

# *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”**

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#### **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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Resolution of the 31<sup>st</sup> International Conference held in Geneva in 2011.

In 2007, the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 always 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 the month of May 2012 and it will be co-organized by the CCM.

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**

4 days, from the 2nd to 6th of 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