

National Society: Implementation Plan

Florence Call for Action



Activities of the Italian Red Cross

In the field of Migration

1) RFL service during disembark operations

a) Activity

The Italian Red Cross volunteers and staff are present in all the harbours, especially in Southern Italy, providing RFL (Restoring Family Links) assistance to prevent migrants families separation. Thanks to the training of volunteers, equipment and dedicated staff, RFL teams are able to give information in order to avoid the split of family's members during the disembark operation. The presence of the RFL team at ports, supported by cultural mediators, enables the strengthening of the national and international RFL network.

b) Target group

Migrants landed in Italian ports that need to re-join/contact parents in country of origin/other countries; migrants families separated during rescue operation at sea; family groups landed together.

c) Tools

Information about the RFL service, distribution of flyers and promotional items, information about rules and laws in order to protect the family unit; assessment based on age and family reunification needs (before a family group may be displaced); dissemination of Red Cross/Red Crescent values and principles towards authorities and other humanitarian stakeholders which are engaged in rescue procedures at harbours; promotion of the humanitarian meaning of the tracing service, which must be assured to migrants and families who are waiting for news, by informing the Italian authorities about this basic need; assistance in re-join vulnerable family members hosted in different shelters; training for ItRC volunteers and staff in order to increase competences in RFL.

d) New / scaling up / intensity efforts

Besides Sicilian RFL staff, from last May new RFL staff experts are working in Calabria and Apulia regions, in order to face the increase in migration flows due to the foreseen changes in migratory routes. We are also planning to strengthen the RFL action by organising proper migrants needs-oriented trainings for volunteers and staff.

2) Safe Points

a) Activity

The Safe Points are help desks set up at the main train station areas or where needed, in order to get in contact with migrants who, for several reasons, have no access to the reception network and the local services. Since September 2015, two Safe Points have been established: one in Catania and the other in Trapani (Sicily).

b) Target group

Migrants, irrespectively of their legal status, who have no access to the reception network and have difficulties accessing local services, especially people on the move, people out of the asylum system and people who are no more in reception centres.

c) Tools

The Safe Points are run by volunteers and the aim is to provide support and counselling to migrant people in need. Thanks to the support of cultural mediators, our volunteers and staff give migrants health and first aid, respond to their basic need in terms of distribution of food and non-food items, guide them to local services and provide psychosocial support and Restoring Family Links.

d) New / scaling up / intensity efforts

As the good weather has arrived with consequent increasing in migration flows and people on the move, we need to consolidate and expand the Safe Point approach throughout the entire Italian territory. Consequently, in order to enable volunteers to run the Safe Points, 10 specific trainings will be organized focusing on legal assistance to migrants, migration flows, humanitarian assistance. In addition, with the aim of engaging hosting communities into the action, the Safe Point will be also a reference point to have information on migration: leaflets and other informative material will be produced, both for migrants and hosting communities.

3) Awareness Raising Campaign

a) Activity

In May 2016, the Italian Red Cross launched the communication campaign #leparolevalgono, in order to raise awareness and sensitize the community, media and donors on the current situation, humanitarian needs and Red Cross/Red Crescent response. This communication campaign is based on the IFRC campaign

#ProtectHumanity and is tailored to the Italian context. In collaboration with the well-known Italian encyclopedia, "Enciclopedia Treccani", we are focusing our campaign on the correct meaning of words related to migration phenomena. The campaign is based on five words – too often unknown or misunderstood, or causing fear: migration, asylum, hospitality, humanity, dialogue.

b) Target group

Italian community

c) Tools

Campaign on newspaper, shared hashtags on social media.

d) New / scaling up / intensity efforts

During the 2016, the ItRC will continue disseminating the awareness campaign and will train volunteers in order to manage a fair communication on migration issue.

In the field of Social Aspects

1) Support for persons in need and families in difficulty

a) Activity

The Italian Red Cross has continued even in the year 2016 the activities in favor of people in conditions of severe material deprivation nationwide. The principal activity is the distribution of free food to the most deprived persons or other kinds of need. The foodstuffs originate from the EU or from donations collected through solidarity with supermarket chains.

b) Target group

Poor people who are in serious condition of material deprivation. Out of approximately 256.000 people assisted by the year 2015 the category of users with the highest percentage is that of the child and family with 43%, followed by migrants with 25% and from homeless 23.5%.

c) Tools

Territorial committees dealing with single out recipients of the intervention through listening points and problem reports public social services. Later, after receiving food aid, local committees that took care of the storage and custody shall ensure their distribution.

d) New / scaling up / intensity efforts

In August 2016 has been approved in Italy the law n° 166, provisions relating to the donation and distribution of food and pharmaceutical products for the purpose of social solidarity and for limiting waste. It differentiates the concept of "food waste" than "over". In the first case you are referring to products discarded in long journey of the agri-food chain but are still suitable for consumption; in the second we talk about products that remain unsold on the shelves of shops and supermarkets and, when stored properly, shortly before or in conjunction, can still be used. This law makes more streamlined bureaucratic processes for the donation of surplus and whether it will be guaranteed safe keeping and sufficient conditions of hygiene products will be destined to the most deprived persons. It is hoped so we can increase in 2017 aid of people experiencing poverty.

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2) Job Opportunity Project Builder (CRI - Accenture Italian partnership)

a) Activity

Duration: divided into 5 phases with specific objectives and evaluation moments.

Key objective of the project is to promote the social inclusion of users who belong to our services continuously or for a period exceeding six months, providing them with tools for training for the inclusion work and upgrading of skills and personal resources.

CRI / Accenture partnership was born from the idea to create a project that would allow to develop and deliver specific training packages addressed to our users, for the development of specific skills of interest to the labor market, based on a thorough professional analysis carried out by Accenture.

The project includes different sectors of activity, responding to users' specific characteristics and territorial realities.

b) Target group

In relation to the analysis of needs carried out on the territory and the processing of data related by about 450 local units that provide periodic reports about the users' characteristics, there were three target groups on which to focus the action:

- Young unemployed (37.9% youth unemployment rate in Italy)
- Guests of migrant reception centers in the area
- Families in difficulty in relation to new areas of poverty and poor access to services and job placement instruments

c) Tools

1. JOB For Family - CRI to the Family Service

Provision of training courses for family support professions (Assistant Family and Child Care) organized and promoted by CRI Committees with internal resources and / or network collaborations. Creating complete toolkit for the provision of courses locally, including activation manual, forms, program and educational materials, tools for monitoring and evaluation.

2. - Skills Assessment massive asylum seekers (on electronic media) to understand their skills and / or abilities, in order to direct them towards training opportunities aimed at subsequent use, compatible with their level of education and the context of inclusion and choices based on criteria of enhancement of personal skills and competences acquired in the course of life.

3. JOB for industry:

Identification of educational and vocational training opportunities, offered free to users and CRI financed by European funds and / or partners and supporters of the project (eg. Leroy Merlin).

Research is carried out at local level by specially trained volunteers and particularly concerns

- Educational offers dedicated to young people and be financed through special programs (eg. Young Guarantee)
- The employment of people with disabilities and difficulties related to the accessibility of the offer
- Unemployed people in advanced age with family sustainability issues

d) New / scaling up / intensity efforts

- In testing questionnaires for the Assessment skills to users of services for homeless people
- In the process of formalizing the collaboration with Fondazione Minoprio (national company specialized in social agriculture and vocational training in agriculture) for the realization of solidarity allotments intended for users CRI (on the property of the land, donated or used for various reasons) and for the creation of training courses dedicated to the professions of rapprochement farmer, nursery, etc.

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