

FINAL REPORT

Belarus and neighbouring countries

Europe Region | Population Movement

Emergency appeal n° MGR65001

[Emergency Appeal](#) launched: 24/11/2021

[Operational Strategy](#) published: 15/12/2021

GLIDE n°:

[OT-2021-000175-BLR](#), [OT-2021-000076-LTU](#),
[OT-2021-000167-POL](#)

Final report issued on: 14/07/2023

Timeframe covered by this update:

From 24/11/2021 to 30/11/2022

Operation timeframe: 12 months

24/12/2021 – 30/11/2022

Number of people assisted: Over 10,000 people in Belarus, Lithuania, and Poland Federation-wide

Funding requirements (CHF):

CHF 9.5 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal,

A total of CHF 10.7 million Federation-wide

This [Emergency Appeal](#), was **13 per cent funded**

DREF amount initially allocated:

CHF 1 million in total as DREF loans to three National Societies (**Belarus Red Cross; Lithuanian Red Cross and Polish Red Cross**)



Belarus Red Cross delivered humanitarian aid – including food, water, hygiene kits, blankets and clothing to groups of migrants staying along the border with Poland in November 2021. Photo: IFRC

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the situation

The migration situation related to Belarus and neighbouring countries started in May 2021 with an increasing number of migrants irregularly entering Lithuania from Belarus. Later, in August 2021, there was an increase of migrants in Latvia and Poland. Since then, the situation has impacted an estimated 20,000 people spread across several countries, mainly Belarus, Poland, and Lithuania. Following regular and daily attempts by people to cross the borders into the EU during the autumn and an escalation on the border which led to clashes in early November, the situation de-escalated in December 2021 and early January 2022.

As a result of the [Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis](#) that started on 24 February 2022, the countries neighboring Ukraine were also affected by the crisis and faced influxes of displaced persons. Countries neighboring Ukraine, especially Poland, have received the highest number of refugees and are now heavily involved in providing humanitarian assistance to them. As a result of this situation and the de-escalation, the Belarus and Neighboring Countries Europe Region Population Movement Emergency Appeal (EA), was impacted by the Ukraine-related humanitarian crisis. However, in some instances the complementarity between this EA and the Ukraine crisis was able to be leveraged.

Although the National Societies operating within the scope of this EA were also responding to the Ukraine crisis, the activities within the scope of this EA were continued. In Belarus, distribution of humanitarian aid, health services, coordination with local authorities and RFL services continued. Provision of health services and humanitarian aid materials also continued in Poland as well and Restoring Family Links (RFL) services in Lithuania continued without any interruption.

After the de-escalation, some migrants remained in the terrain by the border, but the majority on the **Belarus** side of the border were moved to and housed in a logistics centre at Bruzgi border crossing. The number of people accommodated in the logistics centre decreased from around 1,850 people in November to 800 in January and 450 in early March. In March 2022 all migrants had left the logistics centre, either as a result of the IOM voluntary return programme or in another attempt to cross the border to the EU. The exact number of migrants across Belarus (excluding the logistics centre) is unknown, however, estimated in the low hundreds by the Belarus Red Cross, UNHCR and IOM. People are accommodated in centres in both Lithuania and Poland. **In Lithuania**, 1,551 people are held in five centres, pending asylum application processes, with the number of cumulative arrivals amounting to 4,465 according to the [Lithuanian Ministry of Interior](#). Since August 2021, according to reports, 8,200 persons have been pushed-back from the Lithuanian borders. **In Poland**, people are held in detention centres¹ managed by the Polish Border Guard. Some of the migrants who have arrived from Belarus during the past year were also placed in open centres run by the Office for Foreigners. Reports indicate that attempts to cross the border between Belarus and Poland are [continuing](#), but at a significantly decreased rate. Humanitarian needs, human rights violations and operational constraints continue to be in the focus of concern. Following the increased number of attempts of border crossings and political tension at the EU's Eastern borders starting since the summer 2021 and in response to EU MS calls for stricter border control measures, the EC has published a number of legislative changes. These include: proposed emergency measures in the areas of asylum and return for Poland, Lithuania and Latvia, the revision of the EU Schengen Border Code as well as a proposed Regulation addressing the situation of instrumentalization in migration and asylum. All three proposals, together with the ones already included in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, risk further undermining migrants' fundamental rights at EU borders, notably the right to asylum and the principle of nonrefoulement. In practice, these proposals [might further exacerbate](#) the already serious humanitarian consequences on migrants and can lead to vulnerable groups at risk of not receiving critical assistance and protection measures.

In Belarus, the situation has eased, with no influx of significant number of migrants observed. The number of migrants staying in Belarus has also reduced significantly due to repatriation flights, through which 3,817 Iraqi migrants have been repatriated from Belarus and 112 from Lithuania, as well as the IOM Assisted Voluntary

¹ No up-to-date figure available, as the Polish Border guard stopped sharing the information publicly. February 2022 data: 1,675 migrants with 972 persons staying in detention centres for families and the rest in those for men.

Repatriation and Reintegration Programme, which assisted around 400 migrants to return from Belarus to their countries of origin in the last year. Although there are reported attempts to cross the border into the EU through Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia, they have become limited in number and scale due to harsh winter conditions, and, in general, the strengthened border protection measures. However, the situation is being monitored and has the potential to escalate again.

In Lithuania, the State Border Guard Service reports showed a significant decrease in irregular border crossings during the last six months of 2022. According to the official statistics of the Migration Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, 135 people, who irregularly entered Lithuania from Belarus, had their asylum applications approved, and 80 people received Temporary Residence Permit cards. On the other hand, 2,703 asylum claims were rejected, while 596 procedures were suspended. According to the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, 1,134 migrants have returned from Lithuania to their countries of origin, 1,048 of whom did so voluntarily. As of Q1 2023, there were over 1,500 people living in five reception centres pending asylum application processes, with the number of cumulative arrivals amounting to 4,465, according to the Lithuanian Ministry of Interior. Since August 2021, according to reports, 19,938 persons have been pushed back from the Lithuanian borders.

By the end of 2021, the Lithuanian government introduced new legislation that allowed to detain migrants in irregular situations for up to 18 months, with a decision taken every six months. However, in May 2022, Lithuania's Ministry of Interior announced that the restriction would not be extended for another six months, and migrants would be asked to leave the country. In late May 2022, the administration of reception centres issued permissions allowing migrants to leave reception centres temporarily. 4 out of 5 migrants who have received permission to leave reception centres temporarily were reported to have never returned to the facility, with their whereabouts unknown.

On 30 June 2022, the Lithuanian Government introduced changes to the Law on The Legal Status of Aliens. The amendment allowed migrants who arrived in Lithuania by crossing the Lithuanian border from Belarus to seek employment, under the condition that their arrival to Lithuania was registered within the Migration department system for 12 months. Although many people arrived in Lithuania in the summer of 2021, they were registered within the system later than their arrival (an average of more than six months after). This meant several people were forced to wait approximately until September 2022 to access the labour market and obtain coverage of a legal status that would allow them to reach essential services. In 2022, more than 400 Belarusians applied for asylum in Lithuania. Russian nationals were second (148), and Iraqi nationals were third (138). Citizens of other countries are in the same situation, but Belarusians stand out due to being the largest group of asylum seekers in Lithuania.

The two main groups of people in need targeted by the Lithuanian Red Cross response included asylum seekers (being integrated) and asylum seekers (waiting for a decision from the Migration Department) due to their vulnerable status while they waited for their visas. Asylum seekers were the most susceptible migrant crossing the border, especially Belarusians. In 2022, 206 Belarusians received refugee status, and only 18 were refused. Still, while waiting for a decision, they receive nothing from the state and have to take care of themselves, having neither savings, the right to work, nor health insurance (only necessary assistance is provided). Most Belarusians do not live in centres for asylum seekers but independently - with relatives, friends, and acquaintances, in housing provided by the diaspora and local NGOs. Since they do not live in centres, they do not receive any state support - neither a place to live food, nor even minimal social coverage. They only have the right to work if they receive a decision from the Migration Department within six months, which is also not accessible without a residence permit.

In Poland, the reports by the Polish Border Guard showed a significant decrease of the daily attempts (from 500 to 35) to cross the Polish border between mid-December 2021 and mid-January 2021 from the side of Belarus, due to harsh weather conditions, such as low temperature, strong winds, and high precipitation. Some people were pushed back to Belarus, while some who asked for asylum in Poland, especially families or ill persons, were

transferred to detention centres. As of the last officially communicated figure (in February 2022), there were 1,675² persons in the detention centres, and the current number of people held in detention centres is unknown. During Q2 2022, The Polish Red Cross (PRC) has gained access to one detention centre in Podlasie region, and has been allowed only to deliver goods. As of the end of the reporting period, on average there are approx. 100 daily attempts to cross the Belarussian – Polish border.

Summary of response

Overview of the National Societies and ongoing response

Belarus

Belarus Red Cross (BRC) was established in 1921 and is the largest humanitarian organization in Belarus, present in all 158 districts of the country. BRC works in humanitarian aid (including COVID-19 response), home-based care and active ageing, community mobilization, health promotion and disease prevention, and the integration of refugees. Two regional branches, the HQ, 30 staff and 180 volunteers are involved in the response. A [DREF Operation](#) was launched on 16 November 2021.

To be able to continuously provide necessary assistance to migrants, BRC launched a fundraising campaign. Various organisations and public associations from all over the country, as well as the population have joined this campaign. Local donations included 200 tons of humanitarian relief items and around BYN 30,000 which were used for support activities. All offices of the Belarus Red Cross were mobilized; volunteers were involved in the work of receiving, sorting, forming kits and shipping aid.

The BRC worked closely with government agencies and international organisations to coordinate efforts and further operational assistance. The BRC had access to people at the border and acted as a leading organisation in providing humanitarian assistance to the migrants in Belarus. The BRC was in contact with the State Border Committee since August 2021, providing first occasional assistance to migrants with relief items (food parcels, hygiene items, clothing, blankets, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and referral to health services (in the border area and logistics centre). Over the course of the operation, the BRC assisted over 2,000 migrants with relief items and restoring family links (RFL), medical aid and post-natal care for new-borns and their mothers. With most migrants in the border region concentrated at the logistics centre, the BRC was focusing on the delivery of assistance (food, non-food items (NFI) and RFL) at the location. With the support of DG ECHO, a total of 7,500 people have been assisted (also including the aforementioned 2,000+ people). The sex and age breakdown of the total group of people assisted is approximately 35% adult women, 37% adult men and 28% children.

Daily food distributions were taking place that also included a hot meal for lunch. The need for household items (warm clothing, blankets, etc.) was largely covered. Remaining gaps were covered on a case-by-case basis. Hygiene items and COVID-19 protection materials were provided on a regular basis. The BRC was also distributing additional assistance provided by other organisations through their set-up and emergency team. The Grodno branch of BRC activated a crisis room for post-natal care for new-borns and their mothers. The BRC continued to work on the provision of a mobile phone charging facility to assist RFL, overcoming hardware and permission constraints. The number of people staying in urban centres in Belarus could not be verified, as they rarely presented themselves and asked for assistance. When possible, they were assisted with food parcels, hygiene kits, personal protection equipment, warm clothes and footwear, COVID-19-related information, psycho-social support and restoring family links assistance.

Partner National Society support

The BRC received bilateral support from the **Danish Red Cross** (approx. EUR 30,000 through the emergency request mechanism for the replenishment of 500 sleeping bags, 1,000 rugs and 1,000 blankets, and fuel used by the BRC to deliver assistance to migrants), as well as the **Turkish Red Crescent Society** (in-kind donations). The **ICRC** was supporting RFL activities and deployed a RFL delegate.

² As of February 2022

Lithuania

The Lithuanian Red Cross (LRC) was established in 1919 and is present country-wide with 15 branches. The LRC is mainly active in providing visiting services and psychosocial care to older people, psychosocial support to families taking care of children with disabilities, emergency response, advocacy, first aid training, assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, providing humanitarian aid, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 1997, LRCS has been a reliable implementing partner of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Lithuania, ensuring the provision of professional legal assistance to refugees. Since 2010, thanks to an agreement with the State Border Guard Services and UNHCR, the LRC has monitored reception conditions and appropriate implementation of asylum procedures. In addition, it has organised training for guard officers on how to interact with migrants at the border during the first 72 hours of the start of the influx and contributed to the courses organised by UNHCR on international protection standards and the rights of asylum seekers directed lawyers, especially those participating in the Government's legal aid scheme. In June 2020, the LRC signed an agreement with the State Border Guard Service to expand its activities and deliver humanitarian aid, psychosocial support and restoring family services (RFL) to all migrants in detention, including at border crossing points. Of their network, 26 staff members and 324 volunteers were involved in the migration response and assisting asylum seekers.

Since the early summer of 2021, the LRC has provided humanitarian assistance in reception centres, border control and border crossing points to an increasing number of arriving migrants. Over 4,500 people have been assisted with clothing, hygiene, food parcels, psychological first aid, community engagement, legal advice, translation, RFL assistance, and provision of medication and medical care. The LRC has also received financial and in-kind donations from businesses and the general public, including in-kind distribution of clothes, food, hygiene items, toys, and household items and provides in-cash assistance for specific migrants' needs.

The Lithuanian Red Cross provides information to people regarding their legal status and psychosocial support, legal consultations, monitors reception conditions, organises collective activities and sports events in reception centres, and provides equipment for occupational activities.

Since 24 February 2022, however, the main focus of the domestic response to the population movement has shifted to the developing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Between 25 February and 21 July 2022, the Migration Department recorded 59,595 arrivals from Ukraine, including 22,704 children. LRC is helping the government-run registration centres for refugees from Ukraine search for accommodation, providing legal assistance, psychosocial support, First Aid, information provision, RFL activities, food, emergency voucher and WASH assistance, and covering emergency medication expenses, running a Hotline and Helpdesk in 15 branches.

In addition to the situation, several critical factors contributed to the rearrangement of needs and response activities:

- Winterization response – people in the forests (apparently, in the past period, the number of attempts to cross the border with Belarus has doubled). Needs continuously vary in the border area, and pushbacks of entrance continue. Considering the weather conditions, preparedness is essential at the national level, primarily providing appropriate accommodation, etc.
- People on the move – after one year of the crisis in 2021 and detention, people are now free to move one day out of the detention centres, and the number of people staying in the detention facilities has dropped from 4,000 to 2,000. Allegedly, many of them are taking a route towards Poland/Germany – which is quite long. In case they use organized transportation, there are protection risks (the Lithuanian RC suggests mitigating it with info provision and operational cooperation with neighbouring National Societies).
- Allegedly Belarus organized cheap travel, facilitating arrivals enter EU territory (rumours now that people will be arriving from African countries). So, there is an essential dimension on preparedness and highlighting lessons learned from last year.

From a broader perspective, the Lithuanian Red Cross example is an interesting case for future discussions and Red Cross learning due to being in the EU/external border of the EU, Red Cross EU/ICRC engagement, dedicated movement cooperation meetings, and a population movement appeal where the National Society had strong migration expertise from before.

Partner National Society support

The LRC has received financial support from:

- **Iraqi Red Crescent** (USD 10,000) to provide Iraqi families with humanitarian support.
- **German Red Cross** (EUR 100,360) for purchasing 1,800 units of hygiene kits, psychosocial support kits and medical equipment (electrocardiograph, urinalysis analyser, haematological analyser, and CRP analyser) to be distributed in 5 main reception centres, vehicle for the LRC staff and volunteers working in the reception centres daily.
- **Italian Red Cross** (EUR 25,000) for purchasing laptops for the LRC staff involved in the operation as well as salary contribution of staff responsible for advocating for migrants' rights.

Poland

The Polish Red Cross (PRC) was established in 1919 and is present country wide. The PRC works in the areas of dissemination of international humanitarian law, restoring family links and tracing assistance, voluntary blood donation, social care and assistance to vulnerable groups, health and environmental sustainability promotion, first aid training, education programs, and providing humanitarian assistance in crises and disasters domestically and abroad. The PRC utilises in the operation the psychosocial support capacities it has recently developed through the [EU-funded BaltPrep project](#).

The PRC has been actively responding to the situation and has expanded its activities since the beginning of October 2021 by providing clothes, food and hygiene items, first aid provision and referral to health services, restoring family links assistance as well as public communication. With the donations received domestically and from Movement partners, the PRC has been able to prepare aid packages for migrants consisting of warm clothes, shoes, a sleeping bag, a blanket, water, high-energy food, hygiene products, and cleaning products. The PRC is also providing support to different NGOs and activist groups via local distribution points. 14 stations and one detention centre have received leisure equipment which consists of board games and books to prepare a play area for children. In 17 stations and one detention centre, 187 school kits (consisting of art supplies and stationeries) and 400 sleeping kits (consisting of a blanket, a sleeping bag, and a sleeping mat) were provided.

These packages were made available at Local Distribution Points that are located at the border of the closed zone. Such local distribution points were also available to other NGOs that assist migrants. The aid items have also been delivered to refugee centres (open and closed). So far, the PRC has provided in-kind assistance donated to them domestically worth PLN 610,440 (approx. CHF 138,000) and fundraised PLN 148,113 (approx. CHF 34,000) from domestic sources. The PRC had over 100 volunteers, 20 staff members, 2 branches and the HQ involved in the operation. A [DREF Operation](#) was launched on 16 November 2021 and made part of the Emergency Appeal a week later. The PRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Border Police late last year to allow for the Search and Rescue volunteer groups to provide life-saving assistance and humanitarian aid to migrants being stranded in the area of seven Border Guard Posts. In early 2022, a new agreement was signed with Polish Border Guard that allows PRC to provide livelihoods support to migrants in 17 PLBG stations and 1 detention centre.

Partner National Society support

The PRC has started a programme in cooperation with the **German Red Cross** aiming to support people affected with food and clothes packages. Since its start, migrants in detention centers in Wędrzyn and Kętrzyn received clothes, sleeping utensils, power banks, and hygiene kits (up to 1000 people received assistance.)

For a summary on other state and non-state actors' response in the early phase of the crisis, please refer to the [Operational Strategy](#).

Needs analysis – summary, and persisting needs

Needs analysis

The total number of people affected by the situation has decreased over the course of 2022 and eventually was estimated to be up to 10,000 people (the Emergency Appeal aimed to assist an initial 12,000 people). The Emergency Appeal had a special focus on vulnerable and at-risk individuals, including unaccompanied minors and

single women with children. Needs were informed by monitoring activities in the centres where migrants are being held. For people at the borders and on the move, the general immediate life-saving needs have been clear, while longer-term needs have been depending on their evolving situation per country. Across the countries, the migrants' access to medical care and health services has been insufficient (such as immunisation, sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, management of noncommunicable diseases, disabilities, and communicable diseases).

Belarus

In Belarus, needs revolved around immediate and basic needs of migrants in the logistics centre, until it has eventually been vacated by authorities in March 2020. While still operating, the facility was considered as not suitable for longer-term stay, due to the sanitary situation, lack of privacy and lack of access to communication were the main areas of concern. The local authorities in Grodno were exploring possibilities to accommodate the migrants at a tourist facility, however, were not able to cover the involved costs.

A migrant needs assessment questionnaire was developed in 5 languages (English, French, Kurdish, Arabic, and Russian) with the support of the ICRC, IFRC, and UN agencies. From 22 to 27 November, 340 migrants, of whom 160 were women, were interviewed by the Belarus Red Cross staff at the logistics centre. The needs for food and water, hygiene products and clothing, security and medical care as well as restoring family links services were identified during the assessment. As a result, a priority food parcel, hygiene items and necessary clothing were formed, as well as the need for health care and restoring family links services were identified.

Between 20 and 24 January 2022, with the technical support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross, migrant registration was carried out at the TLC Bruzgi. The registration form was prepared and translated into 4 languages (Kurdish, Arabic, Russian, English) and considered main issues related to demography as well as issues of Belarus Red Cross partners. After registration, cards with QR codes (family codes and individual) were generated and were used to dispense humanitarian aid. A total of 784 people were registered, composed of 342 men, 157 women, and 285 children.

Lithuania

For migrants who have not had their asylum applications approved or their applications have been rejected but were are now allowed to leave reception centres, need assistance in finding accommodation and access to basic needs, such as food, hygiene supplies, and medicine. Additionally, migrants have been in need of support in accessing the labour market and find employment. Those who are not allowed to seek for employment due to restrictions set out in the Law on The Legal Status of Aliens, will need long-term support, including voucher assistance.

Poland

Based on interviews with migrants and border guard officers in control of detention centres, new needs have been identified in spring 2022 apart from those mentioned in the Operational Strategy: children in detention centres have access to teachers but do not have school supplies. The PRC responded by providing 187 school kits (art supplies and stationery) in 17 stations and 1 detention centre.

As of the end of 2022, needs mostly consist of need for clothing items and sleeping items. Large amounts of migrants are choosing to cross Polish – Belarussian border via rivers to bypass border fence, which creates a situation where the need for dry clothing is essential.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Implemented strategy

Regional Summary

National Societies provided support to migrants where needed in the border area and during the time that asylum applications of migrants, especially those in detention centers, were processed. All National Societies under this Appeal are since February 2022 have been responding to the refugee situation triggered by the Ukraine crisis, with needs that

vastly outnumber the previous context in and around Belarus. Poland Lithuania and Belarus are currently hosting more than 2 million refugees from Ukraine over the course of 2022. This has resulted in some shifts in focus and synergies around work with migrants and displaced as outlined in operation update no.2 an this final report.

Belarus

The main strategic directions of the Belarus Red Cross efforts in providing support to migrants were

5. Humanitarian aid distribution services to vulnerable migrants through:

Providing humanitarian aid to migrants according to their necessities, such as food, water, and hygiene products.

Twice a day, staff and volunteers of the Belarus Red Cross delivered food to the logistics center. Two hot meals a day were provided for migrants: breakfast – tea, biscuits, eggs (yoghurt, tea, biscuits, fruit – for children), lunch – hot porridge with stew or sausages. For supper – a dry pack (food parcel): drinking water, bakery products, biscuits, instant porridge/vermicelli/mashed potatoes; for children – baby food, tinned food, waffles, juice.

Over the entire period of the operation, humanitarian aid was provided as follows:

Between 9 November 2021 and 21 March 2022, a total of about 268.59 tons of aid was distributed to migrants at the Belarusian-Polish border: 213.44 tons of food, including milk and food parcels, 18.92 tons of water, as well as warm clothes and footwear (over 14,900 units), plaids, blankets, sleeping bags, mats, pillows, towels (about 6,000 units), mattresses (800 units), masks (60,000 units), hygiene products (11,679 kg), toys and stationery (about 1,860 units), 350 sweet gifts.

2. Health services to vulnerable migrants through:

First aid and psychosocial support.

The Belarus Red Cross staff and volunteers were in constant contact with migrants. First aid and psychosocial support were available when needed, including engaging English- and Russian-speaking migrants to improve communication. During the response, the number of registered first aid cases was 35. However, the main cases were related to treating and bandaging abrasions and minor wounds and helping with fainting. Despite the language barrier, the provision of psychosocial support to migrants by the Belarus Red Cross staff was encountered on a daily basis with more than 1,700 people receiving this type of assistance. Most of the psychosocial support activities focused on women and children.

3. Basic services and coordinating with state authorities in terms of assistance to vulnerable migrants through:

Interaction with state authorities on assistance to migrants

Representatives of the Belarus Red Cross participated in the meetings of the Commission on Emergency under the Grodno Regional Executive Committee, providing information on the scope of assistance provided, and outlining the division of functions between the Belarus Red Cross and the state authorities. Objectives have been achieved by:

- Interaction with organizations, public associations, international partners to support the activities of the Belarus Red Cross in providing humanitarian assistance to migrants.
- Launch of a charity campaign to collect cash and in-kind donations from individuals (200 tons of relief items and around BYN 30,000).
- Ensuring sustainable work of volunteer response teams of the Belarus Red Cross to assist migrants (conducting targeted training for staff and volunteers on response and assistance to migrants, prevention of psychological and emotional burnout; providing volunteers and staff with equipment, personal protective equipment and means of response (3 air tents, 2 gasoline generators, 2 heat guns, 22 mobile air conditioners, 2 air recirculatory, cot, inflatable mattresses – 10 pcs., 4 thermos pots, 4 sets of folding furniture (table, chairs, bench), spotlights, compressor, disposable dish wear, plastic bags); provision of fuel, maintenance and repair of vehicles involved in humanitarian aid response; creation of humanitarian aid stockpile in case of scaling up of the situation).

4. RFL services to vulnerable migrants through:

- Informing migrants about the activities of the Belarus Red Cross on restoring family links (RFL) activities, identifying existing RFL needs and organizing activities for the provision of RFL services.
- Phone charging equipment was purchased: 5 chargers, 7 smartphone charging trolleys, and volunteers and Belarus Red Cross staff were on duty to provide charging stations for migrants.
- At the same time, there were 9 cases of RFL needs. The majority of migrants, however, needed to charge their phones and flash drives in order to keep in touch with their loved ones and keep up to date with the news. A total of 315 households were provided with the service of charging a mobile device or a flash bank at least once. The number of people who received this type of assistance was 569.

5. Providing support to people fleeing from Ukraine:

In March 2022 the logistics centre in Bruzgi was closed after all the migrants left. They either returned home or a third country or ran to the forests in attempt to cross the border to the EU. After discussions with donors to this EA, it was confirmed that the funding of the Emergency Appeal could be used [to support people fleeing Ukraine](#). In March – April, Belarus Red Cross organized its response in two border crossing points in Gomel region (Novaya Guta and Gden) – humanitarian service points were established and volunteers and staff deployed. Since 19 March, an additional Humanitarian Service Point of the Belarusian Red Cross in the village Poddobryanka (Gomel Region) was established, where the Belarusian Red Cross Society and the Gomel Regional Branch of the Ministry of Emergency Situations provided hot meals to the people who arrived from Ukraine and provided psychological and first medical aid. In March – April 2022, people who left Ukraine were accommodated in the selected sanatoria (RC was covering the cost of stay and meals). By the end of May, the sanatoria needed to be vacated for commercial reasons. Belarus RC assisted people (in-country travel costs, provision of information about possible places of stay, provision of contacts of the local RC branch at the place of the new stay) in moving out to stay in the rented apartments throughout Belarus in close cooperation with state employment services. Since then, the support was provided in the regional branches of Belarus Red Cross. People who left Ukraine received access to urgent medical support through Belarus Red Cross or were provided with funds reimbursement or coverage of medical costs connected with urgent operations, treatment prothesis, wheelchairs and medicaments. People could also get first aid services if needed in the Red Cross branches and in humanitarian service points which were open at the border between Belarus and Ukraine in March - April 2022. MHPSS was provided through the telephone helpline and face-to-face meetings in the Red Cross branches.

Lithuania

The operation targeted migrants at the Lithuanian border staying in the terrain along the Lithuanian-Belarusian border, pending regular access by the authorities (this number was an estimation throughout the operation based on influx trends). Another targeted group were 4,000 migrants in five reception centres in Lithuania (Kybartai, Rukla, Naujininkai, Pabradė, Medininkai), including a smaller number still held at border control points, pending moves to the main centres. A third group included migrants in Lithuania who are not accessing asylum processes and/or are on the move.

Poland

In Poland, the operation aimed to assist up to 300 people in need in open terrain outside the closed border zone reached through search and rescue activities following their request for assistance or as found during search and rescue missions. Moreover, 4,000 people were targeted with assistance in migration centres for foreigners near the emergency zone waiting for asylum decision or after positive migration status approval as well as migrants in detention centres awaiting asylum decision (depending on the access being granted to these facilities).

Primary objectives included:

1. Providing health services to vulnerable migrants through:

- Training involved volunteers in psychosocial support (PSS). PSS services were provided during humanitarian aid distribution, SAR activities and during RFL visits in migration centers, and in total, 300 persons received PSS support. Books, leaflets, and other materials were prepared to provide same level of care everywhere, based on IFRC psychosocial support materials and guidelines.

2. Providing humanitarian aid distribution services to vulnerable migrants through:

Leisure equipment, toys and school supplies were procured and distributed in July 2022: PRC provided 187 school kits (arts and stationery) in 17 stations and 1 detention center. The kits consisted of books, board games, sport equipment, and backpacks filled with school supplies. Because of the different age groups in the facilities, every item was chosen with particular emphasis on different stages of a child's development and safety regulations.

Specialized food rations (MRE) were procured and prepared in case the population flow reaches the same peak as in September-October 2021. Rations were prepared in line with cultural and religious restrictions and specially adapted to nutritional needs of minors. Due to the massive population movement from Ukraine in the end of February 2022, those rations were urgently sent to Ukraine, with the consent of IFRC. People in detention/migration centres are regularly provided with food, at least 3 times a day. The only requests from people in detention centres regarding food support that PRC received, were focusing on dried nuts, dried fruits and sweets which may suggest that food supply in those centres is on a good level.

RFL awareness briefings were organized, combined with distribution of information leaflets and posters, leading to 300 migrants receiving RFL services.

As of the end of this Emergency Appeal, the Polish Red Cross continued to distribute migration kits, thanks to IFRC support, to help migrants outside of detention centers. PRC is cooperating with different NGO's to reach all those in need. PRC continues focus on providing clothing and sleeping accessories for migrants in detention centres, border guard stations and in the field.

Transition to long-term sustainable assistance & exit strategy

Belarus

IFRC, ICRC and Belarus RC continue the dialogue with the authorities, NGOs and international organizations (UN agencies, MSF) to see how it is possible to improve the response to single cases of migrants situated at the border. Constant dialogue is going on also on improvement of legislation and development of SOPs for state and non-state organizations. However, changes in policy and funding availability might result in less possibilities for further positive developments - e.g. funding for one long-term project was cancelled. The construction of the centre for migrants has also been halted, stopping at completion rate of only 60%.

Poland

There is lack of interest from the majority of society or private companies to support the population affected by this crisis, which means PRC is facing significant challenges in resource mobilization, and cannot count on additional funding of its activities. To resolve the situation, PRC is cooperating with ICRC and IFRC to create long term strategy. IFRC will include work with the affected population in PRC' IFRC Network Plan – to be developed by Q4 2023.


Lithuania

IFRC and Lithuanian RC continue providing support to migrants and refugees. The Emergency Appeal is closed and those who need support will receive it in the local branches of Lithuanian RC as regular beneficiaries. The Lithuanian Red Cross provides them with humanitarian aid, helps them with cash assistance - compensates them for medicines and food, helps them get the necessary services (e.g. medical or others), and provides legal

assistance. This project ends in April 2023, and the Lithuanian Red Cross is seeking additional funding to support asylum seekers with part of their living expenses.

DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

* Operational targets displayed below have been defined against the full aspirational funding requirement of CHF 9.5 million, of which 13% has been covered via funding raised against this IFRC Emergency Appeal. The achievements described below have been made possible also thanks to National Societies' own resources and fundraising, including bilateral contributions from Partner National Societies.

 Shelter, Housing and Settlements		Number of people initially targeted:		Belarus 5,000	Lithuania 4,000	Poland N/A
Objective:		The safety and well-being of people affected are strengthened through shelter solutions				
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
	# of people receiving emergency shelter and household items / humanitarian kits					
	2,280	2,000	4,532	4,000	955	N/A
Belarus: The BRC has been in contact with the State Border Committee since August 2021, providing at first occasional assistance to migrants with relief items (food parcels, hygiene items, clothing, blankets, PPE). After the escalation at the border, the BRC has assisted over 2,000 migrants with relief items, including clothing and blankets. The BRC has continued to provide essential items (mattresses, sleeping bags, blankets, towels, warm shoes and clothing, etc.) to the entire population of the logistics centre, where people have been moved to. The distributions have been targeted and tailored to the needs. In total, four accommodation facilities were used in the operation (tents, TLC "Bruzgi", base "Svitanok", and Red Cross Crisis Centre in Grodno), taking into account gender and inclusion. 2,000 migrants received accommodation, including 6 migrant women with 12 children who were accommodated in the crisis room of Grodno branch. In March – June 2022, shelter services (accommodation and meals) were also provided to 920 people who left Ukraine.						
Challenges & lessons learned: IFRC, BRC, ICRC and other partners explored possibilities to accommodate migrants stranded at the border in the recreation centres. It was not possible because the cost of accommodation in the recreation centres suggested by the state authorities was extremely high.						
Lessons learned (for future programmes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop processes for integrating lessons learned into future response design • Develop a plan with several scenarios of the situation, taking into account the changing phases of the response • Outline to government partners migrant assistance standards and a list of Belarus Red Cross capacity to meet basic needs • Establish framework agreements with suppliers (including wholesalers or manufacturers) for quicker deliveries during the emergency response (food, hygiene, medical, etc.) based on supplier mapping • Conduct a hands-on training exercise, also involving experts from other NSs, for all Belarus Red Cross staff and volunteers • Establish new software for beneficiary registration, needs identification and recording of humanitarian aid provided • Optimize cooperation with governmental partners on employment of migrants 						

- Define competencies and funding sources for the new camp
- Sign memorandum of cooperation with governmental partners

Lithuania:


Over 4,500 people were assisted with clothing items, including with items procured with the support of the DREF during 2021. During winter, needs for clothing in the centre have been partially covered through donations collected by the LRC, complemented by shoes procured on the market.

LRC, together with partner NGOs, assisted up to 25,000 people arriving from Ukraine with clothing and household items through in-kind donations.

Poland:

Polish Red Cross has been providing clothes and footwear to migrants in Polish Border Guard stations, more than 1500 sets of underwear, 585 sets of winter clothing and 955 sets of clothing has been distributed. To improve living conditions in detention centres and migration centres, PRC provided 3,000 sets consisting of a sleeping bag and a blanket to migrants in migration/detention centres. Recently, priorities have shifted to providing clothes and hygiene kits, that Polish Red Cross continues to assist the migrant population with.

Challenges & lessons learned: The diversity of the population created a challenge in providing clothing due to different needs regarding age, gender and clothing size.

 Livelihoods		Number of people initially targeted:		Belarus	Lithuania	Poland
				5,000	-	300
Objective:		The basic needs of affected people are covered through food security assistance				
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
	# of people assisted to meet their basic food needs					
	2,280	5,000	6,138	-	300	300

Belarus:

The BRC was distributing food parcels and hot meals in the border area as well as in the logistics centre on a daily basis, after people were relocated. The nutritional needs for the people at the logistics centre were fully covered with a pre-packaged breakfast/dinner, and a hot meal for lunch. The composition of the meals continued to be adjusted, guided by nutritional value, preferences of the recipients and availability in the local market.

Twice every day, staff and volunteers of the Belarus Red Cross delivered food to the logistics centre. Two hot meals a day were provided for migrants: breakfast - tea, biscuits, eggs (yoghurt, tea, biscuits, fruit – for children), lunch - hot porridge with stew or sausages. For supper - a dry pack (food parcel): drinking water, bakery products, biscuits, instant porridge/vermicelli/mashed potatoes; for children - baby food, tinned food, waffles, juice. Over the entire period of the operation, humanitarian aid was provided: Between 9 November 2021 and 21 March 2022, a total of about 268.59 tonnes of aid was distributed to migrants at the Belarusian-Polish border: 213.44 tonnes of food, including milk and food parcels, 18.92 tonnes of water, as well as warm clothes and footwear (over 14,900 units), plaids, blankets, sleeping bags, mats, pillows, towels (about 6,000 units), mattresses (800 units), masks (60,000 units), hygiene products (11,679 kg), toys and stationery (about 1,860 units), 350 sweet gifts. In parallel to this operation, in April – June 2022, food items were started to be distributed to people who left Ukraine.

Challenges & lessons learned:

Lessons learned (for future programmes):


- Establish framework agreements with suppliers (including wholesalers or manufacturers) for quicker deliveries during the emergency response (food, hygiene, medical, etc.) based on supplier mapping
- Establish new software for beneficiary registration, needs identification and recording of humanitarian aid provided
- Develop a CVA programme specifically designed for migrants

Lithuania:

The Lithuanian Red Cross distributed food parcels in the five reception centres since the summer of 2021, reaching 6,138 people, including those who had their asylum granted but are/were facing short-term difficulties. However, on the long term, the focus of the operation has shifted towards specialized needs and assistance. Basic food needs by now are generally covered in these centres by other actors, thus it is not part of the longer-term strategy to distribute food in these locations. Instead, the LRC started to focus on assisting people in the centres with specialized food needs, e.g., allergies, utilising the funding received from the Irish Red Cross. Food parcels (4,000 kits + 120 kits for children aged 0-3) were also handed over to the Border Guard for distribution in the border zone. At a later stage, in case direct access is granted to the National Society, direct food distribution in the border area may be scaled up again, depending also on the evolution of needs.

Poland:

As mentioned above under 'Shelter, Housing and Settlement', up to 300 migrants in detention centres have received relief packages, which included food parcels, from the PRC. The PRC food parcels were also distributed by other NGOs and the Polish Border Guards.

 Multi-purpose Cash			Number of people initially targeted:	Belarus	Lithuania	Poland
				150	100	-
Objective:		Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security is provided to the most affected communities				
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
	# of people assisted with cash and voucher assistance					
	0	150	60	100	-	-

Belarus:

Cash and voucher support related activities were eventually not deployed in Belarus, related to this crisis.

Challenges & lessons learned:

Lessons learned (for future programmes):


- Establish new software for beneficiary registration, needs identification and recording of humanitarian aid provided
- Develop a CVA programme for migrants

Lithuania:

For people who are granted residence permit based on humanitarian grounds, basic needs arise related to transportation, food, and medical supplies, as well as ensuring their integration. Through the Emergency Appeal, 60 people have been assisted with cash and vouchers for covering transportation, food, accommodation, and other needs. This was made possible through a fundraising campaign with vouchers for food and accommodation and public transport passes. LRC has also started to work on employability, meeting with potential employers to discuss possibilities for migrants seeking employment.

Poland:

Activities consisting of cash support have not been implemented, due to ineffectiveness in the conditions in which migrants live. Most of targeted people do not have freedom of movement, also detention/migration centers are mostly placed in sparsely populated areas with no access to grocery shops or other facilities.

	Health & Care		Number of people initially targeted:		Belarus	Lithuania	Poland
					5,000	3,000	300
Objective:		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced• Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced• The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened					
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland		
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	
	# of people assisted with First Aid						
	203	TBD	N/A, indirect assistance	-	86	300	
	# of staff and volunteers trained in MHPSS						
	50	50	500	500	75	75	
	# of migrants provided with MHPSS						
	800	TBD	176	125	300	300	
	# of people whose costs are covered for medical prescriptions and optical aid						
-	-	537	4,000	-	-		

Belarus:

The BRC has been in contact with the State Border Committee since August 2021, providing at first occasional assistance to migrants with referral to health services (in the border area and logistics centre). The BRC has been providing first aid to treat injuries and PPE materials.

The Belarus Red Cross staff and volunteers were in constant contact with migrants. First aid and psychosocial support were available when needed, including engaging English- and Russian-speaking migrants to improve communication.

During the response, the number of registered first aid cases was 35. However, the main cases were related to treating and bandaging abrasions and minor wounds and helping with fainting. Despite the language barrier, the provision of psychosocial support to migrants by the Belarus Red Cross staff was encountered on a daily basis with more than 1,700 people receiving this type of assistance. However, most of the psychosocial support activities focused on women and children.

In March – June 2022, assistance on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), first aid and health-related issues support was provided to 140 people who left Ukraine.

Challenges & lessons learned:

Lessons learned (for future programmes):

- Establish agreements and SOPs with the Ministry of Health, State Border Committee, Ministry of Interior and other relevant structures on rapid solutions for migrants situated in camps to access medical support and pharmacies

Lithuania:

Lithuania RC has assisted 537 people in reception centres since August 2021, covering the costs of medicine for those who need it, to make sure people have access to the medication they need for chronic as well as acute health issues. MHPSS activities have started in October and are maintained continuously. The National Society

has also procured and distributed 200 First Aid kits to officers in camps, who utilised them according to the needs. First aid kit stocks have been replenished for repeated distributions as needs arise. Medical testing equipment has been procured with the support of German Red Cross, used in the 5 main centres. The equipment includes: electrocardiograph, urinalysis analyser, haematological (blood) analyser and, c-reactive protein (CRP) analyser.


Poland:

Between October 2021, until March 2022 (the launch of response operations related to the international armed conflict in Ukraine), the PRC has provided first aid to 86 persons in the field by SAR teams. PRC teams have also provided migrants with referrals to health services, while 300 persons received MHPSS support.

PRC has trained 75 staff members and volunteers in psychosocial support. During humanitarian aid distribution, RFL visits and Search and Rescue groups shifts 300 persons received PSS. Books, leaflets and other materials were prepared to provide the same level of care everywhere, based on IFRC psychosocial support materials and guidelines.

2 basic PSS trainings were carried out through which 75 members of staff and volunteers have been trained. PSS was provided to 50 migrants by PRC SAR groups.

Challenges & lessons learned: Population movement can be observed throughout the Belarussian – Polish border, but due to its length (418km) it is challenging to provide coverage for migrating population.

	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene		Number of people initially targeted:		Belarus	Lithuania	Poland
					5,000	4,000	4,000
Objective:		Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne diseases, and diseases related to hygiene conditions					
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland		
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	
	# of people provided with hygiene items/ hygiene kits						
	2,280	5,000	3,831	4,000	2915	4,000	

Belarus:

Among other items, Belarus Red Cross has distributed hygiene items in the border area, as well as the logistics centre, and plans to implement hygiene promotion as well as COVID-19 awareness raising activities jointly with the vaccination activities of the authorities to reduce the risk of infection. The distributed hygiene items were covering the full needs of the people for the distribution cycle. The beneficiaries were provided with the necessary range of hygiene products. Drinking water and water for technical needs were supplied daily and bathing days were organized in the field bathhouse. Contracts were also concluded with public utilities for cleaning of the territory, installation, and maintenance of more than 20 bio-toilets.

1,300 hygiene kits were purchased and distributed, including for women (504 pcs.); 5,800 baby and adult nappies, 100 diapers, 1,850 wet wipes were purchased.

Challenges & lessons learned:

A major challenge reported was with ensuring that proper showers and toilets systems were installed. The cost of installation was very high. The number of available facilities was very limited compared to the large number of people in the camp.

Lithuania:

Over 3,800 people have been assisted to date with hygiene items in the reception centres, and relief items handed over to border guards include essential hygiene items as well. In partnership with WHO, LRC staff and

volunteers organise info sessions on COVID-19 prevention and immunisation in the main 5 reception centres regularly. 1,380 diversified hygiene parcels were also handed over to the Border Guard for distribution in the border zone.

LRC has distributed over 25,000 hygiene kits for people arriving from Ukraine procured using fundraised money.

Poland:

PRC distributed hygiene kits and cleaning products in migration/detention centres: 2915 people in detention centres and border guard stations received such support. Hygiene kits were adapted to different genders and age groups, with particular emphasis on marginalized groups and cultural/religious background.

Challenges & lessons learned: Using learnings of this operation, in future operations, 2 basic types of hygiene kits may be necessary in population movement crisis, as there are different needs in detention/migration centres than in the field.

	Protection, Gender and Inclusion		Number of people initially targeted:	Belarus	Lithuania	Poland
				1,000	1,000	1,800
Objective:		Vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups are assisted and empowered				
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
	# of child-friendly spaces established					
	1	1	10	10	-	3
	# of children provided with assistance (used child-friendly spaces / received toys)					
	300		500 children under 10 yrs have access	-	239	-

Belarus:

While providing assistance in the logistics centre, BRC was assessing the situation and needs of people with disabilities. One person received new prostheses (legs). 1,807 items of stationery and toys were purchased and distributed to provide PSS to children. With the support of UNICEF, child-friendly spaces and community-based child protection activities were established.

The BRC has activated a Crisis Room in Grodno for post-natal care for new-borns and their mothers. 6 mothers and 12 children were assisted in total between November 2021 – April 2022.

Challenges & lessons learned:

Organization of PGI activities has been challenging due to the language barrier.

Lithuania:

As of the end of November 2021, the Lithuanian Red Cross has established two child-friendly spaces in all 5 main reception centres and is providing opportunities for children to attend continuously. Since September, all children have been attending schools within the territory of reception centres, children attend language courses every day, and can attend child-friendly spaces during non-school hours. Activities include drawing, playing, singing and other activities. 'Social clubs' for children and families have been created and events and workshops are organised (e.g., for skill development, as well as social events).

Poland:

School supplies, mascots, and leisure equipment were provided to detention and migration centres. These supplies met safety criteria (in detention centres similar rules apply as in prison). Leisure equipment consist of

physical activities equipment but also books and board games. All equipment was adapted to various culture backgrounds and age groups.

 Migration	Number of people initially targeted:		Belarus	Lithuania	Poland
			1,000	2,000	800
Objective:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of assistance Specialised interventions for the protection of rights of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees National Societies are supported to provide life-saving and tracing/RFL assistance to migrants 				
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
	# of humanitarian service points established				
	8	1	No direct access to border area	1	6
	# of migrants assisted with search and rescue				
	-	-	-	-	N/A
	# of migrants reached by RFL assistance				
	50	1,000	580	2,000	300

Belarus:

The BRC has assisted at least 2,280 people through 8 service points. These were setup at the logistics centre, at the border and wherever people aggregated. Support to BRCS RFL service was provided through the long-standing RFL programming assistance from ICRC. An Arabic/Kurdish speaking specialist (made available by the ICRC) has been integrated into the BRC team to support with specific language skills and cultural insights into the RFL work of the BRC.

BRC also organized "Informing migrants about the activities of the Belarus Red Cross on restoring family links (RFL)" activities, identifying existing RFL needs and organising activities for the provision of RFL services.

Phone charging equipment was purchased: 5 chargers, 7 smartphone charging trolleys, and volunteers and Belarus Red Cross staff were on duty to provide charging stations for migrants.

At the same time, there were 9 cases of RFL needs. The majority of migrants, however, needed to charge their phones in order to keep in touch with their loved ones and keep up to date with the news.

A total of 315 households were provided with the service of charging a mobile device or a flash bank at least once. The number of people who received this type of assistance was 569.

Challenges & lessons learned:

Lessons learned (for future programmes):

- Conduct more intensive coverage of the activities and principles of the Red Cross Movement in Belarus, thereby raising awareness among communities, stakeholders, as well as staff and volunteers of the importance of the activities carried out by the Belarus Red Cross
- Promote the adoption of the Law on Volunteering and other legislation to protect volunteers during their response period
- Propose the participation of the Belarus Red Cross in emergency commissions formed by the state
- Develop an algorithm for response based on lessons learned
- Incorporate standard operating procedures for responding to a migration crisis into the response plan
- Develop a plan with several scenarios of the situation, taking into account the changing phases of the response
- Outline to government partners migrant assistance standards and a list of Belarus Red Cross capacity to meet basic needs

- Establish framework agreements with suppliers (including wholesalers or manufacturers) for quicker deliveries during the emergency response (food, hygiene, medical, etc.) based on supplier mapping
- Conduct a hands-on training exercise, also involving experts from other NSs, for all Belarus Red Cross staff and volunteers
- Establish new software for beneficiary registration, needs identification and recording of humanitarian aid provided
- Ensure sufficient numbers of trained staff
- Conduct additional situation assessments
- Establish a clear structure of persons responsible for referrals with all partners
- Establish a definite contact persons
- Develop a CVA programme for migrants

Lithuania:

To facilitate access to charging stations and to help people charge phones, connect with family and friends and access information, three Wi-Fi modems were installed in Medininkai Board Guards' School reception centre and one Wi-Fi modem in the Naujininkai reception centre. Through these modems, 229 people have been provided access to the internet.

LRC teams continuously monitor the conditions in reception and detention centres and regularly assesses migrants' needs. The LRC has employed four interpreters, to provide interpretation services and make sure that the needs of migrants can be assessed.

Poland:

RFL services have been provided to 300 migrants in detention/migration centres. All involved volunteers and staff had been informed about RFL services rules and capabilities. SAR groups and RFL staff of PRC were spreading awareness about RFL services through people in population movement but also through detention centre staff and border guards. Around 10,000 information leaflets have been produced and distributed. RFL information briefings have been organized in local border guards branch to raise awareness about RFL. PRC is cooperating with ICRC on RFL activities.

Regional activities:

IFRC has provided support to the National Societies on good practices and Movement principles related to assisting and protecting migrants and displaced people.

On 11 December 2021, IFRC Regional Office jointly with the ICRC organised a 1-day online training for the Polish RC on preparedness for migration response (including response planning and mobile team concept and implementation). The Search and Rescue volunteers, tracing volunteers and staff of the PRC (20 participants) learned about the contingency planning process and received guidance for minimum of protection actions, RFL and dialogue with the authorities. The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia shared their lessons learned and recommendations on mobile team concept based on their experiences in the migration context. The Red Cross of North Macedonia has also shared their experiences with the Lithuanian Red Cross in an exchange organised by the ICRC on 18 January 2022.

Enabling approaches



National Society Strengthening

Objective:	<i>National Societies have strengthened capacities, systems and procedures, that enable to prepare for and respond to the crisis</i>					
Key indicators	Belarus		Lithuania		Poland	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
	# of volunteers involved in the operation					

180	200	324	1,000	100	200
# of volunteers who are insured					
180	200	324	1,000	100	200
# of staff and volunteers provided with MHPSS					
N/A	250	79		-	

Belarus:

Around 180 volunteers from two regional branches were involved in the response. Weekly rotations of disaster response teams allowed the pre-trained volunteers to gain valuable operational exposure and experience. Follow-up lesson learned workshops are planned once the situation allows. Additional logistics capacity, made available by the IFRC Country Cluster Office in Moscow, helped to strengthen systems and procedures at HQ level.

Volunteers and Belarus Red Cross staff from all Belarus Red Cross branches in Grodno were on duty to assist migrants. Volunteers and workers were equipped and visible, provided with accommodation, food, and protective equipment. Representatives of the Belarus Red Cross participated in the meeting of the commission under the Grodno Regional Executive Committee, which functioned in this situation. Responsibilities were allocated to each actor in assisting migrants at the border. At the level of the BRC Secretariat, a group co-ordinating the activities of the BRC regional branches and other international, non-governmental and state partners was established. This group coordinated procurement, warehousing, and delivery of goods to the Grodno PA. Employees and volunteers carrying out activities at the border were given daily briefings and debriefings for the participants in the operation. A duty schedule was established for staff and volunteers not only from the Grodno branch of the BRC, but also from other regions.

To ensure sustainable work of volunteer response teams of the Belarus Red Cross to assist migrants, trainings were conducted for staff and volunteers on response and assistance to migrants, prevention of psychological and emotional burnout. 180 volunteers and 419 BRC staff were recruited to assist migrants; all of them were trained and received induction and orientation training. Staff and volunteers were provided with equipment, PPE and means of response (3 tents, 2 gasoline generators, 2 heat guns, 22 mobile air conditioners, 2 air recirculators, cot, inflatable mattresses - 10 pcs., 4 thermo pots, 4 sets of folding furniture (table, chairs, bench), spotlights, compressor, disposable dishware, plastic bags. The trained staff and volunteers continued responding to needs of people who left Ukraine, and all the equipment was used accordingly.

Challenges & lessons learned:

Lessons learned (for future programmes):

- Consider increasing the emergency fund in the light of experience gained
- Make it possible to hire additional staff for temporary emergency response (storekeepers, drivers, loaders)
- Unify reporting into a single form
- Upgrade the vehicle fleet and equipment needed for the response
- Analyse the resources available and analyse how much is needed
- Optimize logistics
- Replenish the Belarus Red Cross regional branches
- Prepare local legal acts regulating procurement procedures (internal regulation), etc.

Lithuania:

To ensure that all volunteers had access to psychosocial support to deal with the stress and potential psychological burden of providing humanitarian aid to people for a prolonged period of time, 5 PSS group sessions reaching 79 people were organized for volunteers since the beginning of the operation. The total number of volunteers who have been involved in the operation at peak was 324. An insurance framework agreement ensures that all volunteers in the field were covered at all times.

Poland:

100 PRC volunteers were involved in the response to the crisis, 20 of whom took part in training with National Society, IFRC and ICRC experts (see Migration section above).

For IFRC efforts in strengthening National Societies, please see the Secretariat services section below.

Challenges & lessons learned: Podlasie region where most migrants are crossing Belarussian – Polish border is a sparsely populated area, for this reason, recruiting volunteers is a constant challenge. Polish Red Cross started actions aimed at increasing the local capability. A Humanitarian Aid Group has been created in Białystok (Podlasie region capital) also to support in future responses.



Community Engagement and Accountability

Objective:

Targeted communities are consulted and are able to share their views about assistance received or planned, and programmes and operations are planned and adapted accordingly.

Belarus:

In Belarus, around the logistics centre, the host communities did not interact with the migrants. As the migrants are not permitted to exit the area. In other parts of the country, the migrants are few and scattered.

Challenges & lessons learned:

Lessons learned:

- Provide all staff and volunteers with visibility elements (uniform for all seasons)
- Provide on time data on the needs for equipment, uniform and PPE for staff
- Take into account the economic situation of both migrants and host communities

Lithuania:

The LRC's work with host communities consisted of positive messaging on migrants in local newspapers, including the reasons people were forced to leave their homeland, their professional skills, daily life in reception centres, ways to integrate them into society, and the ways local communities can best assist this integration. LRC aims to attract potential employers' attention so that people who receive asylum can find jobs easier, to be able to support themselves, as well as to become a part of the local community. As mentioned above, LRC teams continuously monitor the centres where migrants are located, repeatedly gathering information on the situation and needs of migrants. A regular cycle of post-distribution monitoring has been maintained since the beginning of the operation, and feedback and findings are being used to inform and adjust the LRC's response. However, feedback is also relayed to authorities in case of follow-up action, and adjustments are requested from central management.

The LRC organised community engagement, leisure, and other similar activities in Medininkai, Kybartai, and Naujininkai reception centres. Other NGOs were also active in organising activities for migrants across five main centres. Moreover, as State guaranteed legal aid is provided only during the following stages of the application process: preparation of an appeal to the court and representation at the court hearing, migrants have limited access to information regarding their legal status as well as legal consultations, which are mostly covered by local NGOs (mainly the LRC) or private lawyers. Also, Migration Department and courts provide copies of documents containing crucial information on asylum procedures, including decisions, in the Lithuanian language. As a result, people are not introduced to the motives of the decisions in the language they understand. European Asylum Support Office (EASO) interpreters are assisting the centres in informing migrants regarding their asylum application status.

Poland:

The Assessments, conducted with authorities, showed that the aid provided to migrants (relief items, RFL and medical assistance) was positively received and assessed by the beneficiaries, who expressed their expectations for more assistance, especially in the area of RFL. Food parcels provided to migrants were well received, thanks to their adaptation to the cultural background of migrating population.

Regional activities:

The IFRC provides support to the National Societies with feedback collection – needs assessments, post-distribution monitoring and satisfaction surveys. A training for National Societies on Community Engagement and Accountability is budgeted for in the funding requirements. A lessons learned workshop was organised with the support of IFRC PMER, led by the Lithuanian Red Cross, scheduled for the end of January 2022, focusing on learnings from the response so far, to be utilised in maintaining good practices, and implementing changes and improvements if and as needed.



Coordination and Partnerships

Objective:

To better articulate the auxiliary role of National Societies and their convening power among a plurality of stakeholders, and accordingly strengthen the IFRC network footprint in the response to the population movement crisis.

The operation has clearly shown the unique position of National Societies as auxiliary to the public authorities. Access remains a challenge, but where access has been granted to humanitarian actors, it has been granted specifically for the Red Cross, in some cases exclusively.

Belarus:

In the case of Belarus, the Belarus Red Cross (BRC) remains the only organisation with regular access to migrants on the border and with capacity to reach migrants elsewhere in Belarus through its network of branches. BRC has been requested to be the main coordinator of humanitarian assistance in the country and assistance by several UN agencies in Belarus is largely being provided through and delivered by the BRC, creating expectations for a strong coordination role. Discussions are taking place to formalise the coordination role in an agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Border Committee. IFRC Belarus Office and the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for the Russian Federation and Belarus have supported the BRC in strengthening its auxiliary role. Practically, assistance by several UN agencies in Belarus is largely being provided through and delivered by the BRC, also creating expectations on a strong coordination role.

Challenges & lessons learned:

Lessons learned :

- Making it possible to exchange practices with other national societies of assisting migrants
- Expand the range of partners, both inside and outside the state
- To promptly inform the population and all partners about the response measures
- To set up outreach to the community in order to socialize foreigners into society
- Optimize the referral to the IOM of requests from migrants wishing to return to their home country
- Optimize cooperation with the UNHCR in relation to migrants who wish to stay in Belarus
- Optimize cooperation with governmental partners on employment of migrants
- Sign memorandum of cooperation with governmental partners

Lithuania:

LRC, together with other NGOs involved in the operation, had reached an agreement with the Lithuanian State that allowed NGOs to assist people caught at the border between Lithuania and Belarus. The agreement with the authorities and consideration of the role of LRC, enabled the provision of all assistance including the

handover of hygiene, clothing, and food kits to border guards who then distribute the items to people staying in the terrain along the Lithuania – Belarus border.

Poland:

In Poland, the Polish Red Cross established a fruitful cooperation with the Polish Border Guards and was granted access to five detention centres and seven border guard stations near the border to better understand the needs and potential interventions that could require more regular access. This was later reviewed to 17 PLBG stations and one detention centre with in-kind donations. The Polish Red Cross has already been one of the key actors providing assistance to migrants in centres and engaging the authorities in ongoing dialogue about conditions and solutions in the centres. In all contexts, there are good examples of cooperating with civil society at large, from coordinating efforts and in-kind donations from the public to seeking humanitarian outcomes together through ‘indirect distributions’ in border areas where access has not been granted. Dialogue with Polish Border Guards has been coordinated with ICRC representatives.

Regional activities:

IFRC Regional Office for Europe (Regional Office) and IFRC Belarus Office have continued to meet with a wide variety of UN and other humanitarian agencies to discuss the humanitarian situation in the affected countries/in Belarus and potential collaborations. IFRC has also participated in all (seven) coordination meetings organised by DG ECHO for the key international organisations.

Internally, within the Movement, the Regional Office has convened Movement components into joint meetings, to make the most of available resources, find synergies and exchange on both operational and policy/advocacy related matters of common interest.

The Regional Office is engaged in partners’ coordination and resource mobilization activities, including technical support to National Societies in domestic voluntary income generation and capacity building. The Regional Office organised a Belarus and Neighbouring Countries Emergency Appeal Partners’ Call on 25 November 2021 gathering 17 National Societies to get an update of the situation, priority actions and presentation of the Emergency Appeal. Second Partners’ Call took place on 20 January 2022. A Permanent Geneva Mission briefing call took place on 2 December 2021 with the aim to galvanise additional support for the Emergency Appeal. Notably, the Permanent Mission briefing, focusing on traditional IFRC donors, attracted representatives from 22 Nation States, indicating a pronounced interest in the developing context. Financial support has been materialized from 8 countries, including National Societies and governments.

The Regional Office has been profiling the work of National Societies in Belarus, Poland, and Lithuania since the start of the migration crisis. A press release and a joint statement with the ICRC has been published in November, and 13 interviews were organised for the IFRC spokespeople with media, including Euronews and TRT World. Key messages and photos have been nearly weekly in the Newswire, as well as several posts on IFRC Europe social media channels.



Secretariat Services

Objective	
	<i>To provide a range of quality support services to in-country IFRC member societies with the aim of saving costs and improving efficiency</i>
The Belarus Red Cross is supported through the IFRC Office in Belarus and Russia while for Poland and Lithuania, the Regional Office in Budapest functions as the Country Office. This changed in spring 2022 with the transition of the IFRC Office in Kyiv into a Country Cluster Delegation with a coverage that includes Poland and the Baltic states.	

IFRC Regional Office deployed an Operations Manager and a CEA Delegate to Lithuania in August - September 2021. In October, an IFRC Delegate was deployed to Poland to support communications and humanitarian diplomacy for one month. Rapid response surge deployments include Regional Operations Manager (from late November onwards), Operations Manager for Belarus, Regional Information Management Coordinator and Humanitarian Information Analysis Officer for scenario planning (from early December onwards).

A Regional Operations Manager was recruited for the overall Emergency Appeal in January 2022. In addition to surge capacities, existing technical expertise in the Regional Office, the wider region and member National Societies were utilised as needed, until the establishment of the Country Cluster Delegation in Warsaw.

A regional humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy strategy was drafted as a living document for the Belarus and neighbouring countries population movement. The strategy determines the scope of IFRC support to National Societies in countries directly affected by the situation in their ongoing dialogue with the authorities. The strategy also guides IFRC and National Societies in their positioning and advocacy efforts towards governments and other actors, such as EU institutions and facilitates the use of common messaging for improved humanitarian outcomes. The Regional Office will work with the National Societies to refine the key messages according to the specific issues and conditions faced in the respective country contexts.

A surge Information Management Coordinator for the operation was in place since mid-December and worked closely with the Belarus Red Cross supporting them in data collection, analysis, visualisation, producing basic maps, conducting needs assessments, process design, etc., as required. The first visit to Belarus took place in late December 2021 to gather information about the context and information needs, and the second one – in mid-January 2022 to develop a registration system (to address the basic information need regarding the number of migrants staying at the logistics centre, their potential vulnerabilities, and needs). The system was tested and rolled out in the third week of January 2022; it was also the basis for the distribution monitoring. The IM Coordinator was in continuous contact with both the National Society and Surge Information Management Support (SIMS) network, assessing the sustainability of the system and potential alternatives/upgrades to be implemented in the following months.

A Humanitarian Information Analysis Officer for scenario planning started in mid-December 2021 with a focus on the creation of future scenarios regarding the migrant situation in Belarus and neighbouring countries. The initial scenarios were developed in December 2021, based on interviews with Belarus Red Cross, Polish Red Cross, Lithuanian Red Cross, IFRC, ICRC, UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF. The first draft of the scenarios was shared with the concerned National Societies in early January 2022 for comments.

The National Societies have received technical support from the IFRC Regional Office in several areas, such as disaster and crisis management, partnerships and resource development, communications, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including the organisation of lessons learned workshops in Lithuania and Belarus (reports available to partners upon request), migration, humanitarian diplomacy, cash and voucher assistance and logistics and procurement. The IFRC Regional Office also supported National Societies in providing insurance for the volunteers.

Impact indicator:	% of assisted people who report that the assistance received was relevant for their needs (composite indicator, based on PDM surveys in multiple sectors in the 3 countries, target: 70%)		
	Belarus	Lithuania	Poland
	<i>not available</i>	<i>Average of 52% satisfaction responses across all sectors</i>	<i>not available</i>

Financial Report

The total income for this multi-country emergency appeal has been CHF 1,814,752, of which CHF 1,813,148 has been spent, including the partial return of the DREF loan initially allocated.

Please see the final financial report in annex.

Contact information

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

In the Belarus Red Cross Society

- Secretary General: **Dmitry Shevtsov**, shevtsov@redcross.by, +375 17 327 14 17
- Operational coordination: **Igor Trusov**, Head of Disaster Response and Tracing Department, igor.trusov@redcross.by

In the Lithuanian Red Cross Society

- Head of Asylum and Migration Programme: **Eglė Samuchovaitė**, egle@redcross.lt, +370 682 48 533
- Head of Communications: **Luka Lesauskaitė**, kommunikacija@redcross.lt, + 370 687 52351

In the Polish Red Cross Society

- Head of International Cooperation: **Dr Magdalena Stefańska**, email: magdalena.stefanska@pck.pl

In the IFRC

- Regional Office for Europe, Regional Head of Health, Disasters, Climate and Crises Unit: **Andreas von Weissenberg**, andreas.weissenberg@ifrc.org
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- Country Cluster Delegation for Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, Estonia, Lithuania Latvia, Head of Delegation: **Stephane Michaud**, Stephane.Michaud@ifrc.org
- Geneva, Senior Officer Operations Coordination: **Antoine Belair**, antoine.belair@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and pledges support:

- Regional Office for Europe, Regional Head of Strategic Engagement and Partnerships: **Andrej Naricyn**, andrej.naricyn@ifrc.org

For Logistics and Supply Chain:

- Head of GHS&SCM: **Stefano Biagiotti**, email: STEFANO.BIAGIOTTI@ifrc.org

For Communications and media inquiries:

- Regional Office for Europe, Communications Manager: **Corrie Butler**, corrie.butler@ifrc.org

Reference ➤ Click here for:

- [Link to IFRC Emergency landing page](#)
- [Operation Update no.2](#) (20 Jan 2021)
- [Operation Update no.1](#) (17 Dec 2021)
- [Emergency Appeal](#) (24 Nov 2021)
- [Operational Strategy](#) (15 Dec 2021)
- [Information Bulletin](#) (11 Nov 2021)
- DREF Operations: [Lithuania](#) (12 Jul 2021), [Belarus](#), [Poland](#) (both 16 Nov 2021)
- [DREF Update for Lithuania](#) (13 Oct 2021)

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 Humanitarian 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.

Emergency Appeal

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/7-2023/6	Operation	MGR65001
Budget Timeframe	2021/7-2022/11	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 11 Jul 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MGR65001 - Pop. Movement - Belarus and Neighboring Countries

Operating Timeframe: 09 Jul 2021 to 30 Nov 2022; appeal launch date: 24 Nov 2021

I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Thematic Area Code	Requirements CHF
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	0
AOF2 - Shelter	1,892,000
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	1,700,000
AOF4 - Health	420,000
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	982,000
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	183,000
AOF7 - Migration	1,371,000
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	2,312,000
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	530,000
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	23,000
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	87,000
Total Funding Requirements	9,500,000
Donor Response* as per 11 Jul 2023	1,208,310
Appeal Coverage	12.72%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	6,360	0	6,360
AOF2 - Shelter	75,963	72,436	3,527
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	593,171	801,971	-208,800
AOF4 - Health	104,601	206,462	-101,861
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	166,081	59,930	106,150
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	11,447	22,278	-10,831
AOF7 - Migration	966,732	495,030	471,702
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	98,833	86,655	12,178
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	84,129	11,802	72,327
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	9,585	1,710	7,875
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	15,986	54,874	-38,888
Grand Total	2,132,888	1,813,148	319,740

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2023/06

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	1,814,752
Expenditure	-1,813,148
Closing Balance	1,604
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	1,604

IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	1,089,673	Reimbursed :	506,424	Outstanding :	583,249
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Emergency Appeal

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/7-2023/6	Operation	MGR65001
Budget Timeframe	2021/7-2022/11	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 11 Jul 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MGR65001 - Pop. Movement - Belarus and Neighboring Countries

Operating Timeframe: 09 Jul 2021 to 30 Nov 2022; appeal launch date: 24 Nov 2021

V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance						0
Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income
British Red Cross	120,678				120,678	
DREF Response Pillar				583,249	583,249	
European Commission - DG ECHO	416,374				416,374	
German Red Cross			22,800		22,800	
Italian Red Cross	95,018				95,018	
Italy - Private Donors	3,562				3,562	
Japanese Red Cross Society	40,012				40,012	
Norwegian Red Cross	158,752				158,752	
On Line donations	441				441	
Other	0				0	
Red Cross of Monaco	10,438				10,438	
Slovakia Government	52,041				52,041	
Swedish Red Cross	99,729				99,729	
Swiss Red Cross	100,000				100,000	
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	111,659				111,659	
Total Contributions and Other Income	1,208,703	0	22,800	583,249	1,814,752	0
Total Income and Deferred Income					1,814,752	0