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Migration Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2024–2030

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Document prepared by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross in cooperation with the other members of the Migration Leadership Group (23 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) and in consultation with the Global Migration Task Force (including 43 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)

DRAFT RESOLUTION

**Migration Strategy for the
International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
2024–2030**

The Council of Delegates,

deeply concerned about the increasing hardships faced by migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers,¹ in different contexts globally – including along land- and sea-based migration routes, at borders, in transit and destination countries, in camps, in detention and, in some cases, upon their return,

recognizing that migrants have a greater potential to thrive and contribute positively to countries of origin, transit and destination when their needs are met, their rights protected and their social inclusion supported,

stressing the responsibility of States to address the assistance and protection needs of migrants in vulnerable situations and ensure that all migrants can enjoy, without discrimination, the protection afforded to them under international law,

acknowledging the possible harmful impacts of migration-related laws, policies and practices on the safety and dignity of migrants and the need to prevent and mitigate these impacts,

acknowledging also the efforts undertaken by many States to address the vulnerabilities and needs of migrants,

recalling the respective and complementary mandates, roles and responsibilities of the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement), based notably on the Statutes of the Movement, resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference) and the Movement Coordination for Collective Impact Agreement (Seville Agreement 2.0), including the auxiliary role of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) in providing support to their respective public authorities in the humanitarian field,

recalling also the commitments of States in Resolution 3 of the 31st International Conference (2011), which requests them 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 status, for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection services,

acknowledging the important work carried out by the Movement, guided by its Fundamental Principles, to alleviate human suffering, including by providing principled humanitarian assistance and protection to migrants,

¹ In line with the [IFRC Policy on Migration \(2009\)](#), the Movement describes “migrants” as people who flee or leave their habitual residence in search of safety, opportunities or better prospects – usually abroad. This includes, among others, asylum seekers, refugees, stateless migrants, labour migrants and migrants deemed to be irregular by the public authorities.

highlighting the need to enhance coherent Movement positioning for stronger humanitarian diplomacy, including advocacy, on migration-related humanitarian challenges, in line with its Fundamental Principles,

highlighting also the need to strengthen the Movement's principled humanitarian action in responding to emergencies, providing sustained and long-term support to increase the resilience and inclusion of migrants, working with communities, including host communities, to raise awareness of the vulnerabilities and capacities of migrants and contributing to their protection, by leveraging the proximity and local knowledge of National Societies, their role as auxiliaries to their public authorities in the humanitarian field and the complementarity between Movement components,

recalling and reaffirming past resolutions on topics relating to migration adopted by the International Conference (including Resolution 21, 24th International Conference, Manila, 1981; Resolution 17, 25th International Conference, Geneva, 1986; Resolution 4, 26th International Conference, Geneva, 1995; Resolution 1, Annex, Declaration "Together for Humanity", 30th International Conference, Geneva, 2007; Resolution 3, 31st International Conference, Geneva, 2011; and Resolution 4, 33rd International Conference, Geneva, 2019) and by the Council of Delegates (including Resolution 9, Budapest, 1991; Resolution 7, Birmingham, 1993; Resolution 4, Geneva, 2001; Resolution 10, Geneva, 2003; Resolution 5, Geneva, 2007; Resolution 4, Nairobi, 2009; and, in particular, the "Movement Call for Action on the Humanitarian Needs of Vulnerable Migrants", adopted by Resolution 3, Antalya, 2017; and the "Movement Statement on Migrants and our Common Humanity", adopted by Resolution 8, Geneva, 2019) as well as the Policy on Migration adopted by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 2009 (which was also welcomed by the Movement in Resolution 4 of the Council of Delegates, Nairobi, 2009), the IFRC's Global Strategy on Migration 2018–2022 and the IFRC Strategy 2030 and *welcoming* the extension to 2030 of the Movement's Restoring Family Links (RFL) Strategy 2020–2025 and the resolution "Protection in the Movement" on the agenda for this Council of Delegates,

recalling the 2022 Council of Delegates Resolution 9 "Towards a Movement strategy on migration" and its background document and *commending* the work carried out by the Movement Migration Leadership Group, supported by the Global Migration Lab, the Global Migration Task Force and regional migration networks, to develop the Strategy through a Movement-wide participatory consultation process,

1. *adopts* the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Migration Strategy 2024–2030 (annexed hereto);
2. *calls on* National Societies, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in accordance with their respective mandates, roles, responsibilities and areas of expertise, to:
 - a. promote knowledge and understanding of this Strategy in their respective organizations and communicate it outside the Movement to States and other stakeholders
 - b. incorporate the Strategy's content into their own strategies, plans and programmes at the national, regional and global level, taking into account needs, specific contexts, capacities, mandates and the work of other actors and promoting the meaningful participation of migrants, including refugees and people with lived experience of migration
 - c. enhance cross-border cooperation within the Movement to achieve greater availability, continuity and quality of service delivery along migration routes
 - d. mobilize the resources needed to support the successful implementation of the Strategy;
3. *asks* the Migration Leadership Group to champion the Strategy, oversee its implementation and mobilize external support for it, and the Global Migration Task Force to provide the technical guidance, tools and analysis required to support the implementation of the Strategy and assess progress toward achieving its objectives using the Global Action Plan, the Implementation Toolkit and the Monitoring Plan, the development of which is prioritized in the

Strategy;

4. *encourages* the Migration Leadership Group and the Global Migration Task Force to coordinate efforts and develop synergies with other Movement platforms, including with the RFL Leadership Platform and the RFL Strategy Implementation Group;
5. *invites* the Migration Leadership Group to report to the 2026 Council of Delegates on the results achieved by the components of the Movement in implementing the Migration Strategy 2024–2030.

Annex

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Migration Strategy 2024–2030

1. Purpose and scope of the Movement Migration Strategy

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Migration Strategy sets out the strategic direction for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (together “the Movement”) in our work with and for migrants for the period 2024–2030. It enables partners, donors and other stakeholders to identify opportunities to develop and enhance coordination and collaboration with the Movement, in line with our principled humanitarian approach and strategic priorities in the field of migration. This is the first strategy that brings together all Movement components based on complementary mandates and sets out a collective vision and shared objectives to guide our work in the field of migration. This strategy complements, and will be implemented in alignment with, other relevant Movement policies, commitments and frameworks related to migration.ⁱ

The scope of the Migration Strategy reflects the Movement’s inclusive and distinct humanitarian approach to working with and for migrants, which is focused first and foremost on needs and vulnerabilities. The Movement, and therefore this Strategy, uses a deliberately broad description of the term “migrant”, which encompasses all people who flee or leave their habitual residence in search of safety, opportunities or better prospects – usually abroad. This includes, among others, asylum seekers, refugees, stateless migrants, labour migrants and migrants deemed to be irregular by the public authorities. The Movement’s inclusive description of a migrant reflects the complexity of migration patterns and captures, without discrimination, the full extent of related humanitarian concerns. Under this approach, the Movement also recognizes that all migrants enjoy protection under international human rights law and other bodies of international law and that some migrants, such as refugees and asylum seekers, are entitled to specific protections and rights, notably under refugee law. While this Strategy focuses on the risks and vulnerabilities that arise in the context of migration, it reflects an appreciation of the links that may exist between internal displacement and cross-border movement and the need for holistic and coordinated responses where appropriate.ⁱⁱ The Strategy also reflects the Movement’s engagement with communities, including host communities and communities in countries of origin, on issues related to migration.

2. Background and rationale for the Movement Migration Strategy

An increasing number of people are leaving their homes and countries in search of safety or better prospects. Many migrants are exposed to risks and harm in different contexts – including along land- and sea-based migration routes, at borders, in transit and destination countries, in camps, in detention and, in some cases, upon their return. The urgent and longer-term humanitarian needs that unfold are dynamic and influenced by the individual characteristics and experiences of migrants, their capacities, conditions of vulnerability and prior experiences of migration or internal displacement. In this context, there is an imperative for appropriate, coordinated and flexible action to address needs related to the safety, dignity, empowerment and well-being of migrants and to ensure that their rights are respected.

The Movement has long been active in responding to the needs of migrants as part of its core mission to alleviate human suffering, protect life and health and uphold human dignity.ⁱⁱⁱ This Migration Strategy aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the Movement's principled humanitarian action with and for migrants, leveraging the power of the collective competencies and complementary mandates and roles of the Movement components.^{iv} The development of the Migration Strategy was also prompted by the need to steer the Movement through the challenges and opportunities that arise in the evolving global landscape, which is shaped by climate change, disasters and crises, new and protracted armed conflicts, other situations of violence, pandemics, growing inequalities, advancements in digital technology and shifting political and humanitarian spaces.^v The Strategy provides an overarching framework for strong, coordinated and coherent Movement action, aligned with the respective mandates and roles of the Movement components.

The Migration Strategy aims to capitalize on the Movement's strengths and expertise in order to generate the best outcomes for migrants, in coordination and complementarity with other actors, including as part of broader humanitarian and development responses.

The Movement's strengths include an unparalleled global network of National Societies present in migrants' countries of origin, transit and destination, with local branches and volunteers embedded in communities, ensuring our proximity to migrants and our ability to respond rapidly and at scale. A further strength is the unique role of National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field.^{vi} The Movement's added value also lies in its local-to-global knowledge and first-hand understanding of humanitarian needs related to migration, enabling it to contribute to influencing and implementing global and regional frameworks and mechanisms, such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Global Compact on Refugees and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. Principled humanitarian approach to migration

In many parts of the world, migration has become increasingly contentious both socially and politically, with growing trends towards xenophobia and the rise of anti-migrant narratives. This is often accompanied by the hardening of migration-related laws and policies which may include increased border securitization, surveillance, externalization, immigration detention the criminalization of irregular migration based on status alone as well as practices that restrict access to migrants by humanitarian actors. There are growing concerns that this may lead to heightened humanitarian needs, stigma and discrimination against migrants and undermine their safety, dignity and rights.

In such a context, there is an increased risk of humanitarian action in support of migrants being politicized or perceived to be politicized. The Movement's Fundamental Principles require it to remain impartial and neutral and act independently of political, ideological or any other motivations.^{vii} In order to maintain a principled humanitarian approach to its work in the field of migration, the Movement therefore navigates complex political environments and discussions on migration by focusing on the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and the humanitarian consequences of migration-related laws, policies and practices. In doing this, we also maintain the "do no harm" principle^{viii} at the heart of our decision-making and actions. This allows the Movement to remain a credible humanitarian actor, trusted by states and humanitarian organizations and by migrants and their families and communities.

In line with the principles of humanity and impartiality, the Movement prioritizes action to help migrants who are most vulnerable and in need of support, irrespective of why they moved, where

they are and what their status is. This requires us to understand how age, gender, disability and other diversity factors intersect and affect agency, capacities, needs and vulnerabilities while also recognizing that these evolve over time and throughout a migrant's journey. The principle of independence enables the Movement to take autonomous decisions and deliver a response based on its assessment of where vulnerabilities and needs are greatest, free from interference or pressure. This independence is often a prerequisite for migrants' willingness to seek assistance and protection from the Movement, particularly those who are in an irregular situation or fear contact with the authorities.^{ix}

For the Movement to operate effectively and provide principled humanitarian assistance and protection, it is critical that states and other stakeholders acknowledge and respect its approach. This also requires public authorities to understand the auxiliary role of National Societies and facilitate their work, allowing them to deliver humanitarian services in accordance with the Fundamental Principles. In practice, National Societies may at times be required to decline requests from public authorities to participate in migration-related activities if these are not consistent with the Fundamental Principles. Additionally, cooperation and partnerships between the Movement and other stakeholders – including United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations – must be guided by the Fundamental Principles. On occasions, Movement components may also be obliged to refuse funding offered or partnerships proposed on account of political agendas or other criteria that contradict the Fundamental Principles, including the principles of independence, impartiality and neutrality.

4. Vision

All migrants are safe and treated with dignity, have their rights respected and are able to thrive in inclusive communities and societies and participate meaningfully in the decisions that affect their lives.

The Movement aspires to this Vision and is committed to working towards its realization in cooperation with states – who have the primary responsibility for protecting and assisting migrants – and other actors.

5. Strategic Objectives

The Movement will contribute to the Vision by focusing on three equally important, complementary and mutually reinforcing Strategic Objectives. Under each Objective, several corresponding actions are listed, reflecting the Movement's priorities and the areas where we will concentrate our efforts through direct action with and for migrants and through action to engage with and influence authorities and other stakeholders.

As part of the collective efforts of the Movement, National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC will each contribute to achieve the Strategic Objectives according to their respective and complementary mandates, roles and areas of expertise and taking into account capacities and humanitarian contexts.

Strategic Objective 1: Essential services

All migrants have safe, dignified and effective access to essential services, including through humanitarian assistance, at all stages of their journey.

Migrants can face both formal and informal barriers to accessing essential services in a safe and dignified manner, such as restrictive and discriminatory laws and policies and prohibitive costs.

Humanitarian assistance is often required to address urgent needs and to complement other forms of support, as states may be unable or unwilling to ensure that all migrants have access to essential services without discrimination. This may occur in times of armed conflict, disaster or other emergencies (including when such situations overlap or compound on each other) or when migrants are travelling along inhospitable routes or are stranded at borders or other locations. The Movement's action to monitor, prepare for, anticipate and address the urgent needs of migrants – irrespective of their status or where they are on their journey – also takes into account the potential need for longer-term support and solutions (see *Strategic Objective 2*).

To contribute to this objective, based on respective roles, mandates and capacities the Movement commits to the following priority actions:

1.1 Scaling up our humanitarian assistance to migrants to address their urgent needs, irrespective of their status. This includes the provision of essential services, such as food, water, sanitation, first aid, health care, mental health and psychosocial support,^x shelter and cash-based assistance. These services may be delivered at Humanitarian Service Points or elsewhere.^{xi} The provision of such services will be strengthened through investment in monitoring and data analysis, preparedness and anticipatory action.

1.2 Providing migrants with accurate and reliable information about, and safe and dignified referrals to, essential services and humanitarian assistance. This includes providing information about the scope of assistance and services delivered by the Movement and facilitating safe and dignified access to services provided by other actors.

1.3 Engaging and influencing states and other stakeholders to create conditions for migrants to safely access essential services, including through humanitarian assistance, without discrimination, based on needs and in accordance with rights. Influencing efforts at the local, national, regional and global level will also aim to ensure that humanitarian actors have effective access to migrants in need and that their work to provide humanitarian assistance is not obstructed or criminalized and can be carried out in line with the Fundamental Principles and the “do no harm” principle.

Strategic Objective 2: Resilience and inclusion

All migrants are supported to strengthen their resilience and to enable them to be part of and contribute to inclusive communities and societies.

Migrants' needs may change when a crisis subsides or becomes protracted. The Movement's actions to address essential services must be accompanied by attention to the longer-term needs of migrants and implications for communities in countries of origin, transit and destination, including host communities, as part of efforts to strengthen resilience and foster inclusion. This includes actions to enable migrants to make informed and empowered decisions at all stages of their journey and to build on their capacities so that they are better able to handle shocks and crises in the face of climate change, disasters, environmental degradation, armed conflict and other risks and vulnerabilities. Such efforts also require the Movement to work with communities, including host communities, to raise awareness of the vulnerabilities and capacities of migrants, to counteract negative and inaccurate perceptions and narratives and to promote acceptance and inclusion.

To contribute to this objective, based on respective roles, mandates and capacities the Movement commits to the following priority actions:

2.1 Providing migrants with the support needed to strengthen their skills and capacities to achieve resilience, socio-economic empowerment and inclusion. This includes providing livelihood support, vocational training, cultural and language orientation, opportunities for mentoring and peer exchange, educational support, accompaniment and referrals to employment, social, legal and other services. It may also include actions to reduce risks linked to climate change, disasters and environmental degradation and to promote preparedness and adaptation strategies.

2.2 Strengthening initiatives to address negative and inaccurate perceptions about migrants, foster positive narratives and promote inclusion. This includes awareness raising, education campaigns, intercultural exchange and other initiatives to combat discrimination, exclusion and stigma and to build links and understanding between migrants and communities, including host communities.

2.3 Engaging and influencing states and other stakeholders to create an enabling environment for the socio-economic empowerment and inclusion of migrants in situations of vulnerability, including refugees and others in need of international protection, in accordance with obligations under relevant bodies of law. This includes leveraging the Movement's influence at the local, national, regional and global level with relevant authorities and other actors, including with a view to reforming laws, policies and practices that undermine opportunities for resilience, socio-economic empowerment and inclusion. In this context, particular efforts will be made by the Movement to contribute to supporting refugees in order to achieve solutions adapted to their situation.

Strategic Objective 3: Protection

All migrants enjoy their rights under relevant bodies of law, have their safety and dignity protected and are supported to prevent or reduce their exposure to risks.

Migrants can face threats, endure violence, abuse and exclusion and be deprived of their rights, which can affect their physical and mental well-being. The Movement carries out both general and specific actions to reduce protection risks for migrants. Specific protection measures, undertaken during armed conflicts, disasters and other emergencies and in times of peace, seek to prevent and respond to violations of migrants' rights, mitigate the resulting harms and reduce migrants' exposure to risks. These efforts focus on prevalent protection concerns in areas where Movement components have specific experience and expertise. The Movement's provision of essential services (see *Strategic Objective 1*) and longer-term support (see *Strategic Objective 2*) to migrants also contributes to protection outcomes.^{xii}

To contribute to this objective, based on respective roles, mandates and capacities the Movement commits to the following priority actions:

3.1 Strengthening our provision of protection services to migrants, irrespective of their status. This includes providing specialized services directly to migrants to help them maintain or restore family links^{xiii} (including in places of detention) and access to legal advice, counselling and safe spaces (including for children and women). The Movement may also provide specialized services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, torture and trafficking in persons, unaccompanied and separated children and families of missing migrants, among others.

3.2 Providing migrants with information on their rights and on how to mitigate potential risks and reduce their exposure to harm. The Movement will provide migrants with information and safe referrals to enable them to access support, exercise their rights and seek redress for harm or violations they have suffered.

3.3 Engaging with states and relevant non-state actors on minimizing risks and harms to migrants and enhancing compliance with their obligations in this respect. This includes influencing states and non-state armed groups that are party to an armed conflict to comply with international humanitarian law and ensure the protection of migrants caught in armed conflict, bearing in mind their specific needs and vulnerabilities.^{xiv} Furthermore, the Movement will engage with national, regional, transregional and global institutions and fora to build commitment on the protection of migrants and to influence laws, policies and practices, in line with international law. These efforts will focus on preventing and responding to cases of separated, missing and deceased migrants and their families,^{xv} limiting the use of immigration detention and improving conditions for those detained,^{xvi} promoting access to international protection for refugees and others in need of protection and ensuring respect for the principle of *non-refoulement*, including at borders and during return processes.^{xvii}

6. Enablers

The Enablers reflect the cross-cutting approaches, capabilities and resources that are vital in delivering on this Migration Strategy and in which the Movement will invest.

Enabler 1. Accountability and meaningful participation

The meaningful participation^{xviii} of migrants is critical to ensuring that their diverse capacities, experiences, needs and vulnerabilities inform and drive the Movement's efforts to deliver on the Migration Strategy.^{xix} The Movement recognizes that meaningful participation requires sustained investment, which is essential to achieving impactful and positive long-term outcomes. It necessitates, at a minimum, a commitment to actively seek out, listen to, consider and act on the views, suggestions and feedback provided by people with lived experience of migration.

The Movement will:

- Place migrants at the centre of all actions and decision-making by applying participatory approaches, gathering information and insights in order to better understand migrants' diversity and context-specific needs and strengthening mechanisms for considering and addressing migrants' feedback and complaints.
- Invest in people with lived experience of migration, creating and ensuring accessible opportunities for meaningful participation in all aspects of the Movement's work, including as leaders, staff members and volunteers, according to their aspirations and capacities.
- Communicate clearly on the nature, scope and limits of our assistance so that migrants and communities, including host communities, know what to expect from us and how to voice their concerns and questions regarding our actions and activities.
- Ensure staff and volunteers comply with all legal and ethical obligations to protect and safeguard the integrity and dignity of the migrants the Movement seeks to serve, taking timely and appropriate corrective action to deal with situations that compromise principled humanitarian action.

Enabler 2: Localization and capacity strengthening

Investing in the leadership, delivery and capacity of National Societies is fundamental to the Movement's ability to leverage its collective strengths in implementing the Migration Strategy. This is aligned with the commitment of the Movement components to localization.^{xx}

The Movement will:

- Strengthen National Societies to ensure strong and sustainable entities that lead their own decision-making, planning and programming in relation to migration and mobilize the resources needed to fund programmes and services appropriate to their context and aligned with the Fundamental Principles.
- Promote, across all components, a stronger understanding of our work with and for migrants and of how it relates to the Movement's mission, other aspects of our work and the distinct and complementary mandates and roles of the Movement components, with a view to improving coherence and achieving greater internal synergies.
- Enhance our ability to innovate and engage in evidence-based action, drawing on the research, evidence and insights generated by the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab, among others.^{xxi}
- Strengthen the capacities of staff and volunteers to identify, mitigate and prevent protection risks and violations and to address these through appropriate services, safe referrals and dialogue with the authorities. All work undertaken by staff and volunteers in this respect must be in line with applicable standards^{xxii} and the "do no harm" principle and take into account vulnerabilities related to age, gender, disability and other diversity factors.

Enabler 3: Humanitarian diplomacy, including advocacy

Humanitarian diplomacy, including advocacy, aimed at influencing states, authorities and other stakeholders, underpins the Movement's work with and for migrants.^{xxiii} They are critical tools for ensuring unimpeded access to migrants in need and, ultimately, the Movement's ability to deliver on the Migration Strategy. Engaging in humanitarian diplomacy is a responsibility of all the Movement components.

The Movement will:

- Ground our efforts in the area of humanitarian diplomacy, including advocacy, in normative frameworks, rigorous and credible evidence and our principled humanitarian approach. We will draw on our expertise, local knowledge, on-the-ground operational action, analysis and lessons learnt and ensure that humanitarian diplomacy, including advocacy, is informed and driven by the experiences and voices of migrants and communities.
- Strengthen the capacities of the Movement components to undertake humanitarian diplomacy, including advocacy, on relevant migration-related issues at multiple levels, from local to global.
- Strategically leverage the complementary experiences, expertise and access of the Movement components to develop joint or coordinated statements, messages and positions, as appropriate, in order to strengthen efforts to protect and assist migrants. We will also explore opportunities for joint or coordinated engagement with other actors to help migrants.

Enabler 4: Coordination and cooperation

Enhancing coordination and cooperation among the Movement components and with external actors – both within countries and across borders – can strengthen the coherence and effectiveness of the Movement’s action with and for migrants and its ability to deliver on the Migration Strategy.

The Movement will:

- Promote coordination and cooperation among the Movement components, fostering a spirit of collective responsibility and complementarity, to strengthen the impact of our work with and for migrants. The Movement components will share information, knowledge, expertise and resources to strengthen their understanding of risks and harms to migrants and reduce their prevalence while also addressing needs and gaps in support.
- Leverage its presence in countries of origin, transit and destination to strengthen continuity of care, address assistance and protection gaps and promote effective and coordinated support along migration routes, including across borders.
- Coordinate and cooperate with external partners and other actors to enhance support and strengthen the effectiveness of humanitarian responses with and for migrants, including by reducing duplication, filling gaps and facilitating safe referrals where other actors are effectively responding or are better placed to respond. The Movement will also invest in transformative partnerships to strengthen principled humanitarian action in order to address the evolving needs of migrants.

Enabler 5: Data protection and the principled use of digital technology

Effectively navigating digital advancements and data management in compliance with the Fundamental Principles, the “do no harm” principle and data protection standards will enable the Movement to mitigate risks and leverage opportunities in implementing the Migration Strategy. The Movement also recognizes that maintaining personal contact and human interaction is essential to earning the trust of migrants and communities.

The Movement will:

- Use secure, trusted platforms and adhere to strict data protection and management standards in line with the Movement’s Fundamental Principles, guidelines, policies and statutory resolutions^{xxiv} and with applicable laws.
- Help bridge the digital divide by promoting digital inclusion among migrants, staff and volunteers and strengthening the capacity of migrants to protect their own data.
- Regularly review the impact of our use of digital technology and data management and compliance with applicable standards and regulations.

7. Migration Strategy implementation

The responsibility for implementing the Migration Strategy is shared by all the Movement components. National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC are individually responsible for incorporating the Strategy’s content into their own strategies, plans and training programmes at the local, national, regional and global level, in accordance with their respective mandates, roles, responsibilities and areas of expertise. They are equally responsible for communicating and enhancing awareness about the Strategy internally within the Movement – including at the leadership level – and externally among relevant stakeholders.

While global coherence and harmonization are indispensable, contextual adaptation is necessary in relevant aspects. In implementing the Strategy, National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC will each prioritize the actions that are most relevant for a specific context and region, based on assessments of needs, their own mandate and capacities and those of other actors.

The Strategy will therefore serve as an overarching framework to influence the development of national-level strategies, plans and programmes that address the needs of migrants by those National Societies in a position to do so, either independently or with the support of the IFRC and/or the ICRC, in line with their respective mandates, roles, responsibilities and areas of expertise. The Strategy will also feed into and inform the development of regional migration strategies, plans and programmes, which may be guided by regional migration networks.

The Migration Leadership Group^{xxv} and the Global Migration Task Force^{xxvi} will oversee the implementation of the Strategy and be responsible for ensuring that it is operationalized, including by mobilizing efforts from the Movement components. The Migration Leadership Group and the Global Migration Task Force will prioritize the completion of the following documents:

- A **Global Action Plan** to guide the operationalization of the Strategy at the global level. This will enable the Movement components to commit to specific areas of the Strategy where they can contribute and take action, in line with their complementary mandates and roles, resources, capacities and expertise and their respective contexts and realities.
- An **Implementation Toolkit** providing guidance and explanations on some of the key concepts and definitions used in the Strategy as well as practical examples and case studies from across the Movement to help National Societies better understand the Strategy and translate it into action in their respective contexts.
- A **Monitoring Plan** for the Migration Strategy to measure progress and capture the results and lessons learnt from the implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global level. This will form the basis of the progress reports to be prepared periodically for Council of Delegates meetings.

Finally, National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC will seek to harness existing and explore new funding tools and mechanisms to mobilize the financial resources needed to support the successful implementation of the Migration Strategy.

ⁱ They include the following: the [IFRC Policy on Migration](#), which was endorsed by the 17th General Assembly of the IFRC and welcomed by all Movement components at the 2009 Council of Delegates in Nairobi, Kenya, thus becoming the *de facto* Movement policy on migration; the [IFRC Strategy 2030](#); the [IFRC Global Strategy on Migration 2018–2022: Reducing Vulnerability, Enhancing Resilience; Restoring Family Links: Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025 – Including Legal References](#); the [ICRC Institutional Strategy 2024–2027](#); the [Movement Coordination for Collective Impact Agreement](#) (Seville Agreement 2.0); and the Movement Protection Framework as adopted by the 2024 Council of Delegates resolution “Protection in the Movement: Improving our collective impact in protecting people”.

ⁱⁱ The present Strategy, the [2009 IFRC Policy on Migration](#) and the [Movement Policy on Internal Displacement](#) (adopted by Resolution 5 of the 2009 Council of Delegates) provide the necessary conceptual and strategic clarity for the Movement to address the challenges that are specific to internal displacement and migration (including cross-border displacement) and the possible connections between the two.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Movement’s core mission is to “prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found, to protect life and health and ensure respect for the human being, in particular in times of armed conflict and other emergencies, to work for the prevention of disease and for the promotion of health and social welfare, to encourage voluntary service and a constant readiness to give help by the members of the Movement, and a universal sense of solidarity towards all those in need of its protection and assistance” ([Statutes of the Movement](#)).

^{iv} The respective and complementary mandates, roles and responsibilities of National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC are outlined notably in the [Statutes of the Movement](#), International Conference resolutions and the [Movement Coordination for Collective Impact Agreement](#) (Seville Agreement 2.0).

^v S. Vezzoli, “Migration Futures: Preparing for the Unexpected in Migration-Related Humanitarian Action”, Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab, Sydney, 2023.

^{vi} According to the [Statutes of the Movement](#), National Societies are considered to be “auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field”. The public authorities and National Societies as auxiliaries enjoy “a specific partnership, entailing mutual responsibilities and benefits, based on international and national laws, in which the national public authorities and the National Society agree on the areas in which the National Society supplements or substitutes for public humanitarian services” ([Resolution 3, 30th International Conference, 2007](#)).

^{vii} The Movement’s Fundamental Principles are legally defined in the [Statutes of the Movement](#) and described in [The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: Ethics and Tools for Humanitarian Action](#) (IFRC and ICRC) and [The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement](#) (ICRC).

^{viii} “Do no harm” generally refers to avoiding any negative effects from humanitarian activities ([Movement Protection Framework](#)).

^{ix} See [Migrants’ Perspectives: Building Trust in Humanitarian Action](#), Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab, 2022.

^x In its resolution “[Addressing mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies](#)” (33IC/19/R2 1), the Movement called on states and all Movement components to increase efforts to ensure early and sustained access to mental health and psychosocial support services for people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies, including migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons.

^{xi} Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) are neutral spaces where migrants can access a wide range of humanitarian support and services, regardless of their migration status and wherever they are on their journey ([What is a Humanitarian Service Point](#), IFRC). For more information, see the IFRC factsheet on [HSPs](#).

^{xii} [2024 Council of Delegates resolution “Protection in the Movement: Improving our collective impact in protecting people”](#).

^{xiii} Restoring Family Links (RFL) is defined in the Movement RFL Strategy ([Restoring Family Links: Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2020–2025 – Including Legal References](#)) as “a broad range of activities carried out by the Movement to prevent family separation, restore and maintain contact between family members, and ascertain the fate and whereabouts of missing people. RFL activities include enabling the exchange of family news; tracing missing family members; identifying, registering and following up unaccompanied and separated vulnerable children and others; and arranging family reunification.” Enabler 6 of the RFL Strategy commits the Movement to focusing on RFL needs in the context of migration. RFL activities are carried out under the coordination and technical guidance of the ICRC’s Central Tracing Agency.

^{xiv} [“The protection of migrants under international humanitarian law”, International Review of the Red Cross \(IRRC\), 2017](#).

^{xv} RFL Strategy Enabler 6; [Missing Migrants and their Families – The ICRC’s Recommendations to Policy-Makers; Guiding Principles on Interaction with Families of Missing Migrants, ICRC Missing Persons Platform; Guidelines on Coordination and Information-Exchange Mechanisms for the Search for Missing Migrants, ICRC Missing Persons Platform; Core Dataset for the Search for Missing Migrants, ICRC Missing Persons Platform](#).

^{xvi} [ICRC policy on immigration detention](#).

^{xvii} [“Note on migration and the principle of non-refoulement”, IRRC, 2018](#).

^{xviii} A description of meaningful participation was drafted by the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC), established specifically to advise on the development and content of this Migration Strategy. This description refers to creating and ensuring accessible opportunities for people with lived experience of migration to engage in and substantially influence all aspects of the Movement’s migration programming – from initial design and discussion to implementation, monitoring and, ultimately, decision-making – and humanitarian diplomacy, including advocacy.

^{xix} In line with the [Movement-wide Commitments for Community Engagement and Accountability](#) (2019), the [IFRC’s Protection, Gender and Inclusion Policy](#) (2022), the [ICRC’s Inclusive Programming Policy](#) (2022), the [ICRC’s Accountability to Affected People Institutional Framework](#) (2019) and the ICRC’s Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Policy (2024).

^{xx} See [Localisation of Humanitarian Action in the Red Cross Red Crescent National Society Development: Building Capacities for Crisis Management, Resilience and Peace](#).

^{xxi} The [Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab](#) is a joint Movement initiative that produces research on migration in partnership with Movement actors to support humanitarian diplomacy, including advocacy.

^{xxii} They include the [ICRC’s Professional Standards for Protection Work](#) (3rd ed., 2020) and the [IFRC’s Protection, Gender and Inclusion Policy](#) (2022).

^{xxiii} See the IFRC’s Humanitarian Diplomacy Policy (2017) and the [Movement’s Policy on Advocacy](#) (Resolution 6 of the 1999 Council of Delegates).

^{xxiv} These include but are not limited to: [Resolution CD/22/R12 “Safeguarding humanitarian data”](#) (2022); [Resolution 33IC/19/R4 “Restoring Family Links while respecting privacy, including as it relates to personal data protection”](#) (2019); the [ICRC Handbook on Data Protection in Humanitarian Action](#) (2019); and the [International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Family Links Network: Code of Conduct on Data Protection](#).

^{xxv} The Migration Leadership Group includes senior leaders from the IFRC, the ICRC and National Societies. It provides leadership and influences the relevant executive bodies of the Movement, offering strategic advice on migration and ensuring that the Movement’s work and humanitarian diplomacy, including advocacy, are fit for purpose.

^{xxvi} The Global Migration Task Force brings together all National Society migration focal points from around the world and works to facilitate cross-regional collaboration. It ensures recommendations from the Migration Leadership Group are put into practice. The technical expertise of its members and Steering Committee is central to the Strategy.