

MDR65001

1 December 2016

Combined Europe Population Movement Operations Update

Timeframe covered: August - November 2016

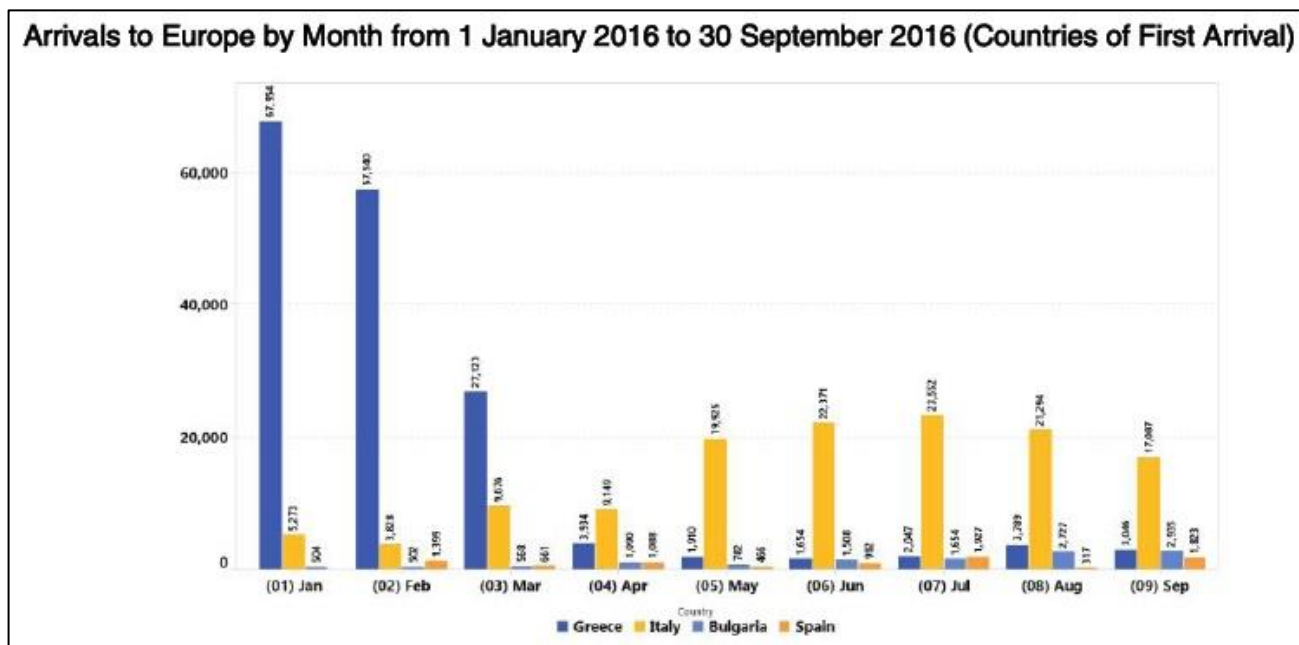
A. Situation overview- Highlights

- Since the EU-Turkey agreement, sea arrivals to Greece have significantly dropped compared to 2015, but many migrants continue to reach Europe. Since the summer, there was a shift of sea arrivals to Italy, but every European country has been affected by the migration crisis which is the biggest one for the continent since the second World War.
- Taking their chances on unsafe rubber and fishing boats, thousands of children, women and men continue to cross the Mediterranean from West and North Africa to **Italy** and **Spain** and from **Turkey** to the Greek islands.
- Many of those trying to cross the sea to reach southern European countries are perishing in record numbers. Up to mid-November 2016, more than **4,600 people** have died in the Mediterranean in 2016.
- Tensions are growing among migrants that have been stranded across Europe and between the migrants and local communities. **Xenophobia** is reflected in negative attitudes from the public and local and national authorities across the continent. European countries are introducing stricter border crossing measures which have been resulting in tensions at various border crossings such as the **Hungarian/Serbian border** and at the **Austrian/Italian** border.
- According to the latest available figures from the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) there are currently an estimated **3.1 million foreign nationals** present in **Turkey** seeking international protection. Most are Syrians (2.7 millions) who are granted temporary protection status.
- **The IFRC** has been responding to the changing needs on the ground, in an environment where lack of political decision is seriously affecting Red Cross actions and in a setting which requires stronger coordinated actions along the migratory route, i.e. from the countries of origin to the **countries of destination**.
- The IFRC has launched eight emergency appeals for **Turkey, Greece, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Hungary** on Population Movement including a Europe: **Migration coordination** emergency appeal. The appeals for Turkey, Greece and Italy aim to finalize in 2017. Following the **London Plan of Action**, the [European Migration Framework](#) and recommendations from the **National Society Reference Group**, the IFRC Regional Office for Europe is currently undertaking longer term planning, shifting from emergency appeals to annual plans. Individual country plans are being merged into the Europe Regional Plan as joint efforts are aiming towards a comprehensive approach to migration across Europe that mainstreams **protection, anti-trafficking, community engagement and social inclusion, information management and communication**.

B. Latest developments on migration flows to Europe

Cumulative arrivals to Europe

According to [IOM statistics](#)¹ as of 17 November, **366,350 migrants and refugees** have arrived to **Europe** in 2016. Arrivals at sea account for the overwhelming majority of new migrant and refugee arrivals (93 per cent with 343,589 arrivals). **During the recent weeks, an increase has been detected in arrivals at land borders in some of the affected areas.** Land crossings are mainly detected in the Evros, region between **Turkey and Greece**, as well as at the exit points from **Turkey bordering Bulgaria**. Reports indicate that there is an increased border patrol presence in these areas and entries on these routes are often prevented by official agencies.



Source: IOM Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean and Beyond Q3 2016

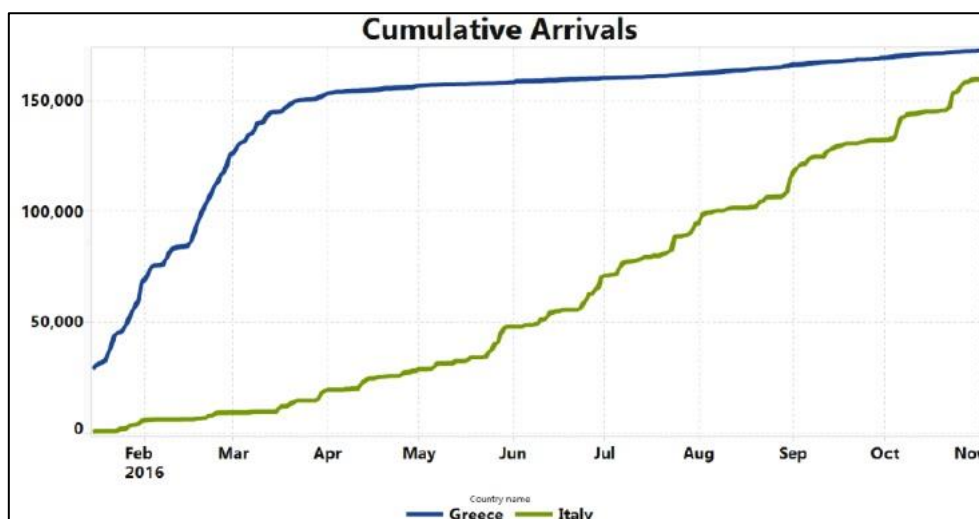
According to these recent trends, Europe's overall migration arrivals are slowing down. More than 1 million refugees migrated via Mediterranean and Aegean routes in 2015. Thus far in 2016, the number of arrivals represents one third of last year's total. However, the current situation presents different but continuous serious humanitarian concerns and challenges for the population on the move and Red Cross Red Crescent Societies who are responding to it.

At the same time, due to the volatile situation at the external borders of Europe, the situation remains highly unpredictable. As a result of the level of unpredictability, most recently the Bulgarian Interior Minister has issued an order activating 'level 2' of the National Plan for Action in Emergency Situations as it applies to the country's border with Turkey at the end of October 2016.

Trends in arrivals

According to [UNHCR statistics](#) as of 13 November **170,586 migrants and refugees** have arrived by sea to **Greece** in 2016. Between the same period **167,276 arrivals** have been reported by sea to **Italy**, compared to 144,205 last year. The arrival numbers may also surpass **Greece** as the top destination country in Europe by the end of 2016. The increase in arrivals to Italy since the summer also highlights that sea arrivals have continued to shift from the route to Greece to the Central Mediterranean Route to Italy. Migration between Turkey and Greece has lessened significantly since March, after EU-Turkey agreement, but crossings between Libya and Italy continue.

¹ IOM and UNHCR have different reporting statistics. There is a difference in the reporting/publishing periods from the two agencies. In this document the statistics of these two agencies are primarily referenced to.



Source: IOM, 3 November 2016

Beyond sea arrivals to **Greece and Italy**, there has been an increasing number of arrivals in **Spain**. According to UNHCR, between 1 January and 30 September 2016, **9,148 people arrived to Spain**. Among the cumulative arrivals 60 per cent arrived by sea and 40 per cent by land to Ceuta and Melilla, the only land borders between EU and Africa. The numbers reported suggest there is an increase in the number of land arrivals to Spain with a significant number of Syrians using Ceuta and Melilla as entry points.

Greece and Italy continue to receive nationals from war torn countries and from regions affected by instability. While arrivals to Greece continue to be primarily from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, Italy received a much greater variety of nationalities, from Nigeria, Eritrea, the Gambia and other countries (UNHCR). Children account for 37 per cent of arrivals since 1 January 2016 while men make up 42 per cent and women 21 per cent in arrivals to Greece.

In terms of nationalities, there is also a difference in those who are crossing land borders from Turkey. Reports indicate that while Syrians constitute one of the biggest groups of arrivals at sea to Greece, Syrian refugees now make up fewer than 10 per cent of those crossing the land border from Turkey, with the majority are coming from Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Dangerous sea crossing

The Central Mediterranean Sea route has become increasingly dangerous in 2016. As of 19 November 2016, **4,646 lives** have been lost at the Mediterranean Sea. This rate of deaths occurring at the Mediterranean Sea is now nearly 20 per cent higher than last year's total of 3,771. About 240 people are suspected to have drowned on the second week of November 2016 in four separate incidents in the Mediterranean, but deadly accidents happen on a weekly basis. This latest accident has raised the total annual death toll this unprecedentedly high. It is [further feared](#) that vulnerable groups, children and pregnant women are among the deaths reported who have drowned while attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea.

According to various reports, the rising death toll in 2016 can be partly explained by the increasing use of the inflatable boats, which are even more dangerous than the wooden ships they replaced. People using these overcrowded unseaworthy vessels are in a particularly vulnerable physical and psychological condition along their way and at sea.

Pressure at border areas in the Western Balkan transit routes: growing irregularity and challenges in access

While border crossing points are officially closed off and there is increasing military and police presence at the borders, reports indicate that irregular movements continue – although in smaller numbers and less visible. As migrants and refugees wish to continue their migratory route to reach safety and protection despite of stricter border crossings in the region, it is feared that an increasing number of migrants and refugees are using riskier routes in order to reach the desired destination. Indeed, the beginning of September saw six migrants including four children, drown trying to cross the Danube from Bulgaria to Romania.

Slovenia has started building fences on the two main borders with **Croatia**. Metal barriers are being installed at both the largest crossing, Bregana-Obrežje, and at Macelj-Gruškovje. This adds another 27.5 kilometres to the 183.5 kilometres already fenced.

Border crossing points between the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia**, as well as between **Bulgaria** and Serbia have been increasingly strengthened with additional deployments of police and military forces. The new European Border and Coast Guard started to operate on 6 October 2016 also in Bulgarian territory.

As a result, the data suggests that the movement along this route has dramatically decreased compared to the same period in 2015. The European Border and Coast Guard published its new analysis for [Western Balkans Q2 2016](#). The agency reports that in the second quarter of this year, the number of migrants detected at the borders of Western Balkan countries plunged 88 per cent from the previous three months to 26,488.

The limited mobility also leads to tensions in the region as migrants try to move irregularly and are often prevented by the authorities to enter the next country. When entries are prevented, a growing number of migrants remain stranded in border areas in dire conditions and irregularly. Access to procedures, information, basic assistance and short-term accommodation remains critical in these circumstances. It is feared that because of the increasing irregularity, migrants and refugees have increasing difficulties to access crucial services and the National Societies have also challenges in accessing migrants and refugees with life-saving services and relief.

On 29 July 2016, the Red Cross EU Office published its latest position paper "[Protecting the dignity and rights of migrants in an irregular situation](#)". The National Red Cross Societies in the EU are providing a number of recommendations to the EU and its Member States.

Migrants and refugees remain stranded, humanitarian conditions worsen

The continuous arrivals to countries of first entry keeps encumber the already difficult humanitarian conditions in Italy's and Greece's reception system. In **Greece** the number of people hosted in the centres on the islands has been exceeding the official capacity in the last months (16,229 refugees and migrants are living in facilities designed to hold only 8,204) and has increased with approximately 11,000 since the summer. The Italian reception centres have also challenges in accommodating the growing number of migrant and refugee arrivals brought to the Italian shores on a daily basis.

Housing in Greece continues to be one of the main concerns. Reports on the current reception conditions continue to be below standards both on the mainland and on the islands and not suitable for longer-term accommodation. According to the Hellenic Coordinating Body for Refugee Crisis Management, among the islands, Chios is the most crowded and is in over capacity with 4,100 people living in facilities intended for 1,100 people. Additionally, Samos, Kos and Lesbos are over capacity. UNHCR data estimates that overall more than 62,000 migrants are currently stranded in Greece. The UNHCR has issued recently an [urgent appeal](#) (Greek link only) for action to address the "severe deterioration of the living conditions of refugees and migrants on Samos."

Beyond very serious living conditions on the Greek islands, access to healthcare for refugees and migrants hosted in Greece is a serious concern. (Further info from MSF is available on the [following link](#)). The discussion to find long-term housing possibilities for people on the mainland and to move migrants and refugees from the islands to the mainland is ongoing. However, the progress remains slow and further work is needed to improve the conditions operationally or with advocacy.

The IFRC has contributed to a Joint Policy Brief on the response in **Greece**, drafted and endorsed by 12 national and international organizations. [The joint policy brief](#), published in October, provides the Advocacy Working Group in Greece, and contributing organizations, with a comprehensive overview of the needs and challenges of migrants and refugees in Greece.

While the number of migrants and refugees in **Bulgaria** is below the numbers of Italy and Greece, Bulgaria's reception capacity is also over the limit.

In **Serbia**, according to [UNHCR data](#), almost 6,400 migrants and refugees are currently in the country, with approximately 74 percent accommodated in organized governmental centres. The situation for migrants and refugees stuck in Serbia is becoming more difficult, with hundreds asylum seekers camping out in Belgrade. The number increased since Hungary began strictly enforcing border controls. [UNHCR](#) confirmed that people sleep in unsanitary and unheated derelict buildings in Belgrade. Over 1,000 people, including several hundred unaccompanied minors, are sleeping in old barracks and abandoned buildings in Belgrade city centre.

Growing protection concerns

The conditions in which migrants and refugees are staying along the route are a particular cause for concern. The approaching winter can aggravate their situation. While a growing number of migrants and refugees remain stranded in worsening humanitarian condition in the region, protection concerns are also growing.

The vulnerability of children is also a major concern. On 15 November 2016, Save the Children [reported](#) that an estimated 6,000 children living in detention centres and camps on the Greek islands are at risk with facilities on four out of five islands overflowing. According to [UNICEF](#), hundreds of refugee children are still on the move through south-eastern Europe and need better protection from exploitation and violence. Other vulnerable groups, including victims of violence, those with chronic diseases and psychiatric disorders, people with mobility limitations, unaccompanied minors, pregnant women and new-born babies is a great concern.

[IOM regularly conducts surveys](#) that gather information about migrants' profiles who travel at the Central/Eastern Mediterranean Route. The survey includes six questions that are proxy indicators for potential human trafficking or exploitative practices that the migrants and refugees interviewed might have experienced. In IOM's surveys a significant proportion of respondents reported direct experiences of abuse, exploitation or practices which may amount to human trafficking. In comparison of the results, IOM concludes that migrants surveyed along the Central Mediterranean route reported much higher rates of positive responses to at least one of the trafficking or other exploitative practices prevalence indicators, than migrants interviewed along the Eastern Mediterranean route. Differences in the journey and of migrants' and refugees' profile interviewed on the two main migratory routes could explain the observed divergence in answers.

As humanitarian conditions worsen and the centres in the region are becoming increasingly overcrowded, violence and frustrations are on the rise. With shelters nearly always full and asylum procedures delayed violence in accommodation centres is becoming more frequent – incidents have been reported in a number of occasions on the islands of Greece (19 September Moria, 8 October and 16 November Chios), but tension has also been reported from Slovenia and Serbia. Similar concerns were echoed in a protest in Bulgaria on 2 November 2016, where migrants accommodated in one of the closed centres were protesting against “unbearable living conditions, poor access to information and long administrative procedures”.

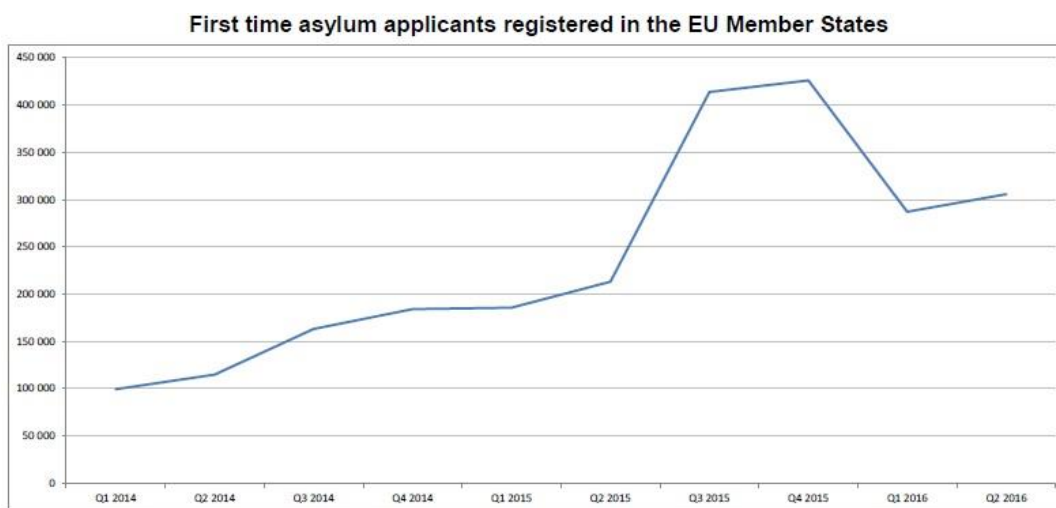
As migrants and refugees are in a dire situation in the Western Balkan countries, protests demanding to cross the borders have taken place. Serbia, which hosts the biggest number of stranded migrants in the region following Greece and Bulgaria, is especially under pressure. A group of around 200 migrants and refugees left Belgrade by foot on 11 November, towards the Serbia-Croatia border. This came after a similar march to the Hungarian border on 4 October 2016.

Where tensions are on the rise, migrants have also come under attack by hosting communities. Violence against migrants has become more frequent not only in countries of first entry or along the Western Balkan route, but also in broader Europe. The number of crimes in asylum-seeker accommodation centres in Germany was almost a third higher in the first 10 months of 2016 than in the same period last year.

Beyond the Mediterranean region

Asylum in the EU

On 22 September 2016, [EUROSTAT revealed that during the second quarter of 2016](#) (from April to June 2016), 305,700 first time asylum seekers applied for international protection in the Member States of the European Union, up by 6 per cent compared with the first quarter of 2016 (when 287,100 first time applicants were registered).



Source: EUROSTAT Asylum quarterly Q2

Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis remain the main citizenships of people seeking international protection in the EU Member States. Of the 50,300 Afghans seeking asylum protection for the first time in the EU Member States during the period April-June 2016, nearly two-thirds applied in Germany (32,600). Afghans represented the main citizenship of asylum seekers in eight EU Member States. In Q2, the highest number of first time applicants was registered in Germany followed by Italy, France, Hungary and Greece.

Among those Member States with high numbers of asylum seekers, numbers of first time applicants rose notably in Poland and Spain. In contrast, decreases were recorded in particular in the Nordic Member States (Finland, Denmark, Sweden and Austria).

At the end of June 2016, almost 1.1 million applications for asylum protection in the EU Member States were under consideration by the responsible national authority. A year earlier, at the end of June 2015, there were around 633,000. As a result, a growing number of asylum-seekers are staying in reception centres for increasingly long periods which is causing a high level of uncertainty for migrants and posing significant challenges for European Red Cross National Societies providing services in these centres.

On 21 September, RCEU published an [article on the reception of asylum seekers](#). Based on the experience of the Austrian Red Cross in Vienna, the article stressed the importance of identifying and addressing the special reception needs of vulnerable asylum seekers. It also stressed that secondary movements of asylum seekers can only be reduced by assuring uniform, comparable reception conditions throughout the EU.

State of relocation/resettlement

Eligible asylum seekers can be transferred from Italy and Greece to other EU countries through the [EU relocation program](#). Asylum-seekers with a certain profile are only eligible under the current emergency relocation program. Only nationals or stateless residents of Syria, Eritrea, Burundi, Mozambique, Bahrain, Bhutan, Qatar and Yemen, or a stateless person previously residing in one of these countries, are currently eligible to apply.

On 9 November, the European Commission released their [Seventh Report on Relocation and Resettlement](#). The implementation of the relocation program remains low. According to the latest report, after the record 1,372 transfers which took place in September, October proved to be a transitional month with a slower pace of relocation than during previous reporting periods. From 28 September until 8 November, 1212 people were relocated, with 921 from Greece and 291 from Italy.

The European Commission confirms that there are currently around 24,000 people of nationalities eligible for relocation in Greece and around 20,400 of nationalities eligible for relocation who have arrived in Italy since January 2016. If relocation efforts are stepped up, it should be possible to relocate all those eligible within the relocating period (until September 2017), the Commission says in its report.

At the same time, the situation of asylum-seekers in Italy and Greece remains difficult and they increasingly feel left in limbo with uncertainties as they wait for their case to be processed. Access to information on relocation program for asylum-seekers but also for humanitarian workers remains critical.

Based on the information received from the participating States, by 7 November 11,852 people had been resettled under the resettlement scheme to 21 resettling States (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom). Sweden, the United Kingdom and Finland as well as associated states Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and Iceland have reportedly already fulfilled their pledges. (In July the Member States committed to 22,504 places).

As a result of the EU-Turkey agreement since 4 April 2016, 2,217 Syrians have been resettled from Turkey to the EU, including 603 since [the previous report on resettlement](#). The EU-Turkey agreement also resulted in the return of over 700 individuals from Greece to Turkey.

National Societies jointly with the Red Cross EU Office have continued to advocate for more legal avenues and better resettlement possibilities to the EU. In order to inform the ongoing development of its advocacy on humanitarian visas, RCEU hosted a conference call on 29 September with EU National Societies. Participants held a discussion in order to consolidate a common position on humanitarian visas, and identify key recommendations and strategies to promote their increased use by EU Member States.

Dublin transfers

As EU member states continue to have challenges to examine asylum cases domestically, the discussion on the implementation of Dublin 3 has equally increased. There is increasing pressure on countries where asylum-seekers first registered in the EU. Greece has been pressured with Dublin transfers recently.

It is difficult to calculate how many asylum-seekers could be affected, but if implemented Dublin transfers could add new humanitarian challenges to the countries that already host a larger number of asylum-seekers on their territory and to National Societies providing auxiliary services; including the need for increased coordination to address the needs of vulnerable asylum-seekers arriving with the transfers.

Reform of Common European Asylum System

The European Commission has tabled seven legislative proposals for the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), in two packages published on 4 May and 13 July 2016. The proposals, which envisage modifications

and amendments to a range of areas affecting asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, are currently under examination by the Council and European Parliament, with a view to defining their respective positions.

After the Red Cross EU Office published its latest position paper "[Reforming the Common European Asylum System in a spirit of humanity and solidarity](#)" in July 2015, ECRE together with ICMC, CCME, IRC, Red Cross and Caritas have published [Joint Comments](#) to the European Commission proposal for a Regulation establishing a Union Resettlement Framework and amending [Regulation \(EU\) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council COM\(2016\) 468](#), 13 July 2016.

With these Comments, the organisations raise a number of concerns about the Proposal, such as that it is overly reactive and focuses unduly on migration control objectives, to the potential detriment of resettlement's function as a lifesaving tool and a durable solution. According to the comments, the current proposal falls far short of the potential to increase the quantity and quality of resettlement. The Comments paper suggests the minimum required changes to the proposal, which the organisations consider necessary for it to add value, not limitations to resettlement efforts.

EU internal border procedures maintained

The European Commission has formally approved extending internal border checks for another three months in Austria, Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden. Italy has also imposed strict border controls, particularly at its Brenner Pass frontier with Austria, a major route into Germany. Austria will continue checks along its borders with Hungary and Germany, while Denmark will carry out land border and ferry port checks at its frontier with Germany.

In the analysis of the Commission the significant number of irregular migrants who still remain in Greece as well as in the Member States which have been most affected by movements from Greece would pose a threat for further secondary movements to the EU – in case the temporary border controls are lifted. The previously and newly launched asylum applications in the EU also pose significant burden on administration, in the Commission analysis.

EU dialogue with third countries

On 28 June, the **European Council** welcomed the Commission's new results-oriented [Partnership Framework with third countries](#), which sets out the EU's intention to agree tailor-made partnerships with key third countries of origin and transit to better manage migration. These developments highlight the ongoing intensification of EU migration priorities vis-à-vis third countries.

On 12 October 2016, the European [Commission and Tunisia began negotiations](#) in Tunis on an agreement to facilitate the process of issuing short-stay visas and an agreement to establish procedures for the readmission of irregular migrants. The EU communication on '[Strengthening EU support to Tunisia](#)' published on 29 September 2016 underlines the importance of stepping up cooperation with Tunisia in the area of migration. On 26 October, the European Commission started similar negotiations with Nigeria in order to conclude a readmission agreement.

The return of rejected asylum-seekers to countries of origin is also seen as one of the main concerns within the EU. On EU and Afghanistan hold a Senior Officials' Dialogue on Migration. During the meeting they signed the "[EU-Afghanistan Joint Way Forward on migration issues](#)". About 128,000 Afghans are in the EU, according to [UNHCR](#).

C. Red Cross and Red Crescent action- Overview on Population Movement Emergency Appeals

The open Population Movement Emergency Appeals are:

Operations	Targeted beneficiaries (revised)	Budget (CHF)	Appeal Coverage	Operation timeframe
MDR65001 Europe: Migration: coordination, response and preparedness		4,655,612	79%	20 November 2015 to 31 March 2017
MDRTR003: Turkey Population Movement	500,000	32,356,188	100%	9 November 2012 to 30 April 2017
MDRIT002 Italy: Population Movement	160,000	9,495,715	62%	24 April 2015 to 31 July 2017
MDRHU004 Hungary: Population Movement	120,000	1,071,934	97%	6 August 2015 to 31 December 2016

MDRGR001 Greece: Population Movement	304,000	26,558,921	100%	2 September 2015 to 31 March 2017
MDRRS011 Serbia: Population Movement	196,000	2,775,648	100%	18 August 2015 to 31 December 2016
MDRMK005 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Population Movement	6,250	6,095,910	92%	22 June 2015 to 31 December 2016
MDRHR002 Croatia: Population Movement	41,500	1,315,022	66%	5 February 2016 to 31 December 2016

MDR65001: Europe Migration: IFRC coordination, response and preparedness:

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Regional Office in Europe launched the **Regional Coordination, Response and Preparedness Emergency Appeal** on 20 November 2015 to support the current country-level Population Movement Emergency Appeals and to support the Red Cross and Red Crescent operations along the migration trail that are not covered by IFRC funding instruments. A migration surge team is in place supporting in the areas of **health, protection, communications, information management, PMER, logistics disaster management and community engagement**.

Migration is a long-term phenomenon and the IFRC had to adapt to several scenarios and a continuously changing situation. **The way forward for the Migration Emergency Appeals is to focus on a longer-term approach with a clear vision in order to provide support to all European National Societies dealing with this crisis.**

The Regional Coordination, Response and Preparedness Emergency Appeal will end on 31 March 2017, nevertheless the migration surge team in Budapest is currently planning activities to continue the support to National Societies in the region for 2017.

Coordination and management

A coordination and cooperation meeting took place from 25 to 26 August 2016 with the objective of gathering National Societies from Europe to share experiences in relation to the migration crisis in their countries. The National Societies from Austria, Britain, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Turkey participated and shared their experiences in provision of services to migrants. During the meeting, the following issues were discussed:

- Understand IFRC strategy for region;
- Understand partner's priorities;
- Update on priority context;
- Discuss future strategies;
- Share expediencies and expertise;
- Receive guidance and coordination;
- Develop common approach;
- Networking;
- IFRC Mapping of needs in the region.

On 4 September, the Steering Group (represented by the European Governing Board members) for the London Plan of Action met in Italy. The following issues were highlighted and it was agreed to further develop actions under a common approach:

1. Targeted, evidence based advocacy to address the critical and evolving migration issues across Europe. Whilst some of the European National Societies are already very active in this regard in their national and local contexts and due to that do not perceive the need for the European wide advocacy approach, we need to take joint position about it.
2. **Xenophobia** is one of the major challenges. A regional campaign for anti-xenophobia will be considered welcome.

3. **Protection, Integration and Social Inclusion** should drive our long term strategical approach and practical relevant actions regarding migration in Europe. These activities and action points have been included in IFRC Europe plan for 2017.
4. Preparing ourselves for a follow up meeting to the London Plan of Action. This will be another opportunity to share the results and to look ahead for the coming challenges and plan accordingly.

Additionally, special focus is placed for the Italy Population Movement search and rescue activities. Constant coordination of the crew in the Responder vessel is done between IFRC Budapest and the IFRC operations manager in Italy overseeing the Red Cross team's needs in the vessel, briefings and debriefings.

Health

The IFRC ROE is supporting National Societies' staff and volunteers in the region in several areas related to health, including psychosocial support services for migrants and/or refugees and capacity building in asylum centres and communities to increase the knowledge and skills in health, social inclusion and safety.

A main need identified among national societies as a key intervention is psychosocial support programmes in migrant responses. Several National Societies developed capacity building activities in their Emergency Appeal revisions. Psychosocial support programmes have been identified as an effective intervention that is providing the necessary support and integrated intervention that is highly needed by the migrants. With evolving migration crisis such as the routes and policies, migrants have become more suicidal and depressed. Psychosocial support programmes have increased in all migrant response programmes with all the National Societies. Psychosocial support is being integrated with health and social services being provided in the camps and centres.

National societies have started to integrate Psychosocial support as an essential component of social inclusion. Psychosocial support must be developed and integrated into a holistic approach that encompasses all initiatives of social inclusion. The National Societies' have to build their capacity through services and volunteers to reach out to support the migrants in rebuilding their lives and communities. There is a continuous need for support and care for volunteers and staff working in the migration response in camps and centres. This is clearly identified as the next key area to address to have successful and sustainable programs.

A **Psychosocial Support (PSS), Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Training of Trainers (TOT)** was conducted from 10 to 12 June 2016 in Budapest with a participation of 20 people from the National Societies in the region. This training was timely organised as sexual gender based violence was an identified concern among the National Societies responding to the migrant crisis. The knowledge and skills were clearly identified as an immediate need. The objective of the training was to:

- Identify and address sexual gender based violence (SGBV) among the migrant populations;
- Incorporate SGBV into psychosocial interventions at centre and camps;
- Introduce cross-cutting issues such as child protection/violence prevention and SGBV
- Provide a more in-depth understanding of the special risks faced by children and how to integrate Child Protection measures in psychosocial support.
- Build National Society capacities through training of trainers who can implement training activities for their staff and volunteers working with migrants;
- Provide psychosocial support training using latest methodology

Volunteers that completed the training returned to their National Society to cascade the training to volunteers and staff at national level supported with the translation and adaptation of the PSS SGBV Manual. The outcomes of this training were followed up by the **Hungarian Red Cross**, the Red Cross Society of **the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Croatian Red Cross**:

The graduates implemented **three national trainings**:

1. PSS SGBV National Training in **Hungary**: 9-11 Sept - 20 participants. The PSS SGBV Manual was translated.
2. PSS SGBV National Training in **the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** – 12-14 Sept - 27 participants. The PSS SGBV Manual was translated.
3. PSS SGBV National Training in **Croatia** – 15 – 18 Sept - 27 participants.

From 6 to 8 September 2016, a **Migration Health Coordination Meeting** took place in Budapest with the participation of health staff from: British Red Cross, Bulgarian Red Cross, Croatian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Hellenic Red Cross, Hungarian Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, the Red Cross Society of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norwegian Red Cross, Serbian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent including IFRC staff from Greece, Budapest and the PSS centre. Staff from IFRC Geneva, Greece and Budapest offices participated including staff from the IFRC PSS centre.



Individual medical attention provided to rescued migrants on board the Responder by Red Cross staff. Source: IFRC

The objective of the coordination meeting was to:

- Discuss and share health and care services that have been done in response to migration response
- Facilitate cooperation and exchange of best practices in service provision, capacity building and technical training
- This would a good platform for the NS's with complicated operations to present their work like Greece, Italy and others
- Peer-to-peer sharing of experience and skills gained in the migration response
- Share common approaches and solutions to the many challenges faced due to the ever-evolving situation along the migratory trail.
- A network to discuss and agree on common standard approaches and solutions to the many challenges faced due to the ever-evolving situation along the migratory trail.
- Creation of Contingency planning and Network of Health and Care professionals within the Migration responding countries.

The National Societies participating in the meeting clearly identified key areas for development and attention:

- Development of psychosocial support programmes integrated with crosscutting issues such as SGBV, GBV, child protection, violence prevention and psychological first aid;
- Development of a psychosocial support programme for volunteers and staff;
- Identifying the methodology to address xenophobia using psychosocial support;
- Development of a social inclusion programme with well-developed psychosocial support intervention
- Development of social inclusion programmes for minors and women;
- Development of health programs to address any future crisis;
- Development of health programs that are capable of supporting the health network in the region;

The network has been established with 14 National Societies.

For the **Italy Population Movement Search and Rescue activities**, several missions were carried out during this reporting period. The first mission took place from **27 to 30 July 2016 in Rome and Catania** with the purpose of providing technical assessment of the Search and Rescue activity for the IFRC and Italian Red Cross on board the Responder vessel. The main activities conducted for this mission were assessments and briefings with the Red Cross team in preparation for the first round of Search and Rescue. Procedures and guidelines were set up including establishing lines of communication and coordination mechanism between the IFRC and the Italian Red Cross to ensure a smooth and successful first mission on board of the Responder.

After completion of the first round of the Responder, a second mission to **Malta from 7 to 9 August 2016** was carried out in order to brief the first medical team for Search and Rescue on board the Responder vessel. The main activities carried out were:

- Briefing of the vessel operations, routines and drills – Responder & Phoenix vessels
- Briefing of the medical needs
- Briefing of medicine usage
- Inspection of facilities – infirmary, pharmaceutical storage, medical equipment and relief items

- Briefing about dead body management

From **29 August to 2 September 2016** an additional mission was conducted in **Malta** to debrief the first round of Red Cross team in the vessel and to brief the second rotation team members. From the first debrief, a series of recommendations were highlighted and completed, such as:

- A briefing package was developed for the teams
- Information and experience is being gathered systematically and stored to ensure proper documentations can be produced
- Recognition and reward for mission members to ensure proper volunteer management system is in place
- A profile and data system for Search and Rescue mission is in place
- A debrief session is being done when end of mission and psychosocial support is given to all team members

Protection, Gender and Diversity (PGD)

Protection is cross-cutting and all operations and programming will include context-specific measures such as arranging the physical environment to be safe and accessible to all in need, as well as tailoring a response to particular vulnerable groups. As stand-alone activities, protection includes providing **psychosocial support, awareness-raising, advocacy and community engagement to promote self-protection**. By creating safe environments and enabling for identification, assistance and referrals of possible victims of interpersonal violence, abuse or exploitation, Red Cross staff and volunteers contribute to prevent and respond to such violations. Examples of protection activities are Child Friendly Spaces, Psychoeducation for target groups, PFA, Case Management (for unaccompanied minors, victims of THB or SGBV etc.), RFL, Safe Spaces (for vulnerable groups based on gender and diversity assessments). The main focus of the Protection, Gender and Diversity component: **Trafficking in human beings (THB), Sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), Protection of irregular migrants, Child protection, discrimination, hate-crime and xenophobic violence, timely access to legal services, Psychosocial support as key to protection and navigation of complex and inadequate referral options.**



BRIEFING
CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES
A child protection in emergencies briefing was developed. Click on photo to view full content.

Meetings, trainings and workshops with a large variety of National Societies and Movement units such as ICRC, IFRC EU have been attended and contributed to, such as: Closing conference on PROTECT project (e-learning module for Identifying possible victims of THB), Brussels, Red Cross European Workshop on immigration detention, Oslo and PSS SGBV Training of trainers in Split.

Information Management (IM)

In August, the IM team at the Budapest office has now two people. The new IM expert, already supported the migration relief efforts as part of the SIMS network, is now part of the Migration surge team in the Regional Office for Europe. This has been made possible thanks to the American Red Cross.

An online portal for the Search and Rescue operation has been developed. Via this portal, donors and Partner National Societies can find the latest information about the operations on the Responder and Phoenix vessels. The various response maps for the migration operations have been updated and are available via the IM portal.

IM Portal: Europe Population Movement Response

Welcome to the IFRC Europe Region's landing page for resources for the response:
 • You will find maps, data and interactive dashboards through the buttons below.
 • Some resources are password-protected. If you think you need access please contact im_migration@ifrc.org

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
(Thanks to SPIS)
 © 2016 IFRC. All rights reserved. Some data products for internal use only. IFRC or its National Societies (NS) are not liable for any damage or loss of data arising from the use of the IFRC's products or information that can be used online by NS.

On a weekly basis, European National Societies submit information to be included in the IFRC Europe Population Movement [IM portal](#). To sign up for the IM-update newsletter, click [here](#).

Communication

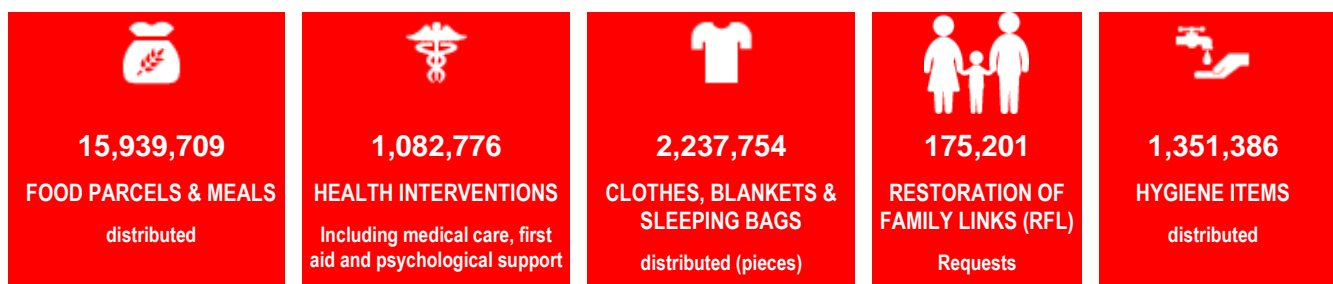
The communications team in Budapest continues to promote the work of National Societies and the IFRC across communications platforms and the media. Support was given to the National Societies' through missions conducted in Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia enhancing the visibility efforts and work with the media. One of the missions was on board the Responder search and rescue vessel in the Mediterranean to accompany media and produce materials for fundraising and communications colleagues across the world. Four emergency communications delegates have been deployed on the Responder since August.

For this reporting period **10 press releases**, **9 photo essays** and **14 news stories** were published (including material from IFRC Greece communications delegate - see Annex for more details).

All communications materials including Key Messages, Facts and Figures, and AV materials can be found on <https://fednet.ifrc.org/migrationineurope> and <https://av.ifrc.org/>.

In Europe, **twenty-eight National Societies** are responding to migrants' needs and are engaged in migration-related activities. The IFRC-supported response to the crisis has involved the mobilization of more than **100,000 volunteers** and **13,000 staff**. The data below has been collected since October 2015 to September 2016².

Total items and services carried out by Red Cross in Europe³:



MDRTR003: Turkey Population Movement

On November 2012, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) launched an Emergency Appeal for the Syrian humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian aid has been carried out and many services ranging from food to psychosocial support services are being given to Syrians under temporary protection status. IFRC continues supporting the TRCS in its response to the growing humanitarian needs in Turkey during the crisis.

The TRCS increased its efforts to provide more coordinated support to the displaced Syrians living in urban areas. In order to increase the scope of its activities. TRCS is implementing community services, PSS and outreach activities through 6 Community Centres. the 6 community centres have reached **32,703 people** through the Child and Youth Programme, Adult Programme, Seminars, Community Outreach and Referral Services, Harmonization Activities and other Psychosocial activities.

The Support to Urban Refugees Project has been providing support to Syrians living outside of the camps with support from the IFRC. **27,931 families** have been reached since January 2016 in Batman, Istanbul, Adana, Şanlıurfa, Bursa, Eskişehir, İzmir, Ankara, Konya, Ordu, Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Samsun and Malatya.

The Ulucanlar Soup Kitchen project objective is to provide two hot meals daily to Syrians and Iraqis living in Ankara. The Turkish Red Crescent is already providing hot meals to those in need (generally Syrians). The quantity of food provided ranges from **500 to 2,000** servings per day. The soup kitchen facility is undergoing improvements and will be able to reach up to 5,000 people daily in Ankara TRCS also distributed 32,000 hygiene parcels among the Syrian people living in protection camp.

The Appeal is currently under revision with the aim to upscale the number of beneficiaries to be reached through increased number of community centres; strengthen contingency elements of the operation, and capacity building initiatives and to take into account the additional needs related to the new influx of displaced people as well as for the people remaining in the camps and urban areas.

² Not all National Societies have reported up to September 2016.

³ **National Societies:** Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom.

MDRHR002 Croatia: Population Movement

An [Operations Update no. 3](#) was published on 28 October depicting the latest developments. This Operations Update no. 3 is to report on the implementation progress of activities from August by the end of September 2016. A revised Emergency Appeal was published on 22 June 2016 with the focus on providing assistance to the migrants stranded and remain in or returned meanwhile to Croatia from Western European countries, as well as on supporting the Croatian Red Cross's contingency planning to provide assistance to an additional 1,000 migrants.

With this Operations Update no. 3, the timeframe of the Emergency Appeal is extended by two months, i.e. until **31 December 2016** in order to support and strengthen the efforts of the Croatian Red Cross to conduct all the response activities within this Emergency Plan of Action due to the continued increasing number of migrants arriving to Croatia as well as the increased need for shelter upgrading in order to meet the migrants' needs.

MDRGR001 Greece: Population Movement

An [Operations Update no. 4](#) was published on 7 October with the latest developments on the operation. This Operations Update no. 4 reported on the implementation progress of activities from 3 June – 3 September 2016 against the revised Emergency Appeal which was published in May 2016. Another revision of this appeal will follow in the coming months to take into account the current operational needs in view of the evolving situation.

MDRMK005 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Population Movement

An [Operations Update no. 2](#) was published on 3 October 2016 reporting on the progress of the operation since the revision of the emergency appeal on 6 June 2016 up to 25 August 2016. The emergency appeal was revised for the second time on 6 June 2016 to reflect new migration trends identified in recent months. The closure of the Balkan route and the EU-Turkey agreement resulted in thousands of migrants stranded in different countries, while fewer continue, with support of smugglers and traffickers, exposing themselves to the risks that this involves. The plan of action of the Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been adjusted to respond to the humanitarian needs of the migrants stranded in the country as well as the provision of support to irregular migrants in the Detention Centre in Skopje (50 persons per day) and the irregular migrants crossing the border from Serbia and Greece (150 persons per week). As of 25 August 2016 there were 250 stranded migrants in the two reception centres in Tabanovce and Gevgelija. The revision also extended the operation timeframe until December 2016, to better link with the 2017 country development plan that will continue the assistance in the longer term. Therefore, to meet these needs, the budget was slightly increased to 6,095,910 Swiss francs.

MDRRS011 Serbia: Population Movement

An [Operations Update no.1](#) was published on 13 September reporting on the progress of the operation. With this operation update, minor changes are reflected in the budget since new activities such as psychosocial intervention activities, trainings on anti-trafficking, procurement of PSS kits and translation of PSS training manuals have been included. Additional food items were added (canned food) in the budget due to the increase of migrant arrivals in the country during the past weeks. The National Society plans to provide food to the migrants in the processing centres. For capacity building of the National Society, funds have been allocated to partially cover the procurement costs of a truck. Thus, the budget of 2,775,648 Swiss francs has increased to 2,855,283 Swiss francs with a timeframe up to **31 December 2016 to reach 196,000 people**.

The Red Cross of Serbia (RCS), in addition to assisting those people that are stranded in the country, continues to assist people on the move, although now in much smaller numbers - around 200 to 300 persons per day. The RCS will keep focusing its support on the provision of basic food and on-food items; hygiene promotion activities; Restoring Family Links (RFL) services; repositioning of contingency stocks; preparedness to deliver health care and first aid, and the building-up the response capacity of the National Society. In addition, the RCS is launching the implementation of programs to prevent human trafficking and the development of a more comprehensive psychosocial support service to the beneficiaries and the Red Cross staff and volunteers.

MDRIT002 Italy: Population Movement

An [Operations Update no.4](#) was published on 21 October reporting on the progress of the operation including the search and rescue activities since the revision of the Emergency Appeal on 18 July 2016. The Emergency Appeal is 62% covered and the National Society is seeking additional funds at this stage.

Italy remains one of the primary entry points for migrants coming to Europe and a transit country for those aiming to reach other destinations in Northern Europe. Based on the official data of the Italian Ministry of Interior, 159,419 people have disembarked in Italy from January until 30 September 2016.

The Italian Red Cross volunteers and staff continue to ensure a sound presence and comprehensive assistance in most of the landings taking place in Italy, in the dedicated reception facilities and as of June at sea with the search and rescue joint activities with the Migrants Offshore Aid Station Foundation (MOAS), supported by the IFRC. An operations manager position has been in place since June, through several rotations, assisting the search and rescue Red Cross team, coordinating with the National Society and establishing a direct link between the Italian Red Cross and the IFRC in Budapest and Geneva.

The search and rescue activities started in August 2016. To date, **6,327 people** have been rescued from both vessels the Responder and Phoenix. Essential services are provided to the people on the boats and are transferred ashore. These activities will end by 30 November and a communications strategy to wrap up the first six months of the search and rescue component will include:

- Photo gallery “Faces of the Responder” – a selection of 15-20 compelling human fates from the Responder
- Infographic on key achievements during mission and a photo-based online representation (Medium)
- News story detailing the work of the Italian Red Cross on the mainland, particularly the ports

Additionally, support will be provided for the National Societies through key messages and questions and answers documents agreed by the IFRC, Italian Red Cross and MOAS.

MDRHU004 Hungary: Population Movement

An [Operations Update no. 2](#) was published on 5 October, the operation’s timeframe was extended from 30 September to 31 December 2016. The planned number of beneficiaries to be reached from October to December 2016 is 4,500 people through activities such as PSS, hygiene and health promotion, First Aid, restoring family links (RFL) information, advice and bracelets, distribution of food and non-food items, recreational and handicrafting activities for minors and women. Increasing the quality of the PSS activity is also planned by hiring PSS coordinators, qualified in social work and experienced in child protection/ sexual and gender-based violence/ trauma-informed services/case management/referral pathways.

D. Other European National Societies migration response activities

Excluding the National Societies with Emergency Appeals, this section focuses on activities carried out by European National Societies with migrants and refugees. For this reporting period, the **Finnish Red Cross** and **Lithuanian Red Cross** provided information on their activities with refugees.

For all European National Societies who wish to share their activities with migrants and/or refugees, please submit to: maria.larios@ifrc.org.

Finnish Red Cross

The Finnish Red Cross has a key role in the nationwide preparedness for the reception of asylum seekers, in operating the reception centres for the asylum seekers and in receiving quota refugees based on the agreement with the Finnish Immigration Service. In addition, the Finnish Red Cross has received relocated and resettled refugees arriving from **Turkey, Greece and Italy**, and supports the authorities in the integration of migrants and refugees into Finnish society. Related to large scale influx of asylum seekers in 2015, the role was further expanded to operating of a registration centre at the north-western border in close cooperation with the authorities, maximizing the crisis preparedness and refugee know-how of the organization. Beyond reception, Red Cross is providing a wide range of services with extensive volunteer network in addition to many professional, specialized units and forms of activities and coordinates the collaboration among the NGO actors. The aim is to maintain high level of preparedness and expertise in the operating of reception centres and registration centres and create a good foundation for supporting the integration of refugees and migrants through an inclusive process of service provision.

Asylum Seekers and the Application Process

On average, 16 asylum seekers have been registered in Finland on a daily basis since February 2016.



Red Cross teams assisting rescued migrants.
Source: Italian Red Cross

Out of the asylum seekers who have arrived over the summer 2016, approximately 75% have travelled to Finland independently. The rest have been relocated to Finland from Greece and Italy as part of the EU Relocation and Resettlement programme. The asylum process itself is the same for everyone, and also some of the resettled asylum seekers are placed in the FRC reception centres.



Table 1. Number of asylum seekers arrived to Finland June 2015 – August 2016

- Nationalities of the asylum seekers in 2016 (as of 4 September)
 - Iraqi 22%
 - Afghan 15%
 - Syrian 11%
 - Somali 9%
 - Indian 4%
- The Finnish Immigration Service is responsible for processing asylum applications from the asylum interview to the decision. Before 16 May 2016, Finland could have granted asylum seekers humanitarian protection if the requirements for asylum or subsidiary protection were not met. Since 16 May 2016, this type of international protection has no longer existed due to an amendment to the Aliens Act.
- The Finnish Immigration Service has also issued guidelines concerning Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia as a result of updating its assessments of the security situation in these countries. Due to restricted requirements it is more difficult for applicants from these countries to be granted a residence permit on the basis of subsidiary protection.
- For over 13,800 asylum seekers the first-time asylum is currently pending, from which approximately 7,500 are placed in the FRC reception centres.
- 25% have already been granted a refugee status. 1,400 of them are in FRC centres and currently expecting to be placed in the municipalities.
- 49% have received negative decisions on the application (from which 2,000 are placed in FRC centres), or the application is non-eligible (Dublin-cases).
- The trend shows that approximately 80% appeal against the negative decision to an administrative court.
- The number of undocumented (paperless) people is expected to increase.

Finnish Red Cross response

The FRC operates reception centres, receives quota refugees, runs tracing activities, assists in family reunification, supports integration through volunteering and raises awareness against racism and discrimination.

Reception Unit and Preparedness

The Finnish Red Cross supports the authorities in the reception of the asylum seekers by establishing and maintaining asylum seeker reception units at the Finnish Immigration Service's request. The FRC is currently running **76 reception centres** (see table 2 and 4). The FRC scaled rapidly up the number of reception centres from 6 (July 2015) to the maximum of 109 (March 2016). To achieve this, the FRC mobilized surge capacities from the International delegate roster and used the Logistics Centre as well as their existing volunteer network and support offered by the ordinary people. Quick action was possible due to high level of preparedness for this particular scenario, pre-agreed roles and the agreement with the authorities. Over 1 500 new employees were recruited to reception units in different parts of Finland in addition to the delegates which supported in different roles. In August 2016, there were 1,370 staff members working in the reception centres.

The FRC was a key actor also in the **Registration Centre in Tornio**. The role of the FRC was to provide accommodation, food and first aid, special support to unaccompanied minors, RFL. From September 2015 to March 2016 the Finnish Red Cross activities in Tornio Registration Centre (period, when the centre was operational) included provision of accommodation, meals and health consultations among others.

The Finnish Red Cross districts and the Headquarters are maintaining preparedness for a potential new influx of asylum seekers. This includes preparedness to operate reception centre or centres as requested by the authorities.

Receiving quota refugees

The FRC works together with the immigration officials and International Organization for Migration IOM and with the receiving municipalities in distributing information and finding suitable solutions for the arrival procedures of resettled refugees. Volunteers trained by the FRC receive refugees at the airport. At 2015 the quota for resettlement was 1050 refugees. In 2016, the quota is 750 and will mostly be reserved for Syrian citizens from Turkey.

FRC RECEPTION UNITS SITUATION AS OF 9 SEPTEMBER 2016			
TYPE OF CENTRE	OPERATIONAL CENTRES	BED CAPACITY	OCCUPIED BEDS
Reception centres for adults and families	64	12 453	11,380
Reception centres for unaccompanied minors	12	322	293
TOTAL	76	12 775	11 673

Table 2: FRC operated reception centres Sept 9, 2016

The volunteers play a key role in facilitating educational and early integration activities. Especially in autumn 2015, volunteers provided significant support in the establishment of new reception centres, especially the emergency shelters. From January until June 2016, approximately 5 100 RC volunteers have been active on migration related volunteer work.

The FRC volunteer activities include the following:

- Language clubs (Finnish, Swedish, and English etc.)
- Homework support for schoolchildren
- Clubs for men, women, children and youth
- First Aid skills
- Sport and other games
- Handicraft and other arts
- Friend service
- Visits to libraries and other local services
- Cultural events
- Outdoor activities
- On-the-Job learning programme

- Restoring Family Links (RFL) and Family reunification

Advocacy

The FRC raises awareness against racism and discrimination especially by **Say No to racism!** -campaign. The project also offers guidance and counselling services for those who have encountered racism. The project has combined different parties to a counterforce to hate speech and to diversify discussions of immigration, refugees and cultural differences. In short, the project:

- strengthens anti-racism cooperation and networks
- develops dialogue between organisations and other actors as well as the sharing of good practices
- actively takes part in various events
- provides information on current anti-racism issues
- gives organisations a united voice in public, racism-related discourse

Lithuanian Red Cross (LRC)

Asylum statistics in Lithuania (2016)

From the beginning of 2016 to the end of August, Lithuanian authorities apprehended a total of **723 migrants** attempting to enter the country irregularly. To the end of August this year, Lithuanian authorities received a total of 215 asylum applications. Lithuanian Border Guard Service received 142 asylum applications that were submitted at the border. Most of the asylum applications at the border were submitted by Syrian, Iraqi, Ukrainian, Russian and Afghan nationals.

Relocated asylum seekers:

120 of asylum applications submitted in 2016 were cases of relocated asylum seekers from Greece and Italy. Lithuanian authorities intensified relocation of refugees to Lithuania starting in June. That led to a substantial increase of asylum applications in Lithuania. From the beginning of 2016 to the end of May there were 67 asylum applications, compared to 148 asylum applications in June, July and August. Most of the asylum applications from relocated refugees are coming from Syrian and Iraqi nationals.

Refugees granted asylum:

According to data by Migration Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, 27 refugees were granted asylum and 7 refugees were granted subsidiary protection from the beginning of 2016 to the end of August.

Lithuanian Red Cross activities in the field of migration (2016)

Border monitoring: In accordance with the MoU with UNHCR and State Border Guard Service (SBGS), a monitoring team of the Lithuanian Red Cross conducts regular and ad hoc monitoring visits to border crossing points, border zones, the SBGS sections and to the Foreigners' Registration Centre in the town of Pabrade.

The activities aimed at observing initial asylum interviews conducted by border guard officers within 24 hours after making an asylum claim, monitoring reception conditions at border crossing points and frontier stations, and assessing, to the extent possible, the effectiveness of access to the asylum procedure through visiting various border zones and having confidential conversations with asylum-seekers as well as border guard officers.

LRC activities at the Foreigners Registration Centre:

The Lithuanian Red Cross has been working with asylum seekers and foreigners who have been granted asylum since 1996. LRC provides legal, social, humanitarian, and psychological assistance and implements public awareness projects. LRC provides assistance to refugees from the first day of their arrival in Lithuania until the end of their successful integration.

There is one accommodation facility in Lithuania run by the State Border Guard Service which is located in Pabrade. Foreigners' Registration Centre (FRC) can accommodate up to 100 persons. Social worker and lawyers from LRC are providing social and legal assistance to asylum seekers in FRC. Lithuanian Red Cross implements programmes and projects aimed at improving conditions for the reception of refugees. The main focus is on the following:



- Social assistance
- Humanitarian support with clothing and toiletries;
- Support in job-seeking
- Provision of medical care
- Diverse legal assistance to asylum seekers when submitting their application for asylum, preparation of documents, representation with state institutions and the courts;

LRC integration centres:

The Lithuanian Red Cross is running two migrant and refugee centres in Kaunas and Klaipeda cities. The basis and principle for the services provided at the centres is direct work with migrants and refugees in order to provide as much information and counselling as possible to make their lives and integration in Lithuania easier. Centres provide social, legal, psychological, vocational guidance, counselling, hosts information events (seminars on topics of interest to migrants), Lithuanian language training.

Advocacy actions:

Advocacy is also a big part of LRCs activities. Representatives of LRC are also actively advocating for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees on a national level by participating in government meetings and submitting proposals when national laws regarding refugees and asylum seekers are drafted.

E. Red Cross Red Crescent Networks in Europe

Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO)

The PERCO Network held its annual meeting in Dublin from 26 to 28 October 2016. A great number of National Societies from Europe Region were represented at the meeting. Member National Societies discussed the dynamic but ongoing humanitarian challenges in response to migration in the Mediterranean region as well as beyond, in the EU with the facilitation of RCEU Office. During the meeting, several successful workshops were conducted, including on '*Awareness raising on the vulnerabilities of migrants, including on the humanitarian consequences of victims of human trafficking*' and on '*Youth and migration*'. Reflecting some of the new humanitarian challenges, two new working groups were established by members at the meeting, focusing on the situation of migrants/asylum-seekers in reception centres and in immigration detention. As final outcomes of the meeting, new Co-chairs and Steering Group for the PERCO network have been elected, and final documents '*PERCO guidelines on Legal Aid to Asylum seekers*' and '*PERCO Guidelines on the integration of migrants*' have been adopted at the meeting.

European Red Cross Action for Trafficked Persons Network (ATN)

The annual meeting of the ATN was held from 19 to 21 October in Rome. The central theme of the meeting was 'trafficking in human beings in the context of migration movements – how to assist and protect victims'. The meeting was attended by a diverse number of National Societies, as well as by representatives of IFRC, CCM and Asia-Pacific Network. Due to the vulnerability of migrants to trafficking in human beings, National Societies have been increasing their response to address the humanitarian consequences of trafficking in human beings in recent years. Some of the National Societies are linking these activities with their migrant support programs or start new projects to address the vulnerabilities of trafficked persons. The need has also been also identified to strengthen capacities in order to support National Societies to be able adequately assist potential victims and/or refer them to other actors. The meeting also provided excellent possibility to discuss recent trends of trafficking in human beings in the Mediterranean but also for labour exploitation, and exchange on existing tools in response to address these vulnerabilities with representatives of IOM, ICMPD and ILO.

F. Financial situation – Resource Mobilisation - *at-a-glance*

The below table summarizes the funding and implementation figures when looking at income and expenditure incurred until **September 2016**.

Population Movement Emergency Appeals								
Currency: CHF	MDR65001	MDRGR001	MDRHR002	MDRMK005	MDRRS011	MDRIT002	MDRHU004	MDRTR003
Appeal	Europe Migration Coordination	Greece	Croatia	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Serbia	Italy	Hungary	Turkey
Budget	4,655,612	26,558,921	1,315,022	6,095,910	2,885,283	9,495,715	1,071,934	32,356,188
Income to date	3,664,882	29,181,057	870,322	5,623,018	3,347,502	5,924,187	1,042,900	39,805,958
Coverage	79%	100%	66%	92%	100%	62%	97%	100%
Funding gap	990,730	0	444,700	472,892	0	3,571,528	29,034	0
Expenditure to date	2,012,564	12,736,451	712,593	4,425,119	1,429,807	2,711,922	779,221	26,271,243
Commitments	518,076	2,222,065	700	894	350	5,502	0	N/A

On behalf of the National Societies affected by the migration crisis, the IFRC Secretariat would like to thank the following Red Cross Societies: American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross (Flanders), British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Croatian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Irish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Kuwait Red Crescent Society, New Zealand Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Red Cross of Monaco, Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross for their generous contributions to the Population Movement Emergency Appeals. Additionally, the IFRC would like to thank the Governments of Britain, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland as well as the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) and all private donors for their contributions to the Population Movement Emergency Appeals.

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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.**

Annex 1

Press releases

- 13 October 2016: [Stop indifference: Three-year-old boy among 17 people feared dead in the Mediterranean](#)
- 3 October 2016: [Lampedusa tragedy: Three years after one of the Mediterranean's worst shipwrecks, thousands continue to die at sea](#)
- 21 September 2016: [Stop indifference: IFRC calls for concrete action in wake of latest Mediterranean tragedy](#)
- 11 September 2016: [Red Cross and MOAS search and rescue: Nearly 700 people rescued in the Mediterranean](#)
- 5 September 2016: [350 migrants rescued today from unsafe boats in the Mediterranean Sea; Seven tragic deaths](#)
- 2 September 2016: [Stop indifference: Mass sea rescues continue a year after tragic death of Alan Kurdi](#)
- 26 August 2016: [Italy: Search for survivors continues as quake-hit communities count cost of disaster](#)
- 24 August 2016: [Italy earthquake: Red Cross teams join search for quake survivors](#)
- 19 August 2016: [World Humanitarian Day Tragedy: IFRC calls for humanitarian solution to Mediterranean drownings as two young children confirmed drowned](#)
- 11 August 2016: [Stop Indifference: Over 400 people rescued from deadly Mediterranean route in two days](#)
- 10 August 2016: [Stop indifference: Red Cross search and rescue boat saves hundreds of people in first 24 hours](#)
- 8 August 2016: [Stop indifference: Red Cross launches search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean](#)

Visual stories

- 18 October: [A sporting chance: how football is bringing communities together on Lesbos](#)
- 5 October: [Couple separated by smugglers reunited on board the Responder](#)
- 26 September: [Information as crucial as food and shelter for migrants and refugees](#)
- 17 September: [Twenty-four hours on the Responder](#)
- 6 September: [Tragedy and relief in the Mediterranean](#)
- 30 August: [Diary of a sea rescue](#)
- 16 August: [Rescue boat medic: "The people we save at sea get a second life"](#)
- 14 August: [Pregnant woman among dozens of people treated by rescue boat medics](#)

News stories

- 11 October 2016: [Teenagers forced to flee war and violence](#)
- 6 October 2016: [Red Cross launches "#Ambulance!" - a new online course for emergency care crews from around the world on staying safe](#)
- 5 October 2016: [Italian rehab centre celebrates 40 years of fighting addiction](#)
- 4 October 2016: [Afghan family fights to stay strong after six months in border camp limbo](#)
- 4 October 2016: [Couple separated by smugglers reunited on board the Responder](#)
- 27 September 2016: [Longing for son while stuck in limbo](#)
- 22 September 2016: [Young volunteers rally round children forced to flee fire at island camp](#)
- 13 September 2016: [Addressing the taboo of the emotional needs of men](#)
- 6 September 2016: [IFRC President visits German Red Cross: "We represent humanity, we represent help."](#)
- 2 September 2016: [IFRC President hails "tripartite cooperation for humanity"](#)
- 30 August 2016: [Devastated communities struggle to come to terms after quake](#)
- 24 August 2016: [Red Cross rescuers join hunt for quake survivors](#)
- 23 August 2016: [Saving lives at sea: how a rescue works](#)
- 23 August 2016: [Clowns, puppets and papier mâché: all in a day's work for hygiene promotion volunteers](#)
- 19 August 2016: [Surviving a dangerous journey to safety](#)
- 16 August 2016: [Rescue boat medic: "The people we save at sea get a second life"](#)
- 14 August 2016: [Pregnant woman among dozens of people treated by rescue boat medics](#)
- 9 August 2016: [Life-saving mission begins in the Mediterranean as Red Cross launches rescue boat](#)
- 8 August 2016: [Freak storm leaves 22 dead in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#)
- 4 August 2016: [From football coaches to hairdressers: Camp community uses skills to take on training for children](#)

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDR65001 - Europe - Migration Coordination, Response and Pr

Timeframe: 20 Nov 15 to 31 Mar 17

Appeal Launch Date: 20 Nov 15

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/11-2016/9	Programme	MDR65001
Budget Timeframe	2015/11-2017/03	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget			4,655,612			4,655,612	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
Cash contributions							
American Red Cross			296,039			296,039	
Andorran Red Cross			9,393			9,393	
Apple iTunes			145,488			145,488	
Australian Red Cross			18,672			18,672	
British Red Cross			409,054			409,054	
British Red Cross (from British Government*)			739,590			739,590	
FedEx Services			71,728			71,728	
Finnish Red Cross			49,138			49,138	
Hungarian Government			65,807			65,807	
IFRC at the UN Inc			21,731			21,731	
Irish Red Cross Society			10,868			10,868	
Japanese Red Cross Society			43,258			43,258	
King Digital Entertainment PLC, King.com			273,952			273,952	
Luxembourg Red Cross			15,841			15,841	
Metro AG			9,813			9,813	
Norwegian Red Cross			199,940			199,940	21,696
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government*)			12,936			12,936	21,696
Red Cross of Monaco			21,948			21,948	
Red Cross of Montenegro			2,178			2,178	
Red Cross of Montenegro (from Montenegro- Private Donors*)			2,092			2,092	
Swedish Red Cross			275,856			275,856	
Swiss Red Cross			50,000			50,000	
Switzerland - Private Donors			200			200	
The Canadian Red Cross Society			46,673			46,673	
The Netherlands Red Cross			247,570			247,570	
Western Union Foundation			14,531			14,531	
C1. Cash contributions			3,054,295			3,054,295	43,393
Inkind Personnel							
Australian Red Cross			23,232			23,232	
British Red Cross			180,631			180,631	
Danish Red Cross			19,123			19,123	
Finnish Red Cross			38,760			38,760	
Luxembourg Red Cross			39,013			39,013	
Norwegian Red Cross			7,600			7,600	
Other			20,103			20,103	
Spanish Red Cross			27,335			27,335	
Swedish Red Cross			7,420			7,420	
The Netherlands Red Cross			124,681			124,681	
C3. Inkind Personnel			487,900			487,900	
Other Income							
Fundraising Fees			-7,274			-7,274	
C4. Other Income			-7,274			-7,274	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)			3,534,920			3,534,920	43,393
D. Total Funding = B +C			3,534,920			3,534,920	43,393

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

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II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income			3,534,920			3,534,920	43,393
E. Expenditure			-2,012,564			-2,012,564	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)			1,522,356			1,522,356	43,393

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)				4,655,612			4,655,612	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	274,524			249,359		249,359	25,166	
Food	45,000						45,000	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	50,269			48,140		48,140	2,130	
Medical & First Aid	600						600	
Other Supplies & Services	10,000						10,000	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	380,394			297,498		297,498	82,896	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	28,800			13,881		13,881	14,919	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	28,800			13,881		13,881	14,919	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	29,169			380		380	28,789	
Distribution & Monitoring				8,381		8,381	-8,381	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	500			329		329	171	
Logistics Services	18,328			22,736		22,736	-4,408	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	47,997			31,826		31,826	16,171	
Personnel								
International Staff	2,029,308			1,156,191		1,156,191	873,117	
National Staff	25,000			12,131		12,131	12,869	
National Society Staff	9,000			537		537	8,463	
Volunteers	20,000						20,000	
Total Personnel	2,083,308			1,168,859		1,168,859	914,449	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	166,584			30,787		30,787	135,797	
Professional Fees	38,600			1,548		1,548	37,052	
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	205,184			32,335		32,335	172,850	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	670,000			73,012		73,012	596,988	
Total Workshops & Training	670,000			73,012		73,012	596,988	
General Expenditure								
Travel	316,730			85,169		85,169	231,561	
Information & Public Relations	322,315			9,654		9,654	312,661	
Office Costs	51,534			12,991		12,991	38,543	
Communications	27,250			15,538		15,538	11,712	
Financial Charges	19,550			20,900		20,900	-1,350	
Other General Expenses	1,350			853		853	497	
Shared Office and Services Costs	199,579			131,201		131,201	68,378	
Total General Expenditure	938,308			276,307		276,307	662,001	
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies				8,419		8,419	-8,419	
Total Contributions & Transfers				8,419		8,419	-8,419	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions				1,089		1,089	-1,089	
Total Operational Provisions				1,089		1,089	-1,089	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	283,009			91,996		91,996	191,013	

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)				4,655,612			4,655,612	
Total Indirect Costs	283,009			91,996			91,996	191,013
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee	18,611			10,842			10,842	7,769
Pledge Reporting Fees				6,500			6,500	-6,500
Total Pledge Specific Costs	18,611			17,342			17,342	1,269
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	4,655,612			2,012,564			2,012,564	2,643,048
VARIANCE (C - D)				2,643,048			2,643,048	

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Subsector:	*		

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IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL3 - Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development							
Migration	4,655,612		3,534,920	3,534,920	2,012,564	1,522,356	43,393
Subtotal BL3	4,655,612		3,534,920	3,534,920	2,012,564	1,522,356	43,393
GRAND TOTAL	4,655,612		3,534,920	3,534,920	2,012,564	1,522,356	43,393