role in providing support to migrants and amplifying our humanitarian voice across various platforms, reaching decision makers and communities on migration. This advocacy efforts place significant emphasis on migrants' safety and dignity. Regarding communication, it was mentioned that IFRC is working on the Global Communication Campaign scheduled to launch in 2024, titled #notalone. This campaign aims to demonstrate the unwavering support for migrants, wherever and whoever they are. It seeks to inform the public about the critical role that the RCRC plays in upholding the principles of humanity in supporting migrants.

03 Global Migration Task Force 2023

The Global Migration Task Force Meeting (GMTF) was set to take place in Beirut from October 10-13, 2023. It was recommended for MENA NS to participate, allowing them to provide insights concerning the recent developments in the MENA region. Their participation would have provided an opportunity to showcase the situational context of their respective country, highlight their ongoing efforts, and present the events unfolding at both national and sub-regional levels. At the time of writing the report, the GMTF 2023 has been rescheduled for 2024.

Capacity – Building Needs Assessment Survey

Speakers: Dr. Rasha El Masry (Egyptian RC) and Mr. Alaa Ammar (Lebanese RC), Co-Chairs of MENA Migration Network

The MENA Migration Network Co-Chairs, Mr. Alaa Ammar and Dr. Rasha El Masry provided a comprehensive overview of the network's progress and key achievements since its establishment in 2021. They also reviewed the action plan 2023 that was endorsed in 2022 and highlighted the outputs achieved in 2023.

The co-chairs highlighted the outcomes of the 2023 needs assessment survey, which set the direction of the two-day introduction training sessions. 10 National Societies of the Network participated in answering the question: What type of training and support would be most needed to your NS to better respond to the most vulnerable and address the needs of migrants and displaced people?

Climate Change and Displacement, Humanitarian Service Points, and Developing a Migration Strategy, were among the most requested needs in training to better support and respond to the needs of migrants and displaced people.

Climate Change and Displacement

The session on climate change and displacement consisted of two parts: a comprehensive introduction to the key concepts related to climate change and displacement, followed by a session on Climate Change and Conflict, which presented the findings and recommendations of the 'Making Adaptation Work' research (please see here the full report in [English](#) and [Arabic](#)).

Session Climate Change and Displacement

01 Speaker: Sara Walsh, IFRC MENA Lead Climate and Resilience

This session represented an overview of the Climate Change and Displacement general key terminology, facts, figures, understanding displacement in the context of climate change and disasters, the approach of the Red Cross Red Crescent, integrating climate risk management in the IFRC strategy 2030, and the movement ambitions on climate.

The training emphasized how the correlated factors inducing climate risks are the same drivers for displacement. In this regard, discussions focused on how climate change is driving population movement and emphasized on the need for the prioritization of integrating migration to other key domains like climate or health within the Movement.

Ms. Sara then moved on to draw attention to the connection between climate change, migration, and risk reduction, opening the door for an immense approach in determining the nature of Humanitarian Service Points. This question turned into an active dialogue in which national societies categorized HSPs either as part of their response, preparation, mitigation, or recovery planning; it was clear how NSs approach varied accordingly.

Group discussions also covered the major climate changes concerning national societies, including flash floods, extreme hot or cold waves, wildfires, and droughts. Participants shared insights into mitigation and adaptation practices, such as drilling water wells and climate wiser project planning. The session facilitated the exchange of experiences and lessons learnt from recent climate risks influencing the work of multiple national societies.

The training also addressed the need to draw more focus on adaptation instead of recovery and the essential gears to bridge the implementation gap through effective leadership, policy frameworks, information, coordination, and financial processes.

Discussions continued elaborating on the main intersections between climate and migration. This correlation was showcased in climate being a driver for migration, a cause of increased risk of vulnerability for people who have already moved from their country of origin, and as a differentiating factor in planning for humanitarian interventions.



Session Climate Change and Conflict

02 Speaker: Vanessa Iaria, Regional Migration Adviser & Anna Robert, ICRC NAME

The session presented the findings and recommendations of the 'Making Adaptation Work' research which addresses the compounding impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and conflict on affected populations in the Near and Middle East.

Mrs. Vanessa then highlighted the types of adaptation initiatives that are in place to address the compounding impacts, focusing on the key challenges that hinder adaptation in situations affected by armed conflict. This session was concluded by calling all actors to advocate for urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and work together to strengthen climate action in countries and for people affected by armed conflict, suggesting effective actions that can be taken in this regard.

Humanitarian Service Points

The training on Humanitarian Service Points introduced the concept and guidance on the establishment and implementation of HSP. Moreover, MENA National Societies were invited to present their experience and work with HSPs.

Session 01 Setting the Scene

Speakers: Alaa Ammar, Migration and RFL Coordinator, Lebanese Red Cross (Co-chair of MENA MN) and Yasmin Hakim, IFRC MENA Migration and Displacement Officer

The session provided a comprehensive overview of the concept Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs), being a global initiative and flagship of the IFRC and National Societies. HSPs serving as the main modality for Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies to provide and scale up assistance and protection to migrants in need, both in emergency response and long-term programs.

The main objective of the session was to provide participating MENA NS with a thorough understanding of how HSPs reflect the way to assist and protect people on the move. Additionally, participants gained insights into the five core elements of HSPs and were directed with resources for establishing and implementing them, including the digital toolkit, checklist, and the two-page leaflet.

Furthermore, the session actively engaged participating NSs in an interactive discussion about their understanding of HSPs. This involved posing questions such as: how do HSPs look like, what services do HSPs provide, who is it for, and what to consider when establishing a HSPs.



Session 02 Information Sharing from National Societies

Presentation on HSPs



Egyptian Red Crescent

Dr. Rasha introduced the members of the network to the migration network to the migration context in Egypt and the impact of the recent Sudanese crisis with Egypt being the destination to the largest displaced population from Sudan. She elaborated on the following:

- The complex needs of the forcibly displaced population and ERC's preparedness plan. Referring to the Ukrainian- Russian conflict response, the Egyptian Red Crescent used the lessons learned mindfully while responding to population movement from Sudan.
- The establishment of four Humanitarian Service Points operating on key locations, including the border crossings between Egypt and Sudan, Abu Simbel city, Aswan city, and Aswan train station which have been providing essential services for the people on the move from Sudan.
- The significance of awareness campaigns that were led by the ERC, providing the target population with lifesaving instructions, information, and emergency and health facilities contact details and locations in Egypt to resort to.

Closing, Rasha reinforced the Egyptian Red Crescent commitment to helping the vulnerable whenever they may be.



Libyan Red Crescent

Mr. Mohammed introduced the network to the general scope of work of the Libyan Red Crescent and the tailored support for migrants provided by the national society. The main takeaways from his presentation included:

- The Libyan Red Crescent has a long experience in supporting migrants crossing the Mediterranean and have put in place the adequate plans to support migrants through health and first aid services, the recovery of bodies, providing essential services, restoring family links, and psychosocial support for migrants with the expected migration heavy season.
- The massive floods accompanying the storm Daniel that hit north-eastern Libya on Sunday 10 September has shifted the Libyan Red Crescent efforts to provide emergency shelter, psychosocial support, healthcare, clean water and food to affected communities and restore family links with missing loved ones.
- Reaffirmation that disasters (mostly induced by climate change) will often exceed our capacities and go far beyond our planning, insisting on the need to enhance preparedness, readiness, capacity building of staff and volunteers, and partnerships to ensure a coherent and effective response to any emerging crisis that would increase the flow of migration to a given country or drive outward migration and internal displacement.



Lebanese Red Cross

Mr. Alaa presented an introduction to the rescue services provided for migrants across the Lebanese borders and on the Mediterranean shore. His intervention explained the following:

- LRC rescue teams are always ready before hand, once notified of a potential rescue operation, they arrive at the shore for meeting and planning even before the arrival of the boat to the coast.
- The Lebanese RC attributes their timely response to the close coordination with the public authorities and other international actors.
- Building trust among the community is not an easy task, what is harder is maintaining a level of coordination with the authorities in accordance with our basic principles. He emphasized the importance of establishing a good relationship with the public authorities in a way that serves the interests of migrants.

Closing, Alaa showcased the variable services provided by the national society for migrants tailored for every given set-up.

Session 03 HSP Activity

Speakers: Alaa Ammar, Migration and RFL Manager, Lebanese Red Cross (Co-chair of MENA MN) and Yasmin Hakim, IFRC MENA Migration and Displacement Officer

The final session focused on provided participating NS with an exercise centred around establishing and implementing HSP during an emergency to respond to people on the move. Participants were divided into groups of two and given a scenario handout that outlined the overview of ongoing crisis and the affected population. Tasks were explained to participants and were encouraged to draw upon their experience and knowledge of the HSP concept and approach to prepare their response.



Emirates Red Crescent Society Presentation

Speaker, Wafa Al Zaabi, Emirates RC

The Emirates Red Crescent provided a brief overview of the humanitarian role of the national society during the Covid-19 pandemic. Presenting how the national society has a vital role in supporting migrants and vulnerable people in unprecedented situations.

Conclusion and Next Steps

- The meeting brought together **12 MENA National Societies in person** for the second time with a high-level participation from the GCC countries.
- Humanitarian Service Points and Climate Change and Displacement introduction training sessions were provided to MENA NS.
- National Societies shared information on the establishment and implementation of Humanitarian Service Points, exchanging valuable lessons learned. MENA Migration Network Focal points raised recommendations and concerns on addressing migrant workers in the Movement Migration Strategy.
- Discussions showcased the correlation between migration and climate change; as climate being one of the drivers for migration, a cause of increased risk of vulnerability for people who have already moved from their country of origin, and as a differentiating factor in planning for humanitarian interventions.
- A significant perspective was presented that migration should not be seen solely as a crisis nor migrants as a problem but as having positive impacts on host communities.
- Bi-lateral support to be provided to MENA NS that have expressed interest in receiving support in developing a Migration Strategy. Ongoing rounds of Humanitarian Service Points and Climate Change and Displacement trainings to be provided for interested NS.
- MENA MN collectively approved on the last day of the meeting to hold the Co-Chairs rotations of 2024-2025 in March 2024. IFRC Migration and Displacement Online Training List was offered for MENA National Societies.

Appendices

Appendix 1 : Participants

NS Migration Focal Points

Lebanese Red Cross	Alaa Amar (MENA MN Co-Chair)
Egyptian Red Crescent	Rasha El Masry (MENA MN Co-Chair)
Libyan Red Crescent	Mohammed Faraj (online)
Qatari Red Crescent	Zeena El Husein
Iraqi Red Crescent	Ahmed Owaid
Syrian Arab Red Crescent	Mariam Muawad
Algerian Red Crescent	Fathi Bougamouza
Iranian Red Crescent	Saeed Effatdust
Bahrain Red Crescent	Ali Kadhem
Saudi Red Crescent Authority	Saeed Al Kahtani
Palestinian Red Crescent	Abdul Aziz Abu Aisha
Emirates Red Crescent	Wafa Alzaabi

IFRC

Dr.Hosam Faysal	Head of HDCC, MENA Regional Office
Yasmin Hakim	Migration and Displacement Officer, MENA Regional Office
Sara Walsh	Lead Climate and Resilience, MENA Regional Office
Fawzi Amin	Head of Country Cluster Delegation for GCC)
Malak Atkeh	Senior Communication Officer GCC-Cluster Office
Kholoud Boutaieb	Programme Officer, IFRC Libya Country Delegation
Ezekiel Simperingham	Global Migration and Displacement Manager
Eman Sabaa Ayoun	Migration and Displacement Intern, MENA Regional Office

ICRC

Vanessa Iaria	Regional Migration Advisor
Reda Shmait	Regional Movement Affairs Analyst
Clare Dalton	ICRC Head of the UAE Delegation
Anna Rubert	ICRC Regional Climate Change Adviser

Appendix 2: Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, September 21, 2023		
Time	Session	Facilitator
9:00 – 10:00	Welcome remarks and Introduction of the Fourth Annual Meeting Formal Welcome Introduction of key objectives and expectations Icebreaker activity- Introduction of all participants Group Photo Speaker: IFRC GCC cluster Office Representative ICRC Representative Co-Chairs of the MENA-MN: Dr. Rasha El Masry (Egyptian Red Crescent) Mr. Alaa Ammar (Lebanese Red Cross)	Dr. Hosam Faysal IFRC MENA Head of HDCC Unit (MENA-MN Secretariat)
10:00-10:30	MENA Migration Network – Updates and Key Progress MENA Migration Network Updates Plan of Action 2023 Recap	MENA MN Co-Chairs
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00-12:00	Needs Assessment Outcomes Recap of the Plan of Action 2022-2023 endorsed by NS during the Annual Meeting 2022. Updating the outcomes implemented from the PoA of a second needs assessment on the needs and gaps in capacity to better assist migrants and refugees. The focus will set the direction for the training during the two days meeting based on the NSs priorities.	MENA MN Co-Chairs
12:00-13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00-14:30	IFRC: Global Priorities and Perspectives on Migration and Displacement Movement Migration Strategy Migration and Displacement Crises (Population Movement Operations) The Global Route Based Migration Programme Global Advocacy and Diplomacy Priorities The Global Migration Task Force	Ezekiel Simperingham, Migration and Displacement Manager, IFRC Global Team
14:30-15:00	Coffee Break	
15:00-17:00	Training: Climate Change and Displacement, including climate-induced migration in MENA Climate Change and Displacement general introduction to key terminology, facts, and figures, understanding displacement in the context of climate change and disasters, the approach of the Red Cross Red Crescent	Sara Walsh Lead, Climate and Resilience, IFRC MENA
17:00 – 17:15	Close of the Day 1	
	Social gathering for all Participants- Trip to Dubai Sustainable City	

Day 2: Friday, September 22, 2023		
Time	Session	Facilitator
9:00 – 9:15	Day Two Recap	
9:15- 11:00	Climate Change and Displacement (continuation) Climate Change and Conflict. The session will present the findings and recommendations of the Making Adaptation Work research.	Vanessa Iaria, Regional Migration Adviser, ICRC NAME (Online)
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15-11:30	Emirates Red Crescent Society Presentation	
11:30-12:30	Humanitarian Service Point – Setting the Scene General Overview: Introduction to the HSP concept	Alaa Ammar, Migration and RFL Coordinator at LRC and Yasmin Hakim, Migration and Displacement Officer, IFRC MENA
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30-14:30	Humanitarian Service Point – Information sharing from National Societies Presentation from LRC, LRCS, ERC– sharing experiences and good practices. Open Dialogue	Alaa Ammar, LRC Yasmin Hakim, iFRC MENA
14:30-14:45	Coffee Break	
15:30-16:30	Humanitarian Service Point - Activity Breakout session – establishing HSP in the MENA region activity. Questions and Answers	Alaa Ammar, LRC Dr. Rasha Masry, ERC Yasmin Hakim, iFRC MENA
16:30-17:00	Next Steps for the MENA MN Network Election for the co-chairs 2024-2025 and new members FP TOR	
17:00 – 17:15	Close of the Annual Meeting	

Acknowledgments

The MENA Migration Network would like to thank the IFRC MENA Regional Office, the staff of the Migration Team at the IFRC MENA Regional Office, all the staff of the IFRC GCC Cluster Office, and the ICRC NAME Regional Office.

The MENA MN would like to specifically thank the 12 National Societies Migration and Displacement focal points for their valuable inputs, and their sharing of knowledge and perspectives on the work.



