<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal №:</th>
<th>To be assisted:</th>
<th>Appeal launched:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGR65001</td>
<td>12,000 people</td>
<td>24/11/2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glide №:</th>
<th>DREF allocated:</th>
<th>Date published:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OT-2021-000175-BLR</td>
<td>CHF 1 million in total as DREF loans to three National Societies (Belarus RC; Lithuanian RC and Polish RC).</td>
<td>15/12/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT-2021-000076-LTU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT-2021-000167-POL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IFRC Funding requirement:** 9.5 million CHF  
**Federation-wide funding requirement:** 10.7 million CHF  
**To assist:** 12,000 people
FUNDING REQUIREMENT

Federation-wide funding requirement

Secretariat Funding Requirement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
<th>Poland</th>
<th>ROE</th>
<th>Regional Contingency funds</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter, Housing and Settlements</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>775,000</td>
<td>171,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>746,000</td>
<td>1,892,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Care</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>47,000</td>
<td>208,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>420,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihood (including multipurpose cash)</td>
<td>1,156,000</td>
<td>145,000</td>
<td>133,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>266,000</td>
<td>1,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration</td>
<td>764,000</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>346,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>202,000</td>
<td>1,371,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection, gender and inclusion</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>84,000</td>
<td>78,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>183,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
<td>414,000</td>
<td>152,000</td>
<td>309,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>107,000</td>
<td>982,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Society Strengthening</td>
<td>1,239,000</td>
<td>448,000</td>
<td>537,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>537,000</td>
<td>2,224,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat Services</td>
<td>191,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>88,000</td>
<td>389,000</td>
<td>705,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination and Partnerships</td>
<td>23,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>4,049,000</td>
<td>1,663,000</td>
<td>1,809,000</td>
<td>166,000</td>
<td>1,813,000</td>
<td>9,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
August 2020: Since the presidential elections in Belarus, political tension between the EU and Belarus has been growing.

May 2021: The number of people who enter Lithuania irregularly from Belarus starts to increase. Since the beginning of the year 4,154 arrivals have been registered in the country.

July 2021: Lithuania begins construction of a fence along its border with Belarus and passes legislation on restricting freedom of movement for asylum seekers registered in the country and imposes additional limitations on access to asylum and in asylum procedures.

2 July: A State of Emergency is announced in Lithuania due to the number of migrants arriving in an irregular manner from Belarus providing the ability to significantly limit certain rights of migrants and asylum-seekers, including on access to territory and protection.

12 July 2021: IFRC issues a DREF for CHF 338,885 for Lithuania.

August 2021: Lithuania initiates additional legal amendments, limiting the entry of any irregular migrant accessing the territory and asking asylum.

9 August 2021: Latvia starts to record arrival of smaller number of migrants and declares an Emergency Situation along its border and initiates measures to deter migrants entering the territory.

31 August 2021: After an increase of migrants attempting to cross Poland, Poland declares a State of Emergency in towns bordering Belarus, banning mass gatherings and limiting people’s movements in a 3-km wide strip of land along the border, allowing only governmental authorities to access the area.

September 2021: Groups of migrants stranded in the region has been reportedly growing and since the end of September 2021, border guards have recovered seven dead bodies of migrants, both in Polish territory and on the Belarus side.

14 October 2021: Poland passes legislation, ordering a person entering the territory irregularly to be ordered to leave Polish territory, making it impossible for migrants arriving irregularly to access territory and claim protection.

8 November 2021: Groups of migrants arrive to the Polish/Belarus border in an attempt to cross the borders. In response, Poland and Lithuania reinforced police and army presence on the border.

9 November 2021: In reaction to the escalation at the border, Lithuania declares a new state of emergency along the border with Belarus and five kilometers inland as well as at migrant accommodation facilities in Kybartai, Medininkai, Pabradė, Rukla and Vilnius.

16 November 2021: IFRC issues a DREF for CHF 321,362 for Belarus and for CHF 429,426 for Poland.

23 November 2021: IFRC issues an Emergency Appeal for CHF 9.5 million to support 12,000 people over 12 months.

30 November 2021: Poland passes legislation restricting the possibility of staying in the border area from 1 December 2021 to 31 March 2022.
DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

Impact

The migration situation related to Belarus and neighboring countries, outlined in the timeline, has impacted an estimated 20,000 people spread across several countries, mainly Belarus, Poland and Lithuania. Following regular and daily attempts by people to cross the borders into the EU during the autumn and an escalation on the border which led to clashes in early November, the situation in December has de-escalated. Some migrants remain in the terrain by the border, but the majority on the Belarus side of the border have been moved to and are being housed in a logistic centre. While the logistics centre does not represent a long-term solution, it at least provides immediate protection from the increasingly cold weather. Around ten people are reported to have died in the terrain by the border over the past months, whether due to freezing temperatures or exhaustion or both. A second group of migrants in Belarus, around 5,000 people according to the authorities, are assumed to be spread across urban centers in Belarus, but their numbers, whereabouts, needs and intentions are not well understood or verified. Some of them approach Belarus Red Cross branches and request support. Further, migrants are being kept in centres in both Lithuania and Poland. In Lithuania around 3,500 people are held in five centres, pending asylum application processes. In Poland, an unknown number are being kept in detention centres in the border zone that are closed to humanitarian actors. However, Polish Red Cross was recently granted access to six of these centres which will give a better insight into the needs and the impact there.

The majority of people affected in the context are from Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen, Sudan and other Middle East, African and Asian countries. Tens of nationalities were reported among those crossing into Lithuania in July and August. Across the context there are significant numbers of women and children – around 40% of those entering Lithuanian, for example – as well as unaccompanied minors and persons with disabilities.
Severity of humanitarian conditions

Despite the fact that the crisis has been ongoing since the summer of 2021, the humanitarian conditions for most of the migrants remains problematic. In Belarus, there is a necessity to support the provision of basic needs of people in the logistics centre. The centre itself can only be viewed as a temporary solution. In other parts of Belarus, the humanitarian conditions and needs among the up to 5,000 people across urban centres are not well known but can be assumed to deteriorate in the coming months as people's resources are depleted and also with harsh winter conditions approaching. In Lithuania, joint work by Lithuanian Red Cross and the authorities over several months in what is now five closed centres has improved conditions, especially in comparison with temporary arrangements at the border at the peak of the situation. In Poland, Polish Red Cross has only recently been granted restricted access to detention centres at the border. It's not clear how many migrants are being kept in these centres, what their needs are and whether they have access to asylum process. Both Poland and Lithuania have taken several legal steps aimed at deterring migrants from crossing into the EU. Beside reinforcing patrolling and the presence of border guard and military personnel, amendments to laws have been fast-tracked, effectively closing of areas by the orders and restricting freedom of movement and also providing the ability to significantly limit certain rights of migrants and asylum-seekers, including on access to territory and protection. Across the contexts and different groups of migrants, mental health and psychosocial needs have been observed to be high due to traumatic incidents, distress, uncertainty and lack of information.

CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE

1. National Society response capacity

1.1 National Society capacity and ongoing response

Belarus Red Cross: Belarus Red Cross (BRC) was established in 1921 and is the largest humanitarian organization in Belarus, present in all 158 districts of the country. BRC works in humanitarian aid (including COVID-19 response), home-based care and active ageing, community mobilization, health promotion and disease prevention and the integration of refugees.

The BRC has been in contact with the Border Committee since August 2021, providing first occasional support to migrants with relief items (food parcels, hygiene items, clothing, blankets, PPE) and referral to health services (in the border area and logistic centre). After the escalation at the border, BRC supported up to 2,000 people with relief items and restoring family link services. Two regional branches, the HQ, 30 staff and 180 volunteers are involved in the response. A DREF operation was launched on 16 November 2021.

Lithuanian Red Cross: The Lithuanian Red Cross (LRC) was established in 1919, and at the moment it has 14 branches and it is present country wide. LRC is mainly active in providing nursing and psychosocial care to older people, advocacy, first aid trainings, assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, providing humanitarian aid, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2004, LRC has been a reliable implementing partner of UNHCR in Lithuania, ensuring the provision of professional legal assistance to refugees. Since 2010, thanks to an agreement with the State's border guard services and UNHCR, the LRC has monitored reception conditions and appropriate implementation of asylum procedures. In addition, it has organised trainings for guard officers on how to interact with migrants at the border during the first 72 hours, and contributed to courses organised by UNHCR on international protection standards and the rights of asylum seekers directed at judges and lawyers, especially those participating in the Government's legal aid scheme. In June 2020, LRC signed an agreement with the State border guard service to expand its activities and deliver protection services and monitoring support to all migrants in detention, including at border crossing points.
**Polish Red Cross:** The Polish Red Cross (PRC) was established in 1919 and is present countrywide. PRC works in the dissemination of international humanitarian law, restoring family links and tracing services, voluntary blood donation, social care and assistance to vulnerable groups, health and environmental sustainability promotion, first aid training, education programs, and providing humanitarian assistance in crises and disasters domestically and abroad. PRC utilizes in the operation the psychosocial support capacities it has recently developed through the EU-funded BaltPrep project.

The PRC has been actively responding to the situation and has expanded its activities since the beginning of October by providing clothes, food and hygiene items, first aid provision and referral to health services, restoring family links services as well as public communication. It has received significant in-kind donations from its partners, including from within the IFRC membership and thus the planned Emergency Appeal distributions focus on the gaps only. With the donations, PRC has been able to prepare aid packages for migrants consisting of warm clothes, shoes, a sleeping bag, a blanket, water, high-energy food, hygiene products and cleaning products. These packages are made available at Local Distribution Points that are located at the border of the closed zone. The aid items are also delivered to refugee centers (open and closed). So far, PRC has provided in-kind assistance worth PLN 610,440 (appr. 137,600 CHF) and fund-raised PLN 126,000 (appr. 28,000 CHF).

The PRC has 100 volunteers with an additional 100 joining, 15 staff members, 2 branches and the HQ involved in the operation. A [DREF Operation](#) was launched on 16 November 2021.

*Belarus Red Cross and IFRC are discussing the organisation of assistance to the migrants in the logistics centre.*
*Photo: IFRC*

### 1.2 National capacity and response

**Belarus:** The local authorities in Grodno established an Emergency response group to provide immediate support to migrants at the border. The state medical units provide immediate medical support to the migrants. Access to emergency health care is expected to be improved due to two medics being based at the Logistics centre in addition to the ambulances.
BRC works closely with government agencies and international organisations to coordinate efforts and further operational assistance. BRC has access to people at the border and acts as a leading organisation in provision of support to the migrants.

**Lithuania:** From the beginning of the crisis more than 4,000 people have come to Lithuania and the LRC has been providing humanitarian support in the border control, border crossing points and reception centres. The access to the reception centres and border control points are granted in the official written agreement between State Border Guard Service, UNHCR and LRC. At the moment, most people are relocated to five reception centres, with LRC providing humanitarian aid, legal and psychosocial support. LRC also gathers support from businesses and the public: in-kind support of clothes, food, hygiene items, toys, household items and in-cash support for specific needs. In addition, various government agencies are also responding to the emergency, including Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Ministry of Health, Migration Department, the Foreigners Registration Center, and the Refugee Reception Center.

**Poland:** The main government agencies responding to the crisis include the Office of Commissioner for Human Rights (to provide direct humanitarian assistance to migrants in the woods or migration centres run by the Polish Border Guard and the Office for Foreigners (regular delivery of food and household items as well as restoring family links brochures to the Migration Centre). Furthermore, PRC has been collaborating at the local level to share items with Local Distributions Points (LDPs) and distribute them to migrants met either outside or inside the emergency zone. The PRC has recently signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Border Police to allow for the Search and Rescue volunteer groups to provide lifesaving assistance and humanitarian aid to migrants being stranded in the area of six Border Guard Posts.

2. **International capacity and response**

2.1 **IFRC membership and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement capacity and response**

The Movement has a strong presence in Belarus, with both IFRC and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) offices in Minsk. Further, the Danish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross have a presence in Belarus. In the current situation, IFRC has increased its presence in Minsk with an Operations Manager and an Information Management Coordinator. This is to support Belarus Red Cross as the national coordinator of humanitarian assistance, a role being formalised between BRC and the authorities during December. In Poland and Lithuania, in-country cooperation or presence from Movement partners has traditionally been less. However, beside support to Belarus Red Cross, several National Societies are now also supporting the National Red Cross Societies of Poland and Lithuania. In monetary value the support is reaching around 700,000 CHF from German Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Italian Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent, both in terms of financial and in-kind support. Further, Russian Red Cross has initiated a domestic fundraising campaign for the context.

2.2 **International Humanitarian Stakeholder capacity and response**

Several UN agencies, including UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA have a presence in Belarus. Given that Belarus Red Cross is the only organisation with unhindered access, a large part of support from the UN has continuously been channeled through the Belarus Red Cross. This includes funding for relief goods. This approach does put pressure on Belarus Red Cross and requires a sustained focus on coordination and planning. In Poland and Lithuania, regular dialogue with UNHCR and other stakeholders is ongoing. Interest in supporting the situation has been strong, particular with regards to Belarus. DG ECHO has supported both the DREF and the ongoing operations and several governments are supporting or have stated their intention to support the IFRC Emergency Appeal. The Irish government provided early financial support to the Lithuanian Red Cross through IFRC in September.

3. **Gaps in the response**

The total number of people caught up in this context is estimated to be at least 20,000. This Emergency Appeal aims to assist an initial 12,000 people – a special focus will be on vulnerable and at risk individuals, including
unaccompanied minors, single women with children. The needs are informed by ongoing monitoring, and activities in centres where migrants are being held. For people on the borders and on the move, the general immediate life-saving needs are clear, while longer-term needs will depend on how the context evolves. The Emergency Appeal will be used to support the National Societies in addressing the needs. Access to migrants in centres and border areas is limited, and if access is granted at all, Red Cross is the first and often only non-state actor on site.

Across the countries, the migrants’ access to medical care and health services is insufficient (such as immunisation, sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, management of noncommunicable diseases, disabilities, communicable diseases).

Belarus: In Belarus, there is a need to continue to respond to the immediate and basic needs of migrants in the logistics centre. With regards to the suitability of the centre for longer-term accommodation, there are several concerns regarding its infrastructure and physical space, for example for privacy. A basic needs assessment, with input from several UN agencies, was conducted at the border in early December, to get a more detailed picture of needs, risks and vulnerabilities. While the full analysis is being finalised the main findings highlight the need for food (cereal, rice, meat, etc.) and for warm clothes, underwear and hygiene items. Many of the migrants had lost or broken their mobile phones in the forest, or if still had their phones needed charging devices and power banks. 45% of respondents stated that their physical condition had recently worsened. 7% of respondents reported that they had lost connection to their relatives. A second, more detailed assessment will be done in a near future.

According to the authorities, thousands of people are staying in urban centres in Belarus. While some approach BRC branches for assistance, their whereabouts and needs are not well known. When possible, these migrants are being supported with food parcels, hygiene kits, personal protection equipment, warm clothes and footwear, COVID-19-related information, psychosocial support and restoring family links services. The option of supporting this group of migrants with cash and voucher assistance is being looked into, for example, to cover daily needs and accommodation.

Lithuania: LRC, while actively providing support to all migrants in reception centres, does not have access to the border and thereby no detailed information of the needs and possible interventions there. It is officially stated by Ministry of the Interior, that more than 7,000 people were pushed-back in last 3 months from the border of Lithuania. In early November, LRC delivered 1,500 humanitarian packages, which were packed with other NGOs and handed over to Border Guard Officers. Border Guard Officers handed over these packages to people on the Lithuanian-Belarusian border. The results of a rapid assessment mission led by WHO/Europe with support from LRC, IOM Lithuania and the IOM Regional Office for Europe in Brussels showed that migrants arriving from Belarus needed treatment, medication, psychosocial support, as well as information in their native languages (12 November 2021).

One of the goals of LRC is to get permission to access people stranded at the border, to assess and meet their needs. Migrants in reception centres have for some time been provided a broad range of assistance, including distributions of relief items, psychosocial support, restoring family links and legal support in the asylum processes. While asylum applications and appeals are processed and returns for those with negative asylum decision cannot be actioned, migrants will stay in the closed centres, as per Lithuanian law. This is expected to last until next Autumn. During that period, support and services will need to continue, potentially changing later on if migrants are moved to open centres or are being integrated into communities.

Poland: In Poland, PRC was recently given restricted access to some centres in the closed border zone, which covers eight counties on the 400 km long Poland-Belarus border and the territory approximately 3 km inwards into Poland. This will allow for more detailed information of the needs and how PRC can meet the gaps. PRC has also just scaled-up search and rescue missions in the terrain outside the border zone and these missions will increase the understanding of the needs of people found in the terrain or calling for help. However, PRC as other actors are not having full access to the border zone, nor to the detention centres, and thus the humanitarian situation of migrants is unclear with concerns for lacking access to basic services and survival in the harsh winter conditions.
OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

Access remains the key operational constraint in the context, especially access to the border zone in Lithuania and Poland. While access has recently improved, the aim should be unrestricted access to allow for continuous assessments of needs and provision of humanitarian assistance in close cooperation with the authorities. All National Red Cross Societies involved in these operations continue to advocate and will be supported in advocacy for unrestricted access.

The lack of verifiable data is an operational constraint, particularly in relation to people outside of centres and on the move. This is not uncommon in migration situations. Improved access, close cooperation with the authorities and systematic capturing of data by branches will help in achieving a more comprehensive and up-to-date overview. Further improved coordination will also allow for sharing and triangulation of data as well as the deployments of Information Management Coordinator and Humanitarian Information Analysis Officer for scenario planning.

Support to the overall context has been forthcoming, but in the medium- and longer-term, a lack of resources is likely to become a constraint. This is particularly the case for non-ODA EU-countries that are less likely to be targeted by traditional donor governments. All donors will be requested to provide funding that is as flexible as possible and National Societies will be supported in their dialogue with the authorities to explore support and service delivery with cost-recovery in the longer-term.

Consideration of COVID-19

An operation to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak is being implemented by all the three National Societies. The provision of assistance to migrants will be done in accordance with COVID-19 safety recommendations. The migrants do not use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) regularly. National Society staff and volunteers will be reminding migrants to use PPE at all times if social distancing is not possible. The responses to COVID-19 are supported through the IFRC global appeal, which will facilitate supporting the National Societies to maintain critical service provision, while adapting to COVID-19. This Emergency Appeal is aligned with and will contribute to the current global strategy and regional Emergency Plan of Action for COVID-19 developed by the IFRC Regional Office for Europe, in coordination with global and regional partners. IFRC continues to assess how new emergency operations should adapt to the pandemic and provide necessary guidance to its membership on the same. The National Societies will keep monitoring the situation closely, focusing on the health risks, and revise accordingly if needed taking into consideration the evolving COVID-19 situation and the operational risks that might develop, including operational challenges related to access to the affected population, availability of relief items and procurement issues, movement of volunteers and staff as well as international staff (if needed). For more information, please consult the COVID-19 operation page on the IFRC GO platform.

As of 9 December 2021, Belarus confirmed 1,738 new cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours; another 2,115 coronavirus patients were discharged from hospital. The nationwide coronavirus tally now stands at 669,631. A total of 659,224 patients previously diagnosed with COVID-19 have recovered in Belarus. As many as 5,227 COVID-19 patients have died since the infection outbreak in Belarus. More than 3.811 million Belarusians received the first dose of the coronavirus vaccine. More than 3.038 million of them have completed vaccination against COVID-19.

As of 10 December 2021, Poland confirmed 24,991 new cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. The nationwide coronavirus tally now stands 3,785,036. 23,706 Poles are hospitalised and 2,070 people are under respirators. A total of 3,237,017 patients previously diagnosed with COVID-19 have recovered in Poland. As many as 87,928 (571 in the past 24 hours) COVID-19 patients have died since the infection outbreak in Poland. 20,631,827 Poles have completed vaccination against COVID-19.

As of 9 December 2021, Lithuania confirmed 1,576 new cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. The nationwide coronavirus tally now stands at 487,953. A total of 452,749 patients previously diagnosed with COVID-19 have recovered in Lithuania. As many as 6,993 COVID-19 patients have died since the infection outbreak in Lithuania. 1,887,090 Lithuanians have received the first dose of the coronavirus vaccine. 1,385,322 Lithuanians have
completed vaccination against COVID-19. 405,997 of them have already received booster shot. More than 1,604 of 3,695 migrants living in reception centres have been vaccinated against COVID-19 with LRC support.

For more information, see the risk management section in the later part of this document.

Lithuanian Red Cross volunteers distributing food at Alytus Aerodrome. Photo: Dovilė Balčiūnaitė

FEDERATION-WIDE APPROACH

The Emergency Appeal, complemented by this Operational Strategy, is part of a Federation-wide approach, utilised to support the operating National Societies in their responses to the population movement and to maximise the collective humanitarian impact of the IFRC membership. The Operational Strategy will ensure linkages between all response activities (including bilateral activities and activities funded domestically) and assist to leverage the capacities of all members of the Federation in the countries and in the region. The Federation-wide funding requirement for this emergency appeal comprises all support and funding to be channelled to the operating National Societies responding to the emergency event. This includes the amounts raised by the operating National Societies’ domestic fundraising, the contribution of supporting National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the fundraising ask through the IFRC secretariat.

IFRC membership coordination:
IFRC has an office in Minsk supporting BRC and their membership coordination. BRC main partners include the Danish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross, that also have presence in the country and have rendered support BRC bilaterally. The IFRC Regional Office for Europe is coordinating with the members who are providing bilateral support in the context bringing them into existing and evolving coordination mechanisms. Regular calls with the operating National Societies on both strategic and technical levels are being arranged, including calls and joint
monitoring with National Societies who can become part of the context. A partners call in late November was held to present the situation and the Emergency Appeal, including presentations from BRC, LRC and PRC.

Movement coordination:

Movement coordination meetings have been running since August, initially related to the Lithuanian context and are now being expanded to cover the overall situation. IFRC and ICRC have been in close dialogue on several levels since the overall situation begun. Following the escalation of the situation at the border, a joint statement between IFRC and ICRC was published on 18 November. In Belarus, a Movement Coordination Agreement between BRC, the ICRC and the IFRC regarding their respective roles and responsibilities is in place. So far Danish, Swiss, Bulgarian, Polish and Ukrainian Red Cross joined this Agreement. Both Tri-partite and Movement Coordination Meetings are held regularly.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Vision:

To provide humanitarian assistance to meet the basic needs of vulnerable migrants facing difficult situations in the affected countries. This will be achieved by striving to assist people in all locations they can be found or where they are being temporarily sheltered with continued advocacy to have unrestricted access to them.

The main aims for the three National Societies include ensuring unrestricted access to all migrants in need, to be able to provide them with life-saving and longer-term support and advocate for the improvement of conditions until their situations are addressed. The operation will further ensure that the operating National Societies have strengthened preparedness and necessary capacities to respond to potentially quickly changing situations.

Targeting

1. People to be assisted

The 12,000 people targeted fall into three categories of migrants: 1) people on the move related to this context, including people in urban centres in Belarus, 2) migrants at the borders between Belarus and neighboring countries and 3) migrants in centers in Lithuania and Poland, waiting for their status to be determined, through asylum processes or otherwise, or waiting for returns to the countries of origin.

It is important to note that there might be an overlap between any of the groups of people targeted presented here, due to pushbacks, and in case a person receives support in one country, but then crosses borders, and again receives Red Cross support. Identifying individual people is usually only possible in reception centres, managed by authorities, where people stay for an extended period. Exchanging identifiable data between National Societies for the sole purpose of tracking people reached numbers is not on par with the obvious data protection risks.

In Belarus, BRC will provide support to a total of approximately 5,000 migrants, some of whom are at the border with EU countries, and in temporary shelter at the logistics centre on the Belarusian side of the border with Poland, and others who are in the territory of the country with an undefined legal status, based on data collected during an initial assessment and secondary data from authorities and partners.

---

1 In mid-November, the authorities in Belarus noted that an estimated 7,000 migrants were on the territory of Belarus. However, since then, over 2,000 migrants have left Belarus on flights arranged by governments and IOM, leaving an estimated 5,000 in Belarus currently, although that number can’t be verified.
In Lithuania, the operation will target up to 4,000 migrants at the Lithuanian border who are staying in the terrain along the Lithuanian-Belarussian border, pending regular access by the authorities. This number is an estimation over the period of the operation. Another targeted group are around 4,000 migrants in centres in Lithuania (Kybartai, Rukla, Naujininkai, Pabradė, Medininkai), including a smaller number still held at border control points, pending moves to the main centres. A third group include migrants in Lithuania who are not accessing asylum processes and/or are on the move.

In Poland, the operation will target up to 300 people in need of support in open terrain outside the closed border zone reached through search and rescue activities following their request for assistance or as found during search and rescue missions. A further 4,000 people will be targeted in migration centres for foreigners near the emergency zone waiting for asylum decision or after positive migration status approval as well as migrants in detention centres awaiting asylum decision (depending on access being granted to these facilities).

2. Considerations for protection, gender and inclusion and community engagement and accountability

National Societies will refer to PGI minimum standards to guarantee safe and dignify access to services, as well as inclusive approaches that will aim at considering different needs and risks people might be exposed to. To avoid causing harm, the operation will place intersectionality at the centre of its approach to identify and address complex contexts and formulate strategies to address the differentiated needs and protection risks of the affected communities.

Due to displacement, affected people are made more vulnerable and exposed to protection risks and challenges. Lack of access to basic services can further expose them to violence, abuse, exploitation and harmful practices. People are impacted differently and groups such as women, children, older adults, and people with disabilities may be at higher risk, compared to others. These groups face specific challenges and barriers concerning their access to basic supplies, their mobility, and other displacement-related risks. There is a need to understand specific needs and resources these groups can rely on to self-protect them and remain resilient. Incorporating these specificities, it is paramount to protect them and avoid further harm, and guarantee that dignity, access, participation and safety, are prioritised. Major activities include strengthening knowledge and competences of staff and volunteers on protection, safeguarding, SGBV and trafficking in persons; mainstreaming PGI standards in emergencies across sectors; establishing safe and quality protection referral pathways; ensuring prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding; raising awareness on protection risks and mitigation measures.

As children are at very high risk, the National Society staff and volunteers will ensure that the activities, namely the child-friendly spaces and activities at the centres, are designed and implemented with the best interests of the child in mind and that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation. The IFRC Child Safeguarding Policy provides the framework for that and will be used to establish mechanisms that will help staff and volunteers to remain accountable and keep children safe. In terms of child protection, the National Societies staff and volunteers will ensure that the activities, namely the child-friendly spaces and activities at the centres, are designed and implemented with the best interests of the child in mind and that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation. The IFRC Child Safeguarding Policy provides the framework for that.

As per the people with disabilities, in Lithuania, there are currently 35 people with disabilities living in reception centres. Most of them include children with genetic disorders, people with disabilities due to chronic diseases as well as disabilities as a result of war/conflict. LRC is monitoring living conditions at the reception centres and advocating for continuous medical support for people with disabilities. In the last few months, LRC has been an essential actor in achieving some important changes in health care for asylum seekers regulations. Before the change, people who were seeking for asylum were not affiliated to the medical care system and could only receive primary health care in case of emergencies. Now asylum seekers are able to receive secondary and tertiary health care. In Belarus, at the Logistics centre, there are some people with disabilities, but there is no information on exact numbers. BRC specific support is currently limited. In Poland, it is estimated that 2,5% of people have some disabilities. PRC support is limited at the moment, focusing mostly on women and children as
a specific target group. Efforts will be made to collect disaggregated data that will help to identify specific needs and to remain inclusive, making sure that affected people have equal access and opportunities.

Regarding privacy and distribution of non-food items, PGI standards will be used to guarantee safe and dignify access to shelter and wash facilities, as well as provision of diversified hygiene kits.

The Movement-wide Minimum Commitments for CEA, which were adopted at the Council of Delegates in December 2019, aim to ensure a consistent approach to how we engage with and are accountable to people and communities. They include commitments to regularly conducting analyses of the contexts we work in to better understand and address the diversity of needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of the people we serve and assist; systematically listen to, respond to and act on feedback; and facilitate greater participation of local people and communities, including National Society volunteers, and helping them to apply their knowledge, skills and capacities to find appropriate and effective solutions to their problems.

### PLANNED OPERATIONS

#### Shelter, Housing and Settlements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
<th>Poland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female &gt; 18</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>Female &gt; 18: 1,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &gt; 18</td>
<td>3,280</td>
<td>Male &gt; 18: 2,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female &lt; 18</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>Female &lt; 18: 500</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &lt; 18</td>
<td>815</td>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 500</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:** The safety and well-being of people affected are strengthened through shelter solutions

**Priority Actions:**

- **Belarus:**
  - Delivery and distribution of essential household items including blankets, sleeping bags, clothes, raincoats.
  - Mobilisation of volunteers for shelter intervention.
  - Provision of funds to cover temporary accommodation in urban areas (hostels).

- **Lithuania:**
  - Border access advocacy and needs assessment.
  - Procurement, delivery and distribution of humanitarian kits (incl. 17 items, such as blankets, first aid kit, clothes, food, gas burner) to people in the terrain by the border.
  - Mobilisation and training of a disaster response volunteers for shelter intervention.

- **Poland:**
  - Interventions in detention centres at the border to be defined based on ongoing needs assessment through currently restricted access.

#### Livelihoods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
<th>Poland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female &gt; 18</td>
<td>800</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &gt; 18</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female &lt; 18</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &lt; 18</td>
<td>800</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:** The basic needs of affected people are covered through food security assistance

**Priority Actions:**

- **Belarus:**
  - Distribution of hot meals and food parcels
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multi-purpose Cash</th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
<th>Poland</th>
<th>77,000 CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female &gt; 18: 40</td>
<td>Female &gt; 18: 30</td>
<td>Male &gt; 18: 50</td>
<td>Female &gt; 18: 10</td>
<td>Male &gt; 18: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &gt; 18: 80</td>
<td>Male &gt; 18: 200</td>
<td>Female &lt; 18: 50</td>
<td>Female &lt; 18: 50</td>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female &lt; 18: 15</td>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 50</td>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 10</td>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:**
> Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security is provided to the most affected communities

**Priority Actions:**

**Belarus:**
- Assessment of feasibility of cash and voucher assistance.
- Provision of vouchers for food and household items for migrants who stay in urban areas.
- Provision of funds to cover urgent medical needs of migrants with an uncertain status who stay in urban areas.

**Lithuania:**
- Assessment of feasibility of cash and voucher assistance.
- Provision of vouchers for food and transportation for two months for migrants who receive asylum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health &amp; Care</th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
<th>Poland</th>
<th>420,000 CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female &gt; 18: 800</td>
<td>Female &gt; 18: 1000</td>
<td>Male &gt; 18: 2000</td>
<td>Female &gt; 18: 135</td>
<td>Male &gt; 18: 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &gt; 18: 3,200</td>
<td>Male &gt; 18: 500</td>
<td>Female &lt; 18: 500</td>
<td>Female &lt; 18: 70</td>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female &lt; 18: 200</td>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 50</td>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 50</td>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:**
> The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced
> Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced
> The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened

**Priority Actions:**

**Belarus:**
- Provision of first aid (FA) to people injured.
- Setting up a referral system between FA teams and ambulance and on-site Ministry of Health services to support continued access to health care for migrants.
- Provision of psychosocial support to migrants.
- Procurement and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment to prevent COVID-19 infection among people assisted, as well as staff and volunteers.
- Referral of migrants to cover urgent medical needs of migrants with an uncertain status who stay in urban areas (please also refer to Multi-purpose cash).
- Distribution of leaflets with information on hygiene promotion, COVID and vaccination (4 languages) (please also refer to WASH).

**Lithuania:**
- Procurement, delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid to people already in the terrain by the border.
- Procurement, delivery and distribution of diversified hygiene kits to migrants newly arriving in the future.
- Provisions of psychosocial support to people stranded at the border.
- Health support and promotion including prevention of COVID-19 among target population.
Poland:
- Basic Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) training for 45 volunteers.
- Training of Trainers in Psychological First Aid for 15 volunteers.
- MHPSS activity for women in 3 foreigners’ centres (open and detention centre) (in case of interest among men, activities will be organised for men as well).
- MHPSS materials for women education and workshop materials.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
<th>Poland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female &gt; 18</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &gt; 18</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female &lt; 18</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &lt; 18</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>668</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:** *Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne diseases, and diseases related to hygiene conditions*

#### Priority Actions:

**Belarus:**
- Distribution of hygiene kits to migrants situated by the border.
- Distribution of hygiene kits to migrants in urban areas.
- Distribution of leaflets with information on hygiene promotion, COVID and vaccination (4 languages).

**Lithuania:**
- Repeated distribution of hygiene kits to newly arrived migrants or migrants stranded at the border.

**Poland:**
- Provision of hygiene kits at reception and detention centres (depending on access) for 4,000 persons.

Hygiene kits cover the special needs of women (menstrual hygiene), men (shaving), children and small children/babies.

### Protection, Gender and Inclusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
<th>Poland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female &gt; 18</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &gt; 18</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female &lt; 18</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &lt; 18</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:** *Vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups are supported and empowered*

#### Priority Actions:

**Belarus:**
- Establishing child-friendly spaces and community-based child protection activities
- Distribution of toys to children in the target groups and organizing leisure activities for children.

**Lithuania:**
- Establishing 10 child-friendly spaces (playgrounds) and community-based child protection activities in five reception centres.
- Distribution of toys to children in the target groups.
Poland:
- Child friendly spaces in 3 foreigners’ centres (open and detention centres).
- Distribution of toys to children in the emergency zone and equipment of migrants’ centres with leisure items for children.

Regional:
- Strengthening knowledge and competences of staff and volunteers on protection issues, including briefing staff and volunteers on child safeguarding policy and mechanisms.
- Mainstreaming PGI standards in emergencies across sectors.
- Establishing safe and quality protection referral pathways.
- Raising awareness on protection risks, including risks for women and girls, and mitigation measures.

### Migration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
<th>Poland</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female &lt; 18</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>1,371,000 CHF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &lt; 18</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>340</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female &gt; 18</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td></td>
<td>253</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &gt; 18</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:**
- Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of services
- Specialised interventions for the protection of rights of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees
- National Societies are supported to provide life-saving and tracing/RFL services to migrants

**Belarus:**
- Establishment and maintenance of a Humanitarian Service Point in the logistics centre which is serving as temporary accommodation centre for migrants.
- Organisation of search and rescue for the migrants who request help in open terrain and woods and/or provide geographical locations.
- Restoring family links: Continued access to telecommunications equipment to help people charge phones, use wi-fi, connect with family and friends and access information
- Expanding support to migrants at Red Cross crisis centres run by the branches, e.g. by providing a safe space to sleep, eat, take a shower and wash clothes.
- Deploy qualified interpreters to ensure proper communication with migrants in their language.

**Lithuania:**
- Deploy qualified interpreters to border control points and reception centres and to terrain by the border to assess migrants’ needs.
- Restoring family links services.
- Advocacy for migrants’ rights, including the right to seek asylum.
- Providing integration assistance to those migrants who will be granted permission to remain in Lithuania.

**Poland:**
- Search and rescue for migrants who request help in open terrain and woods in the emergency zone (10 shifts x 2 person) and (10 shifts x 1 day x 15 volunteers) searching for missing persons and provision of emergency first aid and relief assistance as needed reaching 0-15 people at the time (up to 300).
- Search and Rescue (SAR) training for 75 volunteers.
- Restoring family links services in migration centres (10 visits, with an interpreter as needed).
• Handling of enquiries with ICRC, National Societies and restoring family links network.
• Production and dissemination of restoring family links materials to migrants.
• Restoring family links training for services, offices and non-governmental organisations.
• Restoring family links training for PRC staff.

Regional:
• Work with National Societies to ensure that interventions are guided by best practice and principles of the Movement related to assisting and protecting migrants and displaced people. This includes providing assistance and protection to people on the move on a purely humanitarian basis and irrespective of their status or category.
• Working together with National Societies on disseminating National Societies’ practices on specialised protection interventions on migration, highlighting learning and case studies around those activities that aim particularly to sensitize to and fulfil the protection of rights of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees.

Enabling approaches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Society Strengthening</th>
<th>2,224,000 CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective:</strong></td>
<td>National Societies have strengthened capacities, systems and procedures, that enable to prepare for and respond to the crisis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Across all National Societies, insurance for volunteers will be assured and based on needs the provision of psychosocial support to both staff and volunteers will be arranged. LRC will have a special focus on increasing the number of volunteers in their operation. To support that, LRC plans to develop an online volunteer training platform, also to continue to mitigate risks around face-to-face trainings during the pandemic. Volunteers will also be trained on working in multi-cultural environments.

Support in communications and crises communication is a theme that is also relevant to the National Societies in the context. With limited access, high expectation from the public to act but also hardening attitudes towards migrants, there have been challenges in communicating on Red Cross activities and mandate in the context. Through this operation, crises communication readiness and activities will be enhanced, staff will be trained on communications and working with the media and also on building effective partnerships in emergencies.

All three National Societies are also looking to enhance their capacities in Information Management (IM), including infrastructure and capacities to collect and process data and information in crisis situations. Enhanced IM will support better decision-making, coordination, delivery of assistance and reporting.

The National Societies are also committed to strengthen their approaches to the community engagement and accountability (CEA). Their staff and volunteers will be offered one-day CEA training and/or CEA in Emergencies training (see below for further details).

All National Societies will be supported in strengthening their domestic resource mobilisation and partnerships development capacities. LRC is planning to conduct analysis on its recent fundraising and awareness campaigns related to the migration crisis in Lithuania. In order to
improve its fundraising strategy, LRC also plans to implement fundraising analytics system in order to identify potential individuals who will likely help grow LRC donor base, better understanding of resource mobilisation market in Lithuania, marketing actions to be done to get more donations or higher donations.

In relation to ongoing operations and to build future capacities, BRC is planning to train volunteers in camp management, translating existing training materials and involving experts and study visits to enhance capacities. To ensure delivery in the operation but also to build capacities for future disasters and crises, the National Societies are looking to strengthen their logistics capacities, including expanding warehousing and fleet management.

In case of a sudden increase/change in the scope or scale of the response, a quick review of National Society response capacities will be done to ensure targeted capacity strengthening efforts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Engagement and Accountability</th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
<th>Poland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female &gt; 18: 800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female &gt; 18: 680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &gt; 18: 3,200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male &gt; 18: 820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female &lt; 18: 200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female &lt; 18: 190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

59,000 CHF

**Objective:**

Targeted communities are consulted and are able to share their views about assistance received or planned, and programmes and operations are planned and adapted accordingly.

Across the three National Societies, areas of priority are feedback collection including needs assessments – comprising information needs – post-distribution monitoring and satisfaction surveys. Regionally, IFRC will provide support with these areas.

Information provision on the role of the National Societies, migrants’ rights, available services and information on COVID-19 and hygiene promotion (see Health & Care and WASH) in migrant languages is also a key priority.

Ensuring safe distributions, and where relevant, community understanding of selection criteria for distributions, cash and voucher assistance, and shelter, will also be ensured.

PRC is creating five intercultural exchange centres in five regional offices equipped with multimedia and IT equipment as well as organizing meetings with local communities on cultural awareness and supporting refugees to integrate into the local society. PRC also informs people about the situation through their website, social media and traditional media aiming at reducing any fears or potential tensions. Volunteers are also meeting with local people and having discussions.

LRC’s work with host communities consists of positive reporting on migrants in local newspapers, including the reasons why people were forced to leave their homeland and what professional skills do they have, how do they spend their days in reception centres and how they could be integrated into the society and how the local communities can best support the integration. LRC aims to attract potentials employers’ attention so that people who receive asylum are able to find job easier and support themselves as well as become a part of local community.
In Belarus, in the area of the logistics centre, the host communities are not interacting with the migrants as the migrants are not permitted to exit the area.

### Coordination and Partnerships

**Objective:**

To better articulate the auxiliary role of National Societies and their convening power among a plurality of stakeholders, and accordingly strengthen the IFRC network footprint in the response to the population movement crisis.

The operation so far has clearly shown the unique position of National Societies as auxiliary to the public authorities. Access remains a challenge, but where access has been granted to humanitarian actors, it has been granted specifically for the Red Cross, in some cases exclusively.

In the case of Belarus, BRC remains the only organisation with regular access to migrants on the border and with capacity to reach migrants elsewhere in Belarus through its network of branches. BRC has been requested to be the main coordinator of humanitarian assistance in the country, a role that is being formalised in an agreement with ministries and the border guards. Practically, support by several UN agencies in Belarus is largely being provided through and delivered by the BRC, also creating expectations on a strong coordination role.

In Poland, PRC has advanced its access in dialogue with the Polish Border Guards, now accessing detention centers near the border to better understand needs and potential interventions that could require more regular access. In Lithuania LRC has already for some time been one of the key stakeholders delivering services to migrants in centers and engaging the authorities in ongoing dialogue about conditions and solutions in the centers. In all contexts, there are good examples of cooperating with civil society at large, from coordinating efforts and in-kind donations from the public to seeking humanitarian outcomes together through ‘indirect distributions’ in border areas where access has not been granted.

In the operation, as the context evolves, National Societies will be encouraged and supported to enhance their dialogue with the authorities and relevant stakeholders. This dialogue should generally strengthen the position of the National Societies as auxiliary to the public authorities, including reviews of existing agreements and arrangements, as needed. Dialogue about resourcing in the medium- and longer-term will also be encouraged, supported and facilitated as needed, including arrangements on financial contributions and cost-recovery from the authorities to National Societies delivering services. Some of the above-mentioned actions will also be supported through activities covered in the humanitarian diplomacy plan developed for the operation. The ongoing operations have also led to openings in dialogues with UN agencies about potential framework agreements for the benefit of National Societies as strong local actors in the region, to ensure operational and other partnerships are mutually beneficial and predictable.
**Objective:**

To provide a range of quality support services to in-country IFRC member societies with the aim of saving costs and improving efficiency

In this operation, BRC is supported through the IFRC Office in Minsk while for Poland and Lithuania, the IFRC Regional Office in Budapest functions as the Country Office. This will change in 2022 with the transition of the IFRC Office in Kiev into a Country Cluster Office with a coverage that includes Poland and the Baltic states.

A Regional Operations Manager for the overall Emergency Appeal is in place through a surge deployment and will be secured for the duration of active implementation. It is foreseen that various forms of technical support will be needed in different stages of the operation. While surge is being used, for example in IM, and will be used as needed, especially in reaction to developments in the contexts, existing technical expertise in the Regional Office, the wider region and member National Societies will be used with priority for efficient support. As such, costs provisions for Coordination, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Information Management (IM), Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), Communications and humanitarian diplomacy have been made in the budget. IFRC Secretariat's specific support is expected on procurement and logistics aspects of the operation. Other support will be provided by the IFRC Regional Office and covered from the Emergency Appeal if needed through budget revisions, if/as priorities change from the above. The total HR component of the Emergency Appeal will not exceed 3% of the overall budget.

**Priority Actions:**

A humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy strategy has been drafted as a living document for the Belarus and neighbouring countries population movement. The strategy intends to determine the scope of IFRC support to National Societies in countries directly affected by the situation in their ongoing dialogue with the authorities, guide IFRC and National Societies in their positioning and advocacy efforts towards governments and other actors, such as EU institutions and facilitate the use of common messaging for improved humanitarian outcomes. It covers, among other things, the development and alignment of key messages, support with regional humanitarian diplomacy activities, support to National Societies in developing and implementing humanitarian diplomacy action plans and activities and coordination within the Movement on joint and streamlined efforts.

As a new area of work, IFRC will focus on scenario planning for the benefit of the operation, to support National Societies in their ongoing planning, preparedness and reactions to the evolving context and to inform future revisions of this Operational Strategy.

To ensure learning, lessons learned workshops on both country and regional level are planned as well as a final evaluation as per the IFRC evaluation framework.
## Risk management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Mitigating steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Number of migrants in the border zones increases                      | Med        | Overcrowded sites where migrants are stranded, with no or insufficient access to shelter, food, or medical care | Increased relief distributions, MHPSS, provision of basic humanitarian support  
› COVID-19 personal protection materials distributed (masks, disinfectants).  
Increased capacity strengthening of staff and volunteers involved in the operation to be able to scale-up  
› Humanitarian diplomacy |
| Tensions increase on the border                                       | Low        | Clashes between migrants and the authorities resulting in injuries, renewed global media attention and increased political tension and deterrence actions. Security implications for staff and volunteers. | Monitoring of scenarios and triggers  
Continued advocacy for access to be able to provide FA at the border  
Ongoing humanitarian diplomacy efforts for continued de-escalation and for longer-term solutions  
The IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout the operation. Area specific security risk assessments will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented. All IFRC staff must, and National Societies staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Stay Safe Volunteer Security online training. Contingency, preparedness and business continuity planning, Preparedness stocks |
| Number of migrants decreases rapidly for the winter months           | Med        | National Societies face challenges in maintaining response capacities | De-scaling the operation, and focusing on targeted support on people in other areas of the country |
| Limited or no access to migrants in / close to borders and in detention centres | Low        | No opportunities to advocate for the improvements in the conditions or provide assistance | Humanitarian diplomacy by the National Societies and IFRC membership towards local and state authorities |
| Reputational risk, negative media coverage                            | Med        | Negative impact on trust towards the Red Cross                         | Crisis communication plan with IFRC support  
Key messages developed for IFRC membership  
Training of staff and volunteers in crisis communications and media relations |
| Rapid and increased spread of COVID-19 and/ or COVID-19 variants     | Med/High   | Overwhelmed medical care, no access to treatment, transfers to quarantine risk separating families  
Safety of staff and volunteers | Continuous awareness raising on infection prevention and hygiene practices among target population  
Provision of PPE to staff and volunteers involved in the operation as well as to people assisted  
Assistance to hospital/isolation centres |
Increase in the number of rejected asylum applications  
Increased number of undocumented migrants, prolonged detention  
Humanitarian diplomacy on access to basic services.

Quality and accountability

Federation-wide reporting will be ensured across all three countries, with a harmonised list of indicators. Regular internal reporting will be maintained, while adhering to IFRC standards in external reporting. IFRC PMER and IM teams will engage with all operating National Societies, for consultation and support in establishing/maintaining the necessary systems and practices for regular monitoring. Evaluation and learning will be ensured by conducting a cross-country final evaluation, as well as per country, and if feasible, Federation-wide, cross-country lessons learned workshops. IFRC Regional Office for Europe file holders in various technical areas will be in touch with National Societies counterparts for technical support as needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
<th>Poland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Outcome/ impact</td>
<td>% of supported people who report that the assistance received was relevant for their needs (composite indicator to be defined, based on PDM surveys in multiple sectors in the 3 countries, target: 70%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td># of people receiving emergency shelter and household items / humanitarian kits</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td># of people supported to meet their basic food needs</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Multi-purpose Cash</td>
<td># of people supported with cash and voucher assistance</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td># of people assisted with First Aid</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td># of staff and volunteers trained in MHPSS</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td># of migrants provided with MHPSS</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td># of people whose costs are covered for medical prescriptions and optical aid</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>WASH</td>
<td># of people provided with hygiene items/ hygiene kits</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>PGI</td>
<td># of child-friendly spaces established</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>PGI</td>
<td># of children provided with support (used child-friendly spaces / received toys)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Migration</td>
<td># of humanitarian service points established</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Migration</td>
<td># of migrants assisted with search and rescue</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Migration</td>
<td># of migrants reached by RFL services</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Key indicators with targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
<th>Poland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>800 (estimated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Secretariat Services</td>
<td># of IFRC surge deployments (IFRC indicator)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>NS Strengthening</td>
<td># of volunteers involved in the operation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>NS Strengthening</td>
<td># of volunteers who are insured</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>NS Strengthening</td>
<td># of staff and volunteers provided with MHPSS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contact information

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

#### In the Belarus Red Cross Society
- Secretary General: **Dmitry Shevtsov**, shevtsov@redcross.by +375 17 327 14 17
- Operational coordination: **Igor Trusov**, Head of Disaster Response and Tracing Department, igor.trusov@redcross.by

#### In the Lithuanian Red Cross Society
- Head of Asylum and Migration Programme: **Eglė Samuchovaitė**, egle@redcross.lt +370 682 48 533
- Head of Resource Mobilization: **Monika Alimiene**, Monika.alimiene@redcross.lt, +370 630 01 803
- Head of Communications: **Luka Lesauskaitė**, komunikacija@redcross.lt, +370 687 52 351

#### In the Polish Red Cross Society
- Secretary General: **Dorota Małecka**, dorota.malecka@pck.pl, +48 22 32 61 222
- Operational coordination: **Katarzyna Stepińska**, katarzyna.stepinska@pck.pl, +48 22 32 61 290

#### In the IFRC
- Regional Office for Europe, Head of Disaster, Climate and Crisis Prevention Response and Recovery: **Andreas von Weissenberg**, andreas.weissenberg@ifrc.org
- Head of Country Cluster Delegation for Belarus and Russia: **John Entwistle**, john.ENTWISTLE@ifrc.org
- Geneva, Senior Officer Operations Coordination; **Antoine Belair**, antoine.belair@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and pledges support:
- Regional Office for Europe Head of Partnerships and Resource Development: **Andrei Naricyn**, andrej.naricyn@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:
- Global humanitarian services and supply chain management – **Nikola Jovanovic**, Global Advisor, Nikola.jovanovic@ifrc.org

### Reference
- Click here for:
  - Link to IFRC Emergency landing page
  - Emergency Appeal
  - Information Bulletin