



# Global Route-Based Migration Programme 2025-2030

A route-based approach spanning Africa, the Americas, Europe and Central Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa



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## INTRODUCTION

In 2025, the international movement of people is more complex than ever. To meet the scale and scope of this reality, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has launched its Global Migration & Displacement Platform—a unified local-to-global framework aiming to support 100 million people by 2030 through humanitarian aid, protection, and development.

The Global Route-Based Migration Programme forms a core component of the Platform, delivering humanitarian assistance along routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe and Central Asia and the Middle East and North Africa and embedding its work within the IFRC's ambition for coordinated, scalable impact in countries of transit.

These strategic efforts respond directly to the complex and evolving migration challenges of the world today.

# THE CHALLENGE

Across the globe, people on the move – migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced people – make dangerous and difficult journeys in search of safety or a better life. Whether on land or at sea, people on the move face significant risks to their lives, dignity, and rights. Many face life-threatening risks, including violence, exploitation, and barriers to accessing essential services like food, water, shelter, and health services. Tragically, some people die or go missing.

Globally, latest figures estimate 281 million international migrants<sup>1</sup> and over 117 million forcibly displaced.<sup>2</sup> Many migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and other displaced people are exposed to risks and harm in different contexts – including along land- and sea-based migration routes, at borders, in transit and destination countries, in camps, in detention and, in some cases, upon their return.

These migration dynamics across key routes reveal a complex and worsening landscape shaped by intersecting humanitarian, political, economic, and environmental challenges. In **Africa**, migration is largely driven by conflict, poverty, and climate risks, with people moving within and out of the continent through perilous routes like the Central Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Eastern routes toward the Gulf. In the **Americas**, mixed migration flows persist, as individuals' cross borders in search of safety and better livelihoods, further complicated by political instability, violence, and environmental shocks. Political shifts in the region have also led to higher rates of return migration. In **Europe and Central Asia**, stricter border policies are pushing migrants toward more dangerous routes across land and sea, including the Eastern, Central, and Western Mediterranean, as well as the Atlantic and Balkan routes. In the **Middle East and North Africa**, ongoing crises, economic hardships, and the effects of climate change drive both internal displacement and irregular migration, placing significant pressure on already vulnerable communities. These evolving migration dynamics underscore the urgent need for sustained humanitarian aid and protection to address the diverse and growing needs of those on the move.

These trends highlight the urgent need for a humanitarian response that is **flexible, coordinated, rights-based, and able to evolve with shifting migration realities**.

To address these concerns, the IFRC Secretariat has extended the **Global Route-Based Migration Programme** (“Global Programme” or “the Programme”) – originally launched in 2021 – through **2030**, ensuring continued cross-border assistance and protection along critical transit routes, including in the three trans-Mediterranean routes, the Atlantic route, the Eastern Route towards the Gulf, and the Balkans route Africa, Europe, MENA and the Americas.

At the operational level, the Programme will continue to be guided by three core pillars:

1. **Improving access to humanitarian assistance and protection** particularly through the establishment of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs),<sup>3</sup> providing life-saving services along migration routes to meet basic needs and preserve dignity.
2. **Strengthening National Society capacities** to respond locally and across borders, coordinate along routes, and deliver protection and assistance effectively.
3. **Humanitarian diplomacy** by advocating locally, regionally, and globally to foster policies, norms, and operational environments that uphold the rights, safety, and dignity of people on the move.

This narrative document outlines the ongoing implementation and strategic scaling of the Global Route-Based Migration Programme for 2025-2030, building on achievements of its implementation in 2021-2024, and reaffirming the IFRC's network continued commitment to adapting to new migration realities, and responding to emerging humanitarian challenges faced by migrants and displaced people—irrespective of their status—along key migration routes.

<sup>1</sup>IOM. (2024). World Migration Report. <https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/msite/wmr-2024-interactive/>

<sup>2</sup>UNHCR. (2025). Global Trends report 2024 | UNHCR

<sup>3</sup>Humanitarian Service Points | IFRC

# IFRC APPROACH TO MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

As a global humanitarian network with permanent presence in 191 countries, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies approach migration and displacement from a strictly humanitarian perspective. This approach is grounded in the recognition of each migrant's individuality and aspirations, focusing on their needs, vulnerabilities, and potential, irrespective of legal status, type, or category. IFRC's deliberately broad approach to 'migration' includes refugees, asylum seekers, labour migrants, stateless migrants, and migrants deemed irregular by public authorities.

The IFRC's commitment to humanitarian assistance in migration is further reinforced by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Migration Strategy 2024–2030,<sup>4</sup> adopted at the 2024 Council

of Delegates. This strategy unites the Movement's three components—National Societies, the IFRC, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)—around a collective vision and shared objectives to guide their actions with and for migrants.

Complementing this, the IFRC's Migration Policy<sup>5</sup> emphasizes the provision of assistance and protection to migrants throughout their journey, upholding their rights and dignity, and promoting social inclusion and interaction between migrants and host communities.

This principled humanitarian approach ensures that the IFRC and its network of National Societies continue to deliver life-saving support and advocate for the safety and dignity of all people on the move, irrespective of their legal status or background.



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<sup>4</sup>Migration Strategy: International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2024-2030 | IFRC

<sup>5</sup>Migration policy | IFRC

# THE IFRC ROUTE-BASED APPROACH

In 2025, the route-based approach to assisting people on the move gained momentum in international policy discussions, having been recognised as a promising practice in the 2024 UN Secretary-General's report on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The concept featured prominently in key policy fora such as the 2025 Global Refugee Forum Progress Review, and has helped catalyze more structured inter-agency coordination focused on delivering more coordinated and effective support along migration routes.

The IFRC network has played a significant role in advancing the route-based approach, drawing on its extensive operational experience responding to the essential needs of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced persons at different stages of their journeys. This approach is grounded in the unique, permanent presence of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in virtually every country along migration routes – from countries of origin to transit and destination. It builds on a long history in the IFRC network, with programmes in Africa (the AMiRA programme) and Latin America (the Mariposa Monarca programme) representing early regionally focused iterations of route-based programming. In 2021, this approach was formalised and operationalised through the launch of the Global Route-Based Migration Programme, which in 2025 was extended until 2030.

The IFRC network's route-based approach presents potential/seeks to move humanitarian action from fragmented responses toward connected, people centred systems that ensure continuity of services/support/care across the entire journey, effectively reducing exposure to risks and saving lives across routes. The approach recognizes that migrant's needs and vulnerabilities may evolve over time, requiring continuous monitoring, adaptation, and tailored responses. Through coordinated action and cross border collaboration between National Societies working along migration routes, the IFRC network is able to provide more timely, relevant, and context specific support to vulnerable individuals at different stages of their journeys. The approach is supported

by evidence-based advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy at national, regional and global levels, aimed at ensuring more protective policies and practices by states.

Alongside supporting millions of people on the move, the Global Programme's focus on capacity strengthening for local humanitarian responders has helped to equip National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies with the building blocks of an effective – and localised – route-based approach. The Global Programme is closely linked to IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF), Emergency Appeals and Early Action Protocols, reinforcing the IFRC network's longer-term capacity to scale up responses as routes shift, needs evolve, and crisis emerge.

Looking ahead to 2030, the IFRC network plans to expand the Global Programme and further strengthen its route-based approach, aiming to consolidate a model that delivers scale, quality, cross-border connectivity and influence over policy and practice. Deepening cross-border collaboration will be central to these efforts, both between National Societies, and with external partners. The IFRC network is likewise committed to ensuring strong complementarity with other actors operating along the routes to maximise impact, avoid duplication, and reinforce a coherent humanitarian presence.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup>IFRC Global Route Based Migration Programme Annual Report 2025 | IFRC.



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021-2024

The below section highlights tangible results from the first four years of implementation of the Global Route-Based Programme. These key achievements create the foundation for scaling the Programme into its next phase.



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## 63 NATIONAL SOCIETIES



operating<sup>7</sup> under the Programme across Africa, Europe, the Americas, and MENA.

## 4.4 MILLION PEOPLE



along migration routes reached between 2021 and 2024, through cross-border collaboration, advocacy, and capacity strengthening.

## OVER 10,000 STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS



have been trained in migration, protection, and humanitarian service delivery.

## OVER 100 HUMANITARIAN SERVICE POINTS



strategically located along migration routes providing humanitarian assistance and protection.<sup>8</sup>

# PROPOSED SOLUTION

## CONTINUATION OF SUPPORT: FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME

Recognizing the continuously growing challenges faced by people on the move, the five year extension of the Global Route-Based Migration Programme reaffirms our commitment to principled humanitarian assistance and coordinated protection along migration routes.

In this next phase, the Programme will build on its initial successes by expanding into new countries,

scaling up Humanitarian Service Points, piloting new tools for cross border collaboration, focusing on the use of digital tools to protect and assist migrants, and linking the route-based approach more closely to emergencies and anticipatory action.

Moreover, the Global Route-Based Migration Programme will further strengthen the integration of humanitarian diplomacy within National Societies'

route-based initiatives, supported by targeted training and research at local, national, regional, and global levels.

Through this continued dedicated effort, the IFRC network will leverage its collective expertise and unique reach, upholding its commitment to locally led action that drives global impact and promotes the safety and dignity of people on the move.

# PRIORITIES

To realize these overarching goals, the Global Programme will focus on the following specific priorities:

- **Build Skills, Standards & Capacity** within IFRC, National Societies, staff and volunteers, prioritizing training, and harmonized standards and tools to ensure high quality and reliability of our actions, as well as ensuring learning and peer exchange.
- **Ensure Continuity of Care** and protection along migration routes between countries of origin, transit, host, and return, so that people on the move can access essential services continuously without interruption and based on needs.
- **Strengthen Reporting** by ensuring robust, timely systems that allow us to monitor needs, adapt our interventions, and demonstrate measurable impact.

- **Enhance Information Management (IM) and Data Systems** by deploying the use of digital tools and systems to collect, analyze and visualize migration and displacement related data, including mapping and scenario analysis.

- **Strengthen Coordination Across Borders and Among Partners** to ensure coherence in approach, reduce duplication, and improve reach and consistency of support along migration routes.

- **Improve External Positioning** and increase visibility, advocacy, and the understanding of both the urgency of needs and the effectiveness of our response.

- **Deepen Partnerships and Resource Mobilization** by expanding collaborations and securing the financial and operational support needed to sustain and scale the Programme in line with the new IFRC Global Migration and Displacement Platform.

# KEY FIGURES

To deliver on these ambitions, the extended Global Programme will operate across **63 implementing<sup>9</sup> National Societies**, aiming to mobilize **CHF 30 million per year**, and reach **7 million people** on the move and in host communities across Africa, Europe, MENA, and the Americas between 2025-2030.



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<sup>9</sup>The number of National Societies participating in the Programme may change in the coming months as we are updating them across different regions.

## REGIONAL TARGETS



### AFRICA

To reach **400,000 people**, mobilizing **CHF 9.0 million** per year



### EUROPE

To reach **242,121 people**, mobilizing **CHF 2.8 million** per year



### AMERICAS

To reach **556,000 people**, mobilizing **CHF 10 million** per year



### MENA

To reach **292,000 people**, mobilizing **CHF 8.2 million** per year

# IFRC NETWORK'S VALUE PROPOSITION

As a global humanitarian network, the IFRC brings distinctive strengths to migration response:



## ACCESS AND REACH

Local presence on migration routes means that the IFRC network can act where other actors may not.



## TRUSTED PARTNERS

The unique role of National Societies as partner of choice for governments, humanitarian and development organizations and donors. As auxiliaries to their public authorities, National Societies are well-positioned to facilitate cooperation within borders and through the IFRC network along migratory routes.



## LINKING LOCAL AND GLOBAL

The network can transfer lessons, technical guidance, and innovation across regions.



## HOLISTIC CROSS-SECTORAL CAPACITY

The cross-sectoral nature of the approach of National Societies is well aligned with a holistic route-based approach addressing the needs of vulnerable people on the move, irrespective of their status or category.



## VOLUNTEER BASE

The trusted volunteer network remains a hallmark of National Societies and their unhindered access to communities ensures that the needs of the most vulnerable are identified and addressed, and that community-led approaches underpin programmes.

# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup>The number of National Societies participating in the Programme may change in the coming months as we are updating them across different regions.



# THE GLOBAL ROUTE-BASED MIGRATION PROGRAMME IN AFRICA

Africa experiences high internal mobility, driven by environmental degradation, climate change, political instability, and violent conflict. Major migration routes include the Central Mediterranean and Atlantic crossings toward Europe, and the Eastern route toward the Gulf. At sea, the Central Mediterranean and Atlantic routes are the most frequent pathways from Africa to Europe. The intercontinental border crossing saw an estimated 4,465 migrant fatalities in 2024, with three-quarters of this figure from attempted maritime crossings to Europe via the Mediterranean and Atlantic, and 36,000 migrants intercepted at sea via the Atlantic.<sup>11</sup> Meanwhile, the Eastern route towards the Gulf saw a 13% increase between 2013 and 2024,

with 446,194 movements tracked in this busy and risky migration route that often involves smuggling, violence, trafficking, and detention.<sup>12</sup>

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Togo

## KEY FIGURES

- Target: **400,000 people/year**;
- Resources required: **CHF 9 million/year**.



© IFRC. Photo by Moustapha Diallo

<sup>11</sup>Williams, Wendy. (2025, 3 February). African Migration Trends to Watch in 2025 – Africa Center

<sup>12</sup>IOM. (2024). Migration Along the Eastern Route. [https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1461/files/reports/2024\\_Yearly\\_Eastern\\_Route\\_Report.pdf](https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1461/files/reports/2024_Yearly_Eastern_Route_Report.pdf)

## MAIN ACTIVITIES BY PILLAR



### PILLAR 1

#### Humanitarian Assistance & Protection

- Continued delivery of **life-saving assistance and protection** through Humanitarian Service Points;
- Support for returnees and stranded migrants to enhance their livelihoods;
- **Improve readiness** by piloting and developing anticipatory action for population movement.



### PILLAR 2

#### Strengthening National Societies Capacity

- **Provision of training** for staff and volunteers on migration & protection issues, MHPSS, CEA, RFL, PSEA and HSP Management, among other topics;
- **Support National Societies to strengthen their migration capacities** through investment in digital tools, capacity assessments, integration of migration into strategic planning, and the development of dedicated migration strategies;
- **Strengthening cross-border coordination among National Societies in the region** with peer exchanges, South-South learning and development of standard operating procedures, as well as maintaining regular cross-border exchanges and interactions.



### PILLAR 3

#### Humanitarian Diplomacy & Advocacy

- **Evidence-based advocacy** to influence policy at national, regional, global levels;
- **Engagement** with governments, regional bodies, UN agencies through regional humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy fora to enhance coordination, access, and services for migrants and displaced persons;
- **Support National Society participation** in regional networks such as the East Africa Migration Network and Sahel+ Technical Working Group for harmonized minimum standards of action and policy dialogues.



# THE GLOBAL ROUTE-BASED MIGRATION PROGRAMME IN THE AMERICAS

Mixed migration flows across and within countries, driven by political instability, violence, economic hardship, and environmental shocks. 2025 has seen increased movement both in transit and return to origin countries, heightening demand for coordinated humanitarian responses.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, El Salvador, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

## KEY FIGURES

- Target: **556,000 people/year**;
- Resources required: **CHF 10 million/year**.



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## MAIN ACTIVITIES BY PILLAR



### PILLAR 1 Humanitarian Assistance & Protection

- Continued delivery of **life-saving assistance and protection** through Humanitarian Service Points;
- **Specialized support** to stranded migrants and survivors of trafficking or violence;
- **Monitoring population movements** and maintaining early-warning systems.



### PILLAR 2 Strengthening National Societies

- **Provision of training for staff and volunteers** on migration, protection, MHPSS, CEA, RFL, and HSP management to enhance operational readiness and quality of services;
- **Investment in branch development and cross-border coordination**, including regional peer-to-peer exchanges and standard operating procedures for migration responses;
- **Support to National Societies in developing or updating migration strategies**, improving data and digital monitoring systems, and linking humanitarian services with community preparedness and livelihoods support.



### PILLAR 3 Humanitarian Diplomacy & Advocacy

- **Evidence-based advocacy** to influence policy at national, regional, global levels;
- **Engagement** with governments, regional bodies, UN agencies through regional humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy fora to enhance coordination, access, and services for migrants and displaced persons;
- **Support National Society participation** in regional networks such as the Regional Network for the Americas and the Caribbean (REDMAC) for harmonized minimum standards of action.
- **Support for National Society involvement in policy dialogues and humanitarian fora** to meaningful participation and to ensure migrant and displaced persons' perspectives are represented in decision-making.



# THE GLOBAL ROUTE-BASED MIGRATION PROGRAMME IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Migration in Europe & Central Asia is shaped by stricter border policies and migration controls. Sea crossings via the Mediterranean and land transit through the Western Balkans remain significant. Although crossings have decreased with stricter border enforcement, the routes taken have become more dangerous and irregular. Antimigrant sentiment has also gained ground.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Albania, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom

## KEY FIGURES

- Target: **242,121 people/year**;
- Resources required: **CHF 2.8 million/year**.



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## MAIN ACTIVITIES BY PILLAR



### PILLAR 1 Humanitarian Assistance & Protection

- Continued delivery of **life-saving assistance and protection** through Humanitarian Service Points, mobile teams in reception and transit center and National Societies branches located along the route;
- **Support to the specific groups** of migrants like the most vulnerable, women survivors of gender-based violence, trafficked people a, disable and elderly or unaccompanied migrants, including host communities.
- **Monitoring population movements** and maintaining early-warning systems.
- **Conducting pilots of initiatives to enhance cross-border coordination** as joint needs assessments, information sharing ensuring continuity of care along the route.



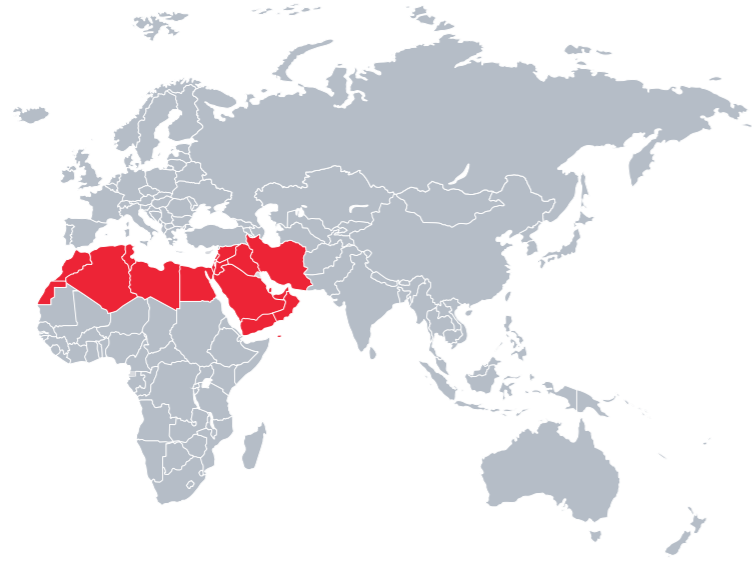
### PILLAR 2 Strengthening National Societies Capacity

- **Provision of training for staff and volunteers** on migration, PGI (Protection, Gender & Inclusion), MHPSS, CEA, RFL, and HSP management to enhance operational readiness and quality of services;
- **Investment in digital tools**, ensuring integration of humanitarian services with community-preparedness;
- **Promotion of cross-border coordination**, including regional peer-to-peer exchanges and standard operating procedures for migration response;
- **Support to National Societies in developing or updating migration strategies**, improving data and digital monitoring systems, and linking humanitarian services with community preparedness.
- **Leveraging the auxiliary role of National Societies** in strengthening the capacity of local actors like local authorities.



### PILLAR 3 Humanitarian Diplomacy & Advocacy

- **Positioning National Societies** as key partners along the route.
- **Evidence-based advocacy** to influence policy and practice at national, regional, global levels;
- **Engagement** with governments, regional bodies, UN agencies through regional humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy fora to enhance coordination, access, and services for migrants and displaced persons;
- **Support for National Society involvement in policy dialogues and humanitarian fora** to ensure meaningful participation and that migrant and displaced persons' perspectives are represented in decision-making.



## THE GLOBAL ROUTE-BASED MIGRATION PROGRAMME IN MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The Middle East and North Africa is simultaneously a region of origin, transit, and destination. Migration is driven by conflict and violence, economic insecurity, and irregular labor migration, but also labour and educational opportunities. These dynamics are further aggravated by climate impacts and deteriorating essential services.

### NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The MENA National Societies participating in the programme will be identified in the coming months as we are updating them across different regions.

### KEY FIGURES

- Target: **292,000 people/year**;
- Resources required: **CHF 8.2 million/year**.



© Egyptian Red Crescent. Photo by Egyptian Red Crescent.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES BY PILLAR



### PILLAR 1 Humanitarian Assistance & Protection

- Continued delivery of **life-saving assistance and protection** through Humanitarian Service Points and establishment of new HSPs when deemed necessary;
- **Development of joint cross-border needs assessment** to enhance service delivery.
- **Monitoring population movements** within the region.



### PILLAR 2 Strengthening National Societies Capacity

- **Training staff and volunteers** on migration and displacement, cross-cutting thematics such as CEA, PGI, MHPSS, HSP trainings;
- **Support National Societies to strengthen their migration capacities**, including capacity and needs assessments, and the development/revision of their migration strategies, action plans or incorporating migration into their existing strategies
- **Support in strengthening cross-border collaboration** among NS along migration routes to ensure continuity of support and a unified approach to humanitarian assistance throughout journeys.
- **Promotion of cross-border coordination**, including regional peer-to-peer exchanges and sharing of tools for implementation of activities along the route.



### PILLAR 3 Humanitarian Diplomacy & Advocacy

- **Support National Society participation** in regional and global networks such as the MENA Migration Network, Global Migration Task Force.
- **Engagement** with governments, regional bodies, UN agencies through regional humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy fora to enhance coordination, access, and services for migrants and displaced persons;
- **Collection of case studies and good practices** in the implementation of the Programme.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE GLOBAL ROUTE-BASED MIGRATION PROGRAMME, PLEASE CONTACT:

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**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 14 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard-to-reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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