

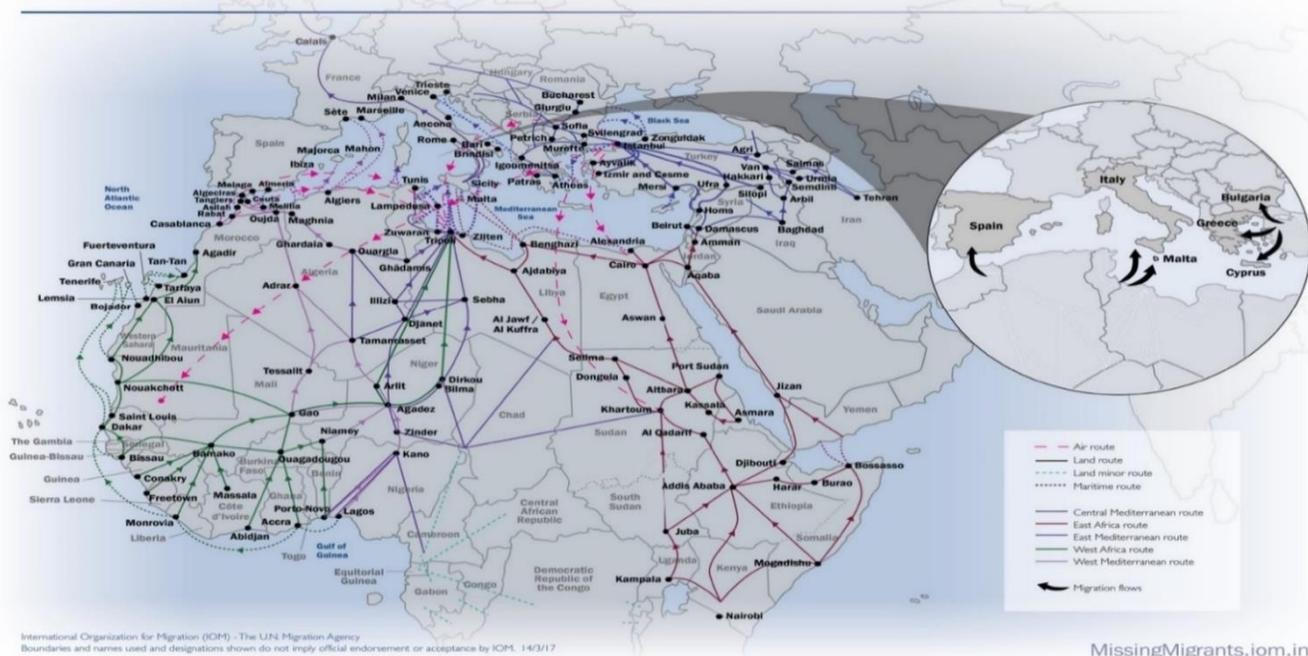
<p>Appeal No: MDR65005</p>	<p>To be assisted: No target is set, as this depends on how many people will be rescued.</p>	<p>Appeal launched: 19/07/2021</p>
<p>DREF loan allocated: 500,000 CHF</p>		<p>Appeal ends: 31/Oct/2021</p>
<p>Glide No: OT-2021-000077-CHE</p>	<p>Funding requirements: CHF 2 million for the Humanitarian Service Point@ Sea (HSP@Sea). This is part of the CHF 58 million Federation-wide multiregional case for support on migration</p>	

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of **2 million Swiss francs** to enable the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** to provide humanitarian services on the sea section of a deadly migratory route. IFRC is working in partnership with **SOS MEDITERRANEE** with the objective of reducing human suffering and preventing loss of life through a fully able-to-assist rescue ship in the Central Mediterranean for **3 months**.

This Emergency Appeal is part of a **Federation-wide multiregional case for support** which is a comprehensive **3-year route-based programme** with core localized capacities to ensure principled, locally adapted, needs-based response to people on the move at different stages of their journeys. This programme involves **34 National Societies** from Africa, the Middle East and Europe, and with a Federation-wide funding requirement of **58 million Swiss Francs** per year, to be launched shortly.

EVENTS TO DATE

Mixed migration routes to Europe



Map 1: Migration routes to Europe; source: IOM.

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- 2013-2016:** The Italian navy launches Operation Mare Nostrum, which ends in 2014 creating a notable gap in state Search & Rescue (SAR) services. In response the Italian Red Cross, supported by the IFRC and sister National Societies, was engaged in maritime Search and Rescue Operations in cooperation with the NGO Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) in 2016. SOS MEDITERRANEE was founded in May 2015; since then, it has been rescuing, protecting and assisting persons in distress at sea.
- June 2021:** In 2021 already over 700 have lost their lives in attempts to cross the Central Mediterranean Sea.
- July 2021:** A French Red Cross Operations manager is on board of the *Ocean Viking* for a preparative mission since 27 June; a Rapid Response Operations Manager from Austrian Red Cross and HR Coordinator from British Red Cross are deployed to support the launch of the HSP@Sea operation. Surge alerts for shore team and boat team to be deployed are launched.
- 15 July 2021:** After disembarking 572 people rescued in the Central Mediterranean in the southern Italian town of Augusta in Sicily, the *Ocean Viking* is preparing for the next patrol. At this time, SOS MEDITERRANEE's vessel is the only independent rescue ship operational in the Central Mediterranean.
- 19 July 2021:** IFRC issues an Emergency Appeal for 2 million Swiss francs to cover the peak of the summer period.

Situation overview

Migration and refugee flows from sub-Saharan and North Africa, the Middle East and into Europe are among the most complex in the world, with acute humanitarian needs for many people on the move. Official data sources indicate that the unprecedented effects of COVID-19 on global mobility have not halted migration flows through the three northward trans-Mediterranean routes (Eastern, Central and Western Mediterranean), nor the Atlantic route from West Africa to the Canary Islands. The Central Mediterranean route, from North Africa (primarily Libya but also Tunisia and Algeria) to Italy continues to be one of the most active and dangerous routes for people crossing to Europe by sea.

Since 2014, the Central Mediterranean has become the world's deadliest migratory sea route with over 35,000 lives lost in the past seven years (IOM, 2021). In 2020, 983 people lost their lives on the Central Mediterranean route and in the first six months of 2021 that figure stands at 744 lives lost ([IOM, 2021](#)). The actual number of fatalities recorded on migratory routes is likely to be much higher largely due to unreported and "invisible" shipwrecks.

In 2021, there has been a sharp increase in the number of migrants attempting the Central Mediterranean route. According to a new [report from Frontex](#), the number of people crossing the Central Mediterranean doubled in April to almost 1,550 compared to a year ago. Between January - April 2021, the total number of crossings on this route more than doubled to 11,600.¹

In 2021, the summer season is expected to see a further increase in migrants attempting to cross the Central Mediterranean route. On 3 July alone, there are reports that an additional 43 migrants have deceased at sea on the Central Mediterranean route.²

The profiles of people attempting the Central Mediterranean crossing include refugees fleeing persecution and conflict, as well as migrants searching for better economic and social opportunities. The majority of migrants and refugees are men, with the main countries of origin in 2020 being Tunisia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Cote d'Ivoire as well as Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Afghanistan, Morocco and Iran. Recent reports include numbers of women and children attempting to cross the Central Mediterranean route.

Libya is a major transit and departure point for many people attempting the Mediterranean route. There are many reports of violations and abuses in migrant detention centres in Libya, as well as concerns related to sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons. These concerns are acute for migrants and refugees who are intercepted on the Mediterranean and returned to Libya. In 2021, at least 15,000 people were intercepted and returned to Libya, and almost all were taken

¹ <https://sosmediterranee.com/eyes-on-the-central-med-20-recurring-reports-of-shipwrecks-rescues-interceptions-and-arrivals-put-search-and-rescue-in-the-central-mediterranean-back-on-eus-agenda/>

² "Europe migrant crisis: Boat sinks off Tunisia drowning 43"; 3/July/2021 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-57708064>

to detention centres. Under international maritime law, rescued individuals should be disembarked at a place of safety. It is considered that the basic preconditions to ensure the safety and protection of rescued migrants and refugees post-disembarkation in Libya are lacking; therefore, Libya is not considered a safe place for disembarkation.³

Provision of appropriate services has been a notable gap since the end of the Italian navy rescue operation Mare Nostrum (2013-2014). It is in the context of insufficient service provision that humanitarian Search and Rescue organizations, such as SOS MEDITERRANEE, operate to deliver humanitarian Search and Rescue support to migrant population.

Summary of Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

As the world's largest humanitarian network with a presence in 192 countries, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) approaches migration from a purely humanitarian perspective. In line with its [2009 Policy on Migration](#), the IFRC network uses a deliberately broad description of migrants to include all people who leave or flee their home to seek safety or better prospects, usually abroad, and who may be in need of protection or humanitarian assistance. The IFRC responds to humanitarian needs and addresses the risks of the most vulnerable, without seeking to encourage, discourage or prevent migration.

Humanitarian Service Points

A Humanitarian Service Point (HSP) is a safe and welcoming space run by the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which provides neutral humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people on the move – irrespective of their status. HSPs may be fixed or mobile and operate at key points along migratory routes.

HSPs contribute to the safety, dignity, and protection of vulnerable people on the move at all stages of their journey and promote resilience. HSPs are flexible and responsive to needs. In certain locations HSPs may focus on providing critical information to migrants in accessible languages and formats; in others, HSPs may focus on health and care, food and non-food items, shelter and protection.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are already addressing the needs of the most vulnerable migrants and refugees through assistance and essential services, protection and referrals along land routes spanning Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. This includes support to people on the move through food and non-food items, cash assistance, emergency shelter, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), health and psychosocial support, Restoring Family Links (RFL) as well as Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) activities such as prevention, mitigation and response to sexual and gender-based violence, child abuse and neglect, and trafficking in persons. Several National Societies deliver their assistance through [Humanitarian Service Points](#), positioned at key points along migratory routes, to serve as safe, neutral spaces where humanitarian services can be accessed. Host communities are also supported as part of a holistic approach that considers social inclusion, livelihoods and access to basic services while concurrently strengthening community engagement and investing in the resilience of host communities.

As part of a three-year route-based programme, aligned to the [IFRC Global Migration Strategy](#) and Strategy 2030, and engaging 34 National Societies across Africa, the Middle East and Europe, the

IFRC will address the protection and assistance needs of migrants and refugees along their journeys, **including at sea**, through a holistic, integrated and comprehensive response reaching 2 million people on the move and half a million people in host communities per year.⁴

This 3-month operation is a core part of the multi-year and trans-regional programme – and is specifically focused on strengthening the route-based approach by **including provision of lifesaving services, humanitarian assistance and protection at sea**, in partnership with SOS MEDITERRANEE. The number of people that could be reached could go as high as 900⁵, although this operation will align to the SOS MEDITERRANEE approach which prioritizes the imperative need to be at sea, rather than expected rescue numbers, which are difficult to predict. Between 1 and 5 July 2021, 6 rescue operations have been conducted by SOS MEDITERRANEE, rescuing some 572 people⁶, including women and unaccompanied minors. IFRC ensures that its participation fully abides by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the longstanding importance of humanity and neutrality of its network and membership.

At the time of writing this Emergency Appeal, the *Ocean Viking*, run by SOS MEDITERRANEE, is the only rescue ship operational in the Central Mediterranean. Five NGO search and rescue vessels (*Sea-Watch 4*, *Sea-Watch 3*, *Sea-Eye 4*, *Louise Michel* and *Geo Barents*) are currently under administrative detention and blocked from resuming their life-saving activities.

³ <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2021/6/60ca1d414/iom-unhcr-condemn-return-migrants-refugees-libya.html>

⁴ "Humanitarian Services for People on the Move: A Route-Based Approach spanning Africa, the Middle East and Europe Regions - A Case for Support" – This document will be available towards the end of July 2021

⁵ Estimate / average figure based on the number of people rescued by SOS MEDITERRANEE on a monthly basis in 2019, 2020, 2021

⁶ "Food rations run out on Friday onboard *Ocean Viking*"; 8/July/2021 <https://euobserver.com/migration/152372>

The IFRC aims to provide post-rescue services through the implementation of Humanitarian Service Points at sea, further augmenting the IFRC's network presence along land and maritime migratory routes. This will include provision of first aid, healthcare services, maternal healthcare, food and non-food items, Protection, Gender and Inclusion case management with psychosocial support (PSS), and information about rights and processes, as well as Restoring Family Links (RFL).

IFRC will initially deploy Rapid Response (RR) personnel through the activation of the IFRC Global Surge mechanism, to support this operation. Some RR personnel will be based in the Europe Regional Office, such as the Operations Manager and the HR Coordinator. Additional profiles, could be based in various European locations, providing remote assistance. In order to support the SOS MEDITERRANEE humanitarian and maritime team on the ship, IFRC sees a need to focus on the following areas in order to further the humanitarian imperative of the mission: Post Rescue Team Leader (PRTL), Medical Team Leader (TL), Medical Doctor, Midwife, Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI) /Psychological Support Services (PSS) and a Communications officer on board. In terms of length of deployments, RR personnel on shore are deployed for three months, whereas the RR personnel to be working on the ship shall be deployed per rotation, which could be up to eight weeks per rotation. Rapid Response Alerts have been launched in order to select suitable candidates for required role profiles.

The partnership between SOS MEDITERRANEE and the IFRC is part of the **Federation-wide multiregional case for support** which is a comprehensive **3-year route-based programme** with core localized capacities to ensure principled, locally adapted, needs-based response to people on the move at different stages of their journeys. The collaboration is initially foreseen to be for one year depending on funding and ability to maintain high standards for principles of humanitarian action. At the end of the timeframe of this Emergency Appeal, it is the intention to maintain the Humanitarian Service Point @ Sea in partnership with SOS MEDITERRANEE under a different funding modality which is being developed for the Federation-wide multiregional case for support.

A. THE OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Needs assessment and targeting

People on the move face significant risks to their lives, dignity and human rights, physical and mental well-being. Humanitarian responses often face challenges in accessing quality evidence about the best means of reaching and assessing the changing needs of this heterogenous, mobile and hard-to-reach population. The risks and vulnerabilities people on the move face often remain hidden and unaddressed due to information gaps including lack of quality data and high-quality analysis of migration triggers, trends, and dynamics, as a result often hindering appropriate targeted responses. Equally, response efforts face challenges due to lack of effective, coherent and consistent collaboration and coordination across land and maritime routes.

The IFRC, in partnering with SOS MEDITERRANEE, seeks to extend its humanitarian assistance to people on the move in distress in the Mediterranean Sea in a bid to save the lives of people crossing the Mediterranean in search of refuge and safety in Europe. Merging SOS MEDITERRANEE's sea rescue expertise and the IFRC network's experience in humanitarian assistance, the common goal will be to rescue, save lives and promote dignity of as many people on the move as possible on the Central Mediterranean route applying neutral, impartial, independent humanitarian services.

SOS MEDITERRANEE is a European civil association for rescue at sea founded in May 2015. Faced with humanitarian tragedy and lack of adequate rescue capacity in the Central Mediterranean, a group of European citizens created the maritime and humanitarian association in order to rescue persons in distress at sea, protect and assist them, as well as testify about this reality and the many faces of migration.

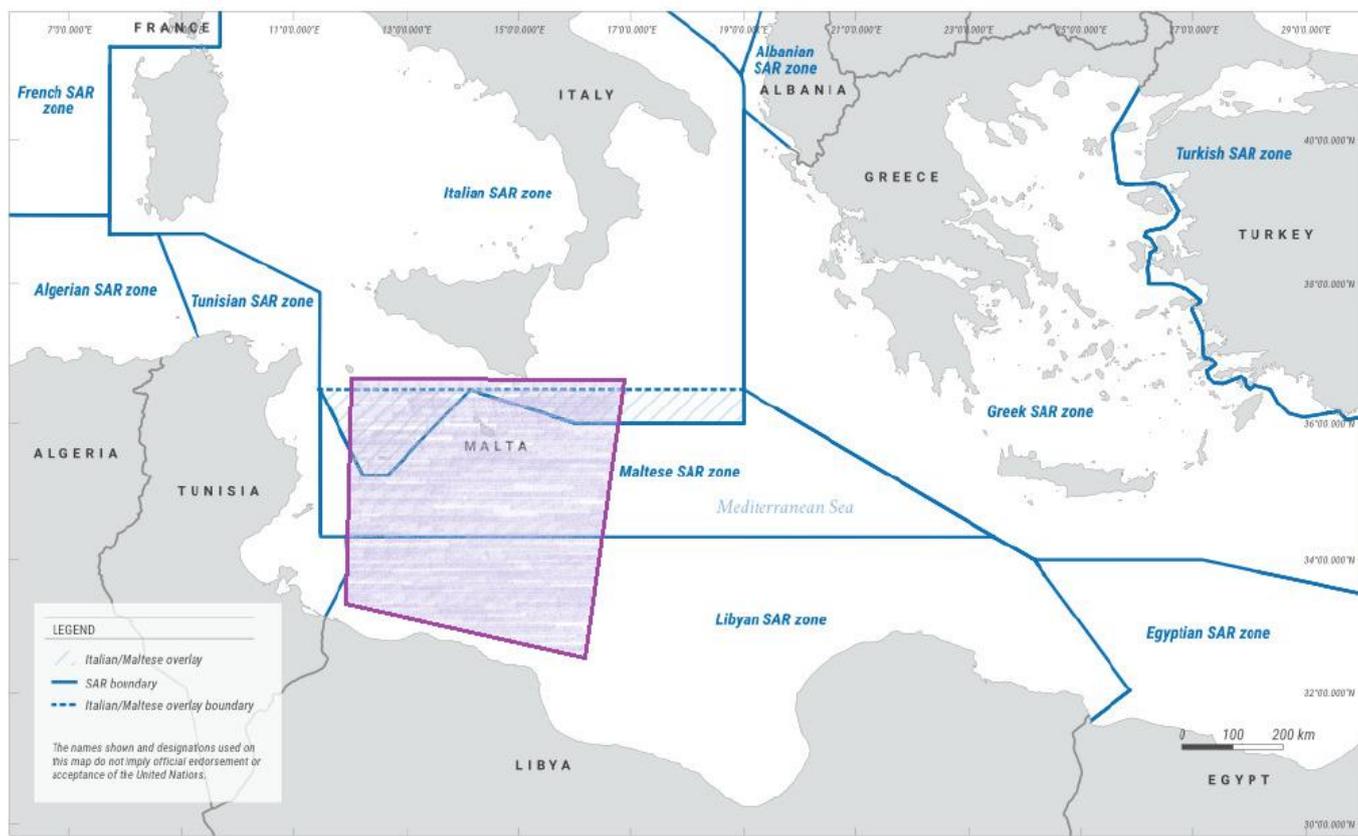
The previous Search and Rescue Operation in cooperation with the Italian Red Cross, supported by the IFRC and sister National Societies, with the NGO Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) in 2016 provided operational insights in the field of maritime SAR and humanitarian assistance, including PGI, to migrants in special conditions at sea, and for respective learnings for future operations.

The IFRC's maritime response within the context of its partnership with SOS MEDITERRANEE will focus on the provision of assistance and protection services. The main activities of the IFRC will include the provision of essential services such as first aid, emergency healthcare, maternal healthcare, food, Essential Household items (EHI, e.g., dry clothes, blankets and toiletries), WASH, PGI case management and psychological support as well as RFL. PGI will also be mainstreamed for its safeguarding and mitigation and response standards throughout all activities post rescue. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) activities and approaches will be integrated in the response. This means that post rescue efforts will ensure information and assistance regarding next steps after disembarkation is provided in line with the coordinated efforts by the IFRC on shore, so that safe referrals and assistance on land is as relevant, timely and appropriate as possible.

The partnership will be based on the complementary strengths of the IFRC – with assistance and medical expertise, global capacity, ability to conduct outreach and ability to engage with States – and SOS MEDITERRANEE, with their professional maritime and humanitarian team. This collaboration will support mutual capacity strengthening of both organizations, including staff and volunteers.

The partnership will complement and ‘operationalize’ IFRC’s high-level advocacy and diplomacy on the need to elevate the principle of humanity to save lives.

The lack of sufficient and quality presence of Search and Rescue organizations on the Mediterranean Sea represents a gap that IFRC and National Societies will contribute to address in collaboration with SOS MEDITERRANEE. The targeted area for this operation is the Central Mediterranean route, which is considered the deadliest route at the moment. The map below is indicative of the Area of Operation but does not limit the possibilities of Search and Rescue activities in other areas. Nor does the map depict juridical areas of control, it is merely indicative. There will be no operations within Libyan territory (including territorial waters) unless imminent threat to life has been confirmed and prior instruction/authorisation has been received from Libyan maritime authorities



Created: 19 January 2021 | Authors: Migration Team, OHCHR | Sources: OHCHR, SAR Contacts | Contact: msupport@ohchr.org | standup4humanrights.org

Map 2: Area of Operation and Influence

Coordination and partnerships

Contact between SOS MEDITERRANEE and IFRC started in August 2020 to explore a partnership that would focus on the rescue of people in distress in the Mediterranean Sea. An internal consultation and analysis was completed and identified risks and opportunities, which informed consultations with National Societies in Europe and Middle East regions. Following the consultations with National Societies, an “agreement in principle” towards developing a partnership between SOS MEDITERRANEE and IFRC was reached and was followed by a 3-month period during which the two organisations developed an operational plan to support a possible collaboration. In general **SOS MEDITERRANEE will focus on the Search & Rescue operation while the IFRC will focus on the post-rescue services on board the SAR vessel.**

This operation will be conducted with full transparency and information with the relevant maritime authorities, from which coordination of the event will always be sought. The obligation to render assistance to persons in distress at sea shall be carried out by Motor Vessel Ocean Viking in accordance with the applicable provisions of international conventions governing SAR situations and in accordance with requirements concerning the respect for fundamental rights.

The IFRC and its member National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in cooperation where relevant with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), are working together across the Mediterranean region to better respond to the needs of migrants, particularly in the fields of protection, assistance and humanitarian diplomacy. This operation is in line with the overarching approach of the Federation-wide multiregional case for support.

The IFRC Regional Office for Europe will co-ordinate engagement with member National Societies and other stakeholders in the region, aligning its efforts with the relevant global counterparts and Regional counterparts outside of Europe, ensuring regular information flow and stewardship pursuing a Federation-wide approach to this Emergency Appeal. A broader multiregional partnership coordination will be established for the “multiregional case for support: Humanitarian Services for People on the Move - A Route-Based Approach spanning Africa, Middle East and Europe Regions”

Capacity analysis, risk analysis and scenario planning

This operation entails provision of humanitarian services in extraterritorial settings, where no National Red Cross Red Crescent Society operates. That said, the operation will benefit from the provision of National Society-supported staff deployed on board of the vessel Ocean Viking⁷ as well as on shore and will be reinforced by the presence of National Societies in ports of departure and disembarkation, in particular the Italian Red Cross, the Maltese Red Cross, the French Red Cross and possibly the Spanish Red Cross. These will be elaborated upon during implementation and as needs develop and change.

Cognizant of the unique position and access that the IFRC humanitarian network occupies along land and maritime migration routes, efforts will be made to scale up and improve cross-regional coordination with National Societies in order to regularly assess and analyse the situation, share information on available services, and establish referral mechanisms with due consideration to data protection and confidentiality concerns, as well as engage in evidence based joint advocacy strategies.

The approach of the IFRC is to continuously build on the expertise and capacities within the IFRC network as well as national and international partners to incentivize cross-regional knowledge and information sharing and learning, including in extraterritorial settings.

In collaboration with the ICRC, specific expertise will be sought in areas such as missing migrants, forensic and RFL.

An operational plan, outlining areas of collaboration between IFRC and SOS MEDITERRANEE is in place. The plan specifies roles and responsibilities and addresses operational and reputational risks through a shared set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and pre-identified mitigation measures.

⁷ Ocean Viking:

- Virtual tour: <https://sosmediterranee.com/about-us/virtual-tour-ocean-viking/>
- Video: <https://twitter.com/SOSMedIntl/status/1273965945959170049?s=20>

B. PROPOSED AREAS OF INTERVENTION

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



Health

People targeted: depends on the number of people rescued

Requirements (CHF): 331,000

Proposed intervention: First aid, Emergency medical assistance, access to maternal and child health care services, mental health and psychosocial support (PSS)

Post rescue there will be a need to provide first aid, emergency medical care and outpatient care. It is unpredictable what medical care will be required after each rescue, experience showing a wide range of medical needs, including mass casualty situations, where the medical team is required to triage people and provide emergency medical care. Many of the people rescued have gone through an extended period of time without primary health care, including antenatal care for pregnant women.

The medical team will provide consultations for both inpatient and outpatient care. If emergency medical evacuation is needed for a patient, the Medical Team Lead (MTL), Medical Doctor, the SAR Coordinator and the captain of the boat will arrange this with the respective competent authorities.

The psychological impacts of the journey, displacement of family members and rescue are significant with people experiencing and/or witnessing traumatic events as well as loss of family members. Mental health and PSS will be provided by trained staff and the medical team while onboard.

With many people on board the ship, the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread is significant. Precautions for all staff are in place, as well as SOP's for managing COVID-19 positive people (both rescued people and staff).

Activities to be carried out and planned:

The post-rescue medical assistance will include:

- First aid and medical care to rescued people
- Emergency care and medical evacuation if necessary, with the appropriate authority
- Provide inpatient and outpatient care
- Maternal healthcare services, antenatal checks, safe delivery
- Neonatal and pediatric care
- Provision of Mental Health and Psychosocial first aid support including mitigation and distress prevention and psychological first aid for children
- Provide primary medical care to the IFRC and SOS MEDITERRANEE teams and Ocean Viking crew members
- Provide appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), COVID-19 screening, COVID-19 testing (when appropriate) and ensure COVID-19 safe guidelines are followed
- Provision of medical supplies, including pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and consumables
- COVID-19 isolation plans, if COVID-19 positive persons are onboard



Protection, gender and inclusion

People targeted: depends on the number of people rescued
Requirements (CHF): 559,000

Proposed intervention

The IFRC has a holistic approach to humanitarian protection that ensures a protection and gender analysis is at the core of any action, acknowledging the different needs and risks different people face based on their experiences and background, and on structural and social barriers to their dignity, access, participation and safety. It also aims at recognizing capacities people have to enhance their resilience and self/protection. With a person-centred approach to prevention, mitigation and response to issues of violence, exploitation and abuse, the rescued people must receive assistance, support and protection accordingly. For the people rescued at sea their journeys often include experiences of violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons, sexual and gender-based violence, abuse and neglect, and as they continue their journey they are at further high risk to these violations and deprivations.

The PGI peri and post-rescue support will thus be based on a constant monitoring and assessment of risks, needs and coping capacities and provide specialized case management when needed. PGI post-rescue activities for all the migrants and refugees includes psychosocial first aid support (see health section), protection risk mapping and needs assessment, timely and safe referrals, and information sharing about rights, opportunities and services, restoring family links and safeguarding. PGI will also support all other peri and post-rescue services in ensuring their compliance with minimum standards for [PGI in Emergencies](#), and by ensuring standard operating procedures and mechanisms are in place and followed for case management, child safeguarding and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). PGI will contribute to monitoring and adjusting all post-rescue services to be as safe, dignified and inclusive as possible, for every individual migrant and refugee according to their needs.

Main activities to be carried out are:

- PGI assessments and monitoring of rescued people risks, needs and capacities
- PGI assessment and monitoring of post-rescue services (medical, EHI, sheltering etc) and adjustment for compliance with the minimum standards for PGI in Emergencies
- Referral pathway establishment, monitoring and dissemination
- Provision of food, blankets, other non-food items and hygiene materials & facilities
- Provision of information about rights, access to these rights, services and opportunities
- Restoring Family Links
- Case management for cases of violence, exploitation or abuse
- Crowd control on board
- Establishment, dissemination and monitoring of Safeguarding procedures and mechanisms
- Coordination with PGI on shore for case management and referrals
- Support to communications and operational leadership advising on issues related to protection (dignity, access, participation and safety)

ENABLING ACTIONS

Influencing others as strategic partners

Requirements (CHF): 86,000

The Federation-wide response will play a vital role in providing support to the Emergency Appeal which will promote, influence, and capitalize on the IFRC network's unique position, leveraging relations with the respective governments and National Societies to ensure needs and respect of those affected by a principled, neutral, and independent intervention. The IFRC Regional Office for Europe, together with National Societies and the IFRC EU Office in Brussels use their unique position to influence decisions at local, national, and international levels that affect the most vulnerable. The team will develop communications materials and provide support National Societies to undertake successful resource mobilization and partnership development efforts domestically. IFRC Regional Office for Europe is to provide partners co-ordination, troubleshooting and compliance support, and organize regular meetings with key stakeholders and donors to ensure systemic resource mobilization and adequate stewardship during the Emergency Appeal and after.

From a humanitarian diplomacy perspective, this operation will be part of a coherent approach positioning National Societies on both sides of the Mediterranean as the humanitarian actor committed to principles of humanitarian action, which is relevant and trusted by authorities, decision-makers and institutions, and through common strategies and enhanced policy dialogue. The aim is to ensure that search and rescue operations are not criminalized and that the humanitarian principles prevail through advocating for instance for predictable and reliable disembarkations. The humanitarian diplomacy approach will aim at limiting the risks of instrumentalization of IFRC and its members by enhancing transparency on the IFRC network involvement and role in this operation and more broadly in migration.

Strengthening Coordination and Accountability

Requirements (CHF): 944,000

(including approx. CHF 800,000 contribution towards the Ocean Viking running cost)

IFRC contributes to the running costs of the Ocean Viking's operations with CHF 800,000 for the whole Emergency Appeal period. This contribution represents 37% of the total running costs of the Vessel. The main running cost of the Ocean Viking are charter, operating costs (such as fuel and harbour costs) and needs supplies (EHIs, Food).

Logistics and supply chain: IFRC Logistics and Procurement teams will engage at various levels. A (Medical) Logistician RR profile shall be appointed onshore to ensure effective coordination between the ship and the entire IFRC network, as well as with SOS MEDITERRANEE. IFRC Regional Office for Europe will provide compliance support on non-health procurements carried out by SOS MEDITERRANEE as part of an ongoing smooth-running logistics supply chain with established suppliers and standardized items. IFRC will support this financially to not disrupt the existing system. The IFRC Geneva logistics team will manage Health Procurements and provide support on Pharma Quality Assurance & Control for Health Procurements. Procurement, supply, and logistics responsibilities will be shared between SOS MEDITERRANEE and IFRC in order to reach the maximum possible efficiency of the operation.

Human Resources/Surge: The IFRC Global Surge mechanism will contribute to the initial phase through a collective response utilizing the capacities of the wider membership. Alerts have been launched to the IFRC membership for Rapid Response personnel to be deployed onshore and on the boat.

Regarding HR plans, and in order to cover the 3 months of the operation, 2 rotations of 5 to 8 weeks are foreseen for the RR members deployed on the boat, taking into account the potential for quarantine before entering and when disembarking the ship (with given volatility of the overall COVID-situation quarantine protocols might be re-introduced with deteriorating pandemic developments). The period on board includes an onboard training phase, transit to the rescue zone and an operations phase (patrolling and rescue), with disembarking of rescued persons as required. The RR profiles deployed on the boat include 1 Post Rescue TL, 1 Medical TL, 1 Medical Doctor, 1 Midwife, 1 PGI with PSS skills, 1 Communications.

The team of RR members supporting the operation on shore in different locations is foreseen to include 1 Operations Manager, 1 HR Coordinator, 1 Medical Logisticians, 1 Partnership and Resource Development and 1 Communications officer and are all expected to be deployed for 3 months.

In terms of duty of care, this operation poses several challenges that the operations manager will review and revise periodically such as boat safety, staff training, security briefings, staff safety (incl PPE), etc. This is all detailed in the Operational Plan together with SOS MEDITERRANEE.

This operation is led by the Onboard Management Team⁸, the operational team comprises 17 SOS MEDITERRANEE and initially 6 IFRC staff. Although team members are organised within structured teams with predefined tasks, roles and responsibility, all personnel are called to live a “one team”-spirit, supporting each other throughout the operation in a collaborative and trusted way.

Communications and advocacy: Communications is an integral part of the operation. An experienced communications coordinator will be deployed onboard the ship to manage communications activities, including collecting audio-visual and written materials and handling media relations, as well as coordinating with SOS MEDITERRANEE on onboard communications activities and ensuring that communications will respect the neutral role IFRC and its members play in all humanitarian operations. A communications coordinator will also be appointed on shore to ensure effective coordination between the ship and the entire IFRC network, as well as with SOS MEDITERRANEE. In addition, two journalists are authorised by SOS MEDITERRANEE on board to develop independent communications materials. This has been standard practise of SOS MEDITERRANEE as part of their Advocacy strategy and will be supported by the IFRC as an essential component of the overall Humanitarian Diplomacy and Communications strategy.

IFRC will communicate its work and humanitarian services onboard the ship on all its channels and towards the media to highlight the strong commitment IFRC and its National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies have to protect and assist migrants, wherever they are and whatever their status, while respecting strict ethical guidelines in any portrayal of the people rescued. A strong focus will be placed on more longer-term awareness raising and influencing with innovative storytelling approaches to reach new audiences.

Security and safety: The safety and security of rescued persons, SOS MEDITERRANEE and IFRC staff, crew members is paramount. The overall responsibility for safety and security rests with the Vessel Master, supported by competent crew and the onboard management team led by the SAR Coordinator. Security and safety situation will be continuously assessed through the analysis of reported incidents that may have an impact on operations at sea. The Security Plan will be updated regularly based on security assessments and describes mitigation measures and actions on security incidents. The current threat to security for the SAR vessel on operations is assessed to be LOW.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, & Reporting (PMER): Context specific internal *monitoring tools* will be developed before the deployment of the first rotation to ensure the flow of information within Red Cross Red Crescent teams and towards operation management. Where appropriate, existing SOS MEDITERRANEE formats will be used to avoid duplication, however, purpose-made monitoring tools may be needed to capture IFRC progress, achievements and challenges. Needs of people assisted and the appropriateness of services will be monitored against the operational strategy, and adjustments to the plan will be made if and as necessary. Due to the unprecedented nature of this IFRC operation, *lesson learning* and *evaluation* will be crucial especially in the early stages of the operation, to enable quick adjustments if needed. The rotation cycles provide a good opportunity for review and improvements, efforts will be made to capture feedback and learnings from outgoing teams. Evaluation will be conducted during the project cycle, in line with the IFRC Framework for Evaluation. Internal *reporting* tools will be defined in alignment with the monitoring efforts described above; external reporting and accountability will follow a schedule that considers the framework and periodic nature of the operation, as well as external donor requirements and expectations. IFRC Regional PMER, in synergy with Information Management colleagues will provide technical support in setting up the necessary monitoring and reporting systems/tools, as well as the monitoring and evaluation plan of the operation.

⁸ Composed of a SAR Coordinator / SOS MEDITERRANEE, the Post Rescue TL / IFRC and the team leaders from specific areas of intervention onboard (Rescue – Medical – PGI – Communications)

Strengthening National Societies Requirements (CHF): 80,000

The IFRC and its National Societies in Europe are committed to work together to increase preparedness and operational capacities through networking, efficient and timely operational information exchange, and sharing learnings from past operations. Along the main migratory routes in Europe this has largely happened through the “Neighbours help first” network. Strengthened operational coordination among responding National Societies to support preparedness and early warning, including through information sharing through newly established Emergency Operations Centres has been the focus of the IFRC Regional Office for Europe in the last few years. National Societies have established mechanisms to collect information on the needs and challenges of migrants through surveys and regular reporting. Different capacity building, peer exchange and learning events will be organized, including on HSP-type of activities and the topic of legal avenues to share good practices, challenges and experiences among National Societies. The operational learnings from the provision of a humanitarian service point at sea will inform further preparedness of the National Societies for life saving activities and humanitarian assistance and protection.

Based on the demand for the technical and coordination support required to deliver in this operation, the following programme support functions will be put in place: human resources, logistics and supply chain; information technology support (IT); communications; security; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); partnerships and resource development; and finance and administration.

C. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

HSP@Sea - 2021

Funding requirements - summary

HEALTH	331,000
PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION	559,000
INFLUENCING OTHERS AS STRATEGIC PARTNERS	80,000
STRENGTHENING COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY	944,000
STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETIES	86,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	2.000,000

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the IFRC

- **IFRC Regional Office for Europe Disaster Management coordinator:** Frido Herinckx, Head of Disasters Climate and Crises (a.i.), Frido.Herinckx@IFRC.org, +36 70 953 7718

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for Europe** Andrej Naricyn, Head of PRD, Andrej.NARICYN@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **Global Logistics Services** - Coralie DIAZ LUTHIN, Team Leader, Global Strategic Resourcing, coralie.diazluthi@ifrc.org, +41-22-730 4318

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. 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.

Jagan Chapagain

Secretary General
