
‘TUNIS COMMITMENT TO OUR SHARED HUMANITY’

Responding to the needs of migrants and building their resilience: a pressing humanitarian imperative

On 17 and 18 September, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), together with the Tunisian Red Crescent, convened a *Partnership meeting on the humanitarian needs of migrants* in Tunis. The meeting was attended by Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and representatives from governments, the United Nations and civil society. More than 180 participants took part in this meeting. The agenda focused on ensuring a strengthened and scaled up collective response to the humanitarian situation of migrants and the vulnerabilities and needs of migrants along migratory routes, particularly in the Mediterranean and neighbouring regions.

DRAWING FROM THE MEETING, THE IFRC :

Pays tribute to the solidarity and efforts of governments, civil society, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, volunteers, communities and individuals responding with humanity to the needs of migrants;

Recognizes that a complex mix of factors, including violence, insecurity, and conflict, aggravated social economic and environmental conditions as well as increasingly dangerous journeys, lead to increased vulnerability;

Recalls that we are facing a global challenge, requiring a global response, a long-term strategy and concerted efforts at

enhancing coordination and collaboration across a wide spectrum of stakeholders from local to global;

Emphasizes the need to promote our shared humanity and duty to protect migrants and enhance community resilience;

THE IFRC:

Reminds and urges governments to implement the commitments in Resolution 3 of the 31st Red Cross Red Crescent International Conference, including to:

- Ensure that relevant laws and procedures are in place to enable National Societies to “enjoy effective and safe access to all migrants without discrimination and irrespective of their legal status” – while recalling “the role of governments, within the framework of national laws and international law, especially international human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law, to address the humanitarian needs of persons negatively affected by migration, including families and communities, and to take effective measures”;
- Ensure that procedures at international borders include “adequate safeguards to protect the dignity and ensure the safety of all migrants”;
- Encourage enhanced cooperation in order “to promote respect for diversity, non-violence and social inclusion of all migrants, to enhance cultural awareness between migrant and local communities”, and to promote humanitarian values. .../...

Calls on public and decision-makers to strengthen collective efforts by:

- Scaling up humanitarian services such as restoring family links, visiting and monitoring of immigration detention, providing healthcare and promoting social cohesion, and ensuring that the response is based on addressing humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities regardless of migrants' legal status along the length of the migratory routes.
- Reviewing policy and legal frameworks in order to ensure protection of migrants' dignity, irrespective of their legal status.
- Promoting the creation of legal and safe migration channels.
- Ensuring sustained financing of humanitarian work in support of migrants, and practical cooperation with humanitarian organizations.
- Promoting the positive contribution of migrants to countries of residence.
- Emphasizing the role of, and further support for, local actors and host communities in our continued efforts to build community resilience.
- Leveraging and creating effective partnerships with the private sector and public institutions to address the needs of migrants.
- Ensuring a gender and diversity-sensitive approach.

Commits to scale up its efforts, as outlined in the IFRC Response Plan, to meet the needs of migrants in the Mediterranean and neighbouring regions by:

- Further supporting the response capacities of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- Enhancing our efforts focussing on protection, assistance and awareness-raising and addressing humanitarian needs of migrants;
- Strengthening and better coordinating advocacy efforts towards governments, the corporate sector, partners and other organizations;
- Appealing to governments and partners to engage with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in scaling up and resourcing our collective response in countries of origin, transit and destination.

When people are forced to move it is a tragedy. The IFRC commitment is to provide an environment for them to live in dignity and be respected at all stages of their journey. People should have the possibility to choose to *move* or *stay*.