

<p>Emergency appeal n° MGR65001 Emergency Appeal launched: 24/11/2021 Operational Strategy published: 15/12/2021</p>	<p>GLIDE n°: OT-2021-000175-BLR, OT-2021-000076-LTU, OT-2021-000167-POL</p>
<p>Operation update # 1 Date of issue: 17/12/2021</p>	<p>Timeframe covered by this update: From 12/07/2021¹ to 15/12/2021</p>
<p>Operation timeframe: 12 months 24/12/2021 – 30/11/2022</p>	<p>Number of people being assisted: 12,000 in Belarus, Lithuania and Poland</p>
<p>Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 9.5 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal, CHF 10.7 million Federation-wide</p>	<p>DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 1 million in total as DREF loans to three National Societies (Belarus RC; Lithuania RC and Poland RC)</p>

To date, this [Emergency Appeal](#), which seeks CHF 9,500,000, is **7,6 per cent** funded. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the National Societies in the region, with the support of the IFRC, to continue with the preparedness efforts of and provide humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move.



Belarus Red Cross volunteers sit in their vehicle at night following a distribution of food, water, hygiene kits, blankets and clothing to groups of people trying to leave Belarus who became trapped and set up makeshift camps on the border with Poland in November 2021. Photo: Belarus Red Cross

¹ Start of the first DREF operation in Lithuania; DREF operations for Poland and Belarus were launched on 16 November 2021. Indicator figures for Lithuania cover the period since 12 July.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

The migration situation related to Belarus and neighbouring countries has started in May 2021 with an increasing number of migrants irregularly entering Lithuania from Belarus. Later in August 2021, there was an increase of irregular migrants in Latvia and Poland. Since then, the migration crisis 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 has de-escalated in December. 14 migrants are reported to have died in the terrain by the border over the past months, whether due to freezing temperatures or exhaustion or both.

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 at Bruzgi border crossing. While the logistics centre does not represent a long-term solution, it at least provides an immediate protection from the increasingly cold weather. A second group of migrants in Belarus, around 5,000 people according to the authorities, are assumed to be spread across urban centres in Belarus, but their numbers, whereabouts, needs and intentions are not well-understood or verified. Some approach Belarus Red Cross branches and request assistance. Also, migrants are being accommodated in centres in both Lithuania and Poland. In Lithuania, 3,700 people are held in five centres, pending asylum application processes. People continued to enter Lithuania during the previous weeks, bringing the total number of arrivals to over 4,300, with hundreds of attempts to cross the border every day, according to authorities.

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 (and negotiates an access to other ones) which will give a better insight into the needs and the impact there.

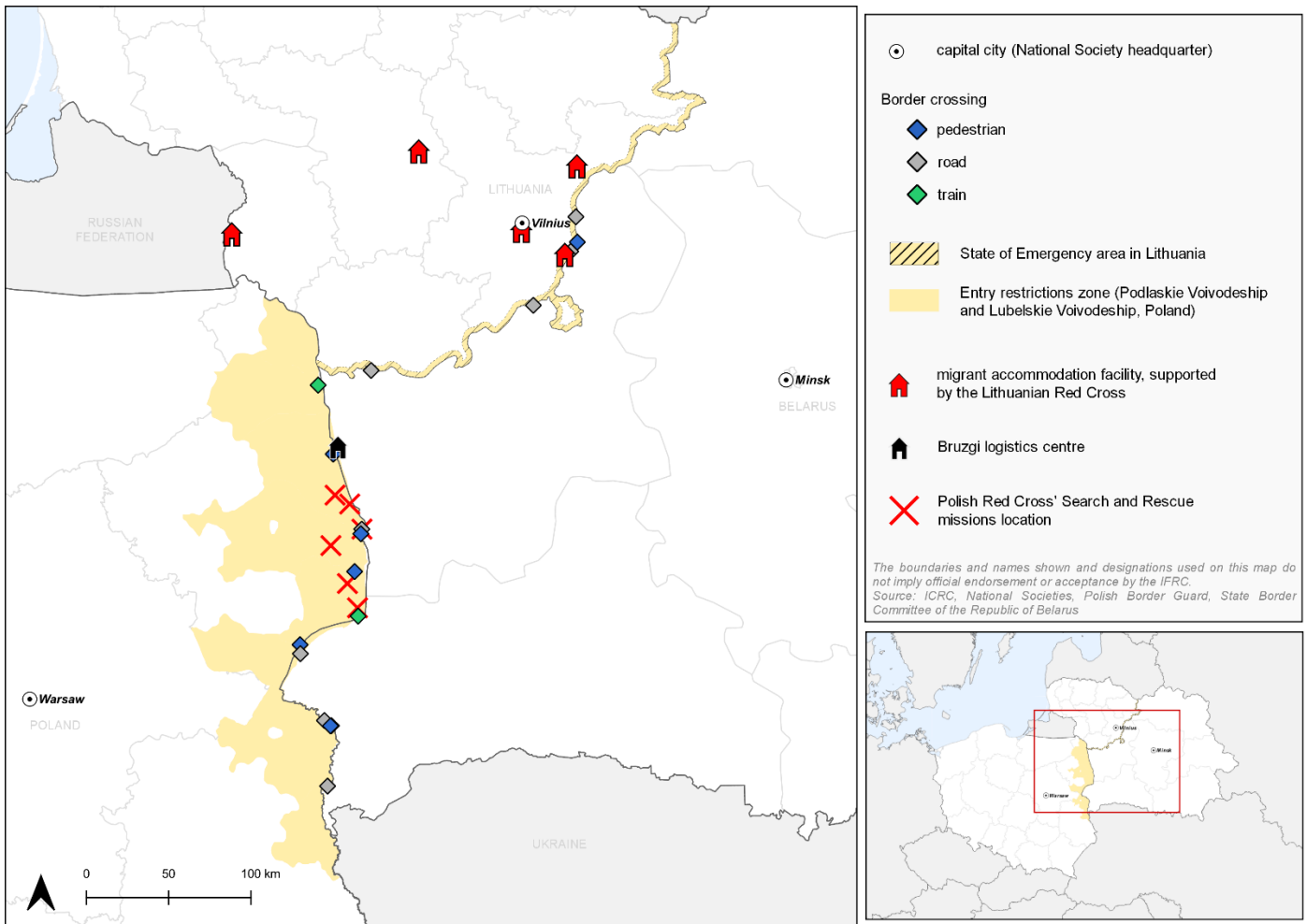
Despite the crisis has been ongoing since the summer of 2021, the humanitarian conditions for most of the migrants caught up in the situation remains severe.

In Belarus, there is a necessity to provide migrants with the assistance to cover their basic needs 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 coupled with the harsh winter conditions. The number of people at the logistics centre has decreased to estimated 800. Whilst the destination of the people that have left cannot be verified, it is assumed that some managed to cross the border to the EU, whilst others have repatriated through Belarus/Iraq Government organised flights or through the IOM Voluntary Repatriation Programme (verifiable, 8 persons from Logs Centre so far), while some have likely moved to urban centres.

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. Basic food is by now mostly covered in the centres, but other needs persist, identified through continuous monitoring of conditions by the National Society.

In Poland, Polish Red Cross has only recently been granted restricted access to detention centres at the border. It's not yet 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, uncertainty and lack of information.



Summary of response

Overview of the Host National Societies and ongoing response

Belarus

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 works closely with government agencies and international organisations to coordinate efforts and further operational assistance. The BRC has access to the migrants at the border and acts as a leading organisation in providing humanitarian assistance to the migrants in Belarus. The BRC has been in contact with the State Border Committee since August 2021, providing first occasional assistance to migrants with relief items (food parcels, hygiene items, clothing, blankets, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and referral to health services (in the border area and logistic centre). After the escalation at the border, the BRC assisted up to 2,000 migrants with relief items and restoring family links. After the group of migrants were relocated from the border crossing to a logistics centre, BRC continued to assist people in the new location. BRC Branches in urban areas are regularly approached by migrants requesting assistance. Two regional branches, the HQ, 30 staff and 180 volunteers are involved in the response. A [DREF Operation](#) was launched on 16 November 2021.

The local authorities in Grodno established an emergency response group to provide immediate assistance to migrants at the border. The state medical units provide immediate medical aid to the migrants. Access to emergency health care is expected to improve due to two medics being based at the logistics centre in addition to the ambulances for referrals to Grodno hospital. The BRC has activated a crisis-room for post-natal care for new-borns and their mothers. With most migrants in the border region concentrated at the logistics centre, the BRC is focusing the delivery of assistance (food, NFI, RFL) at the location.

Lithuania

The Lithuanian Red Cross (LRC) was established in 1919 and is present country-wide with 14 branches. 26 staff members and 324 volunteers are involved in the migration response. The 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, LRCS 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 Border Guard Services and UNHCR, the LRCS 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 the 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, the LRC signed an agreement with the State Border Guard Service to expand its activities and deliver protection aid and monitoring assistance to all migrants in detention, including at border crossing points.

Since early summer 2021, the LRC has been providing humanitarian assistance in reception centres, border control and border crossing points to an increasing number of arriving migrants. 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. [A DREF operation](#) was launched on 12 July and extended in October 2021, and escalated into the Emergency Appeal on 24 November. Over 4,000 people have been assisted to date with clothing, hygiene, and food parcels, psychological first aid, legal advice, translation, RFL assistance and provision of medication. In early November, the LRC prepared 1,500 humanitarian packages, which were packed with other NGOs and handed over to Border Guard Officers to be distributed to people on the Lithuanian-Belarusian border. Out of this stock, 673 relief packages have already been handed out. At the moment, most people are relocated to 5 reception centres, where LRC provides humanitarian aid, legal and psychosocial support. The LRC also gathers donations from businesses and the public, including in-kind assistance of clothes, food, hygiene items, toys, household items and provides in-cash assistance for specific migrants' 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.



A Red Cross volunteer is playing with children at the reception centre in Pabrade. Photo: Lithuanian Red Cross.

Poland

The Polish Red Cross (PRC) was established in 1919 and is present country wide. The PRC works in the areas of dissemination of international humanitarian law, restoring family links and tracing assistance, 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. The PRC utilises 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 2021 by providing clothes, food and hygiene items, first aid provision and referral to health services, restoring family links assistance as well as public communication. It has received significant in-kind donations from its partners, including from within the Movement and thus the planned Emergency Appeal distributions focus on the gaps only. With the donations, the 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 centres (open and closed). So far, the PRC has provided in-kind assistance worth PLN 610,440 (appr. 137,600 CHF) and fund-raised PLN126,000 (appr. 28,000 CHF). The PRC has 100 volunteers with an additional 100 joining, 20 staff members, 2 branches and the HQ involved in the operation. A [DREF Operation](#) was launched on 16 November 2021. 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. Moreover, the PRC staff and volunteers are providing Restoring Family Links assistance in detention centres.

For a summary on other state and non-state actor's response, please refer to the [Operational Strategy](#).

Needs analysis

Needs analysis

The total number of people caught up in this crisis is estimated to be at least 20,000. The Emergency Appeal aimed to assist an initial 12,000 people, with a special focus on vulnerable and at-risk individuals, including unaccompanied minors and single women with children. The needs are informed by an ongoing monitoring and activities in the centres where migrants are being held. For people at 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. 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 responding to the immediate and basic needs of migrants in the logistics centre. In regard to the suitability of the centre for longer-term accommodation, there are several concerns about its infrastructure and physical space, for example privacy. A basic needs assessment, with input from several UN agencies, was conducted at the border in late November 2021, to get a more detailed picture of needs, risks and vulnerabilities. The main findings highlight the need for food (cereal, rice, meat, etc.) and warm clothes, underwear and hygiene items and better access to sanitary facilities and personal hygiene, especially for women. Many migrants had lost or damaged 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. 20% of respondents reported that they had lost connection with their relatives either due to being separated at the border crossing, due to arrest or hospitalisation of their relatives. A second, more detailed assessment will be completed in the 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 assisted with food parcels, hygiene kits, personal protection equipment, warm clothes and footwear, COVID-19-related information, psychosocial support and restoring family links assistance. The option of assisting

this group of migrants with cash and voucher assistance is being looked into (i.e. to cover daily needs and accommodation).

Lithuania

The LRC, while actively providing humanitarian aid to all migrants in reception centres, does not have direct access to the border at this point, and thereby has no primary data on the needs. However, through cooperation with the authorities, relief items are handed over and thus delivered indirectly, and information on the developing situation and needs in the border area is regularly shared by the Border guard.

It is officially stated by the Ministry of Interior, that more than 7,000 people were pushed-back in last 3 months from the border of Lithuania. The results of a rapid assessment mission led by WHO/Europe with support from the LRC, International Organization for Migration (OIM) 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).

The LRC continues to advocate for gaining direct access to the border zone. 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 assistance 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 autumn 2022. During that period, humanitarian assistance will need to continue, potentially changing later on, if migrants are moved to open centres or are being integrated into communities.

Poland

The PRC, like other humanitarian actors, do not have full access to the border zone, thus the humanitarian situation of migrants in the immediate border area remains unclear with concerns over lacking access to basic services and survival in harsh winter conditions. The PRC was just recently given a restricted access to some centres in the closed border zone, which covers eight counties on the 400 km long Polish-Belorussian border and the territory of approximately 3 km inwards into Poland. This will allow to receive detailed information on the needs of migrants and assess how the PRC could meet those needs. The PRC has also just scaled-up search and rescue missions in the terrain outside the border zone; these missions will increase the understanding of the needs of people found in the terrain or calling for help.



Polish Red Cross Search and Rescue (SAR) team near the border. (Photo: Polish Red Cross)

Operation Risks Assessment

For a detailed analysis, please refer to the [Operational Strategy](#). Since the launch of the Strategy, no changes in the operational context occurred that would significantly affect the anticipated risks. On 16 December 2021, the Lithuanian Red Cross has attended a meeting with border authorities to start a joint scenario-planning exercise, in order to prepare for multiple possible developments in a coordinated manner. Multiple scenarios are explored and planned for on the regional level.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

No changes in the recently published strategy, beyond the below summaries, please refer to the [Operational Strategy](#) for details.

Belarus

The BRC aims to provide assistance to a total of approximately 5,000 migrants², some of whom are at the border with EU countries, 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.


Lithuania

In Lithuania, the operation targets up to 4,000 migrants at the Lithuanian border who are staying in the terrain along the Lithuanian-Belarusian border, pending regular access by the authorities (this number is an estimation over the period of operation). Another targeted group are around 4,000 migrants in five reception 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.

Poland

In Poland, the operation aims to assist up to 300 people in need 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. Moreover, 4,000 people are being assisted 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 the access being granted to these facilities).

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

 Shelter, Housing and Settlements		Number of people targeted:		Belarus	Lithuania	Poland
				5,000	4,000	TBD
Objective:	<i>The safety and well-being of people affected are strengthened through shelter solutions</i>					
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
	# of people receiving emergency shelter and household items / humanitarian kits					
	2,280	2,000	2,501	4,000	46	TBD

² In mid-November, the authorities in Belarus noted that an estimated 7000 migrants were on the territory of Belarus. However, since then, over 2000 migrants have left Belarus on flights arranged by governments and IOM, leaving an estimated 5000 in Belarus currently, although that number cannot be verified.

Belarus:


The BRC has been in contact with the State Border Committee since August 2021, providing at first occasional assistance to migrants with relief items (food parcels, hygiene items, clothing, blankets, PPE). After the escalation at the border, the BRC assisted up to 2,000 migrants with relief items, including clothing and blankets. The BRC continued to provide essential items (mattresses, sleeping bags, blankets, towels, warm shoes and clothing, etc.) to the entire population of the logistics centre, where people have been moved to. The distributions were targeted and tailored to the needs.

Lithuania:

Over 2,500 people have been assisted to date with clothing items, including with items procured with the support of the DREF during November 2021. In preparation for the harsh winter conditions, needs for clothing in the centre have been partially covered through donations collected by the LRC, complemented by shoes procured on the market. The 673 packages handed over so far to the Border Guard, for distribution to migrants in the border emergency zone, has also included clothing items.

Poland:

Thanks to significant in-kind donations, the PRC assisted 46 refugees in detention centres with relief packages (food parcels, hygiene items, clothing, blankets, PPE). Currently, the PRC is in the process of ordering and completing more clothing packages.

 Livelihoods		Number of people targeted:		Belarus	Lithuania	Poland
				5,000	-	300
Objective:	<i>The basic needs of affected people are covered through food security assistance</i>					
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
	# of people assisted to meet their basic food needs					
	2,280	5,000	3,045	-	46	300

Belarus:

The BRC has on a daily basis distributed food parcels and hot meals in the border area as well as in the logistics centre, after people have been relocated. The nutritional needs for the people at the logistics centre were fully covered with a pre-packaged breakfast/dinner, and a hot-meal for lunch. The composition of the meals continues to be adjusted, guided by nutritional value, preferences of the recipients and availability in the local market.

Lithuania:

The Lithuanian Red Cross has been distributing food parcels in the five centres since the summer, reaching 3,045 people as of the end of November, however, on the long term, the focus of the operation is shifting towards specialized needs and assistance. Basic food needs by now are generally covered in these centres by other actors, thus it is not part of the longer term strategy to distribute food in these locations. The LRC has started instead to focus on assisting people in the centres with specialized food needs, e.g. allergies, utilising the funding received from the Irish Red Cross. Food parcels are also handed over to the Border Guard for distribution in the border zone. At a later stage, in case direct access is granted to the National Society, direct food distribution in the border area may be scaled up again.

Poland:

(As mentioned in Shelter, Housing and Settlement), 46 refugees in detention centres have received relief packages, which included food parcels, from the PRC. Currently, the PRC is in the process of procuring additional food parcels for migrants.



Multi-purpose Cash

Number of people targeted:

Belarus

150

Lithuania

100

Poland

-

Objective:

Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security is provided to the most affected communities

Key indicators

Belarus

Lithuania

Poland

Actual

Target

Actual

Target

Actual

Target

of people assisted with cash and voucher assistance

0

150

28

100

-

-

Belarus:

Cash and voucher support related activities have not yet started, plans are to assess the feasibility of cash or voucher programming, and if confirmed, provide vouchers for food and household items and to cover urgent medical needs for migrants who stay in urban areas.

Lithuania:

For people who are granted asylum, basic needs arise related to transportation, food and medical supplies, as well as ensuring their integration. Through the emergency appeal, it is planned that 100 people will be assisted with cash and vouchers for covering transportation, food, accommodation and other needs. To date, 28 people have already been assisted through a fundraising campaign with vouchers for food and accommodation and public transport passes. LRC has also started to work on employability, meeting with potential employers to discuss possibilities for migrants seeking employment.



Health & Care

Number of people targeted:

Belarus

5,000

Lithuania

3,000

Poland

300

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*

Key indicators

Belarus

Lithuania

Poland

Actual

Target

Actual

Target

Actual

Target

of people assisted with First Aid

203

TBD

N/A, indirect assistance

-

20

300

of staff and volunteers trained in MHPSS

50

50

211

500

In progress

75

of migrants provided with MHPSS

800

TBD

121

TBD

0

300

of people whose costs are covered for medical prescriptions and optical aid

-

-

120

4,000

-

-

Belarus:

The BRC has been in contact with the State Border Committee since August 2021, providing at first occasional assistance to migrants with referral to health services (in the border area and logistic centre). The BRC has been providing first aid to treat injuries, and providing PPE. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) has been provided to approximately 800 people.

Lithuania:


Lithuania RC has been continuously assisting people in reception centres since August, covering the costs of medicine for those who need it, to make sure people have access to the medication they need for chronic as well as acute health issues. MHPSS activities have started in October, and are maintained continuously. The

National Society has also procured and distributed 200 First Aid kits to officers in camps, who utilised them according to the needs. First aid kit stocks have been replenished for repeated distributions as needs arise. Medical testing equipment has been procured with the support of German Red Cross, to be used in the 5 main centres. The equipment includes: electrocardiograph, urinalysis analyser, haematological (blood) analyser and, c-reactive protein (CRP) analyser.

Poland:

Since early October 2021, the PRC provided first aid to 20 persons in the field and detention centres, as well as provided migrants with referrals to health services.

Preparations for the MHPSS training to be held for staff and volunteers are in progress, the tender has started for the necessary procurement related to the training.

 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Number of people targeted:		Belarus	Lithuania	Poland	
				5,000	4,000	4,000
Objective:	<i>Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne diseases, and diseases related to hygiene conditions</i>					
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
	# of people provided with hygiene items/ hygiene kits					
	2,280	5,000	2,890	4,000	46	4,000

Belarus:


Among other items, Belarus Red Cross has distributed hygiene items in the border area, as well as the logistics centre, and plans to implement hygiene promotion as well as COVID-19 awareness raising activities jointly with the vaccination activities of the authorities to reduce the risk of infection. The distributed hygiene items are covering the full needs of the people for the distribution cycle.

Lithuania:

Over 2,890 people have been assisted to date with hygiene items in the reception centres, and relief items handed over to border guards include essential hygiene items as well. In partnership with WHO, LRC staff and volunteers organise info sessions on COVID-19 prevention and immunisation in the main 5 reception centres regularly.

Poland:

Since October 2021, 46 persons in detention centres were assisted with hygiene kits as part of immediate relief. Additional hygiene kits are being procured.

 Protection, Gender and Inclusion	Number of people targeted:		Belarus	Lithuania	Poland	
				1,000	1,000	1,800
Objective:	<i>Vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups are assisted and empowered</i>					
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
	# of child-friendly spaces established					
	0	1	10	10	-	3
	# of children provided with assistance (used child-friendly spaces / received toys)					
0	TBD	500 children under 10 yrs have access	TBD	13	TBD	

Belarus:

While providing assistance in the logistics centre, BRC has been assessing the situation and needs of people with disabilities. On the longer term, in case migrants will remain in a centre for longer periods of time, child-friendly spaces and community-based child protection activities are planned to be established, however, so far the situation, and location of migrants remains fluid. Planning, however, is at an advanced stage and services should be delivered within a short time.


Lithuania:

As of the end of November 2021, Lithuanian Red Cross has established two child-friendly spaces in all 5 main reception centres, and is providing opportunities for children to attend continuously. Since September all children have been attending schools, children attend language courses every day, and can attend child friendly spaces during non-school hours. Activities include drawing, playing, singing and other activities. 'Social clubs' for children and families have been created and events and workshops are organised (e.g. for skill development, and social events). Tools for skill development, but also for household activities (i.e. cooking, and hairdressing) is provided by LRC.

Further child protection functions are planned to be implemented to broaden the scope of assistance that child friendly spaces provide. The Danish Red Cross is providing technical support. LRC is also monitoring the needs for people with disabilities.

Poland:

As of mid-December, 13 children were provided with toys in detention centres (base on the assessment done with authorities).

 Migration	Number of people targeted:		Belarus	Lithuania	Poland	
			1,000	2,000	600	
Objective:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of assistance > Specialised interventions for the protection of rights of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees > National Societies are supported to provide life-saving and tracing/RFL assistance to migrants 					
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
	# of humanitarian service points established					
	8	1	Pending direct access to border area	1	6	6 distr. points
	# of migrants assisted with search and rescue					
	-	-	-	-	N/A	300
# of migrants reached by RFL assistance						
50	1,000	500	2,000	181	800	

Belarus:

The BRC assisted at least 2,280 people through 8 service points. These were set-up at the logistics centre, at the border and wherever people aggregated. Support to BRCS RFL service is provided through the longstanding RFL programming assistance from ICRC.

Lithuania:

To facilitate access to charging stations and to help people charge phones, connect with family and friends and access information, 3 Wi-Fi modems have been installed in Medininkai Board Guards' School reception centre and 1 Wi-Fi modem in the Naujininkai reception centre. Through these modems, 229 people have been provided access to the internet.

LRC teams continuously monitor the conditions in reception and detention centres and regularly assesses migrants' needs. To date, the LRC has employed 4 interpreters, to provide interpretation services and make sure that the needs of migrants can be assessed.

Poland:

The PRC provided 181 migrants with restoring family links (RFL) assistance. The PRC also provided RFL trainings for local authorities. At the moment, materials on RFLs are being prepared.

Moreover, three shifts of Search and Rescue (SAR) teams provided medical assistance / first aid to migrants in the terrain and in detention centres. SAR shifts take place over the weekend, with 1 SAR team in action or on standby. The PRC is preparing further trainings on SAR.

Regional activities:

IFRC has provided support to the National Societies on good practices and Movement principles related to assisting and protecting migrants and displaced people.

On 11 December, IFRC Regional Office jointly with the ICRC organised a 1-day online training called PRC preparedness for migration response. Main objectives of the training were to inform Polish Red Cross' response planning through use of templates, discussions and group work and to exchange with Balkan National Societies on migration response focusing on Mobile team concept and successes and challenges in its implementation. The Search and Rescue volunteers, tracing volunteers and Polish Red Cross staff (20 participants) learnt about contingency planning process and received guidance for minimum of protection actions, RFL and dialogue with the authorities. The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Red Cross of Republic North Macedonia shared their lessons learnt and recommendations on mobile team concept based on their experiences in migration context.

Enabling approaches



National Society Strengthening

Objective:	<i>National Societies have strengthened capacities, systems and procedures, that enable to prepare for and respond to the crisis</i>					
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
	# of volunteers involved in the operation					
	180	200	324	1,000	60	200
	# of volunteers who are insured					
	100%	200	100%	1,000	100%	200
	# of staff and volunteers provided with MHPSS					
	N/A	250	79	TBD	-	TBD

Belarus:

Around 180 volunteers are involved in the response, from two regional branches. Weekly rotations of disaster response teams allowed the pre-trained volunteers to gain valuable operational exposure and experience. Follow-up lesson learned workshops are planned once the situation allows. Additional logistics capacity, made available by the IFRC Country Cluster Office in Moscow helped to strengthen systems and procedures at HQ level.

Lithuania:

To ensure that all volunteers have access to psychosocial support to deal with the stress and potential psychological burden of providing humanitarian aid to people for a prolonged period of time, 5 PSS group

sessions have been organized for volunteers since the beginning of the operation. The total number of volunteers who have been involved in the operation at one point is 324, with currently 150 being active. An insurance framework agreement ensures that all volunteers in the field are covered at all times.

Poland:

Currently 60 active PRC volunteers are involved into response to the crisis, 20 of whom took part in training with National Society, IFRC and ICRC experts (see Migration section above).

For IFRC efforts in strengthening National Societies, please see the Secretariat services section below.



Community Engagement and Accountability

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.

Belarus

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. In other parts of the country the migrants are few and scattered. The question of community engagement has not arisen yet.

Lithuania

The Lithuanian Red Cross' work with host communities consist of positive reporting on migrants in local newspapers, including the reasons why people were forced to leave their homeland and what professional skills they have, how they spend their days in reception centres and how they could be integrated into the society and how the local communities can best assist the integration. LRC aims to attract potentials employers' attention so that people who receive asylum are able to find jobs easier and support themselves as well as become a part of local community. As mentioned above, LRC teams continuously monitor the centres where migrants are located, repeatedly gathering information on the situation and needs of migrants. A regular cycle of post-distribution monitoring has been maintained since the beginning of the operation, and feedback and findings are being used to inform and adjust the LRC's own response, but feedback is also relayed towards authorities, in case follow-up action and adjustments are requested from the centre management's side.

Poland

The PRC closely monitors the situation. Needs assessment, conducted with authorities , shows that the aid provided so far to migrants (relief items, RFL and medical assistance) was positively received and assessed by the beneficiaries, who expressed their expectations for more assistance, especially in the area of RFL.

Regional activities: The IFRC provides support to the National Societies with feedback collection – needs assessments, post-distribution monitoring and satisfaction surveys. A training for National Societies on Community Engagement and Accountability is budgeted for in the funding requirements.



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.

Belarus

In the case of Belarus, the Belarus Red Cross (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 and assistance by several UN agencies in Belarus is largely being provided through and delivered by the BRC, creating expectations for a strong coordination role. Discussions are taking place to formalise the coordination role in an agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Border Committee. IFRC Belarus Office and the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for the Russian Federation and Belarus have supported the BRC in strengthening its auxiliary role.

Practically, assistance by several UN agencies in Belarus is largely being provided through and delivered by the BRC, also creating expectations on a strong coordination role.

Lithuania

LRC, together with other NGOs involved in the operation, had reached an agreement with the Lithuanian State that allowed NGOs to assist people caught at the border between Lithuania and Belarus. At the current stage, this solution enables the Red Cross to hand over hygiene, clothing and food kits to border guards who then distribute the items to people staying in the terrain along the Lithuanian – Belarussian border.

Since the beginning of the operation, the Lithuanian Red Cross has carried out

Poland

In Poland, the Polish Red Cross has established a fruitful cooperation with the Polish Border Guards and was granted an access to six detention centres near the border to better understand the needs and potential interventions that could require more regular access. The Polish Red Cross has already for some time been one of the key stakeholders providing assistance to migrants in centres and engaging the authorities in ongoing dialogue about conditions and solutions in the centres. 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.

Regional activities

IFRC Regional Office for Europe (Regional Office) and IFRC Belarus Office have continued to meet with a wide variety of UN and other humanitarian agencies to discuss the humanitarian situation in the affected countries/in Belarus and potential collaborations. IFRC Regional Office has also participated to all (five) coordination meetings organised by DG ECHO for the key international organisations.

The Regional Office organised a Belarus and Neighbouring Countries Emergency Appeal Partners’ Call on 25 November 2021 gathering 17 National Societies to get an update of the situation, priority actions and presentation of the Emergency Appeal.

The Regional Office is engaged in partners’ coordination and resource mobilization activities, including technical support to National Societies in domestic voluntary income generation and capacity building. A dedicated Movement-wide coordination and a Permanent Geneva Missions briefing calls took place on 24 November and 2 December respectively with the aim to galvanize additional support for the newly launched Emergency Appeal. Notably, the Permanent Mission briefing, focusing on traditional IFRC donors, attracted representatives from 22 Nation States, indicating a pronounced interest in the developing context.

The Regional Office has been profiling the work of National Societies in Belarus, Poland and Lithuania since the start of the migration crisis. A press release and a joint statement with ICRC has been published in November, and 13 interviews were organised for IFRC spokespeople with media, including Euronews and TRT World. Key

messages and photos have been shared each week in the Newswire, as well as several posts on IFRC Europe social media channels.



Secretariat Services

Objective

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

The Belarus Red Cross is supported through the IFRC Office in Belarus and Russia while for Poland and Lithuania, the Regional Office in Budapest functions as the Country Office. This will change in 2022 with the transition of the IFRC Office in Kyiv into a Country Cluster Office with a coverage that includes Poland and the Baltic states.

IFRC Regional Office deployed Operations Manager and CEA Delegate to Lithuania in August-September 2021. In October, an IFRC Delegate was deployed to Poland to support on communications and humanitarian diplomacy for one month. Rapid response surge deployments include Regional Operations Manager (from late November onwards), Operations Manager for Belarus, Regional Information Management Coordinator and Humanitarian Information Analysis Officer for scenario planning (from early December onwards). In October, an IFRC Delegate was deployed to Poland to support on communications and humanitarian diplomacy for one month.

A Regional Operations Manager for the overall Emergency Appeal 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. In addition to surge capacities, existing technical expertise in the Regional Office, the wider region and member National Societies will continue to be used as needed.

A Humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy strategy has been drafted as a living document for the Belarus and neighbouring countries population movement. The strategy determines the scope of IFRC support to National Societies in countries directly affected by the situation in their ongoing dialogue with the authorities, guides IFRC and National Societies in their positioning and advocacy efforts towards governments and other actors, such as EU institutions and facilitates the use of common messaging for improved humanitarian outcomes. IFRC Regional Office has supported National Societies in providing insurance for the volunteers.

An Information Management Coordinator for the operation is in place since mid-December and has started to support the National Societies in data collection, analysis, visualisation, producing basic maps, conducting needs assessments, process design, etc. as needed. A Humanitarian Information Analysis Officer for scenario planning has started in mid-December with a focus on the creation of future scenarios regarding the migrant situation in Belarus and neighboring countries. The scenarios will inform the adjustments to the operational strategy and facilitate preparedness for these scenarios.

The National Societies have received technical support from Regional Office in several areas, such as disaster and crisis management, partnerships and resource development, communications, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, migration, humanitarian diplomacy, cash and voucher assistance and logistics and procurement.

Impact indicator:	% of assisted people who report that the assistance received was relevant for their needs (composite indicator, based on PDM surveys in multiple sectors in the 3 countries, target: 70%)		
	Belarus	Lithuania	Poland
	<i>PDM data not yet available</i>	<i>Average of 52% satisfaction responses across all sectors</i>	<i>PDM data not yet available</i>

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Reference

Click here for:

- [Link to IFRC Emergency landing page](#)
- [Emergency Appeal](#) (24 Nov 2021)
- [Operational Strategy](#) (15 Dec 2021)
- [Information Bulletin](#) (11 Nov 2021)
- DREF Operations: [Lithuania](#) (12 Jul 2021), [Belarus](#), [Poland](#) (both 16 Nov 2021)
- [DREF Update for Lithuania](#) (13 Oct 2021)

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world