



The IFRC Global Strategy on Migration – Reducing Vulnerability, Enhancing Resilience 2018-2022: A Quick Guide for Asia Pacific National Societies





Photo: © Carlo Heathcote

Why do we have a global strategy on migration?

Increasing migration is both a result of, and giving rise to, some of the most significant humanitarian challenges of the 21st century. In recent years, the large-scale movements of migrants, including refugees, in different regions has dramatically highlighted the vulnerabilities and potential risks facing migrants, particularly those in an irregular situation. These movements typically include a mix of people moving due to fear of persecution, conflict and violence, human rights violations, poverty and lack of economic prospects, or natural disasters. Many people cross borders to find work, and an increasing number are moving as a result of climate change. People's reasons for migrating are complex, and are often a combination of these and other social and cultural factors.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has a long-standing commitment to working with and for migrants. The IFRC's global presence, auxiliary role and focus on the most vulnerable means it is uniquely placed to prevent and alleviate suffering through humanitarian action; to help uphold the rights and dignity of all migrants; and to assist migrants in integrating into host societies.

National Societies provide specific support to groups such as refugees, asylum-seekers and migrant workers, among others, and provide life-saving services to the most vulnerable, advocating on migrants' needs and rights, and enhancing access to longer-term support. Working with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), National Societies also play a crucial role notably in Restoring Family Links (RFL), including in reuniting families when possible.

Drawing on the actions of National Societies in 192 countries and an estimated 13 million volunteers, the IFRC Global Migration Strategy sets a direction for National Societies and the IFRC Secretariat until the end of 2022 to strengthen IFRC support to migrants at different stages of their journeys. It links together assistance, protection and advocacy work in order to reduce the vulnerability of migrants, including migrants in irregular situations, and to enhance their resilience.



Claudia Janke/British Red Cross

The goal of the strategy, **'At all stages of their journeys, and irrespective of their legal status, migrants find the IFRC ready to respond to their needs, enhance their resilience, and advocate for their rights'.**

What does this mean?

We (National Societies) have committed to working together across countries of origin, transit, destination and return, to ensure all migrants, irrespective of legal status, can turn to us in times of need.

We can do this by supporting all communities to feel safe, ensuring migrants are included in our activities, and also ensuring migrants can support themselves – in other words, to be independent and not reliant on our support.

We will stand alongside migrants and the communities that support them to ensure everyone can participate and feel included, and when needed, use our voice to raise awareness and advocate with and for migrants and displaced communities.



Daniel Cima / American Red Cross

What are the Priorities in the IFRC Global Migration Strategy?

The following five priorities form the basis of the strategy over five years:

1. Greater and more consistent IFRC action on migration through increased strategic attention on migration, understanding of vulnerabilities and response to migrants' needs. We can do this through:
 - 75% of National Societies undertake assessments of need and integrate migration into their strategic planning.
 - Ensuring National Society services are accessible by migrants, increasing services to migrants in key areas, targeting migrants and vulnerable host populations, and ensuring inclusion of migrants in an irregular situation.
 - National Societies consider the relevance of the Movement's core strengths in migration programming - food, shelter and NFIs, health, information and referral, Restoring Family Links – in their context and the potential to provide these services, considering the needs of migrants and the capacity of the National Society.
2. Stronger IFRC action along migratory trails to reduce the risks that migrants face and address migrants' needs through assistance, protection and advocacy
 - Build the capacity of National Societies, particularly at branch level, so that they can assess and respond to the needs of migrant and host communities at key points along migratory trails.
3. Greater focus on the most vulnerable and marginalised, ensuring that existing services are accessible and acceptable to migrants of all kinds; and establish dedicated migration programming where necessary.
4. Increased impact of advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy with governments through strategic use of National Societies' role as humanitarian auxiliaries to public authorities.
5. Strengthened partnerships, within the Movement, as well as with external actors.

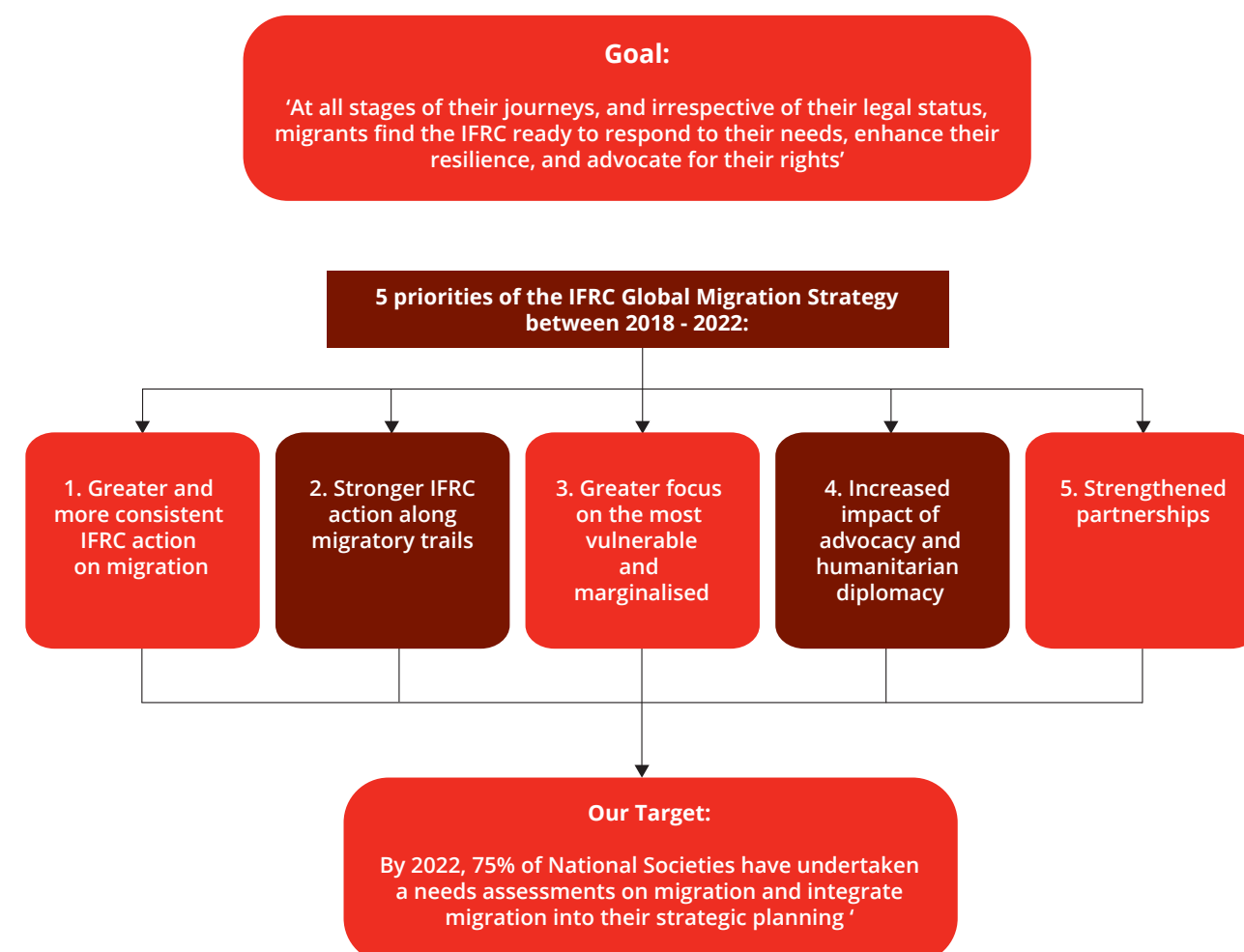
How is the strategy structured?

This strategy is broken down into sections, which include:

- The main goal of the strategy, 'At all stages of their journeys, and irrespective of their legal status, migrants find the IFRC ready to respond to their needs, enhance their resilience, and advocate for their rights'.
- Three strategic aims or priorities we are working towards together.
- Three enabling actions explain how we will deliver these priorities or aims.
- The actions or activities we can implement to achieve these strategic aims and enabling actions.
- The outcomes or results we hope to achieve as we work towards our goal to support and assist migrants and those impacted by migration.

The strategy is for everyone, and helps to guide our direction on reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience on migrants from the global to the regional and the local level. This strategy focuses on the core strengths and common purpose of National Societies and the IFRC in migration, setting out aims and objectives to be achieved over a 5-year time frame, from 2018 to 2022. The strategy recognises the differences between each National Society whilst acknowledging the various migration issues and contexts.

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Strategic Aims, Enabling Actions and Outcomes of the Global Migration Strategy

The table below represents a selection of possible activities that could be progressed by the IFRC and its National Societies. For a full list, please refer to the IFRC 2018-2022 Global Migration Strategy

Focus areas	Activities	Outcomes
Strategic Aim 1: Save lives and ensure dignity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an assessment on the needs of migrants in each country • Provide services to migrants (health, shelter, first aid, food bank, RFL etc) • Develop referral pathways for migrants to access health and other essential services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrants will have access to assistance and information along the migration route • Migrants will be able to maintain connection with their families • Migrants will feel safe and can seek support at all stages of their journey
Strategic Aim 2: Enable safe and resilience living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake pre-departure activities and safe migration messaging for migrants • Include migrants in NS services and program planning • Ensure the safety and dignity of migrants being returned to their country of origin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrants will have information to make safe decisions • Migrants and host communities will be able to cope with challenges • Migrants returning home will feel included in the community
Strategic Aim 3: Promote social inclusion of migrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake advocacy so migrants can access essential services • Ensure services are inclusive and available to both migrants and host communities • Engage the whole community to strengthen social cohesion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrants will have access to information, resources and opportunities in their new communities • Migrants and host communities will feel accepted, can participate in and feel included in society
Enabling Action 1: Build strong National Societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a national assessment on migration • Host a migration strategic workshop • Train staff and volunteers on migration • Integrate migration into existing programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS will have the skills and knowledge on migration • NS will work together to address migration issues • NS will respond to the risks experienced by migrants
Enabling Action 2: Pursue humanitarian diplomacy and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage migrants directly to understand their experiences • Use evidence to advocate to public authorities • Encourage leadership to engage on migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS will have evidence to advocate for greater safety and wellbeing for migrant communities • NS will be able to influence how governments and partners address the humanitarian needs of migrants
Enabling Action 3: Function effectively as the IFRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in regional networks to share experiences and lessons learnt • Strengthen engagement with ICRC to ensure effective coordination to meet the needs of migrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NS will work together, and with ICRC and IFRC, to share learnings, and good practice to address the needs of migrants • NS will be able to respond quickly to migration related emergencies, and conduct monitoring and evaluation



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