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Operation Update Report

Cyprus: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRCY002	GLIDE n° OT-2021-000063-CYP
Operation update n° 2 Date of Issue: 28 January 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: 10 June – 31 December 2021
Operation start date: 10 June 2021	Operation timeframe: 6 months and 2 weeks; end date: 14 January 2022 (Extended by 14 days via this update)
Funding requirements: CHF 246,582	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 246,582
N° of people being assisted: 5,150	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners currently actively involved in the operation: IFRC, ICRC (RFL)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Cyprus Ministry of Interior, Cyprus Immigration Police, Cyprus Asylum Service, CODECA, UNCHR, Cyprus Refugee Council (CRC), FRONTEX, EASO, Cyprus Government Welfare Service	

Summary of major revisions made to the emergency plan of action:

A request was made to extend the operation until 14 January 2022. The extension allows to complete the distribution of the winter clothing purchased by procurement in December 2021. The need for extension occurred due to the continuous COVID-19 outbreaks inside the Reception Centre and the Christmas holidays that followed.

According to the CRCS, calculations for the distribution of clothes was feasible until the end of the project. However, on 21 December, there was a major COVID-19 outbreak with 86 migrants testing positive inside the Centre, which led once again to the closure of the Centre for outside actors for two days. The CRCS returned as soon as there was a green light to enter from the Asylum Service, but five days later there was another outbreak.

It is important to note that the staff of the HQ, Youth and volunteers helped with the distribution on 24 and 31 of December even though it was holiday. The only days the distribution was paused was during the two weekends of 25-26 December 2021 and 1-2 January 2022.

The distributions were eventually finalized for all activities, including the distribution of winter clothing on 14 January 2022.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Since the last reporting period, there has been a tremendous increase in the arrivals of migrants (see *Table 1.* below). Arrivals continued by land and there were also sea arrivals. The below chart confirms the predictions expressed in the previous report (July 2021), according to which the arrivals during summer months are low, followed by a sudden increase during fall.

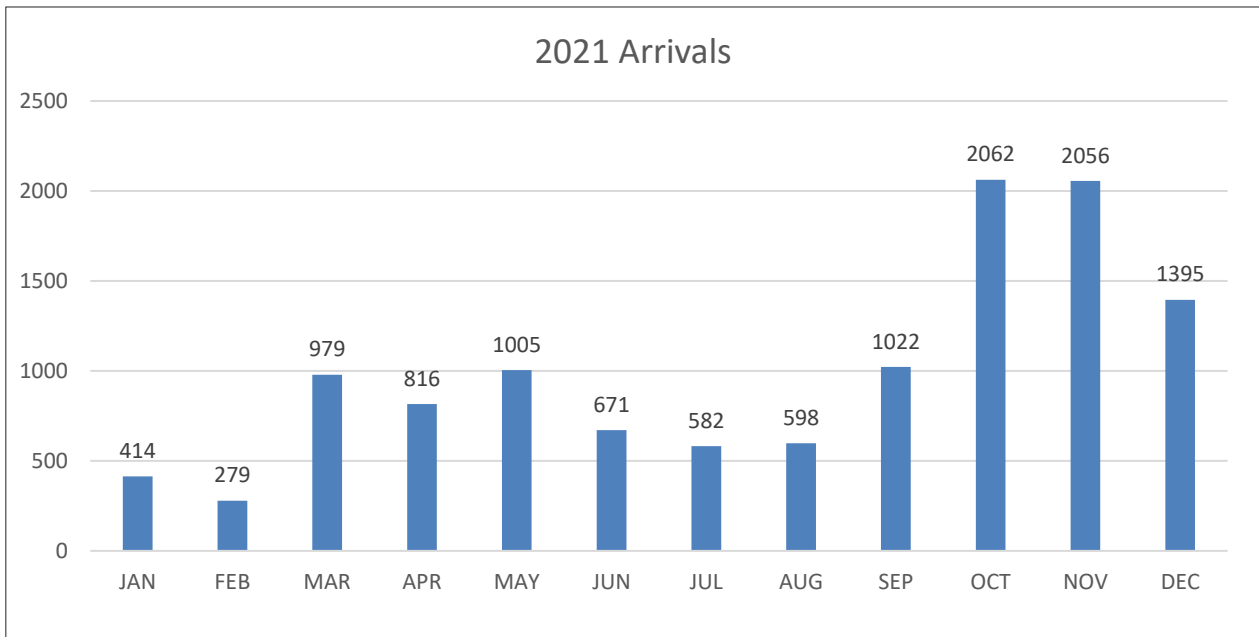
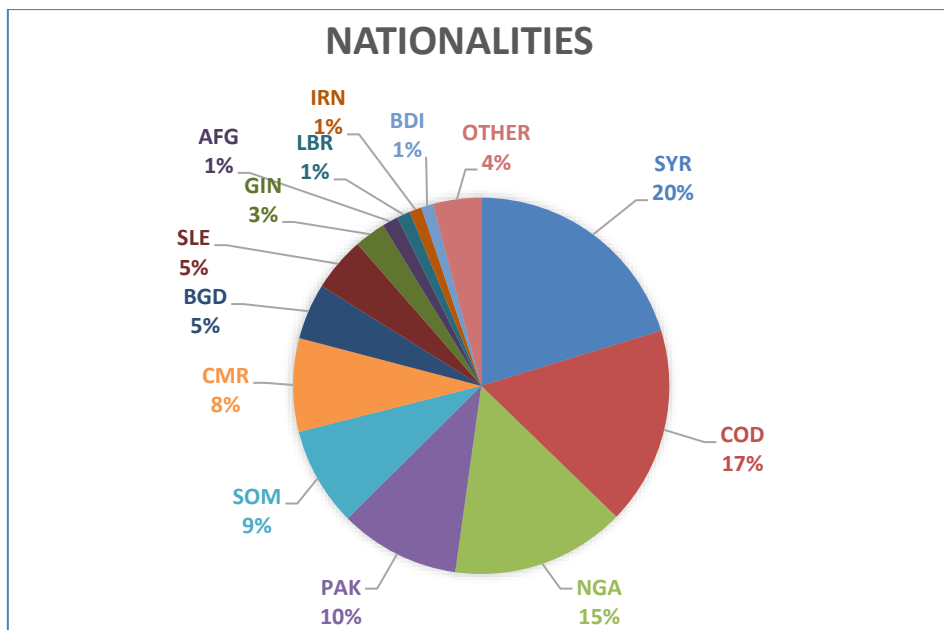


Table 1. Number of arrivals of migrants in 2021.

According to the below pie chart, most of the migrants arriving in Cyprus are Syrians, followed by a large number of migrants of African origin. The majority of Syrians arriving in Cyprus continue to do so by sea, thus the increase in sea arrivals (37 boats total, out of which the 22 boats arrived after August 2021).



Nationalities of Arrived Migrants in 2021.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the CRCS's operations. The CRCS regained access for the distribution of items inside the First Reception Centre of Pournara on 9 December 2021. Until that day the CRCS Migration staff delivered all aid at the gate of the Centre. Then, in collaboration with the reception officers of the Centre, the aid was distributed to the migrants.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The CRCS was able to address the needs of more migrants than initially predicted in terms of hygiene items. However, the distribution of summer clothes was not completed (for details see below “Operational Strategy”). The two Social Workers, helped by the Warehouse Officer, the Migration Officer and other members of the CRCS staff and volunteers, were able to distribute 7,851 hygiene kits and 3,695 sets of clothes (summer and winter ones) to migrants.

The two requests for extension

The CRCS requested an extension of the operations on 27 September 2021. The request concerned only the duration and not additional funds, since there was a substantial remaining amount that could be used to buy more humanitarian aid items for the newly arriving migrants.

The request relied on the below reasons:

1. To deliver on time the purchased clothing and footwear.
2. To make additional purchases so as to cover the needs for migrants staying longer inside Pournara, as well as for newly arriving migrants.
3. To cover the lost time for the employment of the social worker and stock officer (staff employed by the project's budget).

CRCS's request was accepted by the IFRC on 19 October 2021, thus the operations were extended until 31 December 2021.

Even though the CRCS was granted a two-month extension for the Project (Project ending on 31 December 2021, instead of 31 October 2021), it was not possible to complete the distribution of purchased summer clothing for 2,352 migrants (see below “Operational Strategy”).

Considering that all activities under the project were completed until December 2021, except the distribution of clothing, as mentioned above, the IFRC asked the CRCS to submit a DREF Update (current document).

In total, the CRCS:

- Distributed 7,851 hygiene kits.
- Transferred 1,829 sets of summer clothes and footwear, which were later distributed by the Reception Officers of the Centre.
- Distributed 222 sets of summer clothes and footwear.
- Distributed 1,644 sets of winter clothes.
- Covered the special needs in hygiene items and clothing for 50 mothers and their newborn children.
- Distributed 200 toys to children.
- Distributed 250 toys to and babies.
- Covered the costs for medicines and optical aids for 469 migrants.
- Covered the costs for optical aids for 23 migrants.
- Employed a Warehouse & Stocktaking Officer (October – December 2021).
- Employed two social workers (the second social worker worked between September – December 2021).

Programming for the future

Based on the prolonged needs, the CRCS submitted a long-term Plan of Action to the RoE Office in Budapest in January 2022. The plan of action considered the needs for support for the year 2022 under the umbrella of the IFRC multi-year programme Humanitarian Assistance and Protection for People on the Move, also known as the Case for Support.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC colleagues helped the CRCS with the current operation and the future Plan of Action. Specifically, thanks to the prompt actions of the Head of DCC and of the Project Officer, following a request from the CRCS staff involved in the management of the project, the CRCS received approval to buy more items for the migrants in need.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The main other actors closely collaborating with CRCS in the current response are:

1. *Ministry of Interior*: It oversees the infrastructure of both centres and the Ministry is responsible for implementing all migration/asylum-related policies in Cyprus. The collaboration between the Ministry of Interior and the CRCS was strengthened with the AMIF project, which commenced at Kofinou Reception and Accommodation Centre in 2016.
2. *Immigration Police*: is a special police unit that is responsible for the verification of the identity of migrants; it performs security checks and registers migrants' data. It is also responsible for transportation of migrants under reception procedures and for the returning procedures of rejected applicants.
3. *Civil Defence (Coordination Centre)*: communicates the messages about the new migrant arrivals to relevant actors (CRCS included).
4. *Asylum Service*: Governmental service under the Ministry of Interior. It is responsible for examining, processing and accepting or rejecting asylum applications. It is also responsible for the overall supervision of both centres, as well as communicating the migrants' data to appropriate partners, upon request.
5. *Center for Social Cohesion, Development & Care (CODECA)*: This NGO is the partner of the Asylum Services, responsible for managing both Centres (Pournara and Kofinou).
6. *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) Cyprus*: oversees the implementation of UN declarations and relevant regulations on the rights of refugees and asylum seekers. It also provides support to the government and monitoring the state-of –affairs with regards to refugees and asylum seekers.
7. *Cyprus Refugee Council*: Partner of UNHCR in both centres. It provides support to vulnerable groups in Kokkinotrimithia. It also provides legal support and guidance relating to integration schemes to migrants residing in Kofinou.
8. *FRONTEX*: provides support to immigration police relating to the registration procedures of the migrants' data in the EURODAC (Pournara).
9. *European Asylum Support Office (EASO)*: provides support to the Asylum Service and assistance in processing the backlog on pending asylum applications. In Kofinou it also acts as the focal point in the coordination of support from NGOs and volunteer teams.
10. *Social Welfare Services*: undertakes the administrative procedures for the unaccompanied minors (UaMs) arriving in the Centre (Pournara) until their transportation to the UaMs Hosting Centre in Larnaca.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Needs for future programming are described in the long-term plan of action, which is outside the scope of this DREF operation.

Operation Risk Assessment

Any efforts by the CRCS to acquire funding by the Cyprus Government or other actors were not fruitful. Specifically, the Government officially turned down all requests for funding by the CRCS. As such, following the completion of the current DREF Project, the CRCS has no funding in order to continue the distribution of hygiene items and clothes for new coming migrants. Only when it comes to summer clothing, the CRCS stored the 2,352 sets that were bought under the project and not distributed, to distribute them to the migrants reaching Cyprus during late-spring and summer months. The CRCS plans to keep reaching out to possible funders, while advertising the need for financial or in-kind donations both in Cyprus and abroad.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

CRCS's strategy, following the extension in October 2021 and the new arising needs, aimed to:

1. Cover the emergency/basic needs (hygiene, RFL services and PSS services) for 6,643 newly arrived migrants in the Reception Centre or the Accommodation Centre for a period of 6 months.
2. Cover the emergency/ basic needs in clothes & footwear for 6,048 newly arrived migrants in the Reception Centre or the Accommodation Centre for a period of 6 months.
3. Cover the emergency/basic needs in medicines and optical aids of up to 600 migrants in the Accommodation Centre for a period of 6 months.
4. Increase the National Society's capacity in order to address said services, by hiring two social workers to work on site and 1 warehouse and stocktaking officer.

The CRCS has been facing continuous throwbacks in implementing the project to its full. Most of these throwbacks continue to exist currently, causing a delay to distributions inside the Reception Centre.

The CRCS faced the below challenges:

1. Inability to find staff to get involved in the project up until September 2021.
2. The purchase of clothing items was approved by the IFRC in August 2021, while the procurement procedures from the CRCS were concluded during July.
3. The Asylum Service granted the CRCS entrance inside the Centres in December 2021.
4. The distribution of clothing by the reception officers of the Centre during the time that the CRCS was not allowed to access the Centre was problematic.
5. After the CRCS regained access to the Centre, the distributions were delayed due to COVID-19 infections inside the Centre.
6. The sudden increase in arrivals led to multiple requests to reallocate remaining funds of the budget, in order to make more purchases in humanitarian items for the migrants.

Concerning the fourth point above, due to prohibition of access of all actors, including the CRCS, inside the Reception Centre, needs were assessed by the Reception Officers of CODECA and communicated to the CRCS team. The CRCS team then prepared the aid and transported them to the gates of the Centre, where the CODECA Reception Officers received them and distributed them to the migrants.

In October 2021, the reception officers notified the CRCS that they were unable to continue with clothing distribution. The reason was that they did not have the adequate staff to perform the distributions, while simultaneously attend to other needs and processes for the 2,500 migrants inside the Centre. The information reached the CRCS in delay and caused a significant problem in regards to the distribution of summer clothing, since it was already October (fall for Cyprus).

Hence, there was an amassed quantity of summer clothes, not distributed to the migrants, but rather, stored by the reception officers inside the CRCS's warehouse in Pournara Centre. When the CRCS regained access to the Centre, it took several days to rearrange the stock, while simultaneously the migrants needs in clothes inside the Centre remained unmet. With no other option left, the CRCS requested the IFRC to use part of the budget's remaining funds to order winter clothing.

The request of the CRCS was granted in December 2021. According to the CRCS calculations the distribution of clothes was feasible until the end of the project. However, on 21 December, there was a major COVID-19 outbreak with 86 migrants testing positive inside the Centre, which led once again to a closure of the Centre for outside actors for two days. The CRCS returned as soon as there was a green light to enter from the Asylum Service, but five days later there was another outbreak (see below "Chart of operations per month").

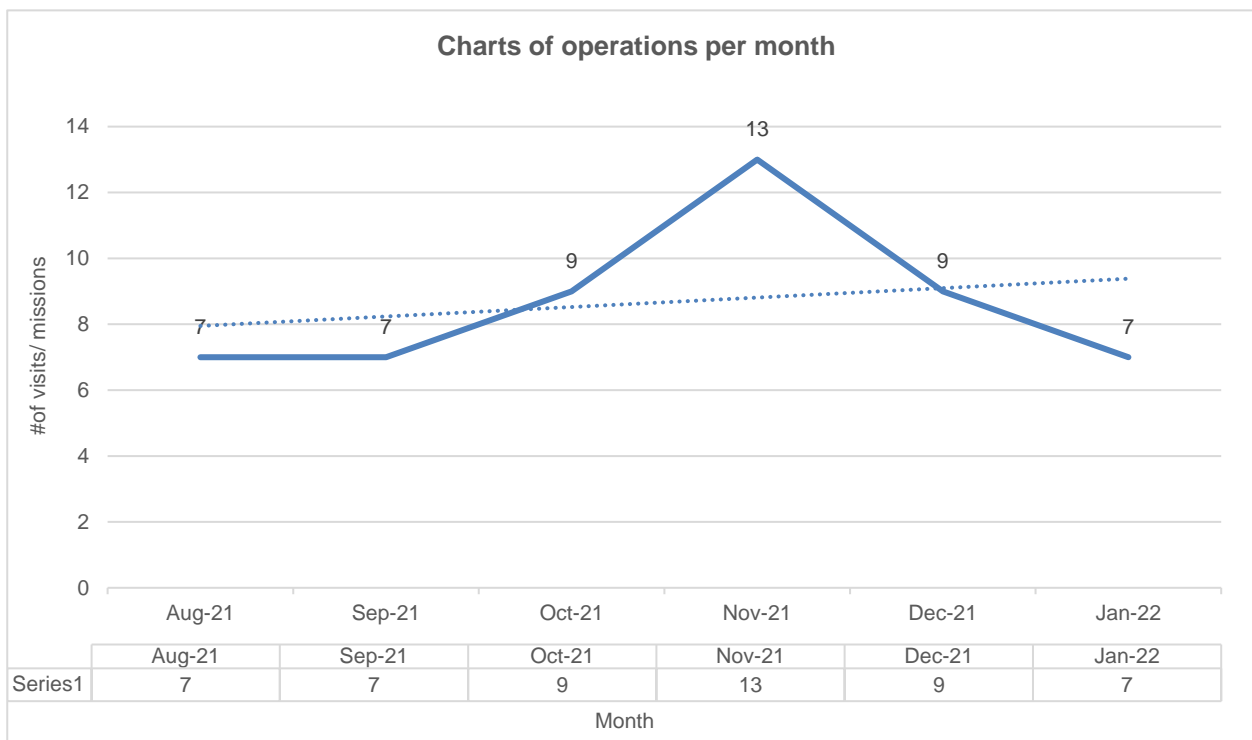


Images 1, 2, 3 and 4. COVID-19 Outbreak in the Reception Centre: 548 migrants are being transferred by army trucks from the Reception Centre in Pournara to the new Centre in Limnes, after they were traced as close contacts to the 86 migrants who tested positive to COVID-19. The CRCS arrived to the Centre to deliver urgent prescribed medicines. *Source: CRCS (December 2021)*

The continuous COVID-19 outbreaks and the Christmas holidays that followed, led to a delay in the distributions of clothing. It is important to note that the staff of the HQ, Youth and volunteers helped with the distribution on 24 and 31 of December even though it was holiday. The only days the distribution was paused was during the two weekends of 25-26 December 2021 and 1-2 January 2022.

Therefore, the CRCS requested a two-week extension for the operation, so as to finalize the distribution of the purchased winter clothing. All other activities, including the distribution of hygiene kits was completed before 31 December 2021).

Regarding the sixth point, the numerous requests for more purchases caused significant delays in the distribution of items. In all cases, the CRCS was left without stock to serve the needs of the migrants of the Centre for 7-10 days until the IFRC was able to process the request and approve it. The delays pushed the distributions in hygiene items until December 2021, while the distribution in clothing was completed on 14 January 2022 (for winter clothing only).



C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 3,695

Male: 2,489

Female: 1,206

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of supported migrants report that the clothing and footwear items received met their needs	70%	N/A ¹

Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with clothing and footwear items	6,048 ²	3,695

Progress towards outcomes

- CRCS has distributed 3,695 clothes kits.
- In addition, CRCS has stored the 2,352 summer clothes kits that were not distributed in the main warehouse. The inability to complete distributions was due to a delay in the negotiations with the IFRC, followed by the inability to access the Centre for their distribution and the delayed information from the Centre's reception officers that they were unable to distribute. The CRCS plans to distribute the remaining clothing as soon as the weather permits it.
- The warehouse/ stock-taking officer began working with the CRCS under the project on 1 October 2021.

¹ The CRCS was unable to conduct the Beneficiary Satisfaction Surveys due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the vast numbers of migrants in the Centres and the unavailability of staff.

² Original target: 4,550



Health

People reached: 942

Male: 582

Female: 360

Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of supported migrants that report adequate access to medical care	70%	N/A

Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people whose costs are covered for medical prescriptions and optical aids ³	600	492
# of children and babies that received a toy	450	450

Progress towards outcomes

- CRCS covered the cost of 469 medical prescriptions and of 23 optical aids prescriptions.
- CRCS distributed toys to 200 children and 250 babies.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 7,851

Male: 6,126

Female: 1,725

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of supported migrants report that the hygiene kits distributed met their needs	70%	N/A

Output 1.5: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with hygiene kits	6,643 ⁴	7,851

Progress towards outcomes

- Provided 7,851 hygiene kits to migrants inside the Reception Centre and the Accommodation Centre. Although the target was to cover the needs for 6,643 persons, the additional purchases that were authorised in December combined with donated items, allowed the CRCS to prepare and distribute an additional 1,208 kits.
- Provided 20 maternity kits and 20 newborn kits for beneficiaries in the Reception Centre and the Accommodation Centre (included in the above calculations).



Migration

People reached: 7,851⁵

Male: 6,126

Female: 1,725

Outcome 1: Communities support the needs of migrants and their families and those assisting migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit and destination)

³ The indicator has been added additionally after the publication of the EPoA to better reflect the people reached by the DREF

⁴ Original target: 4,550

⁵ Concerns only the information indicator.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of supported migrants report that the assistance received were clear and useful	70%	N/A
Output 1.1: Assistance and protection services to migrants and their families are provided and promoted through engagement with local and national authorities as well as in partnership with other relevant organizations.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with information on CRCS services ⁶	5,150	7,851
Output 1.3: "Family links are restored for people separated from, or without news of, their loved ones as a result of the disaster"		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with RFL services	6,643 ⁷	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the vast numbers of migrants in the Centres and the unavailability of staff, the CRCS was unable to conduct the Beneficiary Satisfaction Surveys. - No RFL services were requested by the migrants. - The second social worker (migration worker), began working with the CRCS under the project on 1 September 2021. 		

Strengthen National Society		
Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers involved in the operation that have increased capacity to perform their tasks	28	4 ⁸
Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers that are insured	28	1
# of volunteers trained	28	1
Output S2.1.4: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
CRCS has increased fleet capacity to perform tasks	YES	YES
Output S4.1.4: Staff security is prioritized in all IFRC activities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of staff and volunteers that were provided with protection equipment	30	30
Progress towards outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CRCS trained 1 new volunteer, who was involved in the preparation and distribution of the hygiene kits. All members of the CRCS Headquarters staff (including the ones employed under the project), volunteered for the operations during the Christmas and New Year's vacations. - CRCS has purchased 120 masks and 75 boxes of gloves for the staff and volunteers involved in the project. 		

⁶ The indicator has been rephrased to better reflect the information dissemination activity of CRCS of distributing flyers. (1 flyer per family during clothing distribution and hygiene kits. Number identical to people reached with distributions)

⁷ Original target: 4,550

⁸ The CRCS had limited access to the Reception Centres thus there was no need to involve a higher number of volunteers.

D. Financial Report

The interim financial report is [annexed](#) to this document.

Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)
- [Operation Update #1](#)

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How we work

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

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/06-2021/11	Operation	MDRCY002
Budget Timeframe	2021/06-2021/12	Budget	APPROVED

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 21/Jan/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRCY002 - Cyprus - Population Movement

Operating Timeframe: 09 Jun 2021 to 31 Dec 2021

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	246,582
DREF Allocations	246,582
Expenditure	-242,933
Closing Balance	3,649

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	109,449	242,929	-133,480
AOF4 - Health	12,389		12,389
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	91,026		91,026
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration	13,594		13,594
Area of focus Total	226,458	242,929	-16,471
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	176		176
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	18,191	3	18,188
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	1,757		1,757
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
Strategy for implementation Total	20,124	3	20,121
Grand Total	246,582	242,933	3,649

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/06-2021/11	Operation	MDRCY002
Budget Timeframe	2021/06-2021/12	Budget	APPROVED

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 21/Jan/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRCY002 - Cyprus - Population Movement

Operating Timeframe: 09 Jun 2021 to 31 Dec 2021

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	193,490		193,490
Clothing & Textiles	96,388		96,388
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	85,470		85,470
Medical & First Aid	9,900		9,900
Teaching Materials	1,733		1,733
Land, vehicles & equipment	660		660
Others Machinery & Equipment	660		660
Logistics, Transport & Storage	2,200		2,200
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,200		2,200
Personnel	24,952		24,952
National Society Staff	24,787		24,787
Volunteers	165		165
Workshops & Training	1,650		1,650
Workshops & Training	1,650		1,650
General Expenditure	8,580	1,523	7,057
Travel	4,950	1,505	3,445
Office Costs	880		880
Communications	2,750		2,750
Financial Charges		18	-18
Operational Provisions		226,583	-226,583
Operational Provisions		226,583	-226,583
Indirect Costs	15,050	14,827	223
Programme & Services Support Recover	15,050	14,827	223
Grand Total	246,582	242,933	3,649