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## Emergency plan of action operation update Italy: Population Movement

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRIT002	GLIDE n° OT-2015-000050-ITA
Operations update n° 3	Timeframe covered by this update: 25 March 2016 to 31 May 2016
Date of issue: 01 June 2016	
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Operation start date: 8 May 2015	Timeframe of the emergency appeal: extended until 31 August 2016
Appeal budget: CHF 2,775,269	Appeal coverage: 100%
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) assistance allocated: CHF 283,305	
Number of people being assisted: 105,000	
Host National Society (number of volunteers, staff, branches): The branches of the Italian Red Cross, in Southern Italy are involved in supporting the disembarkation of the migrants with over 5,000 volunteers and staff. In addition, almost 2,500 volunteers and staff in the whole territory are involved in the support operations for migrants.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Ministry of Health and other Italian authorities, IOM, UNHCR, “Save the Children” and “Médecins du monde Italy”.	

### Summary:

As confirmed by data from the Italian Ministry of Interior (Moi), the migration flow is increasing with the upcoming summer season and favourable weather conditions. As of 29 May 2016, the number of arrivals in Italy by sea during 2016 is 46,714 migrants, out of which 16% are children (4,541 are unaccompanied minors) 10% are women and 74% are men. Over the past months the number of migrants coming into the country has been increasing. According to UNHCR, there has been an increase from 9,149 arrivals in April to 18,788 in May this year. This trend is expected to continue during the summer months.

Due to the current situation and in the anticipation that the influx of migrants during the upcoming months will increase, the Italian Red Cross will continue its work to cover the continuing needs for food, drinking water and non-food items, first aid and health screening, psychosocial support (PSS) and restoring family links (RFL). This operations update no.3 has the objective of a timeframe extension from 31 May to 31 August 2016 with no changes in the budget at this time. The Italian Red Cross is currently revising the emergency plan of action in order to adapt to the increasing influx of migrants during the coming months. **A revised plan of action and budget will be available in June 2016, with an additional operational timeframe extension**, that will include the expansion of the Safe Point model throughout the entire Italian territory and the provision of primary health care and humanitarian assistance including search and rescue activities.

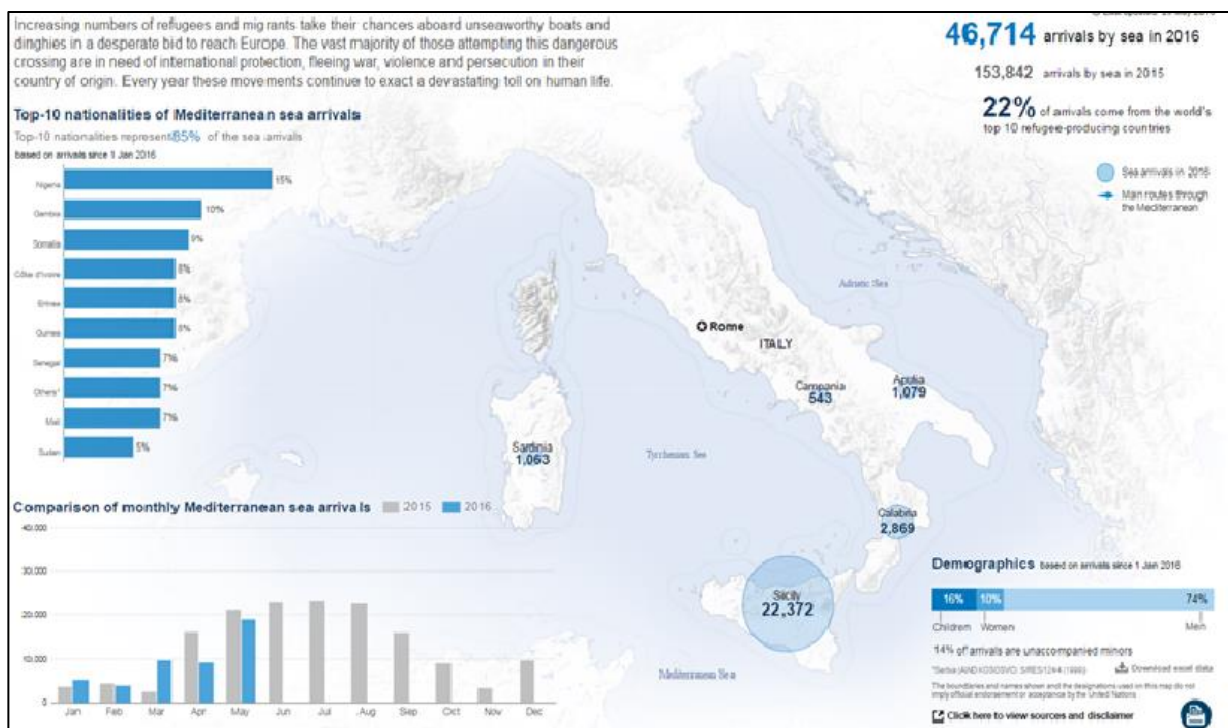


Italian Red Cross volunteer providing relief aid to an incoming migrant.  
Source: Italian Red Cross

### Appeal history:

- On **25 April 2015**, a DREF allocation was released in the sum of 283,305 Swiss francs.
- On **8 May 2015**, the on-going Emergency Appeal was published for 2,710,576 Swiss francs.
- On **23 July 2015**, Operations Update No. 1 was issued, in order to adjust the action to the emerging needs, represented by the increasing number of migrant people in transit throughout the entire Italian territory.
- On **2 November 2015**, Revision Nr.1 was issued, in order to increase the number of beneficiaries up to 105,000 migrants: the appeal was entitled to seek for 2,775,269 Swiss francs.
- On **25 March 2016**, [Operation Update No.2](#) was published in order to extend the timeframe of the original Emergency Plan of Action until 31 May 2016.

UNHCR as of 29 May 2016 (click on infographic for more details)



## Operational implementation

For many years, the Italian Red Cross has been at the frontline of humanitarian response meeting the needs of migrants and refugees in cooperation with other stakeholders. The National Society has been providing humanitarian, social and medical assistance to refugees, displaced and migrant populations since that is an institutional task of the Italian Red Cross. The Italian Red Cross's assistance is based on the IFRC's migration policy.

With the support of the IFRC, the Italian Red Cross has already undertaken numerous efforts to bring health care, including first aid, rescue, psychosocial support (PSS), relief and RFL services to those in need.

**From 8 May 2015 to 30 April 2016, the following services were provided during more than 400 disembarkations:**

- Provision of food, drinking water and non-food items
- First aid and health screening
- Psychosocial support (PSS)
- Restoring family links (RFL)
- Information hotline in various languages in the whole territory of Italy

Migrants assisted by the Italian Red Cross at landings from 8 May 2015 to 30 April 2016:

<b>Number of people assisted at landings</b>	<b>138,926</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>109,792</b>
<b>Women</b>	<b>18,322</b>
<b>Minors, both genders</b>	<b>10,760</b>

As of 30 April 2016, the following items have been distributed by the Italian Red Cross:

<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>Distribution in Sicily</b>	<b>Distribution in Calabria</b>	<b>Distribution in Puglia</b>	<b>Distributions in other Regions</b>
Woman kits	3,500	1,475	1,525	2,320
Food kits	26,300	15,100	6,200	25,000
Baby kits	1,900	600	450	670
Relief kits	29,700	13,600	6,000	35,700
Oral rehydration salts	5,000	7,000	6,200	4.100
Hygiene kits	29,200	13,100	15,170	27,520
<b>Totals</b>	<b>95,600</b>	<b>50,875</b>	<b>35,545</b>	<b>91,214</b>

## Looking forward ...

Due to the current situation of the closing of the borders to undocumented migrants on the Western Balkans route, changes in the migratory route are expected where migrants might choose alternate ways to reach Western and Northern Europe through Italy. The next scenario could be the emergence of a migratory flow through the Adriatic Sea, from Greece, via Albania, to the eastern coast of Italy. Additionally, the eventual closing of the Brenner Pass will have an effect on the increasing number of migrants remaining in Italy and, consequently, on their vulnerabilities.

More than 700 people are believed to have drowned on the Libya-Italy crossing in three separate accidents in the past seven days – the highest death toll on the Mediterranean migration route for a year, according to UNHCR. As the weather becomes warmer and the Mediterranean becomes calmer, the number of people seeking refuge in Europe is likely to increase. The influx of migrants coming from Northern Africa has increased in the past months.

The Italian Red Cross needs to be prepared in case of such a scenario. In cooperation with the **IFRC it is going to extend the timeframe and the budget of the original Emergency Plan of Action during an incoming revision expected to be completed in June 2016.**

Through the upcoming revision of the Emergency Plan of Action, the National Society is aiming to increase the number of beneficiaries to exceed the initially planned target of 105,000. The new setup will allow the National Society to keep providing services as planned in the previous Plan of Action, such as food and water distribution, distribution of non-food items, distribution of hygiene kits, provision of psychosocial support, Restoring Family Links (RFL) services as well as community engagement and accountability (CEA) activities. In addition, the following new components will be considered:

- The Italian Red Cross will expand the **Safe Point** model throughout the entire Italian territory and will keep providing assistance at disembarkation points. These established Safe Points are acting as help desks to provide community engagement services, basic assistance, health care, psychosocial support, Restoring Family Link (RFL) services and counselling to migrants in need. In the Safe Points, non-food items are available for distribution.
- Considering the National Society's crucial role in facilitating the assistance network to migrants, both in dialogue with national and local institutions – including the Italian Coast Guard - and with other relevant stakeholders, the Italian Red Cross will be engaged in providing **primary health care and humanitarian assistance during search and rescue operations** in cooperation with the Migrant Offshore Aid Station Foundation.

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## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.