

Report

MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH SEMINAR:

***'HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES OF
FORCED MIGRATIONS'***

Italy, 2nd -6th May 2012



**Centre for the Cooperation
in the Mediterranean**

Organized by:



**Centre for the Cooperation
in the Mediterranean**



Croce Rossa Italiana

With the support of:

IFRC North Africa Regional Office



**International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

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SUMMARY

In order to provide the follow up of the Mediterranean Conference and to promote the implementation of the IFRC Strategy 2020 and the IFRC Migration Policy, the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CCM), as the Permanent Office of the Mediterranean Conference, and the Italian Red Cross organized a Mediterranean Youth Seminar to tackle the 'Humanitarian Consequences of Forced Migrations'.

This seminar took place in Rome, Italy, from the 2nd to the 6th of May 2012, at the Italian Red Cross Regional Committee of Lazio and counted on the support of IFRC North Africa Office.

29 young volunteers and/or youth coordinators attended the meeting. Among them were the representatives of 12 National Societies: Algerian RC, Egyptian RC, French RC, Italian RC, Lebanese RC, Libyan RC, Malta RC, Moroccan RC, Palestine RC, RC of Serbia, Spanish RC and the Tunisian RC. The event was attended by representatives of the ICRC, the IFRC North Africa Office, the PERCO network and the RC/EU Office. Relevant organizations such as the European Institute of the Mediterranean, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the Carlos III University of Madrid and the Scout Agesci association also took part in the Seminar.

Through the seven theoretical sessions which the seminar developed ("Forced Migration at Mediterranean level: causes and consequences"; "IFRC migration Policy and future steps for advocacy work"; "IFRC North Africa Regional Office: regional perspectives on migration"; "International Humanitarian Law: legal aspects related to migrants and refugees"; "Restoring family links"; "Social inclusion of migrants and intercultural dialogue"; " Migrant smuggling and human trafficking") together with four workshop ("Climate change and population movement"; "YABC module on migration"; "Setting up an awareness campaign"; "Role of youth volunteers: strategies for actions at local level"), the meeting aimed at sharing information, experiences and practical tools among those Red Cross and Red Crescent youth volunteers and technical staff coming from the Mediterranean National Societies involved in migration programmes with special regards to the humanitarian effects of forced migrations.

Participants were asked about their degree of satisfaction regarding the seminar through questionnaires that examined not only the methodological aspect of the seminar, but also its contents. The results of these evaluations gave a very positive review of the event, with 85 % of the answers rating the seminar as good or very good.

Content USBs compiling the presentation documents from each session were given to participants at the end of the meeting.

1. CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES

1.1. GENERAL CONTEXT

Forced migrations are the common challenge that the international community is facing. There is growing recognition that migration is an essential and inevitable component of the economic and social life of every State, and that properly managed migration can be beneficial for both individuals and communities.

Migration is one of the primary basic phenomena accompanying humanity since its very beginning, and has always been both a source of new opportunities and perspectives for the migrants and their hosts, but also a source of distress and humanitarian needs. As the world population grows, the number of migrants worldwide continues to grow, and the actors of such phenomenon are increasingly perceived as competitors over scarce resources and a threat to stability.

Nowadays, migration is seen as the result of a set of interrelated causes: economic crisis, environmental degradation, climate change effects and political and social insecurity. All these factors are among the grassroots of humanitarian migrations, pushing vulnerable communities to move from their places of origin in search of better living conditions.

According to the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, migrants are currently making up 3 per cent of the global population: this means that approximately 1 in 35 people in the world is a migrant.

Recent studies carried out by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) state that MENA countries nowadays form a major region of emigration, with a number of first-generation emigrants ranging between 10 and 15 million people who have abandoned their homes in search of new opportunities, thus turning its the basin's shores into one of the world's largest migratory scenarios.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), with its Policy on Migration and through its Strategy 2020, encourages National Societies to address the humanitarian concerns of migrants in need throughout their journey, provide them with assistance and protection, uphold their rights and dignity, empower them in their search of opportunities and sustainable solutions, as well as promote social inclusion and interaction between migrants and host communities.

The IFRC Strategy 2020 commits itself, through the strategic aim 3 (*Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace*), to "tackle migrants' vulnerabilities by addressing the underlying causes of forced migration, providing help to vulnerable migrants who are in need of assistance and protection, reducing the risks that they face along their migratory routes, empowering them in their search for long-lasting and appropriate solutions, and promoting wider understanding of migrants' rights and their social inclusion within host communities".

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Among the main actors of the RC/RC Movement, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has an important role in facing migration. One of its missions is the protection of civilians, including displaced people because of conflicts or internal violence situations. Moreover the ICRC takes care of searching missing persons, reuniting families and promoting International Humanitarian law.

Furthermore the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, in its 3rd resolution, highlighted the importance of ensuring access, dignity, respect for diversity and social inclusion of migrants.

As far as the Mediterranean basin is concerned, migration was one of the main priorities discussed during the 11th Mediterranean Conference, held in Croatia in 2010. The RC/RC National Societies participating committed themselves to intervene with the public authorities on the needs and

vulnerabilities arising from migrants, irrespective of their legal or administrative status and gain, through their action and proximity on the field, an understanding of the situation of migrants in the Mediterranean region.

Therefore, the assistance and protection of migrants is one of the main issues addressed by the CCM, who constantly organizes activities (seminars, workshops, best practices' exchanges) in order to promote the co-operation and the exchange of experience in this field of action. The CCM 2011-2014 Action Plan includes the objective of supporting National Societies and governing bodies of the Mediterranean Conference in the follow up of the Conference's resolutions, with special regards to the assistance to migrants.

1.2. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the seminar was to share information, experiences and practical tools among those Red Cross and Red Crescent youth volunteers and technical staff coming from the Mediterranean National Societies involved in migration programmes, with special regards to the humanitarian effects and consequences of forced migrations.

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Specific objectives

- a) Increase the knowledge of RC/RC Youth coordinators on topics related to Migration and Population Movement in order to improve the implementation of programmes;
- b) Explore the roots of forced migrations (economic crisis, climate change, poverty, conflicts...) and their consequences;
- c) Exchange experiences among Mediterranean youth volunteers on the challenges related to Migration and Population Movement;
- d) Debate on the role of the RC/RC Youth in promoting a change in attitude when dealing with migration-related issues and advocating for a more inclusive society;

- e) Promote partnership and networking between RC/RC Youth coordinators in the Mediterranean region, encouraging intercultural dialogue.

The Seminar was expected to improve the knowledge of volunteers and technical staff of partner National Societies on migration and, at the same time, allow the interaction with other civil society organisations and local authorities. The participation of different stakeholders provided participants with the opportunity to exchange experiences, best practices and perspectives on the issue of migration, according to their different contexts.

In addition, participants from RC/RC National Societies will be able, after the seminar, to disseminate best practices to other volunteers and local civil society organisations, as well as implementing and adapting them to their own working context.

1.3. CONTENTS AND METHODOLOGY

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According to the programme established by the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Italian Red Cross, the Seminar consisted in seven theoretical sessions:

- Forced Migration at Mediterranean Level: causes and consequences
(European Institute of the Mediterranean)
- IFRC Policy on Migration and future steps for advocacy work
(RC/EU Office and Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugee, Asylum Seekers and Migrants)
- IFRC North Africa Office: regional perspective on migration
(IFRC North Africa Regional Office)
- International Humanitarian Law: legal aspect related to Migrants and Refugees
(Italian Red Cross)
- Restoring Family Links
(International Committee of the Red Cross)
- Social inclusion of migrants and intercultural dialogue
(Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean)

- Migrants Smuggling and Human Trafficking
(United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute)

and four workshops:

- Climate Change and Population Movement
(CCM/Carlos III University of Madrid)
- YABC Module on Migration
(IFRC North Africa Office)
- Setting up an awareness campaign
(Portuguese Red Cross)
- Role of Youth volunteers: strategies for action at local level
(Malta Red Cross)

The programme also included:

- three sessions on *Sharing of Best Practices on Migration Programmes*, which gave participants the opportunity to present programmes and activities carried out by their National Society in the framework of assisting and protecting migrants;
- the *Terra Game*, a Spanish Red Cross role play aiming at raising awareness and taking action towards environmental challenges as related to climate change. This role play was facilitated by the CCM with the aim of making participants reflect on climate change as one of the causes of forced migration;
- the Italian Red Cross presentation of *Youth on the Run*, a 24 hours role play aiming at making young people experience the vicissitudes suffered along migratory trails, so as to let them understand and respect the persons who have decided to leave and restart his/her life far from one's own country because of persecution or war.

The aim of this programme was to encourage a reflection, a debate and the sharing of best practices about the alternative patterns to implement, and the experienced -and expected- results to incorporate in Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies' daily work with the community with regards to the assistance and protection of migrants, especially those who are obliged to leave their countries.

Keeping in mind the purpose of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement in addressing the humanitarian concerns of migrants in need, the debate focused on: the role that each National Society must play to advocate in favour of the protection of migrants and the respect of the humanitarian principles; the importance of networking and partnership so as to raise the global voice of the Movement in advocating and being more effective; the relevance of cooperation in the work along migratory trails; the role that Youth can play to change the attitude in their communities in order to promote social inclusion and interaction.

The sessions' format offered a floor for participants to share their knowledge, experiences, and best practices, while including a time for open debate at the end of every session.

1.4. SPECIFIC CONTENTS

a) FORCED MIGRATION AT MEDITERRANEAN LEVEL: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

The 2 hour session delivered by Xavier Aragall of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) illustrated how migration flows are linked not only to economic distress and environmental degradation, but also to the lack of political and civil rights. Furthermore it acknowledged that migrations flows, regardless of restrictive policies in source, transit and destination countries, cannot be stopped and those policies aiming to achieve this aim only lead to a shifting of migratory trails.

Moreover, tightened EU migration policies have put a strain on the institutional capacity of certain transit countries as migrants get stuck in those territories due to stricter border controls. In such a scenario, forced migrants can become a burden to receiving areas, especially when they can't find livelihoods or a job, and start being perceived as threats to social cohesion and security, which further stress their need for protection.

To tackle the challenge of forced migration, it is important to continue promoting the assistance and the social inclusion of migrants in countries of destination and also advocate in favour of better policies to manage migration flows, taking action for sustainable solutions

which ultimately depend on stable economic, political and social conditions.

b) IFRC POLICY ON MIGRATION AND FUTURE STEPS FOR ADVOCACY WORK

The session, presented by Catherine Stubbe (Red Cross/EU Office) and Sarah Kingleberg (Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants –PERCO-) underlined the need for each RC/RC National Society to commit itself to the implementation of the IFRC Migration policy and the Migration Resolution n°3 (2011 – XXXI International Conference) in its daily activities. Furthermore every RC/RC National Society ought to take action and advocate for the protection of migrants and the respect for humanitarian principles. Underlined was also the promotion of networking and partnership between the National Societies so as to raise the global voice of the Movement and to organize the work along migratory trails.

c) IFRC North Africa Office: regional perspective on migration

In the context of the Strategy 2020, the IFRC urges RC/RC National Societies to tackle migrants' vulnerabilities by addressing the underlying causes of forced migration. Assisting and protecting migrants, as well as promoting social inclusion, are actions directly linked to the implementation of Strategy 2020. As underlined by IFRC North Africa Regional Office Amelia Marzal -Organizational Development Delegate- and Soufia Galand,- Youth and Principles and Values project coordinator, in order to achieve the above mentioned goals the IFRC North Africa Office, following the IFRC Long Term Planning Framework North Africa 2012-2015, supports National Societies in building an auxiliary role with the authorities, in promoting RC/RC Principles and Values, in strengthening Youth involvement, in improving disaster management capacities and in reinforcing humanitarian diplomacy and organizational capacities.

With the overall objective to improve the protection and living conditions of international migrants, the IFRC North Africa Office aims to promote social inclusion by encouraging the dissemination of the humanitarian principles and values among communities and the provision to migrants of means for a decent life.

d) INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW: LEGAL ASPECTS RELATED TO MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The session presented by Laura Greco (Italian Red Cross) highlighted the current lack of a universal consensus on what migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and other population movements are. Problems stemming from a definition of those categories can also lead to a lack of protection or assistance for the affected actors. International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is a fundamental instrument to advocate for the rights of people affected by armed conflict and their protection, and both RC/RC staff and volunteers working with forced migrants should be trained on IHL in order to provide the ones in need with better assistance. Moreover, it is necessary to disseminate IHL and domestic law and among migrants in order to let them be aware of their rights and duties.

e) RESTORING FAMILY LINKS (RFL)

In conflicts and disasters, families can easily get separated from each other. Long after the disaster has struck the separation and uncertainty about the fate of children, spouses or parents causes great anguish and pain for the family members and relatives. In order to live or rebuild a dignified life, people need to be informed of the whereabouts of missing relatives and to maintain and restore family links. Being a worldwide network, the RC/RC Movement is able to conduct widespread research of missing persons, including migrants. The work includes tracing people, exchanging family messages, reuniting families and seeking to clarify the fate of those who remain missing. The session delivered by Koen Van Kooten – International Committee of the Red Cross, and Andrea Pettini - Head Office of Tracing Service, RFL and Social Protection of the Italian Red Cross, underlined that the aim of RFL cannot be achieved without the support of the National Societies, which should better cooperate and take advantage of this global network in order to inform the relatives about the fate of their loved ones, underlining the principle of Independence in every related action.

f) MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND HUMAN TRAFFIKING

One of the main issues of migrant smuggling and human trafficking, as underlined by Francesca Bosco – United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) is that they are under documented forms of violence. As vulnerabilities arise, the phenomenon grows and there are many and multi-dimensional threats, both at personal and social level, that make smuggling and human trafficking increase, such as: poverty, absence of income, employment and educational opportunity, lack of health care, social exclusion, strained relations at home, displacement by natural disasters, armed conflict, cultural biases and traditional harmful customs and practices.

In order to tackle the root causes of migrant smuggling and human trafficking it is necessary to reduce vulnerabilities and focus on the cooperation between States as well as the dissemination of lessons learned.

g) SOCIAL INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

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The session by Nour Oughlli and Stefan Galve, researchers of the UNESCO Chair of Intercultural Dialogue in the Mediterranean of the Rovira Virgili University of Tarragona (Spain) underlined the importance of the social effects and impacts of the displacement of people and its consequences in the community of reception, as well as the role of intercultural dialogue when working towards the social inclusion of migrants. Often, discrimination is a matter of economic issues, where migrants now represent the scapegoat of the economic crisis and are perceived as dangerous for one's own welfare. Only in rare cases the basis of discrimination is due to racist reasons, as it often arises from the fear of losing one's belongings and rights. To prevent discrimination and to foster social inclusion it is important to promote the dialogue among cultures, since stereotypes and discrimination arise from the lack of knowledge of the "other", which may trigger fear.

Migrants are often perceived as a threat to cultural homogeneity. Intercultural dialogue as intrinsically connected to migration, should be seen as a dialogue between equals. It is within cultural diversity that

society grows, since no culture is isolated from others, and it is the contact between different cultures that enriches communities.

h) WORKSHOP A - CLIMATE CHANGE AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

The workshop facilitated by Jesús Gamero, researcher at Carlos III University of Madrid, put forth several suggestions about how to deal with the fact that climate change, which particularly affects the Mediterranean region, is currently leading to population movements between certain countries across the region. This should be seen as a warning sign of the seriousness of the situation.

It suggested that in order to find solutions to this situation, work has to be done in different fields. For example, through research and comparative studies and through discussion related to international protection mechanisms, but also through political action at different levels, and ultimately, through civil society and organizations such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Finally, it was stated that one of the future recommendations of the organization is to create mechanisms to promote information, debate and raise awareness about climate change and human mobility in the Mediterranean.

i) WORKSHOP B - YABC MODULE ON MIGRATION

Run by Soufia Galand (Youth and Principles and Values project Coordinator, IFRC North Africa) together with Nouha Yeferni (Training Coordinator for Youth/Principles & Values projects, IFRC North Africa) and Marwa Ben Said (YABC peer educator from the Tunisian Red Crescent) the workshop on Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change introduced the initiative of the Principles and Values Department of the IFRC, shared by more than 40 National Societies worldwide, with the aim of empowering youth in playing a leading role in transforming mindsets, attitudes and behaviours in their local community. In North Africa, almost 200 youth have embarked upon the project and devoted themselves to work on the Fundamental Principles and their underpinning Humanitarian Values, especially regarding migration issues. Currently, they're applying the YABC initiative on the specific

domain of migration, using behavioural change tools to enable youth to take the lead in changing their communities' perspectives towards migration issues and attitudes towards migrants.

Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers are encouraged to practice YABC and use this toolkit in their National Societies within youth programmes in order to make a positive change in their communities, focusing the attention and proposing ideas and recommendations on migration issues, remembering that the best way to overcome fears of outsiders and live and enjoy diversity is starting by trying ourselves to be a living example of humanitarian RC/RC Principles and Values.

j) WORKSHOP C – SETTING UP AN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

One of the main actions that youth can put into place in order to play a role in advocacy is running a campaign through mass communication tools and instruments. This enables to raise awareness on specific matters, such as the causes and consequences of migration, and the need for intercultural dialogue when approaching the issue.

The workshop facilitated by Irina Vicente of the Portuguese Red Cross, aimed at strengthening the knowledge of young people towards the importance and the technical methodology of creating an effective awareness campaign. Participants learned, through the IFRC's Project Management Cycle, to plan with a result-based approach: focusing on defining measurable results and methodologies and tools to achieve those results. Developing a monitoring system also helps to know whether the project is reaching the objectives or if it is necessary to adjust some actions.

k) WORKSHOP D – ROLE OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERS: STRATEGIES FOR ACTION AT LOCAL LEVEL

Through the Youth Declaration and Youth Policy the RC/RC Movement recognized the great importance of building the capacity of youth as key agents for social change and economic development and to further promote youth volunteering.

The workshop facilitated by Sarah Mallia, Humanitarian Officer at the

Malta Red Cross, highlighted that, being migration a controversial and very sensitive topic, different strategies can be taken into consideration at Youth level: a non cognitive and peer-education approach, live daily our seven Fundamental Principles and celebrate our diversities, focusing the attention on intercultural dialogue.

When dealing with migration challenges, two elements have to be ensured during volunteering action: on the one hand, psychological support should be adopted in all situations to respond to the need of the people concerned, while on the other, the inclusion of migrants in humanitarian activities and programmes should be fostered.

1.5. CONCLUSIONS

At the end of the Seminar, participants were divided into two groups in order to reflect and give an answer to the following questions:

- What is the general context we are moving in?
- What are the new challenges we are facing?
- What are we doing now?
- What can we do better?

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As a result of the two documents issued from the working groups, participants processed one document of conclusions which is attached to this report (Annex III).

They also wanted to commit themselves to take concrete actions once back home. They agreed on the following commitments:

- ✓ We want to work more on gender and religious issues including them in the migration topic, because they have a very important impact on the community;
- ✓ We want to improve the psychological support both toward migrants and RC/RC staff and volunteers working with migrants, taking into account that the psychological support may be creative: workshops, art, theatre, etc.;
- ✓ We propose to establish the 23rd of June as “the refugee day” and we commit ourselves to organize with our National Society a raising awareness action to mobilize the community in network with the other National Societies.

1.6. MONITORING

The real success of the seminar also depends on the possibility to implement the activities at National Societies' level and reinforce alliances at the local, national, and international level.

The Seminar also represented an opportunity for participants to build new contacts, which may lead to future collaborations.

During the seminar, participants had the chance to meet other National Societies and organisations that work in the field of migration and thus share experiences and ideas in order to develop new networks and implement activities at local level.

Moreover the key content issues of the seminar will serve as a compilation of information and opinions as well as technical resources to be taken into account when developing national and international strategies to assist and protect migrants.

2. ORGANIZATION

The seminar took place in Rome, from the 2nd to the 6th of May 2012.

During the preparatory stage, members of CCM's staff visited the facilities and discussed on several logistic and organisational aspects.

The Italian Red Cross was in charge of the logistics as well as the communication and dissemination aspects at national level, and they also collaborated with the CCM for the international dissemination.

The theoretical sessions of the seminar took place at the Sala Solferino, while the workshops and the participants' accommodations were placed in the Faro Foundation. Both venues are located in the premises of Italian Red Cross Regional Committee of Lazio.

Some of the facilitators were lodged in the Monteverde Hotel, very close to the venue.

2.1. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The Italian Red Cross Regional Committee of Lazio is located near the city centre and not far from airport and the railway station of Rome.

The morning sessions took place in the Sala Solferino, a very big conference hall provided with a computer and a projector for presentations and with the support of a technician who was responsible for microphones and the rest of the equipment.

The Faro Foundation, a referential structure for the ItRC Regional Committee, provided two rooms for the afternoon workshops and a 24hrs secretary room. It had free WI-FI Internet connection.

Meals and coffee breaks were served in the dining room of the Faro Foundation, while the facilitators, lodged at the Monteverde Hotel, had the possibility to have their breakfast at the hotel.

Each day two coffee breaks were provided, one in the morning and the other one in the afternoon, a time for participants to have drinks and snacks.

The evening of May 5th participants had some free time to enjoy the sights of the city accompanied by volunteers of the ItRC Youth.

2.2. PARTICIPANTS

The Seminar involved 29 young volunteers and/or youth coordinators from the following National Societies: Algerian RC, Egyptian RC, French RC, Italian RC, Lebanese RC, Libyan RC, RC of Malta, Moroccan RC, Palestine RC, RC of Serbia, Spanish RC, and Tunisian RC.

In addition the ICRC, the IFRC North Africa Office, the PERCO network and the RC/EU Office also took part in the seminar.

Furthermore, the international meeting counted on the participation of other organisations and experts, such as:

- Xavier Aragall – Euromediterranean policies specialist of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)
- Jesús Gamero– volunteers at the CCM and researcher on climate change and population movement at the Carlos III University of Madrid
- Francesca Bosco – United Nation Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
- Two young representatives of the Scout Agesci Association

2.3. LOGISTICS AND STAFF

An invitation letter was sent few months before the seminar's celebration to all the National Societies of the Mediterranean, jointly signed by the Vice-President of the CCM and the Extraordinary Commissioner of the Italian Red Cross.

The procedures for those participants who required visa issuance were carried out by the Italian Red Cross who was also in charge of the transfer service to and from the airport and railway station, the communication and dissemination during and before the event, and the joint management of the organisational aspects of the seminar, as well as of providing the materials and supplies necessary for the development of the activity.

Moreover, both the Italian Red Cross and the CCM mobilized several volunteers and staff to support the organization and development of the seminar (prior, during and after the event).

2.4. VISIBILITY

Preliminary information regarding the seminar (programme, objectives and contents) were sent together with the invitation letter to those National Societies part of the Mediterranean Conference, as well as to other partners and components of the Movement. Prior to the event, the CCM also promoted the Seminar in several occasions through its quarterly Newsletter.

In the closing session all presentations were compiled in a USB which was distributed to participants. In addition, all information about results (report, key inputs and presentations) will be disseminated among participants and partners, such as the members of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Conference and of Governing Board of the CCM, and they will be made available on CCM's website.

3. EVALUATION

3.1. EVALUATION BY CCM

The evaluation from CCM's point of view is very positive as the objectives were met and all participants showed great interest and commitment to the programme.

Amongst the greatest achievements of the seminar was the opportunity to exchange experiences, best practices and perspectives on the issue of migration, according to the different contexts as well as the reinforced joint commitment to build stronger National Societies to advocate in favour of a more inclusive society.

The collaboration with the Italian Red Cross contributed to the positive outcome of the seminar and the achievement of the objectives. All staff and volunteers were very helpful both in the logistic organization and in the carrying out of the activity, collaborating in the reception of participants and in providing technical equipment and support in the sessions.

As far as the contents and methodology are concerned, the CCM is very satisfied with the dynamic approach given by the facilitators in every session.

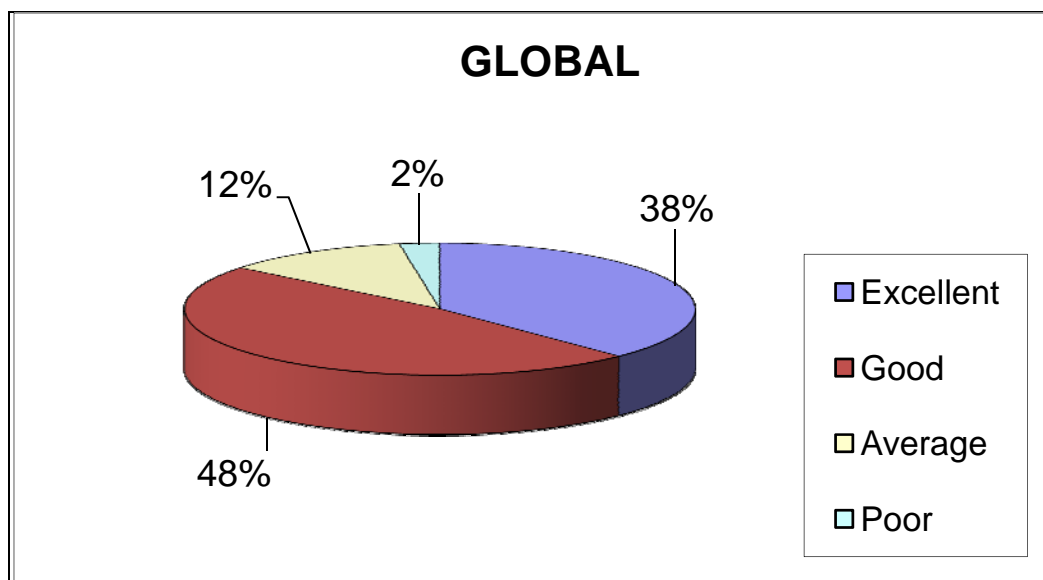
All participants showed great interest and involvement in the seminar and in all the programmes introduced.

3.2. EVALUATION BY PARTICIPANTS

A questionnaire was handed out after the Seminar in order to obtain an evaluation regarding the level of satisfaction of participants. It asked questions about the highlights of the seminar as well as the areas which needed improvement. In addition, the questionnaire included rankings for the level of satisfaction regarding both contents and logistics for participants to rate.

Overall participants concluded that their expectations concerning the seminar **had been met** and their **evaluations were very positive**.

As we can see from the chart below, the percentage of participants who evaluated the seminar as **good or excellent was of 85%**.

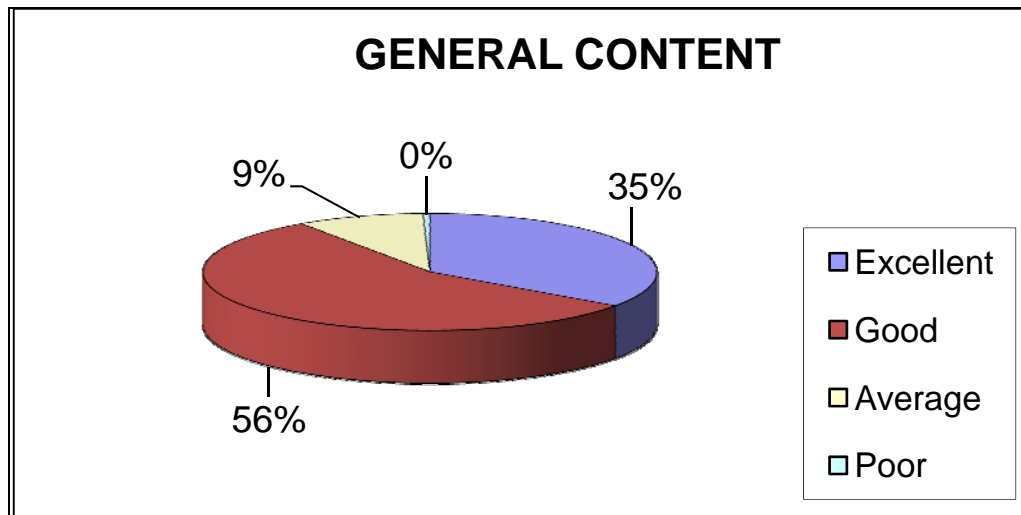


As far as the **contents** of the seminar are concerned, the percentage of participants who evaluated it as **good or excellent was of 91%**.

The questions they were asked aimed at finding out:

- a) If the exchange had met their expectations
- b) How they would rate the content
- c) About the methodology
- d) If they found the exchange relevant or useful and to what degree
- e) About the dynamism
- f) If they would recommend it

The detailed evaluation of contents is as follows:



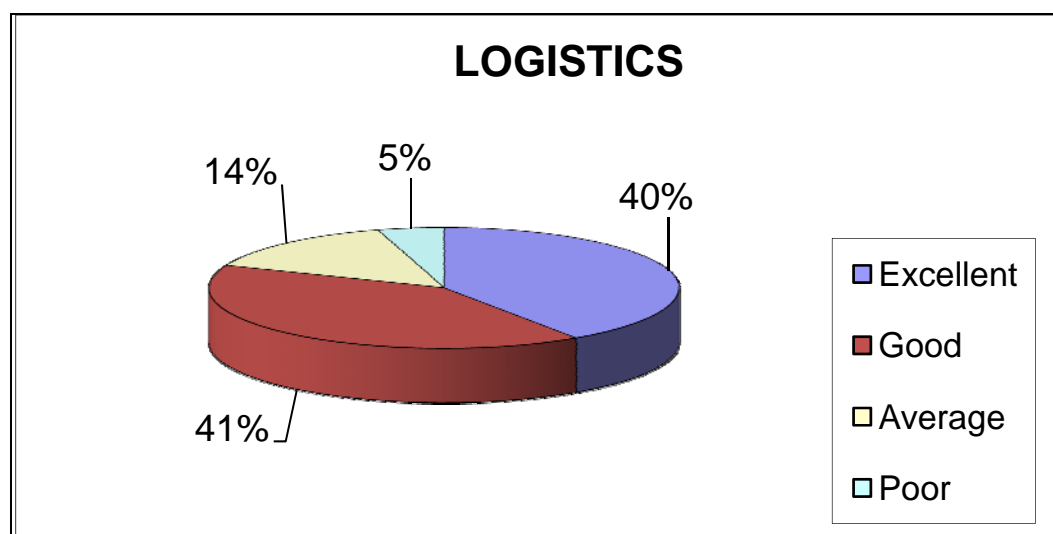
As far as the **organization and the logistics** of the seminar are concerned, the percentage of participants who evaluated them as **good or excellent** was of **81%**.

For this section participants were asked about:

- accommodation
- meals
- transport
- lecture rooms
- welcoming

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The detailed evaluation of logistics is as follows:



4. FOLLOW UP

We hope that this seminar had an impact on the participants by boosting their knowledge and inspiring new ideas. Its success depends on the rate of replication of the best practices exchanged and the experiences shared and on the strengthening of the youth structures in the Mediterranean National Societies.

Youth volunteers and staff have been and are at the frontline of the humanitarian assistance to migrants and constantly deploy their leading role as agents of behavioural change within their communities.

Youth and migration related issues will be tackled in the next activities of the CCM, such as the 8th edition of the Atlantis Youth Camp and other activities foreseen by the Centre's Action Plan.

The present report of the seminar will be spread among RC/RC and other partners, as well as during the next Governing Board meeting of the CCM.

In six months' time the CCM will send a further questionnaire to participating National Societies to learn about how participants' involvement in youth programmes was further inspired after attending the seminar on 'Humanitarian Consequences of Forced Migration'. All the information collected will help the organization to improve the next activities on this issue.

Moreover the CCM is currently working on a web-based Collection of Best Practices that will gather all relevant material and presentations in order to give National Societies the possibility of comparing and learning from each other's experiences. This new tool will provide a follow up and an exchange of knowhow aiming at improving cooperation schemes within the Mediterranean region.

In this regards, the participants will be asked to include the youth programmes that were presented during the seminar and their related best practices.

ANNEX 1

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

YOUTH SEMINAR:

***'HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES OF
FORCED MIGRATIONS'***

Italy, 2nd -6th May 2012



**Centre for the Cooperation
in the Mediterranean**

Terms of Reference

“Humanitarian Consequences of Forced Migrations”

Italy, 2nd- 6th May 2012

Summary

The migration phenomenon is one of the challenges that most implicates the International Community. According to the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, migrants are currently making up 3 per cent of the global population: this means that approximately 1 in 35 people in the world is a migrant.

Migration is one of the primary basic phenomena accompanying humanity since its very beginning, and has always been both a source of new opportunities and perspectives for the migrants and their hosts, but also a source of distress and humanitarian needs. As the world population grows, the number of migrants worldwide continues to grow, and the actors of such phenomenon are increasingly perceived as competitors over scarce resources and a threat to stability.

Nowadays, migration is seen as the result of a set of interrelated causes: economic crisis, environmental degradation, climate change effects and political and social insecurity. All these factors are among the grassroots of humanitarian migrations, pushing vulnerable communities to move from their places of origin in search of better living conditions.

Among the above mentioned causes of migration, climate change is a rising challenge which may jeopardize human security in general and have a direct effect on migration. As early as 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that significant levels of migration could occur as a result of changing climatic conditions. In such a scenario, vulnerability or resilience to extreme situations—that is, the capability to cope or

adapt to them—will determine the degree to which people are forced to migrate.

The availability of alternative livelihoods or other coping capacities in the affected area generally determines the scale and form of migration that may take place. Extreme natural hazards, as well as conflict and insecurity, generally lead to abrupt displacement, usually within State borders but sometimes across them, as recent events on both southern and northern shores of the Mediterranean have shown.

If alternative livelihoods or humanitarian assistance are not available within a reasonable timeframe, then migration may be the best or even only option available.

The impacts of such movements can be perceived both as positive and negative by receiving countries. Negative impacts may be more extreme if receiving communities, particularly urban areas, are unprepared to absorb large numbers of spontaneous migrants. Understanding these impacts is essential when considering the risks that migrants often take in migrating, particularly when feasible legal channels are lacking and they find themselves in highly exploitable and vulnerable situations.

According to recent studies carried out by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), MENA countries nowadays form a major region of emigration, with a number of first-generation emigrants ranging between 10 and 15 million people who have abandoned their homes in search of new opportunities, thus turning its the basin's shores into one of the world's largest migratory scenarios.

In this regard, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), with its Policy on Migration and through its Strategy 2020, encourages National Societies to address the humanitarian concerns of migrants in need throughout their journey, provide them with assistance and protection, uphold their rights and dignity, empower them in their search of opportunities and sustainable solutions, as well as promote social inclusion and interaction between migrants and host communities.

From its side, the Mediterranean Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent, in its 11th meeting in 2010, underlined the commitment of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies to focus on vulnerabilities so as to identify major humanitarian needs along migratory trails and intensify the dialogue with the authorities in order to increase their awareness on the humanitarian dimension of migrations.

In order to provide the follow up of the Mediterranean Conference and to promote the implementation of Strategy 2020, the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CCM), as the Permanent Office of the Mediterranean Conference, and the Italian Red Cross, will organize with the support of the IFRC North Africa regional Office, a four-day Mediterranean Youth Seminar to tackle the 'Humanitarian consequences of Forced Migrations'.

The seminar will focus on the several causes (economic crisis, poverty, conflicts and climate change, – among others), as well as on their consequences, the legal perspective and the role that the RC/RC young volunteers may have in mitigating the social impact of migration in their communities.

Action Frame

International RC/RC Movement

Attention to migrants is one of the priorities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as it has been stated in its International Conference in 2007 and underlined in the 3rd Resolution of the 31st International Conference held in Geneva in 2011.

In 2007, the 16th Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies requested the Governing Board to establish a Reference Group on Migration to provide leadership and guidance and to develop a Federation policy on migration. The IFRC Policy on Migration, adopted at the IFRC General Assembly in Nairobi in 2009, compels the RC/RC Movement to do more and calls for solidarity: "National Societies in countries along the migratory trails will work together to optimise their

humanitarian action, including the restoration of family links. This requires a focus on situations and conditions in which migrants all along their journey are especially susceptible to risk”.

In addition, the IFRC Strategy 2020 commits itself, through the strategic aim 3 (*Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace*), to “tackle migrants’ vulnerabilities by addressing the underlying causes of forced migration, providing help to vulnerable migrants who are in need of assistance and protection, reducing the risks that they face along their migratory routes, empowering them in their search for long-lasting and appropriate solutions, and promoting wider understanding of migrants’ rights and their social inclusion within host communities”.

Among the main actors of the RC/RC Movement, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has an important role in facing migration. One of its missions is the protection of civilians, including the displaced people because of conflicts or internal violence situations. Moreover the ICRC takes care of searching missing persons, reuniting families and promoting International Humanitarian law.

As far as the Mediterranean basin is concerned, migration was one of the main priorities discussed during the 11th Mediterranean Conference, held in Croatia in 2010. The RC/RC National Societies participating committed themselves to intervene with the public authorities on the needs and vulnerabilities arising from migrants, irrespective of their legal or administrative status and gain, through their action and proximity on the field, an understanding of the situation of migrants in the Mediterranean region.

From its side, the Italian Red Cross carries out many activities addressing the migrant population in response to their need. It promotes the social inclusion of migrants through information and legal advice, with particular reference to the protection of their rights, and through capacity building activities, focusing on employability and vocational training. It also constantly provides first aid to the irregular migrants and asylum seekers who arrive by sea or land.

The assistance and protection of migrants is one of the main issues also addressed by the CCM, who constantly organizes many activities (seminars, workshops, best practices' exchanges) in order to promote the co-operation and the exchange of experience in this field of action. The CCM 2011-2014 Action Plan includes the objective of supporting National Societies and governing bodies of the Mediterranean Conference in the follow up of the Conference's resolutions, with special regards to the assistance to migrants.

The CCM and the Italian Red Cross have a wide experience in joint activities regarding assistance to migrants. They have co-organized the International Seminar on Current Challenges on Migration, held in Murcia (Spain) in June 2009, involving a wide range on National Societies and other European organisations, such as the European Commission, the European Investment Bank or the Migrants Integration Policy Index. Another instance of joint work was the International Meeting on Migrations and Gender, which took place in Palermo (Italy) in 2008. Both activities aimed at promoting the exchange of experiences among the RC/RC National Societies on the related field of action.

Consistency with the International Context

Forced migrations are the new challenge that the international community is facing, as they are a common and increasing concern. There is growing recognition that migration is an essential and inevitable component of the economic and social life of every State, and that properly managed migration can be beneficial for both individuals and societies.

In 2013 the General Assembly of the United Nations will hold the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, focused on highlighting the positive force of migration for the development and the benefit that the various parties involved may receive from it: not only the migrants themselves, but their countries of origin and countries of destination.

In 2006, the UNHCR launched a 10-Point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration. This is a very important

tool in order to assist governments and other stakeholders to incorporate refugee protection into migration policies. The growing scope and complexity of population movements have multiplied the point of intersection between refugee protection and international migration, creating “mixed movements”, in which persons with different objectives move alongside each other using the same routes and means of transport.

The 10 Point Plan of Action helps identify new arrivals with protection need and meet the needs of other categories of persons involved in mixed movements, including humanitarian migration.

The European Council adopted in December 2009 the Stockholm Programme, which sets priorities for the EU actions in the field of citizenship, justice, security, immigration and asylum for the next five years. The programme builds on existing concepts of the Comprehensive Approach to Migration: organizing regular migration, establishing links between migration and development as well as preventing and combating irregular migration.

The European Commission adopted in April 2010 an Action Plan implementing the Stockholm Programme, which sets a list of concrete measures and a calendar to implement the programme during the period 2010-2014, ensuring the protection of fundamental rights.

On the other hand, the Union for the Mediterranean supports an employment policy that provides a unique approach combining economic growth, employment and social cohesion. Cross cutting issues include women’s access to the labour market, integration of young people, non-discrimination and labour migration as well as effective social and employment policies. These elements are intricately linked to the current challenges raised by migration.

General objective

The overall objective of the seminar is to share information, experiences and practical tools among those Red Cross and Red Crescent youth volunteers and technical staff coming from the Mediterranean National Societies involved in migration programs with special regards to the humanitarian effects of forced migrations.

Specific objectives

- a) Increase the knowledge of RC/RC Youth coordinators on topics related to Migration and Population Movement in order to improve the implementation of programmes;
- b) Explore the roots of forced migrations (economic crisis, climate change, poverty, conflicts...) and their consequences;
- c) Exchange experiences among Mediterranean youth volunteers on the challenges related to Migration and Population Movement;
- d) Debate on the role of the RC/RC Youth in promoting a change in attitude when dealing with migration-related issues and advocating for a more inclusive society;
- e) Promote partnership and networking between RC/RC Youth coordinators in the Mediterranean region, encouraging intercultural dialogue.

The Seminar is expected to improve the knowledge of volunteers and technical staff of partner National Societies on migration and, at the same time, allow the interaction with other civil society organisations and local authorities. The participation of different stakeholders will provide participants with the opportunity to exchange experiences, best practices and perspectives on the issue of migration, according to their different contexts.

In addition, participants from RC/RC National Societies will be able, after the seminar, to disseminate best practices to other volunteers and local civil society organisations, as well as implementing and adapting them to their local working context.

Methodology and format

The seminar will be hosted by the Italian Red Cross in May 2012 and it will be co-organized by the CCM, with the support of the IFRC North Africa Regional Office.

The duration of the encounter will be 4 days and it will be divided into several thematic areas, both theoretical and practical, through the implementation of dynamic workshops.

During the sessions the following thematic issues - among others- related to the general topic of the seminar will be raised: an overview of the Euro-Mediterranean reality concerning migration (countries of origin, transit and destination); causes and consequences of migration; migration as a humanitarian emergency, migration due to environmental causes, legal status of humanitarian migrants,

Special attention will also be given to the role of RC/RC youth in volunteering on migration issues and the value they add in facing migration challenges on both shores of the Mediterranean.

The theoretical panels will include round tables and lectures, with the participation of national and international experts, from the RC/RC Movement and other stakeholders involved in migration issues.

The practical part will be carried out through workshops with working groups, facilitated by relevant experts, in order to put into practice what is discussed.

Visibility

The CCM and the Italian Red Cross will give the Youth Seminar on Migration the highest visibility possible among the rest of the Mediterranean Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies and other components of the RC/RC Movement - as well as among local authorities and relevant external partners and platforms - through all the means at their disposal (newsletter, website, media coverage, etc.).

Results and conclusions, mainly related with good practices and common policies, will be disseminated among the RC/RC Mediterranean National Societies, the IFRC and other components of the RC/RC Movement, as well as among local authorities and relevant external partners and platforms.

Duration and dates

2nd -6th, May 2012.

Participants

About 50 young volunteers and/or youth coordinators are expected to take part in the Seminar (25 from Mediterranean National Societies, 15 from the Italian Red Cross and 10 international facilitators from the IFRC and other relevant stakeholders).

Location

Rome, Italy

Working language

English

Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean
Barcelona, February 2012

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ANNEX 2

Programme

5 May

FINAL AGENDA

9:00-11:00. **Social inclusion of migrants and intercultural dialogue,**
by Nour Oughlli and Stefan Galve (CCM)

11:00-11:30. *Break*

11:30-12:00. **Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking,**
by Francesca Bosco (United Nations Interregional Crime and
Justice Research Institute)

12:00-13:00. **Exchange of Best Practices on Migration Programmes**
(see session's schedule)

13:00-15:00. *Lunch*

15:00-16:30. **Conclusions and adoption of a final document of
recommendations**

16.30-17:00. *Break*

17:00-18:00. **Conclusions and adoption of a final document of
recommendations**

18:00-18:30. **Closing ceremony**

18:30. *Free Time*

19:30. *Dinner*

20:30. *Free Time...*



humanitarian consequences of forced migration

youth seminar



Rome, 2-6 may 2012

2 May

17:00. **Opening Ceremony**

Welcome and introduction to the seminar

3 May

9:00-11:00. **Forced Migrations at Mediterranean level: causes and consequences,**

by Xavier Aragall (European Institute of the Mediterranean)

11:00-11:30. *Break*

11:30-12:00. **IFRC Migration Policy and future steps for advocacy work,**

by Catherine Stubbe (RC/EU Office) and Sarah Kingleberg (Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants_PERCO)

12:00-13:00. **-IFRC North Africa Office: regional perspectives on migration**

by Soufia Galand and Amelia Marzal

- Sharing Best Practices on Migration Programmes
(see session's schedule)

13:00-15:00. *Lunch*

15:00-16:30. - **Workshop A: Climate change and population movement ,**

by Jesús Gamero (CCM/ Carlos III University of Madrid)

- Workshop B: YABC module on migration,

by Soufia Galand and Nouha Yeferni
(IFRC North Africa Regional Office)

16:30-17:00. *Break*

17:00-18:00. ***Continuation of Workshops A and B***

18:00-18:30. ***Debriefing Session***

18:30. *Free Time*

19:30. *Dinner*

20:30. ***Role Play “Youth on the Run”***

4 May

9:00-11:00. **International Humanitarian Law: legal aspects related to Migrants and Refugees,**
by Laura Greco (Italian Red Cross)

11:00-11:30. *Break*

11:30-12:00. **Restoring Family Links,**
by Koen Van Kooten (ICRC)

12:00-13:00. **Sharing Best Practices on Migration Programmes**
(see session's schedule)

13:00-15:00. *Lunch*

15:00-16:30. - **Workshop A: Setting up an awareness campaign,**
by Irina Vicente (Portuguese Red Cross)

- Workshop B: Role of Youth volunteers: strategies for action at local level,
by Sarah Mallia (Malta Red Cross)

16:30-17:00. *Break*

17:00-18:00. ***Continuation of Workshops A and B***

18:00-18:30. ***Debriefing Session***

18:30. *Free Time*

19:30. *Dinner*

20:30. ***Role Play “Terra Game”***

ANNEX 3

Document of Conclusions and Recommendations

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mediterranean Youth Seminar

'Humanitarian Consequences of Forced Migration'

Rome, 2nd -6th May 2012

1. What is the general context we are moving in?

- Different types of migrants: Refugee, Asylum seekers, trafficked persons, smuggled people, internally displaced people, developmental displacees, environmental and disaster displacees.
- Migration phenomena/roots/factors in the Mediterranean area
- Causes of migration: developmental, disaster, conflict and economic (but not as forced migration), and globalization.
- Increase in migration over the past ten years and it is believed that it will increase further.
- Governments have an important factor when it comes to treatment of migrants and the access that humanitarian organizations have.
- Migration is becoming more controversial in today's political climate (as a result of the economic crises).
- The countries of emigration have substantially lower political and civil rights within the Mediterranean, in comparison to the countries of immigration.
- As a result of the political climate and economic crises, xenophobia and discrimination are on a rise also.
- Difficulties throughout the whole journey of migrants: from the destination countries, the transit countries where the rights are still not respected in certain places, possibilities of exploitation, smuggling, death, and at last the host country where they face language and cultural barriers and social exclusion. Also in the case of the rejection of asylum, they experience a lack of rights.
- Other types of migrants for development and opportunities.

1/4

2. What are the challenges we are facing?

- It is foreseen that the number of refugees of climate change and environmental change will be higher than conflict refugees.
- A number of National conflicts with the North African and Middle Eastern Revolutions.
- Changes in migration trends due to governments putting up more restrictions for migrants, resulting in the change of migration trails leading to migrants taking more risks.
- Potential increase in the number of migrants, leading to governments and National Societies being unprepared.
- Pressure in communities, both departure and host communities. In departure communities there is a lack of respecting rights, issues of unemployment, conflicts, natural disasters, etc. In hosting communities there is a lack of understanding for the migrants, and the people are uninformed about the different types of migrants, their rights and laws concerning migration, in addition to discrimination and xenophobia.
- In developing countries it might be challenging for National Societies to assist both the local and migrant population.
- The cultural and language barrier between RC/RC volunteers and migrants.
- Governments sometimes restrict access to various centres for RC/RC National Societies, as well as lack of respecting human rights.
- Lack of funding.
- Migration has global consequences, i.e. in departure countries (brain drain) and arrival countries.

2/4

3. What are we doing now?

- Awareness raising campaigns – for the departure and arrival countries
- Assistance activities (food, shelter, psychological support, first aid)
- Trainings for youth volunteers (YABC, disaster management, psychosocial support...)
- Projects for vulnerable groups and addressing migrants through it
- Restoring Family Links
- Migration/Reception centres
- Humanitarian activities in refugee camps
- Advocacy

4. What can we do better? Recommendations

- More advocacies with the governments, community, other associations. Also advocacy for youth activities, enabling youth advocacy, train volunteers with advocacy skills.
- Internal advocacy within the Movement, so National Societies can have more ownership and a clearer position in the field of migration.
- More collaboration between NS in the Mediterranean, i.e. capacity building, joint projects, help with funding.
- Build partnership with civil societies and networking with other relevant stakeholders and building partnerships on activities and projects, including migrant organizations.
- Working along the migratory trails – providing assistance to migrants
- Assistance to migrants during the process of obtaining regular status – translators, psychosocial support through RC members
- More centres run by the RC/RC
- Improve volunteer trainings - more practical than theoretical (YABC activities, Youth on the Run). Also to include the staff in trainings, as well as working on International Humanitarian Law and National Legal Systems to be able to assist migrants fully.
- Long term projects and activities with migrants (social inclusion) and sustainability.

3/4

- Including migrants in RC/RC activities as volunteers and implementing proper needs assessment.
- More awareness raising campaigns in both departure countries and destination countries.
- Having projects where National Societies can utilize creative methods to increase intercultural dialogue.
- Reach out to individuals with specific skills and knowledge in order to recruit them for volunteers.
- A global platform for migration where different National Societies can exchange best practices and resources.

ANNEX 4

List of Participants

Participants List_Mediterranean Youth Seminar `Humanitarian Consequences of Forced Migration`

	National Society	Name	Surname	E-mail	Post
VOLUNTEERS					
1	Algerian Red Crescent	Djamila	Seghier	djamila.seghier@gmail.com	Staff Psychologist
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ANNEX 5

Photos







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