

## Concept note

### Red Cross Red Crescent

#### Doha Dialogue on Migration 2014

#### Migration: a global trend

Migrants make up three per cent of the global population, meaning approximately one in 35 people in the world is a migrant. Migrants are people who leave or flee their home to go to a new place – usually abroad – to seek better or safer surroundings. Migration can be voluntary or forced, but generally a combination of choices and constraints are involved, as well as the intent to live abroad for an extended period.

Over the past several decades, a high level of South and Southeast Asian nationals have been seeking legal employment abroad in the Middle East and North Africa. The number of migration workers in the Gulf States has increased from 9 million in 1990 to 13 million in 2005 alone.

The reliance of the Gulf Cooperation Countries' economy on the expatriate workforce has continuously increased as a result, particularly for the private sector. In order to ensure that the Gulf countries and the wider Middle East and North Africa region remain a preferred destination for technically and professionally qualified expatriate workers, there is an agreement among governments and other stakeholders on the need to find a systematic approach to understand their current challenges and needs.

These stakeholders are willing to work together to address relevant labour laws, policies and programmes, which protect the rights and support the best interest of expatriate workers. This includes a focus on attracting a larger number of professionally qualified female workers, particularly for unskilled and semi-skilled female workers.



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ON MIGRATION 2014

#### Red Cross Red Crescent

As part of its global initiative to address the challenges of migration, specifically labour migration and the needs of expatriate workers, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and a number of National Societies, such as the Qatar Red Crescent, are committed to addressing these needs and the vulnerability of labour migrants and expatriate workers, in order to provide improved protection and assistance.

Through its auxiliary role to authorities, the Red Cross Red Crescent is well positioned to support improvements in labour laws, policies and programmes for labour migrants and expatriate workers. Together in partnership with authorities, international and local organizations, foundations and other stakeholders, the Red Cross Red Crescent can also help ensure that they are able to access basic health and welfare services while addressing cultural and language challenges, discrimination and violence related issues.

Through Doha Dialogue 2014, we aim to mobilize our regional Red Cross Red Crescent networks throughout Asia Pacific and the Middle East North Africa, to work in partnership with governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the challenges and improve the situation of labour migrants and expatriate workers across the globe.



الهلال الأحمر القطري  
Qatar Red Crescent

## Doha Dialogue

The first Red Cross Red Crescent Doha Dialogue 2014 in Doha, Qatar, will take place on 15-17 June 2014. The dialogue is a unique opportunity to gather with Red Cross Red Crescent partners from the Middle East and North Africa, Southeast Asia and South Asia, in order to strengthen our collaboration as the world's largest humanitarian network to address the current challenges of labour migration and expatriate workers.

The Dialogue will also be a main occasion for the Red Cross Red Crescent to position itself among key external actors, including government representatives, international organisations, the United Nations, foundations, academics and non-governmental organisations, who are equally committed and willing to engage with us as partners on this issue.

Specific objectives include:

### RCRC Cooperation platform workshop: 15 June 2014

Establish a RCRC cross-regional platform for cooperation on labour migration between the Middle-East and North Africa region and Asia Pacific as key regions for departure and destination. This includes evaluating RCRC migration strategies and recommendations from the RCRC statutory meetings, identifying gaps and opportunities in our humanitarian services, as well as integrating a stronger focus on gender and aligning to global humanitarian diplomacy initiatives.

### Launch of the RCRC Dialogue: 16-17 June 2014

Together with our external partners (the International Organisation for Migration, the International Labour Organisation, UN Women, INGO, NGOs, Migrant's associations, Qatar Foundation, University of Qatar, the Kofi Annan Foundation and the Ministry of Labour in Qatar), the Dialogue aims to

position the Red Cross Red Crescent as a key actor on labour migration and expatriate workers, and strengthen inter-regional collaboration to address its humanitarian challenges.

## Who we are: the Red Cross Red Crescent

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the world's largest humanitarian network. The Movement is neutral and impartial, and provides protection and assistance to people affected by disasters and conflicts. The Movement is comprised of three main bodies: *the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), 189 member Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, including the Qatar Red Crescent Society, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).*

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### Contact information

**For further questions and information** on the RCRC Doha Dialogue 2014 please visit the website <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/migration/> or contact Anne E. Leclerc, Head of the IFRC South-East Asia Regional Delegation, [Anne.leclerc@ifrc.org](mailto:Anne.leclerc@ifrc.org), or Dr. Fawzi Oussedik, Head, International Relations and International Humanitarian Law, Qatar Red Crescent [oussedik@hotmail.com](mailto:oussedik@hotmail.com).

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