



Report

14th Mediterranean Conference
of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

12-15 June 2023

Cairo - Egypt



INTRODUCTION

The 14th Mediterranean Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, hosted with great success by the Egyptian Red Crescent, took place from 12th to 15th June 2023 in Cairo (Egypt).

The Conference, chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of the Egyptian Red Crescent, Dr Ramy Elnazer, brought together 115 delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement, including representatives of **22 Mediterranean National Societies**, to analyse, discuss and exchange experiences to tackle pressing humanitarian challenges of the Basin for the next years. Likewise, it was a unique opportunity to collectively envision the future and explore prospects for change, and to foster the collaboration and cooperation in the basin.



Leaders built on the humanitarian challenges that were identified at the last Mediterranean Conference in 2019 and addressed in the Sarajevo Declaration, which are still relevant today and will remain relevant in the future. Since then, the past four years have been marked by unprecedented catastrophes and humanitarian emergencies. National Societies were required to respond to various crises in a short period of time: COVID-19, large-scale earthquakes, extreme-weather events related to climate change, Ukrainian conflict, and socio-economic crises, in addition to the on-going protracted crises. Consequently, the Basin has been experiencing exponential increment of vulnerabilities and particularly of the risks faced by the people on the move, inter and intra regionally.



22 Mediterranean National Societies engaged in the Conference

Albanian Red Cross, Andorran Red Cross, The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatian Red Cross, Cyprus Red Cross Society, Egyptian Red Crescent Society, French Red Cross, Hellenic Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Lebanese Red Cross, Libyan Red Crescent, Malta Red Cross Society, Red Cross of Monaco, Red Cross of Montenegro, Moroccan Red Crescent, The Palestine Red Crescent Society, Portuguese Red Cross, The Red Cross of Serbia, Slovenian Red Cross; Spanish Red Cross, Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Turkish Red Crescent Society .

The agenda of the Conference captured most of individual and collective areas of concern and the intersections between them at present, and build on it, to look ahead to the future.

These two moments were articulated as follow:



Dr. Amal Emam. National Manager of Volunteering Development at the ERC

14th Mediterranean Conference Focus areas:

Part I: Current Humanitarian Challenges and RCRC Responses in the Mediterranean Basin

- Complex humanitarian crisis & RCRC collective response
- Climate Change and Environment
- People on the Move

Part II: Looking ahead

- Building the IFRC Network fit for the future
- Reimagining Humanitarian Leadership
- Social Innovation and Technology

The Mediterranean Conference has also been an excellent venue to engage in dialogue of substance with the National Societies on their concerns and aspirations for the Statutory Meetings in 2024.



The Conference was preceded by the **3rd Red Cross and Red Crescent Mediterranean Youth Meeting**, June 10-12, 2023. Young people from 18 Mediterranean National Societies debated, shared experiences, interests and priorities in the basin, networking and reaffirming themselves as key actors in the response of the RC/RC.

3rd RCRC Mediterranean Youth Meeting

Main topic tackled

- Gender and Diversity
- Climate Change
- Volunteering
- Youth on the Move
- Self-Care



The Mediterranean Conference as well as the Youth Meeting, have been an important space to meet again after the pandemic and to reinforce the strategic dialogue. Leaders reaffirmed their willingness and commitment to continue preparing and adapting in order to provide relevant response to the evolving cross-border humanitarian situations faced by millions of people in the Mediterranean basin, and to foster regional and sub-regional collaboration and cooperation, humanitarian diplomacy as well as social innovation as essential enablers to achieve it. The outcomes have been systematised in the Cairo Declaration, adopted unanimously by the 22 leaders, endorsing the Youth declaration.



Opening Ceremony – 12 June

Chief Executive Officer of the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), Dr Ramy El-Nazer opened the ceremony, welcoming all the delegations and participants to the 14th RCRC Mediterranean Conference, followed by speeches from the



components of the RCRC Movement, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Mr. Francesco Rocca, President; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Mr. Diene Diouf, Deputy Regional Director for North of Africa and Middle East, and the Standing Commission, Mrs. Mercedes Babé Romero, Chair.

The speeches highlighted that the Mediterranean Regional Conference has always been unique as it creates a link between countries and our National Societies of Europe, Middle East and North Africa. Therefore diversity, togetherness, cooperation and dialogue have always been guiding principles of this Conference. They pointed out as well that the Mediterranean region continues to face multiple humanitarian challenges due to unrest and violence, state fragility, economic crisis, the ongoing flow of migrants, economic and climate crises. While these conventional drivers of humanitarian crises still exist, new drivers of humanitarian crises, such as rise of extremism, demographic changes, political transformations and disruptive shocks complicate the humanitarian response.

The Egyptian Red Crescent warmly welcomed in its theatre at the Head Quarter, delighting with a sample of its rich culture through traditional dances. Participants had also the opportunity to learn more about the history and work of the ERC.





Procedural Steps - 13 June

After the roll call confirming the participation of 22 Mediterranean National Societies, the Conference on the proposition of the Steering Committee:

- Adopted of the Agenda and the Rules of Procedures
- Elected the Bureau of the Conference and the Drafting Committee

Bureau of the Conference



Bureau of the Mediterranean Conference

Chair: Dr Ramy El-Nazer, CEO - Egyptian RC

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Artur Katuçi, Secretary General - Albanian RC

Mr. Marwan Jilani, General Director - Palestine RCS

Secretary: Dr Dragan Radovanovic, President – RC of Serbia

General Rapporteur: Mr. Robert Markt, Executive President - Croatian RC

Drafting Committee



Drafting Committee

General Rapporteur: Mrs. Maja Antonic Vrbota, Head of International Cooperation and Communications - Croatian RC

Secretary: Mrs. Tanya Shawar/Abu Ghosh, Movement Cooperation Advisor to the President - Palestine RCS

The Drafting Committee was further enriched with the participation of Mr. Ljubomir Miladinovic, Secretary General and Dr Sava Veselinovic, Antitrafficking Committee president, of the RC of Serbia, Dr Amal Emam, Head of Volunteer & Youth of the Egyptian RC, Mr. Fabrizio Damiani, Head of Service Europe Asia and Pacific of the Italian RC, with the assistance of Mr. Ferran Cobertera and Mrs. Débora Rull of the CCM of the Spanish RC. Moreover, rapporteurs from all National Societies were previously appointed to collect the relevant information and key elements during each session in order to submit a draft report to the General Rapporteur.



Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean of the Spanish Red Cross

The President of the Spanish Red Cross, Dr Maria del Mar Pageo, presented the essence of the work conducted by the Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean of the Spanish Red Cross thanks to the Mediterranean National Societies engagement, since the previous conference held in Sarajevo in 2019, as well as the remarkable work carried out by the Mediterranean Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to address the unparalleled global and regional challenges of the past four years, summarised in the [video](#) displayed.

The President highlighted the specific, common and interconnected dimension of the humanitarian challenges as well as the opportunities that its diversity opens up for further collective weaving and learning, encouraging further engagement of the National Societies. Moreover, she reaffirmed her commitment with the region, and with the Centre to facilitate ongoing processes of learning, peer-to-peer exchange, and organizational transformation.



Dr Maria Del Mar Pageo - President of the Spanish RC



SESSIONS

Current and future humanitarian challenges: RCRC collective response in the Mediterranean basin - 13 June

Setting the scene

Speakers

- Prof. Amany Soliman, *Director of the Mediterranean Studies Institute- Alexandria University*
- Mr. Hossam Elsharkawi, *IFRC Regional Director, MENA*
- Mr. Diene Diouf, *ICRC Deputy Regional Director for Movement Affairs, NAME*

Moderator

- Mr. Marwan Jilani, *Vice-president of the Bureau of the Conference, General Director Palestinian Red Crescent Society*

Complex humanitarian crises: RCRC collective response

Speakers

- Dr Shawky Amine Eddine, *Learning & development Director - Lebanese Red Cross*
- Eng. Khaled Hboubati, *President of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent*
- Mr. Alper Uluca, *Director of International Programs and Operations - Turkish Red Crescent Society*

Rapporteurs

- Dr Sava Veselinovic, *Antitrafficking Committee president - RC of Serbia,*
- Mrs. Lucía Chocarro, *International Relations - Spanish RC Youth*

Objectives

- To provide an overview of the Mediterranean region, main humanitarian challenges and strategies to respond;
- To reflect about the movement coordination response to the Humanitarian challenges as part of strengthening and improving our cooperation and coordination;
- To share National Societies humanitarian situation and response, insights and challenges.



Part I. Main current and future humanitarian challenges, its impacts and opportunities

The Humanitarian challenges addressed in Sarajevo Declaration (2019.) are still relevant today and will be in the future: conflict, migration, climate change, youth engagement, culture of peace and non-violence, human trafficking, gender and diversity.

Professor Amany Soliman immersed the audience in the history of the Mediterranean basin, cradle of world civilization since the first settlements.

While there has historically been conflict in the region among various groups, there have also always been common

creative and intellectual aspirations and attitudes and, over the centuries, these groups have worked together and learned from each other.

Professor highlighted the Human Security approach as essential to address the common threats in the Mediterranean Basin despite political and economic differences:

- Climate change does not respect borders, but *'will storm the Mediterranean region'*, the water scarcity result of climate change will also affect other common challenges. One of these impacts will be in the migration routes as more people from the Mediterranean south will be forced to move, with its associated risks, such as human trafficking.
- Migration and climate change are both challenges that due to its impact in multiple countries, means that one country will not be able to deal with its impacts. Instead, a cooperative response is needed to answer effectively in a common effort.



Key Messages

- *Common challenges of the region do not follow the political borders, which makes the cooperation among National Societies essential.*
- *Key to adapt, detect and analyse the humanitarian data to be able to respond effectively to the crises.*



Dr. Amany Solima, Director of the Mediterranean Studies Institute- Alexandria University



IFRC and ICRC analysed the regional context, future scenarios and trends, emphasising the Mediterranean dimension, and the multiple and complex crises, conflicts and displacement in the basin; the growing needs of affected populations, aggravated by economic crises, climate-change and water scarcity of disasters and diseases, and a shifting political and humanitarian space.

They also shared reflections regarding challenges and opportunities with regards to the evolving needs, effective data management and organizational sustainability, in particular financial, as well as how to further develop cooperation and collaboration in the region.





Part II. Complex humanitarian crises: RCRC collective response

The Lebanese Red Cross, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the Turkish Red Crescent Society shared the complex humanitarian crises they are facing, and the challenges, experiences and lessons learnt with regards to their responses.

Responding to conflicts and following the clear mandates established in the 'Seville Agreements' regarding the role of the National Society, IFRC and ICRC has been key for the three national societies.

Highlights

Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) Port Explosion response through different sectors; immediate, post-acute and long-term response in a 15-24 timeline (5 phases with a multi-coordination assessment). LRC was able to organize their stretched resources while facing the different crisis at the same time.



Dr. Shawky Amine Eddine - Lebanese RC Learning and Development director

The humanitarian effects of the explosion three years ago still require a humanitarian response today, LRC was able to adapt and adjust the policies of mass causality response crisis.

Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC): crisis related to lack of life sustaining materials, leads to adaptation of renewable energy sources to mitigate these challenges. International sanctions are one of the biggest challenges to respond. SARC is being able to overcome it thanks to the joint humanitarian collaboration of the different National Societies.



Dr. Khaled Hboubati - President of the Syrian Arab RC

The number of the donors is decreasing which is going to impact the livelihood of the Syrian people and ability to rebuild the society. SARC presented a clear humanitarian call that needs a joint response.



Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS): hosting the biggest number of migrants in the world, the pandemic, and the recent earthquake – is maintaining the objective to respond to the needs of vulnerable people through a collective response within National Societies and also with the inter-agency collaboration with the UN & Movement.



Mr. Alper Ulluca, Turkish RCS Director of International Programs and Operations

TRCS highlighted as best practices: physiological debriefing for the volunteers and professionals responding to the crisis and cash transfer program.

Fostering collaboration

- Collective responses within the National Society (breaking *silos*) and also among National Societies in key themes as climate change, conflict, migration, disaster relief;
- Ways of collaboration between the three National Societies as an example (Lebanese, Syrian and Turkish RC): contingency plans among the neighbouring National Societies and common plan between the local branches near the borders as a natural way of working effectively to coordinate response (example of the floods, earthquakes, migration);
- Expanding collaboration with other actors: example of the Turkish RCS UN-IFRC collaboration.





Key elements to be considered in our responses

- Sustainability/financial challenge for people we assist and for our National Societies;
- Follow the Seville Agreements 2.0 as a way to work together respecting and following the different mandates (National Society, IFRC, ICRC), and putting National Society at the centre (localisation);
- The burnout, especially when referring to the staff and volunteers involved in prolonged/long-term responses (*highlighted in the Youth declaration of the 3rd Mediterranean Youth Meeting as mental health and peers support for both volunteers and staff*);
- Live monitoring and evaluation during the crisis;
- Models of cash assistance in rebuilding livelihood of affected people after crisis;
- Adapt, change and cooperate more to scale up our actions;
- Engage with external institutions/partners such as universities, *think tanks*, corporations;
- Embrace effective and quick digital transformation.



Climate Change and Environment: scaling-up our action - 13 June

Facilitation	Rapporteurs
<p>Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mrs. Fleur Monasso, <i>Manager, Europe Climate Lead</i>▪ Mrs. Rana El Hajj, <i>Senior Regional Advisor MENA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mr. Fabrizio Damiani - <i>Italian RC</i>▪ Dr Mohammed Bendali - <i>Moroccan RC</i>▪ Mrs. Joana Rodrigues - <i>Portuguese RC</i>

Objectives

- Overview of climate science including projections and trends and its implications on the region;
- From Ambition to action: How we implement the climate and environment charter in practical terms to advance and scale up climate action in the region;
- Peer to Peer learning on Climate action between North and South Mediterranean National Societies; to encourage joint learning.

Methodology

Workshop was composed of an interactive plenary, in which active participation was requested from all participants, through games and group discussions. Each part addressed one of the following themes:

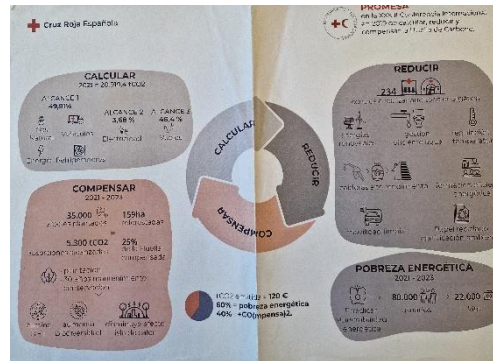
- Climate science and implications:
 - ✓ Interactive game
 - ✓ Science presentation: Reflection from the latest science presented by IPCC 6th Assessment Report Topics -*What we are sure about in the science, confidence in changes for various variables, where are some of the uncertainties, long term short vs. term predictions; and overview of (expected) climate change impacts in the region.*
- Climate action journey for National Societies
- Peer to peer exchange: facilitated exchange of knowledge, solutions, programmes and activities
- Closing Panel (wrap-up)



The focus on the workshop was

- **Practical:** Movement Climate Ambitions and the Environment and Climate Charter provided the overall framework, focusing on bringing the ambitions to the practical level;
- **Mediterranean:** Focus on climate action relevant to the region both North and South.

Peer to peer exchange was facilitated through the group discussions. Participants were invited to bring any self-explanatory resource (picture, poster or any other visual/ audio representations) to let others to discover and explore initiatives regarding actions on climate change and environment.



Closing Panel: the panel was composed by:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Mr. Robert Markt | Executive President – Croatian Red Cross |
| Dr. Ramy El-Nazer | CEO - Egyptian Red Crescent |
| Mrs. Roberta Fusacchia | Director Programmes and Organizational Development - Italian Red Cross |
| Mrs.M ^a Ángeles Cacereño | General Coordinator – Spanish Red Cross |
| Mrs. Sofia A. Lopes | National Youth Commission member - Portuguese Red Cross, as youth representative |

The Panellists provided closing reflections and inputs from the discussions in the session/workshop on the following guiding questions:

- *What are your biggest concerns with respect to climate impacts in your country?*
- *What have you picked up as a key priority for your national society to take forward?*
- *What have you picked up as key priorities for the region?*
- *What type of collaborations are needed in the Mediterranean to live up to facing the challenges of the climate crises (beyond the Red Cross Red Crescent network)?*
- *What opportunities do you see for enhanced national societies collaboration in the Mediterranean region to enhance climate action as a network? How can mediterranean national societies enhance peer to peer exchange on climate action?*



- What are necessary conditions for your national society to be able increase climate action in terms of enabling conditions (resource mobilisation, capacity building, other)?
- What are necessary elements for your national society to be able increase climate action in terms of knowledge and access to knowledge (research and analysis, access and use of forecast information, etc)?
- What challenges would you expect to face in taking the climate action journey?
- What are some concrete climate related commitments that the national societies in the region can take together as a network?

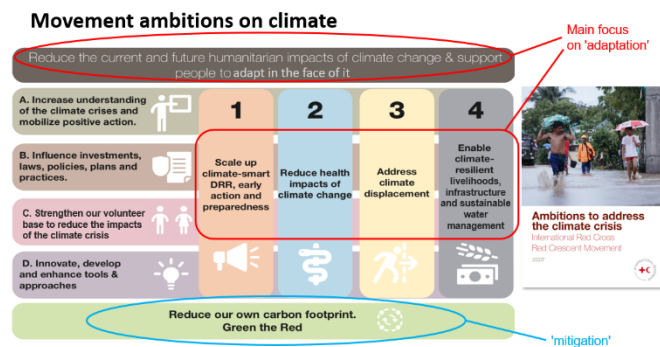


Outcomes

The session built on the key priorities reflected in the Sarajevo Declaration, adopted by National Societies at the closing of the 13th Mediterranean conference.

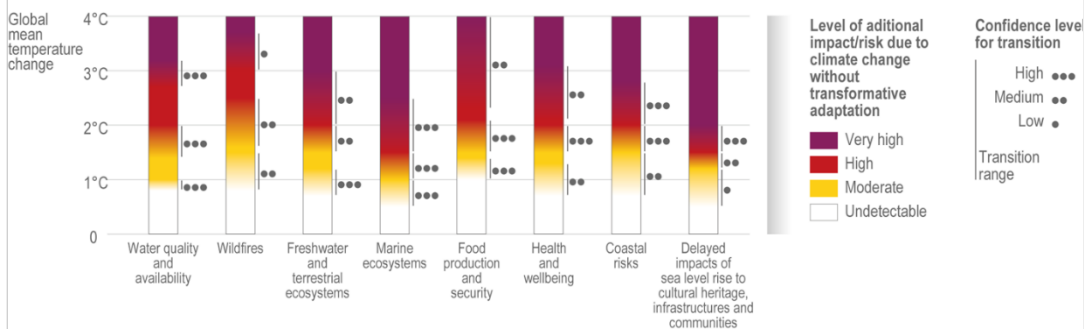
The session was framed within the *IFRC Movement Ambitions to Address the Climate Crisis*, aiming to collectively reduce the current and future humanitarian impacts of climate change and support people to adapt in the face of these immense challenges.

The ambitions are organised across 4 pillars of action, and a number of enabling approaches. Reducing our own carbon footprint is prioritized as a cross-cutting consideration in all we do.





Key risks in the Mediterranean region



Key priorities for national societies to take forward

- Awareness and institutional buy-in: Bring knowledge at the branch level; Information needs to reach everyone in comprehensible terms (not overly scientific) as well as solutions sharing. Take advantage of National Society role in the communities and become credible brokers of knowledge. Adjust awareness raising to the target groups and their contexts. Ensure we do not reinvent the wheel, but build on what is already available;
- Mainstream across the entire Disaster Risk Management;
- Addressing the climate crisis requires a process, which can take time, especially for building partnerships;
- Invest in additional partnerships;
- Position National Societies as key actor for locally led adaptation and recognise our auxiliary role in reducing the impacts of CC;
- Access data and information, share knowledge;
- Work on sharing information at the government level;
- Raise the urgency of the agenda within the National Societies and capacitating staff and volunteers.

Key priorities for the Mediterranean region

- Climate Change requires a cross-border action; Increase collaboration between NS, IFRC network partners and youth;
- Localisation through youth groups, as an effective way to empower branches;
- Adjust step by step and where possible include environmental-friendly methods for education, empowerment and awareness raising;
- Expand climate resilience in the communities for climate justice;
- Include youth with the co-creation, sharing decision-making and implementing our ambitions;
- Carry out national climate risk assessment to understand climate impacts, stakeholders and how it affects our work.



Collaborations in the Mediterranean to live up to facing the challenges of the climate crises (*beyond the Red Cross Red Crescent network*)

- National Meteorological Office is a key partner to ensure a better use of climate information across timescales;
- Government - different departments are relevant to liaise with;
- Universities/ Academic collaborations to enhance use of research and science to strengthen our policies, practice and innovations. Universities as a place to find people with specific expertise;
- Like-minded NGOs to identify complementing actions to fulfil the country's needs;
- Corporate partnerships - and targeted companies with an added value for climate and risk reduction agendas. Joining forces on resilience and using any relevant data they may have.

Opportunities for National Societies collaboration in the Mediterranean region to enhance climate action as a network

- Collective fundraising and explore joint opportunities to access climate finance and EU funding;
- Make more and better use of the tools and actions developed by the Subregional youth networks. Youth as key and hands-on resources and, tailored support. Take advantage of their flexibility and strongly interactivity;
- Highlight our concerns on the climate crisis every time there is an event
- Lead through action
- Replicate good practices from other National Societies in the region.

Enhance peer to peer exchange on climate action

- Online exchange platforms, Community of Practices and coaching;
- Exchanges of staff and volunteer;
- Place youth at the Centre of the Climate Action and have them bring back expertise;
- Use the knowledge from local volunteers and youth - to change policies and practice. Take advantage of them as facilitators and brokers of local information exchanges, as reference persons.

Necessary conditions for National Societies to be able to increase climate action in terms of enabling conditions (resource mobilisation, capacity building, other)

- Evidence for effectiveness to apply evidence-based responses;
- Fundraising;
- Partnerships,
- Awareness and institutional buy-in;
- Capacity building of the staff, youth, volunteers' branches;



- Leadership buy-in;
- Youth engagement;
- Understanding of the impacts of climate change in the country and the relevance across all areas of work.

Necessary elements for National Societies to be able to increase climate action in terms of knowledge and access to knowledge (research and analysis, access and use of forecast information, etc)

- Collaboration with knowledge providers;
- Resources to enable the staff and volunteers to apply new knowledge and to capacitate them to take the work forward.

Challenges identified to be faced in taking the climate action journey

- Work with climate information from the National Meteorological Offices can be challenging, especially if the information sharing is not free of charge;
- Budgeting and funding;
- Huge information flow, which makes it difficult to identify the best sources, tools and methods;
- Integrate climate risk at same time across all the areas of work;
- Advocate for preparedness vis-à-vis of back-donors;
- Impacts on livelihood of vulnerable people;
- Implementation: identify innovative solutions which can be replicated and scale -up at community level, beyond the differences at normative and context levels;
- Show results: evidence;
- Strength access to information and expertise at local branch level.

Some concrete climate related commitments that the National Societies in the region can take together as a network

- Increase knowledge and experiences exchange as well as of volunteers and experts, and establish programmes supporting these exchanges;
- Create thematic working group (s) and/or appoint a focal point (s) in each National Society to share tools, resources, knowledge; include the youth representation;
- Through the broker role of the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean, be proactive in sharing experience, knowledge and achievements;
- Relaunch the role of the CCM to be the facilitator in promoting and working on common projects and ideas;
- Plan, develop and implement joint programmes among National Societies of the Mediterranean;



- Ensure participation of the National Society of the Region into regional and international platforms, which may also be leverage upon to access opportunities, resources and funding;
- Be ready for back-donors and the global climate and resilience Platform (plans and proposals);
- Prepare a clear selling point for National Societies to offer adaptation opportunities in the national adaptation agendas of the government;
- Work with youth;
- Ensure training of volunteers so to provide tools to engage at community level with simple and impactful language;
- Develop and scale up clear and simple information campaigns at community level;
- Develop research papers which could be used also to position ourselves including vis-à-vis establishing new partnership and mobilizing resources;
- Sign the Humanitarian Charter for Climate and Environment;
- Start now.



"It's not that I don't appreciate your recycling, Leo, I'm just suggesting it's not the only thing we should be doing right now."

Youth perspective

- Ready to engage and to get involved from the beginning, planning carefully along with the different thematic lines, and defining together the budget and resources needed for the activities;
- Promote a joint road map could help in engaging youth and co-lead the process;
- Ensure that scientific information and knowledge is systematically used in project definition;
- Ensure that leaders of the National Societies fully embrace the final declaration of the Youth Meeting held in Cairo, including with reference to use more proactively the sub-regional networks;
- Ready to work with senior leadership, through a truly inclusive approach.



Preparation of the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the Council of Delegates 2024 - 13 June

Facilitation

The ICRC/IFRC Joint Organizing Committee of the Statutory Meetings

- Mrs. Joana Trindade. *Head of Project, Movement Meetings, ICRC (JOC coordinator)*
- Mrs. Guendalina Conte. *Coordinator Governing Board and General Assembly, IFRC*

Objectives

- Brief participants on 34th International Conference (IC) concept note, and on the outcomes of the 2022 Council of Delegates (CoD);
- Brief participants on the preparatory process of the 2024 CoD and 34th IC;
- Engage with National Societies and collect their insights regarding the topics to be addressed in the 34th IC.

Methodology

Presentation of the Statutory Meetings, introduction of the 34th IC Concept Note, and presentation of consultation milestones.

Groups to work in rotation to discuss three questions:

- What specific topic that the CoD should address in 2024?
- Does the current framing of the 34th IC reflect the critical issues and conversations that need to take place?
- What are the specific topics that the 34th IC should address?

Plenary restitution and discussion.

Conclusion by the JOC: reflections and main take aways.

Outcomes

The session provided extensive information to the National Societies to take ownership, and engage with States and other Movement components on the preparatory process towards the 34th IC and CoD 2024.

It was also an opportunity to discuss and receive feed-back on the outline of the agenda topics.





Migration and displacement: Strengthening our work along migration routes and on humanitarian diplomacy - 14 June

Objectives

- To provide a general overview of the current trends and challenges regarding migration movements in the Mediterranean basin and its implications;
- To provide an update regarding the migration and displacement RCRC Movement strategy and response;
- To share experiences regarding the Humanitarian assistance and protection provided through the Humanitarian Service Points (HSP) located on the main Mediterranean Migration routes and facilitate reflections on ways to strengthen RCRC response;
- To share experience regarding the shift from an emergency approach to a mid-long term one and facilitate reflection on ways to strengthen RCRC response in this regard;
- To share experiences regarding ways of collaboration and stimulate reflection on how to enhance cooperation with external stakeholders and among National Societies;
- To stimulate reflection around how each National Society could engage in Humanitarian Diplomacy (HD) at operational level. Discussion around main HD priorities when it comes to migration and displacement.

Methodology

The session was composed of three main parts:

- An interactive plenary;
- Three parallel thematic groups to share experiences around lessons learned and challenges encountered while providing assistance to people on the move, followed by open discussions on how to strengthen RCRC capacity to support and key issues to be considered to better adapt and improve RCRC response;
- A plenary wrap-up and closing panel.



Part I. Setting the scene

Speakers

- Dr Ayman Zohry, *Founder and President of the Egyptian Society for migration studies*
- Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham, *IFRC Global lead of Migration and displacement*

Moderator

- Mr. Artur Katuçi, *Secretary General, Albanian RC*

Rapporteurs

- Mrs. Marie Paulette Fenech, *Director General, Malta RCS*
- Mr. Rindra Rakotomalala, *Head of International Relations & Youth, RC of Monaco*

General overview of the current trends and challenges regarding migration movements in the Mediterranean and its implications

Dr Ayman Zohry outlined a series of issues to be considered when referring to the movement of people and the main challenges we are facing in this regard.

Key points

- **Positive side of migration:** the mobility of migrants within the Mediterranean area allows the reinforcement of labor force where there is shortage within the destination countries giving a boost to their economy. We need to maximize positive aspects of people on the move phenomenon whilst dealing with it in a humanitarian way. Migration is often seen solely as a threat or a burden but migrants contribute positively to the culture, development, and economic growth of their destination countries;
- **Saving lives is the priority:** saving lives and people's lives along migration routes should always remain our main priority. Nonetheless, respecting dignity, providing social protection and providing humanitarian services should not be overlooked. We also need to enhance the living conditions of those living in camps. We ought to provide them with a secure and safe environment;
- **People are on the move:** one cannot overlook the countries of transit. People are on the move and we have to adapt our response and work in tandem providing a collective answer.



- **Climate change migration trends:** because of the climate changes, there is a new form of migration. Unfortunately, climate refugees have difficulties to be recognized as such because this phenomenon is still not given the deserved importance. We have to identify and adapt our migration policy so that it can take into account this trend.

Main challenges

- South countries do not have necessarily the same point of view when it comes to migration. For some, migration is not a crisis but an opportunity to increase its workforce where for others, this is a real crisis, because they are losing vital professional workers, especially in the area of healthcare;
- **Internal displacement:** we must adapt because of the new trends and be able to propose safe places for displaced people. Climate change is increasingly leading to internal displacement;
- **Considering the countries of origin:** it is important to take into consideration the situation of the countries of origin, to delve deeper into why people feel the necessity to leave their country and explore possibilities of helping them while they are still at home;
- **Terminology:** we need to be clear about the terminology related to Climate Change Migrants / Climate Refugees / Asylum Seekers. This needs to be established and communicated.

Updates of the RCRC Movement in migration and displacement response

Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham provided the participants with a comprehensive update of the last global developments, initiatives and priorities for the RCRC Movement regarding migration and displacement.

Key points

The [IFRC Strategy 2030](#) identifies migration as one of five global humanitarian challenges the RCRC network must address and recognizes the importance of expanding support to migrants along migratory routes and improving how we work across borders. Our vision is that *'All people who migrate or are displaced are safe, are treated humanely and with dignity, and have the support they need to thrive in inclusive society'*.



IFRC Network priorities are on:

- Assistance
- Protection
- Social Inclusion and cohesion
- Research and Partnerships
- Cross border and route-based cooperation

First Movement Strategy on Migration: in 2022, the Council of Delegates (CoDs)¹ agreed on the need of a Movement Strategy on Migration. This first ever Movement strategy on migration will enable the RCRCM to better meet the most pressing needs of migrants. The Strategy will be intentionally broad so that it can be applied in the different contexts in which the Movement works. Detailed explanations in relation to the Strategy and guidance will be provided in the Implementation Manual. Migration will be addressed as thematic for the 34th International Conference.

The Global Route-Based Migration Programme, launched in 2021, is a multi-year, global programme launched to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along land and sea-based migration routes. 57 RC/RC National Societies across Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas committed to collective action.

The programme develops around three main pillars:

- Humanitarian Assistance and protection (through Humanitarian Service Points - HSPs);
- Collective Capacity Strengthening;
- Evidence based Advocacy and Diplomacy.

¹ A new Migration Leadership Group (MLG) was established and, at the CoDs 2022, it launched the resolution entitled 'Towards a Movement Strategy on Migration' for adoption



Part II. Thematic groups

GROUP A - Improving access to humanitarian assistance and protection through the Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs)

Speakers

- Mr. Mohammad Sifaw, *Head of migration and protection office, Libyan Red Crescent*
- Mr. Ljubomir Miladinovic, *Secretary General, Red Cross of Serbia*
- Mrs. Cvetka Tomin, *Secretary general, Slovenian Red Cross*

Facilitation

- Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham, *IFRC Global lead of Migration and displacement*

Rapporteurs

- Mrs. Cvetka Tomin, *Secretary General, Slovenian RC*
- Mr. Alexandros Pichliavas, *youth representative, Hellenic RC*

A principled Humanitarian Approach

Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) are neutral spaces where migrants can access a wide range of humanitarian support and services wherever they are on their journeys and regardless of their migration status. They are important because people on the move often face many challenges accessing help or finding safety during their journeys.

At HSPs, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provide humanitarian assistance based solely on the principle of humanity and independently of government and other influence. They also safely refer migrants to more specialized assistance if they require support with more complex needs.

Movement's needs-based approach to migration: ***“driven by needs and informed by rights”***

Meaningful participation in all stages is paramount. Listening to and engaging with migrants and displaced people wherever they are is crucial to ensure that our response activities respond to their real needs and wishes.

HSPs are the main way that the IFRC and Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies help people on the move in both emergency and non-emergency settings.



Libyan Red Crescent



Libyan RC is an auxiliary body of the Government in relation to migrants' assistance.

Libyan RC provides health, Psychosocial Services and Restoring Family Link services and sensitization on GBV towards people on the move.

Red Cross of Serbia

RC of Serbia implements activities for migrants in 6 cities in Serbia. Among these:

- Workshop for migrants;
- Humanitarian assistance;
- Developing online platform to share useful information for migrants;
- Strengthening national society capacity to support migrants through trainings/share of experiences;
- Humanitarian Diplomacy and Advocacy initiatives.



Slovenian Red Cross



Slovenian RC implements several activities in migration. Among these:

- REPAIR Project (Reunification Pathways for IntegRation);
- Psychological First Aid to people affected by the Ukrainian crisis;
- Support to people on the move.



Main reflections / lessons learned on the experiences shared by National Societies

- Boost information sharing between National Societies in order to better organize their humanitarian response, including Humanitarian Service Points as a tool;
- Further advocate for adequate migration policies for all the people on the move, without any discrimination related to their countries of origin and/or their ethnicity;
- Strengthening the cooperation and define in a clear way framework of action among NGOs/ Organizations/ etc, in order to allow the provision of complementary humanitarian services avoiding any overlapping action or duplication.

Main challenges to address and key actions to implement in order to ensure a continuity of care for migrants.

- Getting better clarity on the auxiliary role of RCRC National Societies in migration-related issues in order to ensure operational independence when delivering humanitarian services;
- There is a need for stronger advocacy at all levels to enable efficient assistance to people in need;
- Capacity building is a challenge for most National Societies;
- Securing financial sustainability of current and planned programs.

Priorities identified to strengthen the capacity on Advocacy and effective Humanitarian Diplomacy

- National Society capacity building, nationally (at all levels, from Branches to HQ) as well as internationally within the RCRC Movement;
- Effectively communicate and advocate both for and with aid recipients and local population, by using a “*Principle-based approach*” in order to better navigate the sensitive issue migration is in many countries.



Actions to strengthen National Societies capacities to support people on the move along migratory routes

- Tapping into established National Society partnerships and cooperation, in particular with public authorities, to secure needed support for enabling implementation of activities;
- Mapping the points where people on the move can access basic humanitarian aid, considering their situation and status (needing immediate support, not having documents/certificates/etc);
- To connect the national RC/RC network and engage and strengthen their already established resources (e.g., in providing first aid, psychosocial support) in putting focus on provision of aid to persons on the move.

GROUP B - Transition from emergency response to longer term

Speakers

- Mrs. Salma Sallout, *Project Manager Egyptian Red Crescent*
- Mr. Ignacio Roman, *Head of the IFRC Livelihoods Resource Centre*
- Mrs. Ece Ceren Doğar, *Head of external relations and partnership, Turkish Red Crescent Society*

Facilitation

- Mrs. Raquel Fernandez Gibaja, *Regional Migration coordinator in Europe; IFRC*

Rapporteurs

- Mrs. Salma Sallout, *Project Manager, Egyptian RC*
- Mrs. Ece Ceren Doğar, *Head of external relations and partnership, Turkish RCS*

Social Inclusion and resilience

Due to the increase of waiting times in the asylum system, RCRC response should adapt and be aligned with the needs linked to this context that require more sustainable and longer-term actions that goes beyond an emergency approach focusing more on protracted displacement.

In order to increase the resilience of newcomers, it is crucial providing information and support on how building new lives in their new country.

It is also essential advocating for migrants' rights maintaining a principled approach regardless their status.

Working with communities hosting migrants, such as projects tackling anti-migrant narratives and promoting social inclusion is also part of this longer-term approach.



Livelihood's interventions may also promote bondages between migrants and hosting communities, as well a culture of non-violence. Positive interactions between arriving migrants and hosting communities are indeed essential to minimize tensions and promoting inclusion.

Egyptian Red Crescent

Among the current practices in Sustainable Intervention towards people on the move, the ERC implements social cohesion and integration programs as well as livelihoods initiatives like vocational trainings and seeds fund grants for micro and small enterprises



-IFRC- Livelihoods Resource Centre



The IFRC Centre presented the Guidelines “*Livelihoods in migration and displacement context*”. The main goal of this tool is supporting RCRC staff and volunteers working in different contexts of migration and displacement, including main possible impacts and response options in livelihoods interventions in any context, migration stages and country.

Turkish Red Crescent Society

The TRCS is carrying out a transition from emergency assistance to a longer-term approach. The Community Centres Project, started in 2015, aimed to provide psychosocial support to the population affected by the Syrian crisis; then, considering the protection needs identified, referral and case management activities were initiated, especially in terms of access to fundamental rights and services.





Main challenges identified

- Status (undocumented people, for instance) makes longer term intervention more difficult;
- Inclusion with the hosting community;
- What defines the emergency to long term (quality, time, etc) and the overlaps;
- Identification and regular assessments to see the evolving needs. Coordination with government;
- Managing expectations at all levels;
- Strengthen the positive narrative regarding migration such as its contribution to the economic development;
- Availability of funding;
- Ensure that all beneficiaries of international protection benefit from the right to family reunification;
- A politicised environment that does not facilitate acceptance and social inclusion of migrant people within the host communities;
- Multi-country and regional approach is a need for designing emergency to mid-long-term as these countries can also be transit countries (this is both a challenge and action point).

Initiatives/actions identified to achieve an effective longer-term response toward migrants and displaced people

- Promoting more Advocacy and Humanitarian Diplomacy initiatives to influence governments;
- Enhancing skills through National Society and Movement collaboration;
- Strengthening the local branches;
- Recognizing professional and academic background of migrants both for enhancing their potentialities and for contributing positively to the host community;
- Incorporate Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach to our response and ensure an accurate monitoring system (feedback mechanism);
- Promote places where National Societies can share experiences and lessons learned throughout their activities. Encourage more peer-to-peer platforms (not only at regional level);
- Increase the collaboration with external stakeholders;
- Explore modalities to increase access to funds.



Actions in Humanitarian Diplomacy to prioritize to work better with a mid-long-term approach

- Evidence based approach in the services provided, also for protection;
- Coordination (and collaboration) with government;
- Exchange of data – for instance information from the government about the numbers of people on the move;
- Connection with Movement partners;
- Advocacy for inclusion and cohesion at government level;
- Position National Societies as long-term actors.

GROUP C- Ways of collaboration and Cooperation

Speakers

- Mr. Stefan Lopatic, *DPR and Emergency Operator Canter Coordinator, Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- Mr. Veselin Pajovic, *Project coordinator, Red Cross of Montenegro*
- Dr Mohammed Bendali, *Head of Division, Moroccan Red Crescent*
- Mr. Ahmed Regaey, co-chair of the Migration MENA Network (MMN), *Egyptian Red Crescent*
- Mrs. Francesca Basile, co-chair of PERCO, *Italian Red Cross*

Facilitation

- Mrs. Francesca Basile, Head of Migration; **Italian Red Cross**

Rapporteurs

- Mrs. Medina Selimić, *Youth representative, RCS of Bosnia & Herzegovina*
- Mrs. Samar Abou Jaoudeh, *chief of staff- SG Office Director, Lebanese RC*

In order to enhance the effectiveness of the support provided, a coordinated response, through the identification of common strategies and way of collective work is crucial.

Neighbouring National Societies (and other Movement actors) can coordinate and collaborate with each other, both within and across borders, in different ways. This helps to strengthening the humanitarian services provided to people travelling along migration routes, as well as our response during population movement emergencies that stretch across countries and regions.

The RCRC can benefit from increased coordination in several areas.

Knowledge: Information sharing on data regarding migrants' influx, global research on needs, identify common scenarios, trends and other common scenarios.



Information: Enhance the overview of what National Societies do and their impacts mapping the activities of RC along migratory routes.

Advocacy: Engaging in joint advocacy strategies in order to have a strong and unified voice on migration.

Learning: Exchange of lessons learned and good practices across regional networks, as well as cross-regional platforms.

Implementation: Develop more cross-national and/or regional response plans.

Collaboration in the Balkan region

Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Red Cross of Montenegro

<i>Cross-border exchanges & workshop</i>	<i>Challenges</i>
Mental health and psycho-social support activities in North Macedonia	Limited resources available to strengthen information management capacity
Sharing of lessons learned in Montenegro	Reports in the media of increased pushbacks
In person meeting on cross-border collaboration in Budapest	Issue with unaccompanied minors not being identified as minors by the authorities
Study visit in Croatia	Security issues at some HSPs
Monthly meetings and weekly updates	Need for additional funding

Cross-regional collaboration

Two regional migration Networks in the Mediterranean basin are collaborating together in order to enhancing coordination mechanisms and ensure complementary approach. Building effective partnership among these two networks is considered a common priority in order to improve RCRC response in migration.



Founded in 1997 in Europe, PERCO is made of 31 RCRC members with the aim to improve the situation of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants by strengthening the cooperation among National Societies.

Established in 2021 by 15 RCRC National Societies, the MENA Network was developed in response to the adversities faced by refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and asylum seekers in the MENA region.

The humanitarian needs differ substantially between MENA/PERCO countries in scale and severity, but both networks acknowledge having common priorities in their response.

Moroccan Red Crescent: The Restoring Family Links program



Moroccan RC shared its experience in the frame of the Restoring Family Links program, highlighting the importance of liaising and establishing partnerships with different internal/external stakeholders such as: IFRC, ICRC, some European National Societies

and UN agencies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior. The National Society shares information with these stakeholders regarding the migration influx, the current specific needs of migrant persons, info regarding any shipwreck of boats with migrants and any data regarding missing people.



Possible joint activities identified to be implemented as Mediterranean National Societies

- Sharing information about dangers faced by migrants in their country of origin, transit and destination;
- Appoint a focal person to collect information;
- Have a platform only for Africa to enhance the coordination;
- Promote activities at sub-regional level (within the Mediterranean Basin) involving national authorities.

Priorities in Humanitarian Diplomacy identified to work more efficiently as Mediterranean Conference

- Activities between National Societies and official authorities in order to let them understand better the work of the National Society;
- Enhance the knowledge of the civil society regarding the context of countries of origin of people arriving in their countries.

Actions identified for strengthening National Society capacity of collaboration within the Mediterranean Basin.

- To set a platform to enhance cooperation between National Societies in the region such as quick mobilization especially for the National Society that has limited personnel capacity;
- Unify strategic priorities for MENA and PERCO;
- Promote exchange / Study visits;
- Trainings among National on migration response.

Actions identified at national and/or regional levels

- Psychological support for RC frontliners;
- Reinforce the Youth Capacity.

Actions / areas where CCM could facilitate, and how National Societies intend to commit to

- Organize regular meetings to exchange experiences;
- Climate change is one of the triggers for forced migration so this should be taken into consideration;
- Disseminate scientific research;
- Have regular online meetings;
- Monitoring, Evaluation and guidance.



Building the IFRC Network fit for the future - 14 June

Facilitation

IFRC Solferino Academy

Mr. Shaun Hazeldine - *Innovation Lead -Head*

Rapporteurs

- Mrs. Lara Kinder - *Andorran RC*
- Mrs. Natasa Uskokovic - *RC of Montenegro*

Objective

Using a strategic foresight approach, the aim of this session is to creatively reflect on the evolving world around us and its implications on the Mediterranean region, the National Societies and their collaboration, and the most vulnerable individuals.

Methodology

An interactive and creative session designed to foster dialogue, inspiration and new approaches among the participants of the 14th Mediterranean Conference.

The session engaged participants in exploring the pressing and complex changes in the environment around them. It encouraged participants to consider not only current trends but also how these trends converge and create unpredictable and complicated impacts. Participants explored trends and emerging signals that can appear rapidly that they are not yet currently considering and then examine their potential disruptive impacts.

Participants explored the implications of all these changes for their region, vulnerability and the IFRC network. They also interrogated how the Mediterranean region as it is working and collaborating today, is equipped to respond to the changing vulnerabilities, new humanitarian challenges, and the evolving world.

The session began with an introduction to what we understand as "*Futures and Foresight*", followed by group work to gather ideas about new ways of collaboration and working to capture new opportunities and be prepared for uncertainty and changing contexts.

After a collective reflection on the need to be prepared for the future and its changes, "**strategic foresight**" was presented as a management approach to explore possible futures and anticipate them. This approach



combines evidence and insight with scenario development and creative problem-solving. The strategy is based on highlighting things that can potentially happen.

Strategic foresight enables National Societies to:

- Challenge our assumptions;
- Anticipate and shape the future;
- Extend our horizons;
- Avoid futures surprises and threats;
- Create a shared vision;
- Generate scenarios and options for action;
- Rapid response;
- Be better prepared.

To learn about the applicability of this strategy, forecasting tools like the "*Futures Wheel*" were introduced. This tool helps to explore the direct and indirect impacts and implications of what could probably happen in the future as a result of today's events.

It consists of different prediction phases, starting from identifying the change/trend. The first direct consequences are identified, followed by a second set of indirect consequences that allow for a comprehensive understanding of the situation to analyze the implications and subsequently identify actions to address them.

A group activity was conducted to create a "*Futures Wheel*" for two different selected changes by each group. At the end of the session, the identified actions of each group were shared and wrap up:

GROUP 1: New approaches and issues with lack of volunteers.

- Shifting patterns in volunteering and how this is impacting on the RCRC;
- We have done little about it. HOW DO WE START ACTING NOW? The changing shift in volunteering has to be addressed.

GROUP 2: We have to be aware of the rapidly emerging of technology and its effect to staff and volunteers.

- How RCRC can understand technology and what would be the role of RCRC in that emerging?

GROUPS 3: Climate change / migration

- Negative consequences: loss of nature diversity, economic problems, increasing temperatures, political instabilities;
- Positive consequences: Scientific innovations, new possibilities for the movement to be more efficient in new horizons



Outcomes

Participants arrived at the collective realization that new ways of collaboration and working are required if we want to capture new opportunities and prepare for the uncertainty and the changing contexts.

Key elements to be considered

- We have to become more anticipatory, innovative and less risk-averse in addressing growing humanitarian challenges by systematically analysing the changing environment and establishing mechanisms within our organisations to convert early signals of emerging disruptive trends into decisive action;
- Foresight widens the scope of analysis by looking for trends and emerging issues to gain insights and enhance our capacity to anticipate and navigate change;
- We cannot predict the future but we can identify things that can potentially happen. This is the best way to be prepared to face new challenges and to give a better and faster response;
- National Societies need to monitor and analyse trends in their local and global contexts to be better prepared and adapt our responses to the environment;
- We need to be aware that we are facing trends and issues that already exist but are getting worse and so they need to be treated immediately;
- The rise of new technologies has led to the emergence of new vulnerabilities. This is a key element for National Societies to work on;
- These trends need to be addressed in the knowledge that there is a lack of volunteering and that we need to adapt to the changing model of volunteering and the impact this has on our responses.



Reimagining Humanitarian Leadership

Parallel session - 15 June

Facilitation

IFRC Solferino Academy:

- Mrs. Gintare Guzeviciute -
Senior Advisor of IFRC Solferino Academy

Rapporteur

- Mrs. Virgine Streit-Guérinel –
French RC

Objective

Explore and reexamine traditional understanding of humanitarian leadership and reimagine how it can — and should — evolve towards leadership fit for the future.

Methodology

This session was linked to the “*Building the IFRC Network fit for the future*” session where participants reflected on how the world is changing and what are the possible futures for the Mediterranean region. Assuming that the world changes, leadership should change with it. On the basis of this statement, leaders were invited to explore new ways of leadership.

In order to foster deeper dialogue, creative thinking, and collaboration, leaders were divided into smaller working groups during the session. The goal of these small group discussions was to create a safe and inclusive space where participants could engage in meaningful dialogue and explore new possibilities for humanitarian leadership.

Before splitting participants into small groups, the study “*Humanitarian leadership for the future*” was presented in plenary. This study conducted by the Solferino Academy collects interviews with 30 senior leaders of 5 IFRC regions (18 men and 12 women) and reports showcases leadership reflections and provides practical ways to strengthen leadership to become future fit.

The main findings of the study were highlighted in order to inspire the working groups:

- Challenges of the changing world
 - Higher uncertainty;
 - Resource scarcity;
 - Fight for water;
 - Time of polarization.



- Why is the change in our Network happening slower than we would like to happen?
The need for more flexible, horizontal, balanced, inclusive and diverse structures that promote and facilitate change was highlighted.
- A need for change in the ways we address humanitarian challenges:
 - Becoming anticipatory and less risk-averse;
 - Nurturing workplaces that truly care for people;
 - Measuring mental wellbeing.

The working groups were framed using a set of key leadership principles that emerged according to the leaders who participated in the IFRC Solferino Academy global research

- Leadership that anticipates early signals of change and turns them into opportunities and actions;
- Leadership that is collaborative and intentionally shares power, knowledge and information;
- Leadership that fosters a culture of innovation.

Participants were invited to explore questions such as:

- How can these principles (and maybe others) serve as a framework for the collective IFRC leadership that is fit for the future?
- How much do we see these principles reflected in the way we practice leadership in the IFRC network today? What are the main challenges and obstacles that prevent these principles from manifesting more frequently in our daily leadership practices?
- What are the ways to strengthen the IFRC network leadership?
- How can we move towards a leadership that would not only address the challenges and respond to crises but would aim to create a better future for the whole of humanity?

At the end of the session, each group had the opportunity to share their insights and recommendations with the larger group, fostering a collective sense of ownership and commitment to building a more just, sustainable, and future-ready IFRC leadership.

Outcomes

- Participants learnt from one another, shared stories and experiences, and generated innovative solutions to the challenges facing the IFRC network;
- Participants fostered a collective sense of ownership and commitment to building a more just, sustainable, and future-ready IFRC leadership.



Key elements to be considered

- Elements of the leadership for the future:
 - Leadership that is resilient and ethical;
 - Leadership that looks forward;
 - Innovative leadership;
 - Sustainable local leadership;
 - Leadership that practices self-reflection;
 - Leadership that listens and treasures feedback;
 - Leadership that never stops learning;
 - Leadership that promotes balanced leaderships;
 - Leadership that relies on criteria and indicators for physical and mental health of the volunteers/staff;
 - Leadership that relies on the skills of the team and invest in their development.

- Elements for National Societies to consider:
 - Investing in Youth as a key element of transformation as future leaders;
 - Investing in the development of sustainable local leadership, particularly in branches and communities, and focusing on the development of young leaders;
 - Nurturing leaders at all levels by investing systematically in leadership support and providing opportunities for honest conversations and experimentation.



Social Innovation & Technology

Parallel session -15 June

Facilitation

Red Social Innovation

- Mrs. Ana Peñalver Blanco – *Project Officer, Spanish RC*
- Mrs. Camille Loiseau – *International Innovation Officer, French RC Academy*

Rapporteur

- Mr. Alexandros Pichiliavas – *Hellenic RC*

Speakers

- Mrs. Melissa Al Maakar, *Youth Representative -Lebanese RC*
- Dr Sava Veselinovic, *Antitrafficking Committee president. RC of Serbia*
- Mrs. Tanya Shavar, *Movement Cooperation Advisor to the President-Palestine RCS*

Objective

Bring innovation closer to the day-to-day work of National Societies. Reinvent team and volunteer conversations to collectively solve emerging challenges through innovation.

Methodology

A dynamic 90-minute workshop was proposed, which started with a participatory reflection on innovation and interests of National Societies in seeking new ways to respond to the challenges of the future.

The workshop also provided a space to discover social and technological innovations within the Movement and explored experiences from Mediterranean National Societies in order to inspire participants.

The session was divided into 2 parts:

- Part I: Introduction to the innovation ecosystem and the objectives of the Red Social Innovation platform. How to participate? How to use it?
- Part II: Sharing experiences from Mediterranean National Societies that were part of the Social Innovation Network at the time.



Outcomes

The session featured discussions and presentations that enabled participants to:

- Learn about innovative digital and social solutions within the International Movement, through the Red Social Innovation platform, and get inspired;
- Reinventing conversations around innovation through the sharing of ideas and experiences;
- Connect digital innovation to social and humanitarian responses.

Part I: Introduction to the innovation ecosystem and the objectives of the Red Social Innovation platform. How to participate? How to use it



Cairo | June 15th, 2023



Red Social Innovation

by the French Red Cross & Spanish Red Cross

International Resource Centre for Social Innovation
Spreading, testing & supporting social innovation
across the world



Based on an interactive game, ideas were shared on what is social innovation and what participants already know about it. Everyone shared ideas from their own knowledge in a very enriching discussion that ended with a theoretical presentation by the facilitators.

The "RED Social Innovation" platform was presented in a practical way showing the participants how to use it and explaining some of the innovative solutions already uploaded to the platform. During this explanation, a QR code linked to the platform was provided so that participants could access the platform and search for some of the solutions discussed during the presentation.

Red Social Innovation in Arabic



The facilitators also encouraged participants to think of innovative solutions from their National Societies to share through the Platform.



Highlights

- Social innovations are entrepreneurial and technological practices that aim to meet social needs and vulnerabilities in a better way than the existing solutions;
- The Innovation ecosystem is an initiative to facilitate the exchange of good practices and innovative projects across the Movement, and including external actors as well;
- Its main objectives are to search for social innovations, to shed light on tested and approved social innovations and to support the exchange of good practices between National Societies, external organisations and stakeholders.

Part II: Sharing experiences from Mediterranean National Societies part of the Social Innovation Network

The Palestine RC, the RC of Serbia, the Lebanese RC and the Spanish RC shared some solutions implemented in their National Societies and uploaded on the Red Social Innovation Platform. They explained the “solution”, the challenges they faced and the process of implementing their response.

Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Digital solution for a national rehabilitation program



The PRCS implemented a digitalisation solution to improve the quality of care given to people with disabilities (PwD). Using Business Intelligence tools and practices they digitalised and optimised the rehabilitation services provided. This new method was systemised and led to significant savings of time, which in turn increased the quality of service given to beneficiaries.

Furthermore, this systemised approach led to better data collection that can be used for scientific research. Currently this programme is scaling up within the PRCS with similar initiatives spreading out to other Departments.



Red Cross of Serbia

Phone circles to combat loneliness of older people during the pandemic

During the pandemic lockdown, the RC Serbia managed to transform its face-to-face peer support groups for older people into telephone circle-based support and intervention groups. Led by a volunteer, a group of 15 older people communicated by phone with short, regular communications every day. They



held a calling circle to make sure that everyone in the group who lived alone was doing well, while offering support to each other. Members were free to add their companions to their group, while the relevant local branch provided emergency welfare checks in case of miscommunication. The programme overall helped reduce loneliness and increase the social inclusion and mental wellbeing of its participants, while being in itself a low tech, low cost and easily implementable project.

Lebanese Red Cross

Children's vision, empowering the youth to become agents of change

The Lebanese RC aimed to engage children between the ages of 13 to 15 in its activities. Children's vision is a program that was developed by Youth sector volunteers from a local branch.

They pointed out one of the main needs in its community: overcoming difficulties as teenagers (such as social withdrawal extreme stress, alcohol abuse, substance use, bullying, etc.).

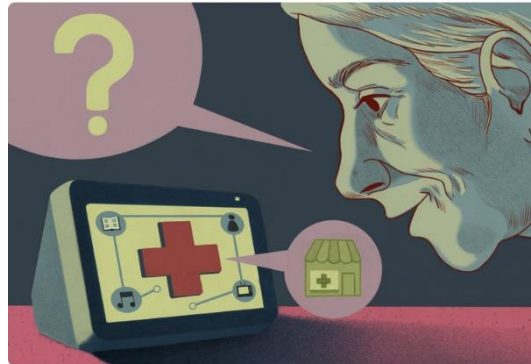


Therefore, the Red Cross offers a Youth-Friendly space, through which they can develop their skills and acquire new information. This led to increase participation and engagement, and most important, to the inclusion of marginalised people.



Spanish Red Cross Alexa: information and help at your fingertips

The Spanish RC has developed and launched a skill for Alexa that brings together a series of utilities for the general population and especially for vulnerable groups such as older people. People who have the Alexa app on their smartphone or a smart speaker can now contact the Red Cross, receive relevant information or perform



Susana Palés

specific actions that help them in their daily lives (appointment reminders at the doctor's or administration, online shopping, medication reminders, etc.). It was a clear example how technology can have its social application and help people.

The presentations were followed by a Q&A and a wrap up of the main takeaways from the session.



Ana Peñalver. Red Social Innovation.
Spanish RC

Key elements to be considered

- Social Innovation does not have to be necessarily a highly technical one, but one that creates new space for people and opens room for new activities;
- Cooperation within the Movement but also with external actors (partnerships, contests, joint trainings, etc) can increase the speed and efficiency of digital transformation within the National Societies;
- Diverse collaboration is the space in where ideas are born, and thus increasing it can be beneficial for the National Societies and for the Movement itself. It is necessary to promote open and dynamic participation of all members of the organisation, through creative methodologies and processes to rethink our responses to emerging challenges;
- The reduction of the technological gap within National Societies but also between National Societies and the groups they work with, can increase efficiency, response time, quality of service provided and inclusion, while remaining a cost-effective way to conduct projects and create new ones.
- Many innovative responses are shared on the Red Social Innovation platform. They can be roll-out in our National Society or they can inspire us to come up with new responses in our projects.



EVALUATION & FINAL COMMENTS

The interactive sessions facilitated the engagement of participants, enabling the expression of their interests, reflections and sharing of experiences, collecting their feed-back throughout the conference.

Participants provided also their feedback on the content, structure and methodology, main take-aways at national and regional level as well as recommendations for next conferences, through an evaluation survey. Considering only the delegates from Mediterranean National Societies, 45% of the participants answered, which is a representative sample.

The overall evaluation of the Conference was 4.53 (being 5 the maximum rate) as follows:

General rate				
	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Structure	47%	42%	11%	0
Content	53%	42%	6%	0
Methodologies	44%	39%	17%	0
General rate (out of 5)	4.53			

In general, all the sessions were highly evaluated in terms of objectives achieved, methodology and presentations provided and new ideas discussed on the subject. In all cases the evaluation was over 80% with "excellent" or "good" ratings: Participants expressed that all the topics were very relevant.

Session rates				
	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Strengthening our work along migration routes	63.6%	35%	1.4%	0
Social Innovation & Technology	62.4%	30.6%	1.4%	5.6%
Reimagining Humanitarian Leadership	58.3%	32.6%	8.4%	0.7%
Building the IFRC Network fit for the future	50.6%	32%	14.6%	2.8%
Climate change and environment	49.3%	36.1%	12.5%	2.1%
Current and future humanitarian challenges RCRC responses in the Med.	47%	39%	11%	3%

The migration session was the highest overall rating, most likely due to its thematic group structure that facilitated participants' engagement and National Societies sharing experiences. It was also noted that the workshop



All these key issues were captured in the Cairo Declaration.

As suggestions for next conference:

- Importance to address topics more concretely and translating them into practical action.
- Build sessions on existing knowledge and experience in the region. In this sense, National Societies could be requested to make brief presentation, focusing on their main challenges and strategies foreseen to respond, to feed the discussions afterwards. This could help to better articulate more specific and verifiable commitments in the final Declaration, to be reviewed annually.
- Further information and documentation prior to the conference, to facilitate more effective group discussions.
- Increase opportunities for bilateral contacts and additional spaces for sharing experiences.
- Allocate a dedicated space for each National Society to present their best practices, thus ensuring meaningful participation from all National Societies and encouraging in-depth discussions (weighting IFRC and National Society presentations)





National Societies express their interest to participate in the following thematic working groups for the follow-up of the Cairo declaration commitments:

MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT	SOCIAL INCLUSION - PGI	CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT
Croatian Red Cross	Albanian Red Cross	Albanian Red Cross
Cyprus Red Cross	Andorran Red Cross	Andorran Red Cross
Italian Red Cross	Italian Red Cross	Croatian Red Cross
Lebanese Red Cross	Libyan Red Crescent	Cyprus Red Cross
Libyan Red Crescent	Malta Red Cross	Italian Red Cross
Moroccan Red Crescent	Moroccan Red Crescent	Lebanese Red Cross
Portuguese Red Cross	Portuguese Red Cross	Libyan Red Crescent
Red Cross of Bosnia and Herz	Red Cross of Bosnia and Herz	Moroccan Red Crescent
Red Cross of Montenegro	Red Cross of Montenegro	Portuguese Red Cross
Slovenian Red Cross	Slovenian Red Cross	Red Cross of Bosnia and Herz
Turkish Red Crescent	Turkish Red Crescent	Red Cross of Monaco
		Red Cross of Montenegro
		Slovenian Red Cross
		Turkish Red Crescent

