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Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia

ANALYSIS

OF THE RESPONSE OF THE RED CROSS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS IN
THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

(2015-2020)





ANALYSIS OF THE RESPONSE OF THE RED CROSS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA 2015-2020

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For the publisher: **PhD. Sait Saiti, Secretary General**

Authors: Suzana Tuneva Paunovska
Vladimir Vukelickj
Aleksandra Valkanovska
Katerina Gievaska
Sandra Tomovska

Illustrations: Vladimir Hadzi Pulevski

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FOREWORD


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Global challenges caused by natural or man-made disasters and the resulting events are reflected to varying degrees, in almost every local context. They result with deep crises, which even highly developed societies are not fully prepared to overcome and meet the needs of those affected by them. In recent world history, we have witnessed many such shifts in the world, which had direct effects on the social life of the people. One of the more serious movements of people affected by the crisis is the migration crisis which started in 2015 and imposed serious challenges worldwide, in the region and in our country. These challenges required an urgent response and mobilization of all relevant institutions.

The large-scale humanitarian operation that the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia (hereinafter RCRNM) was aimed to alleviate the suffering of migrants and refugees transiting through our country, being presented in this Analysis of the RCRNM's response to the migration crisis in RNM (2015-2020). The Analysis represents a compilation of theoretical and practical experiences, and a summary of activities that were implemented and are still being implemented. The analysis is a serious, well-founded document that can be used alone or as an accompanying document for future research activities. This document contains a detailed analysis of the need for such a document, the methodology which was used for the preparation of the document, detailed elaboration of the operational context, summarized conclusions and lessons learned, as well as recommendations. The document aims to set higher standards for internal organization and incorporation of the practice in the day-to-day work, as well as dissemination of these standards in a broader context, as a learning example, but also as a corrective instrument for undertaking activities in situations of a similar nature.

The analysis of the RCRNM response to the migration crisis in RNM (2015-2020) aims to enable better access and to ensure cohesion of all segments of the humanitarian assistance during the migration crisis with emphasis on humanitarian aid, basic health services, first aid and transportation to a health facilities, restoring family links and psychological first aid. The analysis will serve as a foundation for future research activities, and will be basis for development of strategic documents and planning, and it offers empirical recommendations and conclusions that position our role in this migration crisis. The structural system for preparedness and response in crisis situations in the country, defines the place and role of the Red Cross of RNM within in the overall system for preparedness and response in crisis situations. We hope that the document before you is comprehensive, addresses important aspects not only from the humanitarian sphere, but also beyond and it will be applied and widely accepted material that contributes to the overall situation in providing response in crisis situations related to the area covered in analysis.

Sincerely yours,

PhD. Sait Saiti
Secretary General


ANALYSIS OF THE RESPONSE OF THE RED CROSS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA (2015-2020)

REVIEW

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The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia is an organization that has a striking mark in every major crisis in our country. The humanitarian approach and the rapid intervention and provided assistance to the people in need contributed the Red Cross to have a very good reputation, which enabled further strengthening of its role within the protection system. The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia played an important role in the migration and refugee crisis, which has been going on the Balkan route since 2015 as one of the main routes used by the migrants.

Our country has faced serious migration crises in the past, which were usually the result of armed conflicts. In recent history, it has been the break-up of Yugoslavia and the dissolution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, culminating with the Bosnian refugee crisis of 1993-1995, the armed conflict in Kosovo and the 1998-1999 refugee crises, and soon after the internal conflict in the Republic of Macedonia in 2001, which resulted with a large number of internally displaced persons.

However, the migration crisis, which started in 2015 and is still ongoing, is the main focus of this Analysis particularly in terms of the scope, duration and challenges encountered. The analysis chronologically presents the events that precede the crisis. It contains an explanation of the challenges, the need for humanity in the treatment of migrants and refugees, but at the same time, it is an expression of the achieved high standards of the Red Cross in providing humanitarian assistance to the people in need, in terms of provision of basic health services, first aid and transportation, restoring family links for separated family members, and providing psychological first aid.

In recent years, the Red Cross has created a strong internal organization that provides expertise in action, with its own analytical, planning and development tools. Based on the assessment to analyze the role of the Red Cross in the biggest migrant and refugee crisis, which started in 2015 and is not over yet, the Red Cross through direct participation in the events, with relevant arguments, but also information from its own sources, presents findings, and testimonials about the dynamic period and the humanitarian role of helping people who desperately needed that help. The presented modern graphic data speak even more impressively about the scale of the migration crisis, the challenges that require further improvement in the actions of stakeholders and of course even better inter-institutional cooperation and more efficient coping with challenges. Some of the assessments in this analysis are explained in more detail, but this is due to the desire of some of the authors to express their impressions of events in which they were direct participants.

This Analysis contains numerous information and data, which, given their argumentation, can be used for credible future research work related to the role of the migration and refugee crisis and the conditions that have been reflected and had an impact in our country. At the same time, the Analysis shows the significant contribution of the Red Cross and the constructive role of the Republic of North Macedonia during the migration and refugee crisis of 2015.

Prof. Dr. Trpe Stojanovski

Skopje, October, 2020

SUMMARY

Today, migration represents one of the most important legal issues related to human rights, development and geopolitics, nationally, regionally and internationally. The growing evidence, developments and events confirm that migration is linked to global economic, social, political and technological transformations. Hence, the mutual influence of the development and migration is especially taken in consideration*. Therefore the conclusion is that there is a great need for conducting analysis on the migration crises, in order to enhance the organizational capacities for coping with the existing challenges. Migration causes complex humanitarian crises, both for the individuals and for countries, including entire regions.

The support and the work of the organizations for refugees and asylum seekers in the world are focused in several fields and needs, such as: provision of direct humanitarian assistance to meet basic existential needs, medical assistance, legal aid and support, socialization and integration activities, activities for destigmatization, assistance and support to children and unaccompanied minors, assistance in material goods and financial assistance, etc.

Recognized international organizations working in the field of refugees and asylum seekers are: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, ICRC, Mercy Corps, Save the Children and many others. These organizations provide support to refugees and asylum seekers through their local offices in countries affected by migration crises.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is an important and unique factor in the migration process. It works on mitigation of consequences during and after the end of the migrant crises in the world. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has a leading role in provision of humanitarian aid to migrants worldwide, including the Republic of North Macedonia, and it helps in protection of human dignity and mitigation of consequences in crisis situations that affect the vulnerable population.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**, as one of the components of the Movement***, through its network of National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies responds to the needs of migrants at different levels on their journey, from one place to another. The Movement's approach to migration is strictly humanitarian in nature and is based on recognizing the individuality and aspirations of each migrant. This approach focuses on the needs, vulnerabilities and potentials of migrants, regardless of their status, type or category. Accordingly, and in order fully capturing the humanitarian considerations related to migration, the description of migrants is defined as:

*. World Migration Report 2020, IOM UN Migration

**. <https://www.ifrc.org/en/who-we-are/>

***. <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/misc/components-movement.htm>

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies defines the migrants as persons who leave or flee their habitual residence to go to new places – usually abroad – to seek opportunities or safer and better prospects. Migration can be voluntary or involuntary, but most of the time a combination of choices and constraints are involved. IFRC categorizes migrants in several subgroups recognized by authorities as irregular migrants, migrants, internally displaced migrants in their own country, stateless migrants, refugees, asylum seekers

(IFRC, European Migration Framework 2016).

The analysis of the response of the Red Cross of the Republic North Macedonia to the migration crisis in the Republic of North Macedonia (2015-2020), enables the individuals, institutions and organizations to get acquainted with the general context of migration, the vulnerability of migrants and people on move, the role of the Red Cross globally and nationally in the process of humanitarian assistance, as well as the overall operation during the migrant crisis 2015-2020.

As a voluntary, massive and independent humanitarian organization of the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Red Cross of the RNM acts and operates as a non-governmental and non-political organization and as unified Red Cross organization on the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia. The place, role and tasks of the RCRNM in the country are defined by a special Law on the Red Cross of RNM as well as the Statutes of the Red Cross of RNM. According to this arrangement, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia has regular communication and cooperation with the National Red Cross Societies and non-governmental organizations in the region and beyond, with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to coordinate and implement disaster preparedness and response activities to support the vulnerable population.

The Red Cross of RNM operates in accordance with the policies for protection and provision of humanitarian aid to refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons, returnees and asylum seekers, and in this regard, this Analysis will contribute to improving and facilitating the process of preparing documents on national level. It includes research of documented materials and analysis of data contained in official documents for reporting on qualitative and quantitative basis. This document explains the overall humanitarian assistance during the migration crisis, which includes assistance in form of food, water and hygiene products, transport to the hospital, assistance, medical interventions and first aid, psycho-social support, awareness raising activities in RNM in terms of the needs of migrants and provision of immediate assistance and number of registered RFL cases**** (Restoring Family Links service) etc.

The short history of the migration crisis that affected Europe in 2015 speaks of the opening of the so-called Mediterranean, and later East - Mediterranean and Western Balkan route. However, there is no consensus about this huge migration crisis when it actually started. The first evidence of organized movements of irregular migrants from the Middle East as well as from the countries of Central Asia through the territory of RNM are registered in the second half of 2015. The Red Cross of RNM, as member of the overall National Crisis Management System, started with immediate

****. „<https://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/migration/what-is-a-migrant/#:~:text=Migrants%20are%20persons%20who%20leave,or%20safer%20and%20better%20prospects.>”



mobilization and organization of the first mobile teams. Through the Program for assistance and support to refugees and migrants along the highway Gevgelija – Kumanovo, the Red Cross started with distribution of food parcels and water, providing first aid and psychosocial support. The humanitarian assistance of the Red Cross of the RNM lasted during the entire influx of persons moving through the territory of the RNM as well as after the closure of the so-called Balkan route. The activities continue in 2018 when there is an intense irregular movement of refugees and migrants. This time, the presence of the Red Cross in the field is around the clock, providing continuous assistance to the migrants. The activities of the Red Cross of RNM are still ongoing and focused on persons who transit irregularly, refugees and asylum seekers in the country.

The Migration Crisis 2015-2020 was marked by the Red Cross with provided humanitarian assistance to more than 850,000 people on the move, with the support of more than 200 trained staff and volunteers of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia.

The cross-section of data and information in this Analysis provide an overview about the general understanding of the cooperation, communication and the implemented activities of the Red Cross of RNM during the crisis. This information can help as see the lessons learned in support of our future activities and preparedness about the required response of a humanitarian organization to the needs of the migrants and the domestic population affected by the migrant crisis.

The key findings in this document indicate that the preparedness and timely training of the human resources, historical and organizational background in times of crisis and the systematic documentation are of key importance for the successful operation during the overall humanitarian operation of the migration crisis 2015-2020 in RNM.



INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS THE ANALYSIS OF THE RCRNM RESPONSE TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS IN RNM (2015-2020) ABOUT?



„A crisis is a situation caused by risks and hazards that can endanger the goods, health and life of people and animals and the security of the state, the prevention or management of which requires the use of a larger volume of resources.“

Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 29, dated May 4, 2005 <http://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/2B55BCB15891E144B555BA0302455CB6.pdf>

The declaration of a state of emergency on the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia or on its part is provided in Article 125 of the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia.

In accordance with Paragraph 1 of this Article „An emergency occurs when major natural disaster or epidemic occurs.“

In accordance with the policies and strategies of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the programs and the defined approach of our national society for protection and provision of humanitarian aid to refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons, returnees and asylum seekers, the Analysis of the response of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia to the migration crisis in the Republic of North Macedonia (2015-2020) represents a clear overview of the situation regarding the migration in RNM and the response of our National Society - Red Cross of RNM, with emphasis on the last migration crisis in 2015. The analysis is also focused on the established system of responding to the requests of refugees and migrants, following the Global Migration Strategy of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) which provides guidelines for the action of the national societies and the IFRC Secretariat for the period until the end of 2022. Its title - Reducing Vulnerability, Strengthening Resilience, indicates that it refers not only to meeting humanitarian needs and the need to meet the risks they face, but also to strengthening the capacity of migrants through the integration of assistance, protection and advocacy¹.

Emphasizing the key issues in the established system for responding to migration issues, the analysis will describe and address:

1. The response of our national society to the migrant crisis from its beginnings in 2015, until 2020, with a brief insight on previous experiences with similar crises from the recent history of the country;
2. The role of the Red Cross of the RNM within the system for preparedness and response in crisis situations in the country;

1. https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wpcontent/uploads/sites/5/2017/12/IFRC_StrategyOnMigration_EN_20171222.pdf

3. The role of partner organizations and international assistance in response to the crisis;
4. The challenges we faced, as well as the lessons learned and experiences gained in this process.

The Analysis of the response of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia to the migration crisis in the Republic of North Macedonia (2015-2020) provides an overview of statistical data related not only to the RCRNM's response with provision of humanitarian aid, but also an overview of the covered beneficiaries, primarily their nationality, gender, age. It also discusses the role of volunteers and staff who implemented the field activities, their preparedness, the psycho-social assistance they received, as well as the overall logistical support for the implementation of the large-scale operation.

The analysis contains information on the partnerships and support in the implementation of the planned activities by domestic governmental organizations and the NGO sector, as well as organizations, agencies and national societies from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

It also covers aspects related to raising public awareness to ensure early acceptance of persons of interest. In preparation for this analysis, one of the key postulates was the declaration for migrants of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which states as follows:



„.... we are increasingly concerned for the safety and well-being of vulnerable migrants, refugees and other persons in need of international protection. Urgent steps are needed to save lives. All migrants – including those in an irregular situation – have human rights, including the rights to life, liberty and security of person. They must be protected from torture and ill-treatment, arbitrary detention, refoulement and threats to their lives, and they must have access to justice and essential services. International law also requires special protection for certain categories of persons, such as refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons. Gaps in the implementation of this protection can have life-threatening consequences for the persons involved”².

2 https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/01/CD-19-R8_Adopted_Movement-Declaration-on-Migration_EN_clean.pdf

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ANALYSIS OF THE RCRNM RESPONSE TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS IN RNM (2015-2020)?



Over the years, the Red Cross of RNM, based on the experiences from past crisis in which it played a key role, established an excellent system for response to refugee issues.

The lessons learned, the challenges that each crisis situation brought with it, were implemented in the response to this migration crisis, although it brought with it many specifics. As a step forward, the Red Cross of RNM plans to develop a policy for protection and provision of humanitarian assistance to refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons, returnees and asylum seekers. The analysis of the response of RCRNM is a good signpost in terms of directions in which this policy would be developed, because it is a summary of the crisis situation. Through it, in future crisis situations of this kind, the national society would provide a rapid and efficient response to the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees; information on their rights, networking, assistance, protection and humanitarian advocacy will be facilitated; the aspect of building partnerships has been further developed, and the support and response to the needs of resettlement population and other issues related to migration will be raised on a higher level.

On the other hand, The Migration Policy of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies places the emphasis on the following 10 key principles and invites all national societies to:

1. Focus on the Needs and Vulnerabilities of Migrants
2. Include Migrants in Humanitarian Programming
3. Support the Aspirations of Migrants
4. Recognize the Rights of Migrants
5. Link Assistance, Protection and Humanitarian Advocacy for Migrants
6. Build Partnerships for Migrants
7. Work Along the Migratory Trails
8. Assist Migrants in Return;
9. 9 Respond to the Displacement of Populations
10. Alleviate Migratory Pressures on Communities of Origin

The national societies around the world work according to these principles related to migrants, following the local context and depending on whether the countries are the final destination, transit or countries of origin. Of course, the significance of the analysis has a broader social context, given the role of the Red Cross defined in accordance with the Statutes and the Law on the Red Cross, as well as the mission of the Organization which defines the Red Cross of the Republic

³ <https://ckrm.org.mk/publikacii-cat/godishni-programi/>

⁴ <https://ckrm.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ZAKON-ZA-CRVENIOT-KRST-NA-REPUBLIKA-MAKEDONIJA.pdf> („Official Gazette of RNM“ no. 41/94, 7/97, 21/98 и „Official Gazette of RNM“ no. 101/19)

of North Macedonia as a humanitarian organization to prevent and alleviate human suffering, to protect life and health, to promote social status, to ensure respect and dignity for human beings, and in particular in the event of accidents and disasters, to promote international humanitarian law and human values, to encourage voluntary engagement and permanent willingness to help, as well as a universal sense of solidarity and humanity.

WHICH LESSONS LEARNED DOES THE ANALYSIS OFFER?



The lessons learned from the migration crisis from all phases can be reflected as new knowledge and practices in the work of the Red Cross of RNM in future crisis situations of this kind. In the further discussion of the role of the Red Cross of RNM in the migration crisis, and in the following chapters, we have elaborated our strengths, which are focused on providing:

- Humanitarian aid;
- Basic health services, first aid and medical transport;
- Restoring Family Links (Tracing Service) and
- Psychological first aid.

Several lessons have been learned as well as new experiences and knowledge not only at national level, but also vertically, at the level of Red Cross branches, teams, all the way to the level of volunteers and staff throughout all stages of the implementation of the activities. The lessons learned, recommendations and conclusions, are elaborated in more detail later in the document and the findings can be used for future field activities and/or research needs.

METHODOLOGY

HOW WAS THE ANALYSIS OF THE RCRNM RESPONSE TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS IN RNM (2015-2020) DEVELOPED?

The role of the Red Cross in RNM in the humanitarian response to the migration crisis has resulted in extensive experience in implementing outreach activities, structured reporting formats, donor reporting formats, outreach diaries, distributed aid lists, humanitarian aid diaries, etc. They all contain information that has been periodically processed and served as the basis for planning throughout the migrant crisis. During the preparation of the analysis, the methodological approach was based on research of documented materials (reports, articles, diaries of field work, medical files, etc.) interviews with those responsible for the implementation of national projects and coordination of field activities of the Red Cross in support of migrants, as well as through the analysis of the data contained in the official reporting documents. The information contained in the reports used in the preparation of this document is of qualitative and quantitative nature. It contains elements, a description of the current situation on the territory of entire RNM, but also from the local context for the region North Border and the Transit Center (TC) Tabanovce, South Border and Transit Center (TC) Vinojug as well as Reception Center for applicants for Asylum-Vizbegovo and the Reception Center for Foreigners. This means a good overview of the conditions at the entry and exit points along the migrant route when it was opened, but

also an overview of the illegal movement of migrants after the closure of the so-called Balkan route, as well as their temporary accommodation.

In terms of quantitative data, the focus is on the distributed humanitarian aid comprised of food, water and hygiene products (by items and quantities), realized transports to the hospital, assistance, medical interventions and first aid, number of registered RFL cases (Restoring Family Links). Each survey contains the structure of persons registered by gender and country of origin. In some of the reports, answers were derived from processed questionnaires intended for the target group, but also from service providers and partner organizations. They have been implemented in all phases of the migrant crisis, and have been properly processed and implemented in a format. In the information that is being prepared, which was used for preparing the analysis of the RCRNM response to the migrant crisis in RNM (2015-2020), there is an overview of the number of volunteers from the mobile teams in the overall operation, time (hours) spent in the field and in the Transit Centers, as well as structural information regarding the personnel - division according to gender and age.

The analysis as a document does not contain personal information that endangers the identity and human rights of the target groups, and the collection of information that was used for preparation of the document is in accordance with the mandatory minimum standards of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in respect of the gender and diversity of each individual when responding in times of emergencies.

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- Project name: Support for refugees in Macedonia (17MK01), provided by the Luxembourgish Government through the Red Cross of Luxembourg.
- Project name: Proof of Employment of Funds in accordance with No. 10.2 of the Administrative Regulations pertaining to section 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and No. 6.2 of the General Auxiliary Conditions for Project Grants (ANBest P)
- Emergency Plan of Action Final Report
- Final report emergency appeal -IFRC
- Final Project performance report UNHCR (2015-2019)

GENERAL CONTEXT

ABOUT THE RED CROSS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia has a long tradition of 76 years of existence and action, achieving the humanitarian mission to improve the lives of the most vulnerable in the country and internationally.

The Red Cross of RNM is a voluntary, massive, independent humanitarian organization of the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia and acts and works as a non-governmental and non-political organization and as the only organization on the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia.

In the period from 1992 to 2020, since gaining its independence, the Red Cross of RNM has been actively involved in providing assistance to humanitarian affected persons, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, socially vulnerable persons, persons affected by natural disasters and other categories of vulnerable persons. The programs and projects of the national society are implemented with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, several national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and other international and domestic governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions.

Although the activities of the national society date from the beginning of the 20th century in the time of the former Yugoslavia, the official foundation date of the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia is March 17, 1945. The Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia is recognized as a National Society by the International Committee of the Red Cross on November 1, 1995, and on November 27, 1995 the national society became a full-fledged member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, as 169th member of the International Movement.

The important conditions for recognition of the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia were as follows:

1. Ratification of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols of 1977, by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on 25 August 1993;
2. The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the Law on the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia on July 26, 1994.

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia is the only organization on the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia, comprised of Red Cross branches and the City Red Cross of Skopje. The Red Cross of RNM is not an association of citizens, but it is a voluntary, mass, independent, non-governmental, non-political and independent humanitarian organization of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia.

The role and tasks of the Red Cross, the use and protection of the emblem and the name of the Red Cross, and the financing of the tasks of the Red Cross are regulated in a special law - Law on the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia (Official Gazette No. 41/94). The Statutes of the Red Cross of the RNM regulate in more detail the position and structure of the Organization as well as the basic objectives and tasks and they are in accordance with the Statutes of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Red Cross of RNM, within the efforts for efficient transformation, reorganization and capacity building, especially in the last years, undertakes numerous activities for modernization of the work. Transparent operation and timely reporting, establishment of efficient communication system, as well as training of volunteers and staff and upgrading the material and technical capacities of the organization, contribute to improving the image of the national society and development of the organization as a leading humanitarian organization in the country.

VISION

STATEMENT OF THE RED CROSS OF RNM

"We operate, encourage and promote human values for timely response to modern humanitarian challenges, determined to do more, to do it better and to reach further".

MISSION

STATEMENT OF THE RED CROSS OF RNM

"The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia is a humanitarian organization that operates on prevention and alleviation of human suffering, protection of life and health, promotion of social well-being with respect to human dignity, particularly in case of accidents and disasters, promotion of international humanitarian law and human values, promotion of voluntary engagement and preparedness for provision of assistance, and the universal feeling for solidarity and humanity".

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia operates through 35 permanent offices covering the entire territory of the Republic of North Macedonia, a head office in Skopje, 5 Red Cross

branches and City Red Cross in Skopje and another 28 Red Cross branches in almost all cities throughout the Republic of North Macedonia.



THE ROLE OF THE RED CROSS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA WITHIN THE SYSTEM FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

One of the most important characteristics of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia, in addition to the successful field work, is the continuous investment in the institutional development where measures are taken and decisions are made to increase efficiency, capacity building initiatives and strengthen volunteerism as well as amendments and revisions of the Statutes for creating conditions for more efficient functioning of the auxiliary bodies and, rationalization of the costs for realization of the activities and united, coordinated and synchronized action of the constituent parts.

Every three years, the Red Cross of RNM conducts assessments and analysis of the overall operation of the Red Cross branches and City Red Cross of Skopje, which is the starting point for efficient transformation and reorganization of all segments of the national society. The assessments identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to the development of the Red Cross branches and the City Red Cross of Skopje. The data ensures indicators for the structure of the management and governance, the material and technical capacities, the number of active volunteers and the infrastructure of the national society, from which the Red Cross of RNM obtains a realistic picture about the personnel and material capacities in the Red Cross. The obtained results identify the most urgent needs, priorities and challenges in the Red Cross branches and contribute to the overall planning and action in case of emergencies. The Assessment and Analysis provides a good basis for short-term and long-term planning with continuous monitoring and evaluation of the work of the Red Cross branches and City Red Cross of Skopje.

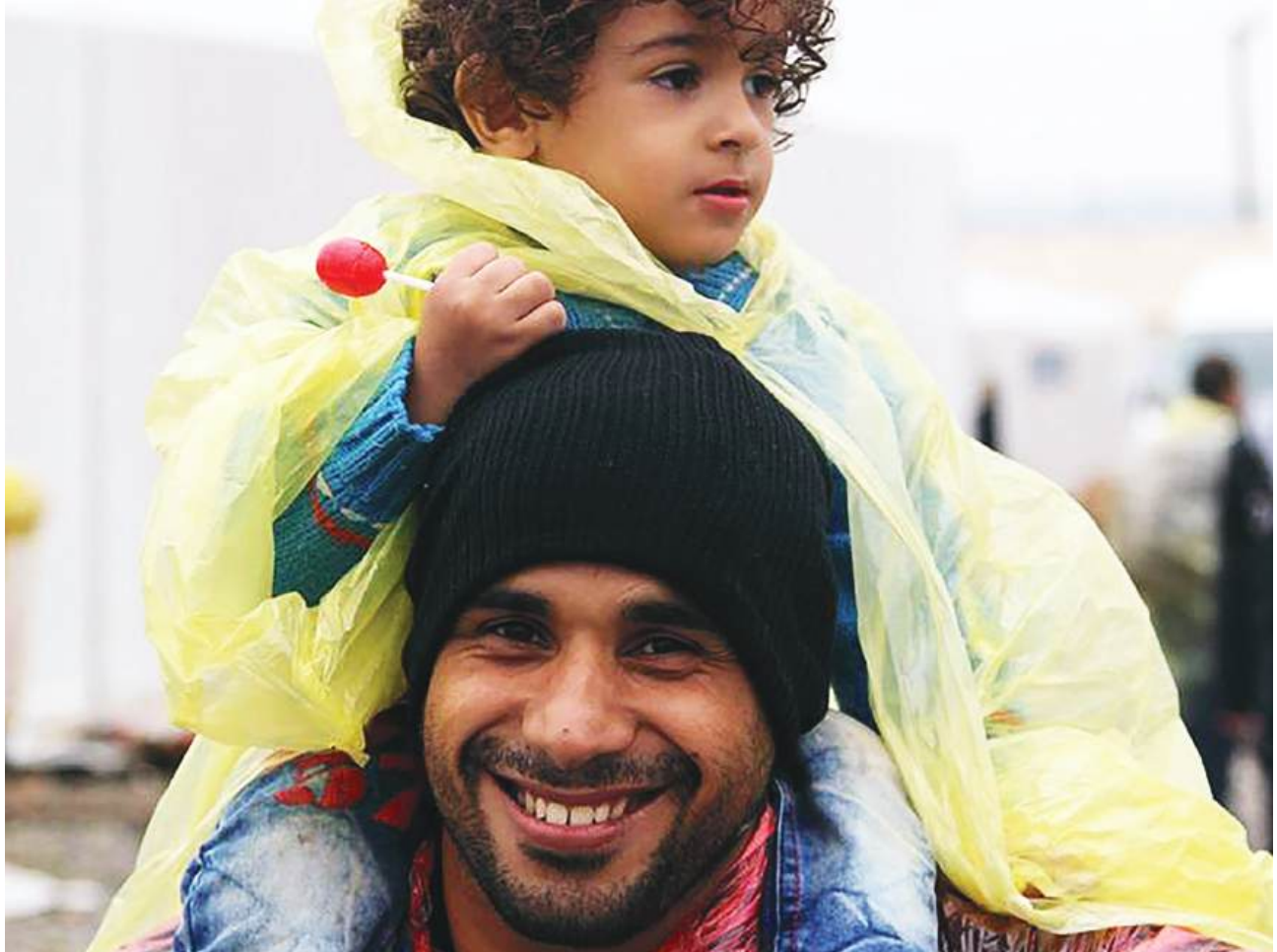
Several laws and bylaws have been passed in the Republic of North Macedonia that also refer to the work of Red Cross of the RNM, which only confirms the auxiliary status and partnership with the Government of the RNM.

The quality, results and persistent work of the organization are recognized with the recognition of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 2015 when RCRNM became the „First Certified National Society“ in accordance with the methodology for organizational capacity assessment.

The place, role and tasks of RCRNM are regulated with the Law on the Red Cross of RNM and the Statutes of the Red Cross of RNM. The tasks of the RCRNM are regulated in Article 19 of the Law on the Red Cross. In paragraphs 14 and 15 of article 19 of this law, RCRNM is obliged to prepare teams for water and mountain rescue.

The Law on Crisis Management (I. BASIC PROVISIONS, Article 2) defines that: The crisis management system is exercised by the state administration bodies and the state government bodies (Assembly, President and Government), the armed forces such as the Army of the Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter: the Army), the protection and rescue forces and the bodies of the municipalities and the City of Skopje (hereinafter: the municipalities and the City of Skopje). Public enterprises, public institutions and services and companies can participate in prevention, early warning and crisis management in accordance with this law.

Citizens, citizens' associations and the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia, non-governmental and humanitarian organizations, mass media and other legal entities not covered by paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Ar-



ticle, can participate in prevention, early warning and crisis management, voluntarily and contractually, on basis of law and ratified international agreements governing this matter. The Red Cross of RNM is a member of several international organizations that are authorized to provide education in the field of protection and water safety, mountain rescue and first aid. Education for protection and self-protection is also provided with the help of licensed domestic and foreign instructors, while the candidates receive recognized certificates and credentials. A number of trained volunteers in the field of protection and rescue are members of the National Disaster Response Unit and disaster response teams in 33 RC branches the City Red Cross of Skopje. In the area of disaster preparedness and response, RCRNM has well established partnership with the responsible institutions at national and local level, in order to ensure effective coordination and disaster management mechanisms based on the existing legislation.

In order to improve the cooperation and coordination of the activities, RCRNM has signed a Memoranda of Cooperation with the Crisis Management Center (CMC) and the Directorate for Protection and Rescue (DPR), and in the main headquarters of these Directorates there are representatives of RCRNM. RCRNM has good cooperation and has concluded co-

operation agreements with the Ministry of Defense, the Army of the RNM, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and other ministries, the Bureau for Development of education, Firefighting Brigade in the Republic of North Macedonia and other institutions. To date, the National Society has trained a large number of people for life-guards, mountain rescuers and rescuers from speleological structures and ruins.

RCRNM prepares various manuals, brochures, pamphlets and posters for more education of the population in the area of protection and self-protection. There is also a Red Cross operational center in RCRNM, which coordinates the activities in the field of disaster preparedness and response and cooperates with the Directorate for Protection and Rescue and the Crisis Management Center, which as state institutions are the bearers of the activities.

RCRNM has regular communication and cooperation with the national Red Cross societies and NGOs in the region and beyond, with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to coordinate and implement activities for disaster preparedness and response to support the vulnerable population.

THE ROLE OF THE RED CROSS DURING THE REFUGEE CRISIS IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Red Cross of RNM, through its local offices and through the Red Cross of the City of Skopje, as part of the response system, organizes direct assistance and support to refugees on the territory of RNM.

The Red Cross in RNM was a lead agency during:

- The Bosnian crisis (1993-1995) in which 55,000 refugees were supported and a team of 150 professionals and volunteers was mobilized;
- The Kosovo crisis (1998-2001), following which there are still refugees in RNM, being assisted by the Red Cross. Total of 443,000 people were covered with Red Cross assistance with the support of 300 staff and volunteers involved in providing humanitarian assistance;
- Internal Conflict and internally displaced persons (2001) when 194,000 internally displaced persons were assisted by the Red Cross with the support of 100 staff and volunteers;
- Balkan route / migration crisis (2015 – present) with the involvement of more than 200 staff and volunteers of the Red Cross, and more than 850,000 people beneficiaries.

In all these refugee crises, the Red Cross of RNM had a leadership role which in direct cooperation with state institutions, especially the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Ministry of Health and numerous non-governmental and international organizations.





In this way, a comprehensive approach to assessing the needs of refugees is built.

The activities undertaken in these situations included:

- refugee registration;
- humanitarian aid in food, hygiene, clothing, medicine, etc.;
- medical assistance;
- first aid;
- psychological first aid;
- family reunification;
- information centers;
- educational activities; and
- Integration activities

In all activities, the Red Cross put at disposal its own capacities and recruited numerous volunteers who wanted to provide assistance to vulnerable categories of people.

It is worth mentioning that on several occasions the Red Cross includes some of the refugees in the process of service providers as part of their integration or psychological occupational therapy, and in this way it provided immediate and directly support of the needs of refugees and asylum seekers.

During all refugee crises, the Red Cross of RNM is in constant communication with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

CRISIS SITUATION

Analysis of the response of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia to the migration crisis in the Republic of North Macedonia (2015-2020)



Since its establishment until today, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia as a humanitarian organization and national society with full membership in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, successfully copes with several crises and natural disasters that affected the Republic of North Macedonia, such as the humanitarian assistance to BiH refugees, refugees from Kosovo, internally displaced persons after the 2001 conflict, and dealing with the aftermath of the disastrous floods around Skopje. During its seventy-six years of its operation the national society managed to provide an adequate response in conditions of declared humanitarian or natural disasters. It also managed to draw lessons learned that serve as basis for future generations.

Led by the vision, mission, tasks and goals of the Red Cross, five years ago the organization was in a position to meet again with a new humanitarian challenge during the large influx of refugees at the gates of the southern state border, insisting „a priori“ to alleviate vulnerability, to reduce human suffering, but also to preserve human dignity, while taking care of the life and health of almost one million refugees and migrants from the countries of the Middle East and Central Asia who during 2015, and even today, despite the closure of the so-called Balkan route, are still transiting through the Republic of North Macedonia in an attempt to reach the desired destination in some of the member states of the European Union. Encouraged by the sense of humanity and solidarity, RCRNM as a member of the HQ of the Crisis Management System, with the first announcements of an influx of migrants moving on foot from Gevgelija to Kumanovo, immediately began mobilizing its resources, thus opening a new page for a humanitarian response to the migration crisis.

1. THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MIGRATION CRISIS AND THE RESPONSE OF THE RED CROSS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

The migration crisis that hit Europe in 2015 and the opening of the so-called Mediterranean, and later the Eastern - Mediterranean and Western Balkan route, shows neither a scientific nor a common political consensus on when could exactly be the initial beginning of the great migrant crisis in the recent world and European history. Sometime in early 2013, European leaders were already receiving the first alarming data on massive human losses and the drowning of migrants in Mediterranean waters, culminating in human suffering in April 2015, when 800 migrants lost their lives trying to cross from Libya to Italy .

However, these devastating figures and the escalation of the civil war in Syria prompted the leaders of eleven European countries to hold an emergency Summit in April 2015, which adopted the basic tenets for a joint response of EU members, shifting the full weight to one member state, i.e. Italy . This trend certainly did not stop on an isolated route, which, sometime in the second half of 2015, could be evidenced with the first organized movements of irregular migrants from the Middle East and Central Asia through the territory of RNM, although this trend was evident even a year earlier with the discovery of



hundreds of migrants in a freight train near Veles which announced the mass migration.

This process was accompanied by accidents and loss of lives on Macedonian territory, such as the train accident near Veles, when in an attempt to reach the northern border and using railways as a signpost, at a critical moment due to a long road break, an international train killed 14 migrants from Afghanistan on April 24, 2015, bringing the death toll to a total of 25 after two people lost their lives near Gevgelija. Such risky movements, initially on the scale of sporadically organized groups when some migrants instead of us-

6 <https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2015/4/553652699/mediterranean-boat-capsizing-deadliest-incident-record.html>

7 http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/EUCrisisResponse_FINALWEB.pdf, crp.8



د مقدونیه سور صلیب

د مقدونیه خټه په نړانږېدې توګه نیرېدونکې پناه غوښتونکو لپاره مهم معلومات

د پناه غوښتنې او مؤقت محافظت د یوې قانوني سره سم، ناستې باید د پولیسو چارواکو په مزاحمه وکړي او د هغوی خټه هغه سید غواړي کوم چې ناستو ته اجازه ورکوي خو په قانوني ډول د ۷۲ ساعتونو په برخ کې د مقدونیه خټه په نړانږېدې ډول تیر شي. په دغه هڅه کې ناستې کولای شي چې د پناه غوښتنې مرکز سره اړیکه ونیسي او د پناه غوښتنه وکړي. خوږه ژبه چې ناستو دا سند تر لاسه کړي، ناستو کولای شي چې په قانوني توګه باندې عامه ترانسپورت خټه ګټه پورته کړي.

د اور ګاډي محال ویش

Gjevgelija - Skopje (Nirav, D. Kapja, Negotino)	04:43
Gjevgelija - Belgrade (via Skopje)	17:00
	19:46

د سره صلیب بسیار صحتي ټیمونو سره په اوليه خدمتونه وړاندې کوي، د لاندې شمېرو له لارې اړیکه ټینګولی شي:

• ۷۰ ۲۵۷۹۹۲
• ۷۱ ۲۶۱۷۸۷

دا پناه د کټوالۍ د تیرولو سازمان د پراختیایي پوښځه په ملاتړ او (په پخواني یوګوسلاوا، د مقدونیه اوسنۍ جمهوریت کې د کولمبې خدمت او د مهاجر کارکوونکو د ګمارلو) د پروګ له لارې جوړه شوې ده.

ing the Central Mediterranean route, chose to reach the desired destination in some of the European Union countries by moving through RNM as a route that allowed faster passage, but also more risky conditions for their transit, led to an increase in crimes in the field of violent crime and crimes against life and body when migrants became the target of physical attacks, robberies and torture, but also murders. Hence, following the growing trend of irregular migration, it could be hinted that the migrant crisis will not bypass RNM. According to the reports of the Ministry of Interior and the annual statistics it can be seen that in 2012, a total of 682, in 2013 - 1132, in 2014 - 1750, while only in the first five months of 2015, a total of 1249 illegal migrants were detected in RNM.

Such dynamics on the other hand only within a month, i.e. from April to May 2015, grew into

a dynamic of rapidly increasing migration wave that hit the country with the beginning of summer, when in conditions of pressure on the southern border, following the decision of the European Commission to adopt the Action Plan in 17 points according to which joint action is preferred instead of individual national responses in times of crisis and the launch of EU Civil Mechanisms to open the borders of countries that stretch along the Western Balkan route for the free flow of migrants - on a recommendation of the Steering Committee, based on the proposal of the Ministry of Interior and the adoption of the proposed amendments to the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection, amendments were passed in the Assembly of the RNM, which enabled free flow of persons on the move, i.e. the right to personal choice for expression of intention to seek asylum or leave the southern or northern border within 72 hours, making RNM part of the famous Balkan route. Hence, under pressure from the public and the non-governmental sector, a large number of illegal migrants were released and accommodated in the Reception Center for Foreigners in Gazi Baba, where in substandard conditions, men, women and children, i.e. persons on the move, were detained due to the legal obligation to establish their identity in accordance with the at that time valid legal solutions contained in the Law on Foreigners.

Until the entry into force of the amendments to the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection (LATP), i.e. starting from May 2015 predominantly refugees from Syria, Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan were walking on foot from Gjevgelija, and later using bicycles, it was evident that RNM is facing the beginning of a new "en route" era that opened a series of

8 <https://mvr.gov.mk/vest/155>

9 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/it/IP_15_5904

burning questions for an organized response of RNM and activation of the mechanisms contained in the Crisis Management Law, as well as adequate treatment of the growing number of people with the sole purpose of transiting by leaving the camps in Turkey, going oversee to Greece, transiting RNM, Serbia and Croatia, via Austria, to reach primarily in Germany, but also in other EU member states. This was also a period when RNM was on the verge of entering a serious political crisis.

Taking in consideration the above facts, Gevgelija on the southern and Kumanovo on the northern border as two border municipalities located on the territory where a state of crisis was later declared, began to feel the first shocks of the migration wave. Due to the situation, the city mosque in Kumanovo was opened, where large number of migrants stayed until the passing of the amendments to the Asylum Law. This initiated activities of the non-governmental sector, but also the utility companies in the municipality to provide minimum conditions due to the enormous increase of the refugee wave. In Gevgelija, the migrants stayed in and around the Railway Station from where they were later transferred close to the border with Greece by laying the first foundations of the modern Transit - Reception Center called "Vinojug". In order to provide social protection to a category of highly vulnerable migrants or unaccompanied minors, in the second half of 2015, a shelter center was opened - a safe house run by the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in RNM.

In such conditions, following the previous experiences in dealing with the refugee wave during the war in BiH and during the Kosovo crisis, but also following the daily situation, in order to reduce the vulnerability of people on

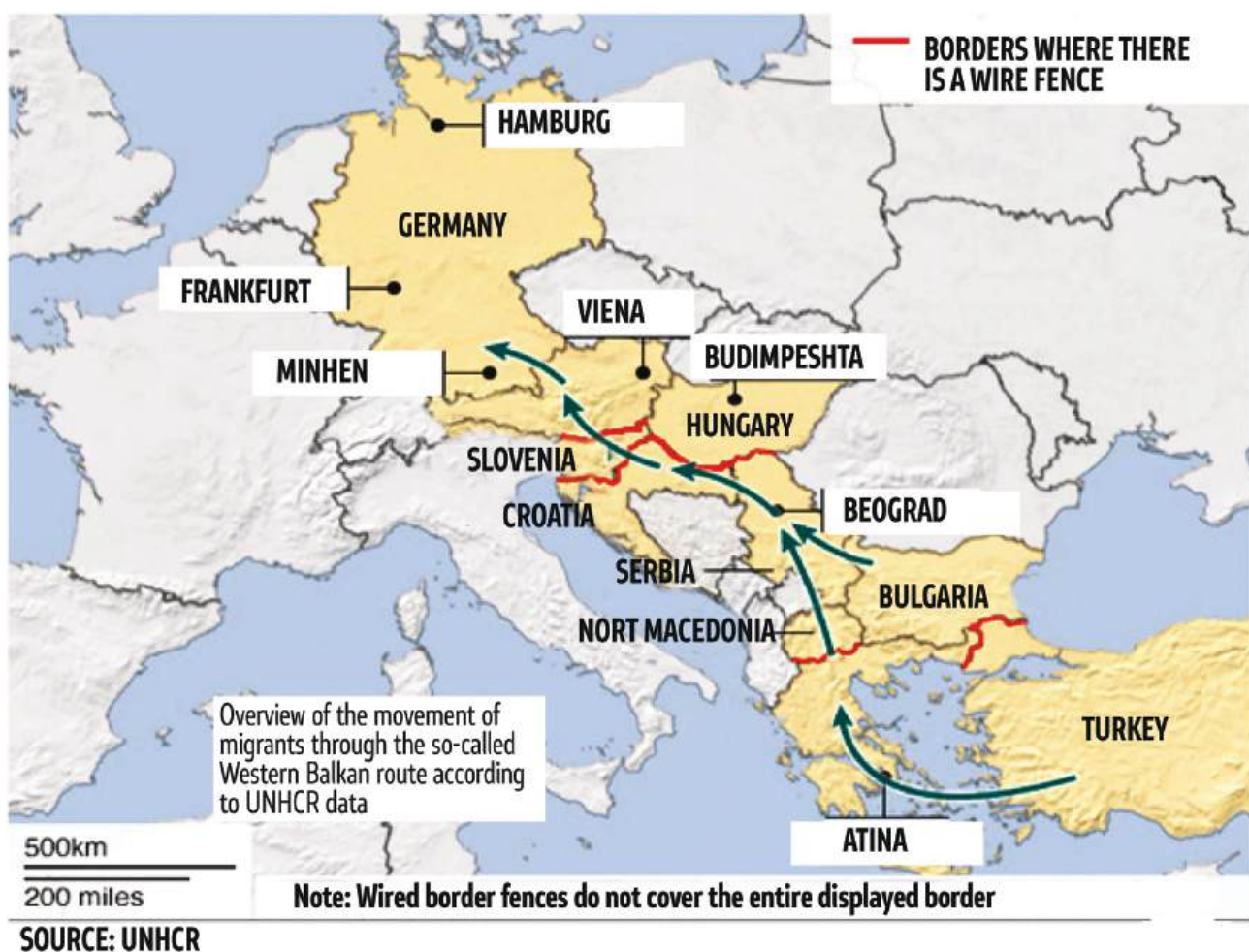


10 The Draft Law on Amending the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection made a distinction between the intention to submit a request for full recognition of asylum and the formal aspect, i.e. the submission of a request for recognition of the right to asylum by potential applicants for asylum.

the move, the Red Cross of RNM as a member of the Steering Committee and the obligations arising from the membership in the National Crisis Management System, started with urgent mobilization and organization of the first mobile teams, which through the Program for assistance and support of refugees and migrants along the highway Gevgelija - Kumanovo started with the distribution of food parcels and water, by providing first aid and psycho-social support where a total of 6893 people were assisted (period May - June 2015), with 25 volunteers, 10 paramedics, four general practitioners, four drivers, five persons in charge of logistics as well as two

persons in charge of coordination of the field teams. Due to the identified need, in order to ensure the personal safety of the people who traveled on the railways in this period, signs were placed in several languages along the railways in order to ensure the safe movement of migrants.

The Red Cross of RNM started the second phase of the response with the development of events and the official decision of the Steering Committee at the proposal of the Assessment Group for declaring a state of crisis on the northern or southern border due to the influx of migrants on August 19, 2015 and the recommendation for construction



11 The Steering Committee is the operational expert body of the Crisis Management Center, which manages the activities for prevention and management of crisis situations. The Steering Committee is composed of representatives of the Ministries of Interior, Health, Transport and Communications, Defense and Foreign Affairs. Its members are the head of the Emergency Medical Service in Skopje, the Director of the Directorate for Protection and Rescue, as well as representatives of the Army, the Intelligence Agency, the Directorate for Security of Classified Information and the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia. The Director of the Crisis Management Center manages the Steering Committee, according to Article 26 of the Law on Crisis Management ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 29/05)

and establishment of two transit reception centers located in Gevgelija and Tabanovce on the border with Serbia, where migrants crossed the Serbian side on foot, thus providing the Regional Crisis Management Centers with control entry, records of refugees and migrants, and organized provision of humanitarian, medical and other necessary assistance, as well as organized transit to Macedonia.

In the second phase the Red Cross placed containers, i.e. first aid outpatient space with a special container intended for quarantine needs, distribution centers and containers for reception of persons seeking assistance in restoring family links and family reunification. With such an arrangement, in conditions of continuous transit of persons from Gevgelija to Kumanovo, in the meantime the Red Cross of RNM provided certified translators from Arabic to Macedonian and vice versa, in order to meet the needs of the migrants by providing an exact translation when providing first aid, i.e. at all locations of the Red Cross within the transit centers, taking into account the cooperation with all state institutions such as the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior, Macedonian Railways, UN agencies and other non-governmental organizations in the direction of ensuring a coordinated approach, certainly in the best interest of migrants.

With the increased migration wave, the Red Cross of RNM concluded that it is necessary to gradually increase the number of engaged volunteers, so, with the establishment of reception centers, in RTC Vinograd and TC Tabanovce the Red Cross was present 24 hours a day in two shifts with 22 paramedics,

22 doctors, six translators, 10 drivers, 55 volunteers for distribution of humanitarian aid, 45 logisticians, six volunteers deployed in the Restoring Family Links Service and 21 volunteers in charge of coordinating the activities of the Red Cross, i.e. a total of 187 persons.

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Interior, in the period between June 2015 and January 2016, 384,481 people passed through the Republic of North Macedonia in an organized manner, of which 134,486 people were provided with humanitarian aid with 33,491 food parcels and 7,088 hygiene parcels.

In the above-mentioned period, the Ministry of Interior issued a total of 384,481 certificates for foreign nationals, of which 207,398 for males, 65,076 for females, 93,892 for children accompanying the holder of the certificate, as well as 18,115 children who traveled without a parent, who were issued a certificate of expressed intention to submit a request for recognition of the right to asylum.

Regarding the citizenship of the persons to whom certificates were issued, the most numerous are the citizens of Syria - 214,266, followed by Afghanistan - 94,912, Iraq - 53,862, Iran - 6,231, Pakistan - 5,416, Palestine - 2,158, Somalia - 1,276, Bangladesh - 1,253, Morocco - 1.3, Congo - 514, Algeria - 453, Lebanon - 434, Nigeria - 279, while the rest are in smaller numbers.

¹² See Analysis of the declared crisis situation on part of the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, in the areas of the southern and northern border of the Republic of Macedonia, due to increased number of entries and transits of migrants through the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, which endangers safety, health and property of the population for the period from the proclamation on 19.08.2015 to 17.09.2015, Crisis Management Center, pg. 3

Donors:

In 2015, the Red Cross of RNM in partnership with the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross and the German Red Cross, provided support to migrants transiting through our country. A number of other partners were also involved in the activities during 2015. For the youngest, support was provided by SOS Children's Village and Save the Children - Macedonia, UNICEF and UNFPA in the field of clothing and children's clothing, US Embassy in the field of winter clothing, Macedonian Caritas provided support for the mobile kitchen for smooth distribution of tea and soup.

In the whole confusing situation, certain organizations such as the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights advocated the position that the number of transit migrants is certainly higher than the registered ones given that the registration of incoming migrants started in June 2015, and that the unofficial number of people transiting through RNM exceeded one million refugees and migrants. On the other hand, the Intelligence Agency in the publicly published statistical data states that according to the impossibility of some institutions to perform full registration, the estimate is that more than 880,000 people passed through RNM, while only 472,937 of them are registered on the Macedonian side, from 22 countries of origin from Africa and Asia. The agency report states that 51 per cent of them had declared Germany as their final

Year	No. of persons that submitted application for asylum	Persons granted with international protection
2011	744	
2012	638	
2013	1353	
2014	1289	
2015	1895	
2016	762	7
2017	162	5
2018	299	6
2019	505	1

Source: NGO Macedonian Young Lawyers Association¹⁵

¹³ <https://mhc.org.mk/publicationsanalyzes/pravata-na-begalczite-nacionalni-i-meg/>

¹⁴ <https://www.ia.gov.mk/FolderNovosti/Statistika.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://myla.org.mk/%d0%be%d0%b1%d0%bb%d0%b0%d1%81%d1%82%d0%b8-%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d0%b4%d0%b5%d0%bb%d1%83%d0%b2%d0%b0%d1%9a%d0%b5/%d0%b1%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b0%d0%bb%d1%86%d0%b8-%d0%b8-%d0%bc%d0%b8%d0%b3%d1%80%d0%b0%d0%bd%d1%82%d0%b8/>

destination, but as many as 71 per cent had said they were leaving the country because of the state of war, fear and insecurity, which only confirms the justification for a speedy humanitarian response in order to reduce the trauma and exposure of these persons to be assisted in conditions of long and arduous transit regardless of their final destination.

Regarding the interest in expressing intention to seek asylum in RNM before and during the transit, according to the data available from the NGO Macedonian Young Lawyers Association as a non-governmental organization partner of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees which provided legal assistance to persons under the mandate of the UNHCR in the Republic of North Macedonia, through their presence in transit centers in order to provide free legal assistance to asylum seekers and refugees in submitting applications for recognition of the right to asylum at all stages of the procedure until the final decision, it can be concluded that out of approximately one million transits, a relatively small number of people expressed interest in seeking asylum in the RNM, and in most of the cases, field experiences indicate that migrants almost did not know where they were and they were always striving to leave by the first train. In cases when people could not continue the journey due to illness, hospitalization or birth, in accordance with the legal obligation to leave the territory of the RNM within 72 hours or otherwise to seek asylum, such persons by law had to submit an asylum application, and upon recovery, to leave the borders of the RNM immediately.

Without sensing the end of the free flow, the migrants continued on the transit route in search of a better and more secure life,

while in RNM the political crisis was already deepening, with the Early Parliamentary Elections in December 2016, which had a great influence and impact regarding the issue of treatment and reception of refugees and migrants. It also had impact on the response of RNM with the forthcoming closure of the so-called Balkan route, especially in the area of the authorizations of the Border Police, decision-making and implementation and compliance with the obligations arising from the current Standard operating procedure prepared by the National commission for combating trafficking in human beings and Illegal migration within the Government of the RNM with the mediation of the UNHCR Office in Skopje for dealing with unaccompanied minors - foreigners, as well as respecting the „non refoulment“ i.e.

The principle of non-refoulement in accordance with Article 4 of Protocol 4 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights explicitly prohibits the collective expulsion of foreigners, in accordance with Art. 29 of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, which guarantees the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and determined by law and international agreements to which the Republic of North Macedonia is a signatory, but also in regard to maintaining the open character of the two reception centers and the referral system to highly vulnerable categories of refugees and migrants found on illegal routes in transit centers, which in most cases, despite the available facilities, remained empty, although the data on assisted irregular migrants by the Red Cross mobile teams proved the opposite.

2. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AFTER THE CLOSURE OF THE SO-CALLED BALKAN ROUTE



As winter passed, the conditions for walking from the Macedonian side to the Serbian side to reach the neighboring Serbian border village of Miratovac became more difficult. Migrants traveled by bus to Belgrade and later to Croatia since Hungary erected a wire fence to prevent migrants from entering their territory despite the fact that Hungary is EU member state. Sometime in mid-February 2016, followed by the erection of the second wire fence on the southern border, which was 35 km in length - left and right of the border stone - elevation 59, the government passed a decision to close the free flow of migrants who do not come from the military - crisis areas. This meant a ban for economic migrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other Central Asian countries, and the dynamics of organized rail transport of migrants began to decline slightly.

Some of the so-called economic migrants stayed in the two reception-transit centers and some used the new illegal crossings at the southern border, but also in the vicinity of the municipality of Lipkovo, i.e. in the villages of Lojane and Vaksince, where during the open Balkan route there was a complete cessation of illegal movements. The signing of the agreement between the EU and Turkey and the decision of the European Commission of 18 March 2016 completely to stop the

free flow of migrants resulted with the cessation of the emergency railway line. This meant a different challenge for the national crisis management, which had to provide adequate accommodation for approximately 1500 migrants who remained stuck in TC Tabanovce. 450 of these people, as a sign of protest voluntarily remained in an improvised camp on borderline with neighboring Serbia in an attempt to put pressure on the leaders not to close the familiar route, but without any result.

At a time when the accommodation capacity in TC Tabanovce was overloaded, with over 1500 sheltered migrants of mixed composition and the capacity was only a maximum of 500 people, there was an opportunity for developing impatience both on the basis of nationality and gender and age contrary to respect of religious rights and freedoms. One hundred-thirty people remained stranded in RTC Gevgelija, who months later were kept under strict control of the Border Police at the Reception Centre South. Every attempt of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy as a state institution in charge of reception and accommodation of migrants in the two reception centers to redirect some of the stranded migrants from north to south, ended in failure.

This was due to the fact that even the migrants believed in the reopening of the route, but they also feared that returning to the

17 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/it/MEMO_16_1494

south border would mean their deportation to Greece, i.e. to Turkey as a country where they were originally registered under the EU-Turkey agreement on the return of migrants in a safe country at the expense of relocating migrants from Syria to third countries.

The Regional Center for Crisis Management Kumanovo in accordance with the legal regulations being in charge of coordination of all actors, institutions, international organizations and facilitators of the migrant crisis in TC Tabanovce, faced with such a challenge, start-

ed with immediate installation of mobile tents owned by the Red Cross of RNM. followed by enhanced activities for opening and initiation of the operation of the dining room / mobile kitchen for hot meal distribution organized by the MLSP, which later assigned the role of food supply to the Red Cross of RNM in coordination with other donors, such as the NGO Macedonian Caritas, NGO NUN, NGO Legis, NGO Mother Teresa, NGO El Hilal, NGO Spikes of Goodness, NGO Agape and other civic and religious associations.



WI-FI network was introduced in the camp with financial support of the SOS Children's Village. Other activities included the construction of a modern distribution center assigned to the Red Cross of RNM to be responsible for distribution of blankets, clothes and hygiene. The maintenance of camps was supported by the Danish Refugee Council and the installation of toilets for the disabled and the construction of a small water treatment plant and water supply station was supported by IOM. The solar system for providing hot water in the baths and the opening of a kindergarten

was assisted by UNICEF and SOS Children's Village. The place for animation of preschool children was organized by NGOs Open Gate - La Strada. The monitoring of the respecting of human rights was done in cooperation with the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and the NGO Legis.

Other activities included the removal of modular houses donated by the UNHCR office in Skopje with replacement of metal containers (mounted by a previously trained team of the Red Cross composed of 15 people - donated by IOM, NGO Adra and NGO Catholic Relief

18 A Rubb Hall is a commercial name for particularly large, relocatable tent-like structure often used in situations of emergency, and/or during humanitarian or natural disasters.



Services, and involvement of teams from the Ministry of Health in charge of secondary health care through the project supported by Project Hope and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The teams of the Center for Public Health Kumanovo carried out mass disinfection of the entire camp and vaccination of migrants from typhoid fever, and opened improvised classrooms for non-formal education in order to provide adequate accommodation predominantly for the large number of children and juveniles.

In that period, more precisely from mid-March to June 2016, all attention was focused on the conditions in the northern transit center, which certainly did not stop the gradual independent departure of persons on the illegal routes due to the open character of Camp Tabanovce. In the period July 2016 to February 2017, nearly 50 stranded migrants who were staying in the camp, on basis of the bilateral agreement between Greece and RNM, were transported to the border crossing Bogorodica, where they were handed over to the local authorities.

According to unofficial information, all these migrants were deployed in third countries. Information on the reopening of illegal routes, of course, did not go unnoticed in the Red

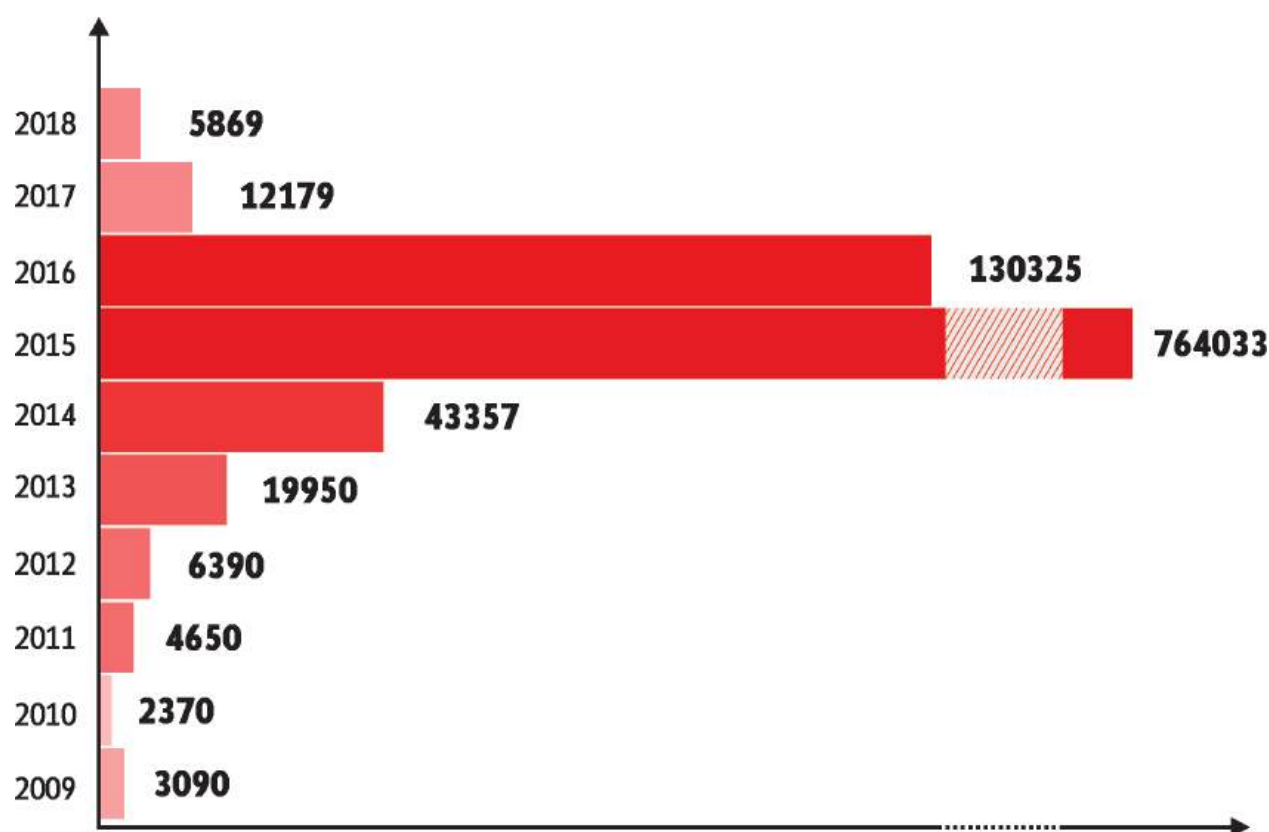
Cross of RNM given the frequent exposure of the persons on move to various illegal actions and increased vulnerability, so by decision of the Steering Committee, and at the proposal of Red Cross of RNM, in the middle of August 2016, a Mobile Team for humanitarian assistance and support to irregular migrants was established with a liaison office in the village of Lipkovo which was later transferred in the village of Lojane.

The Red Cross teams comprised of four volunteers conducted regular visits with the vehicles in the two border villages in the municipality of Lipkovo, more precisely in the villages of Lojane and Vaksince. The teams comprised of a driver, first-aider, a doctor, and translator in Arabic language and a social worker. The teams focused on reducing the vulnerability of people on the move by providing first aid, distributing food and promoting hygiene through distribution of hygiene parcels and providing psycho-social support to migrant minors who arrived in the villages in increasing numbers.

The Red Cross mobile team that was operatively engaged in the region on the northern border of RNM (villages Lipkovo, Lojane, Vaksince) started a new phase in the response of the Red Cross in the migrant crisis despite the closure of the so-called Balkan route. This was followed by sporadic criticism from various representatives of state institutions stating

that this would induce an illegal movement, although such rhetoric was later abandoned after it turned out that the Red Cross, as part of the national system for organized response of RNM in times of crisis, facilitated the lives of locals who have been under constant threat and pressure from migrant groups entering private property in an attempt to obtain food. The mobile teams established a neutral operating system and complete independence in their work, adhering to the „do no harm“ principle and building trust with both state institutions and the local population, supported by volunteers from the two border villages, as well as distribution of humanitarian parcels with food and hygiene items for socially vulnerable families, with a total of 1833 assisted irregular migrants in the period of August - January 1, 2017.

In the beginning of 2017, there is a complete lull on the issue of the recent migrant crisis and the entire world and no media attention on the migration issue in RNM, with the closure of the Balkan route. The transit centers remained almost empty, with strict controlled entry and reception of migrants controlled by the Border Police at the Reception Centre North and Reception Centre South, before the re-ignition of illegal routes and increasing the number of engaged volunteers - members of the Lipkovo Mobile Team. The teams initially comprised of four volunteers, increased five-fold. In order to upgrade the existing capacity, the teams in the beginning of 2017 comprised of 20 volunteers. There were four mobile teams responsible for patrolling and assisting irregular migrants in for of first aid support, food and water distribution, promotion of hygiene, psycho-social support and the restoring family links but also with the continuous presence of Red Cross teams in the two transit centers



<https://frontex.europa.eu/along-eu-borders/migratory-routes/western-mediterranean-route/>

Graphical overview of illegal migration crossings through the Balkan route according to Frontex

During 2016, the monthly reports indicate that the RCRNM distributed 16,446 food parcels and 12,495 hygiene parcels in the two transit centers. In the same period, the medical teams recorded 83,928 assists and interventions, while in the Lipkovo region medical assistance was provided to 2,128 people.

The restoring family links service was implemented by two teams, one in TC Tabanovce composed of two people, and one team in PTC Gevgelija also composed of two volunteers. The teams for that purpose had special containers and complete equipment for restoring family links. Support in this area was provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross. In 2016, 464 cases were registered when migrants asked for help for restoring family links and family reunification.

During 2016, dissemination trainings were conducted for the operating teams in both centers as well as for the mobile team. The teams got acquainted with the organization, the movement, and the activities of the organization, its history, principles and the Geneva Conventions. During the trainings, they gained knowledge about the proper use of the emblem, taking photos and use of photos on the social networks. In the same period the teams continuously received psychosocial support in form of individual meetings, group therapies and through several seminars that were conducted in the Red Cross Training Center in Struga in order to enhance the teams capacities and improve teamwork.

Dissemination training for conducted for young people in the region of Lojane, Lipkovo and Vaksince as well as training on health care and first aid. The trainings covered 151 participants.

The main partners and donors during the whole operation were the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Besides them, UNFPA, SOS Children's

Village, UNICEF, German Red Cross, Macedonian Caritas, Solidarite, NGO Save the children - Macedonia and others also contributed as donors.

In the period January - December 2017, the Red Cross distributed 23,155 hygiene parcels, 174,888 ready to eat meals (hot meals), and provided 10,410 assists and first aid interventions. Total of 6,540 irregular migrants and 726 persons accommodated in the Reception Center for Refugees and Migrants in Vinojug and Tabanovce were assisted.

During 2017, around the villages of Lojane, Vaksince, Sopot and Tabanovce, the Mobile Team Lipkovo assisted 3716 persons. The Red Cross assisted 1571 irregular migrants in Gevgelija, and 574 irregular migrants in TC Tabanovce.

- During 2017, The Red Cross assisted 389 migrants / refugees and provided 419 medical examinations in the Reception Center for Foreigners - Gazi Baba in Skopje.
- During 2017, a total of 170,001 migrants/ refugees were registered entering the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia, of which a total of 7,655 migrants/refugees were assisted by the Red Cross mobile teams. Source: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR in Macedonia

In order to provide internal information, but also to inform the other partners and donors about the current projects and implemented activities, during the migrant crisis the RCRNM



started with the preparation of daily reports which were shared with the Ministry of Interior and the Regional Crisis Management Centers on a daily basis. The Red Cross also prepared weekly and monthly reports, which were shared with the UNHCR office in Skopje, as well as weekly reports that were submitted to the Crisis Management Center. The Red Cross also developed weekly reports that were submitted to the Regional Delegation of IFRC in Budapest. Regular communication was established with the media and other social networks to share various information of interest about the program implementation.

Starting from February 2017, with the development of the situation on the field and the need for taking care of the vulnerable category of migrant mothers and children on the move, the Red Cross decided to open another office in the village Vaksince, in addition to the existing office of the mobile team in the village Lojane located on the so-called Miratovacki road from where the migrants went to the surrounding forests.

In the new office the Red Cross provided care for the migrants from Pakistan (exclusively single men). In parallel, the Red Cross opened a children's playroom in the office in the village Lojane. The children's corner was supported by the NGO „Save the children“. The Red Cross ensured 24h WI - FI connection, TV and DVD with available animated films for children in Arabic as well as a section in the premises for consuming hot meals, baby food, and space for resting and relaxation of children whose parents refused to seek institutional care in Camp Tabanovce. The Red Cross also provided a separate bath for women-migrants. A social worker and pedagogue were provided, as well as certified translators from Urdu and Pashto dialect typical of migrants from Pakistan. Two volunteers from Syria - asylum seekers in RNM were recruited as translators from Arabic, with an emphasis on provision of support to people on the move in conditions of a declared cold wave.

According to the statistical data contained in the annual reports of the RCRNMC, 3716 people were supported and nearly 700 people any assistance along the northern border during 2017.

This was followed with a significant increase of migrants around TC Tabanovce most of them originating from Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco who arrived by freight trains that operated on the route Gevgelija – Tabanovce as well as migrants coming from Pakistan.

During that period, there are numerous cases of migrants coming back from Serbia and heading towards Greece as well as deportation of migrants caught by the police in organized smuggling channels. They were also supported by the mobile teams which provided them with food and water and first aid until their departure.

On the other hand, during the same year, the Red Cross mobile teams in PTC Vinojug supported 1571 irregular migrants who were immediately transported to Greece after being found and assisted by the Red Cross. 289 migrants were registered and institutionally supported in this camp. On the other hand, in this period there were 574 persons registered and institutionally supported in the TC Tabanovce and another 437 people who were provided with non-institutional care.

In the same year, the Ministry of Interior established the National Unit for Combating Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking known as TASK FORSE (a unit organized for a special purpose operation) in an attempt to ensure enhanced fight against this type of crime and reduction of the suffering of migrants.

Taking into account the deep political crisis it can be concluded that 2017 will be remembered as a year with many challenges related to the migration crisis.

In this period, due to certain political turmoil, upon a call of one civic association, the citizens were asked to give their signatures in as a sign

of opposition to the alleged construction of refugee camps in Macedonia. This information was used as a basis for spreading antagonism against the migrants, certainly prompted by the announced adoption of the National Strategy for Refugees and Migrants 2017 - 2027 as a continuation of the ten-year strategy 2007- 2017, but this document has not yet been adopted.



CAMPAIGN FOR RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF THE MIGRANTS

"STOP THE INDIFFERENCE – LET'S PROMOTE HUMANITY"

In 2016, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia, supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, conducted a campaign to raise public awareness about the humanitarian needs of migrants and the activities for support to migrants implemented by the National Society.

Its main purpose was to raise public awareness about humanitarian needs in times of migration, natural disasters and man-made disasters.

The campaign was implemented in several phases and included workshops with special target groups, conducted by trained disseminators with all Red Cross branches and the City Red Cross of Skopje, printing flyers and posters, development of a video, public opinion survey, workshop with media representatives, branding of public transport buses, organizing public photo exhibitions, promotion of the campaign on websites and social media, etc. In the first phase, a workshop was held at the Solferino training center in Struga, which was attended by 43 persons. They were trained to conduct workshops on the territory of their municipalities. The main objective was raising public awareness about the humanitarian needs of migrants and refugees transiting through RNM. Flyers and posters for the trainings were printed in Macedonian and Albanian language, and some of the flyers were distributed through the daily newspapers Dnevnik and Koha.

At the local level, educational workshops were held in the same context, for purpose of sharing information about the role of the Red Cross during the migration crisis, as well as the number of transit migrants, assistance distributed by RCRNM and provision of data on the number of transports and support that RCRNM receives. 2.656 people were covered with the workshops at local level.

In frames of the activities, the Red Cross organized an exhibition of photographs from activities targeted for provision of support to migrants and refugees transiting through the Republic of Macedonia.

During this period, special video screen was mounted on the building of the HQ of RNM, for purpose of broadcasting video materials



for raising public awareness on the activities of the Red Cross. Messages for raising public

awareness on migration were played on regular basis on this screen.

3. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE PERIOD 2018 - 2020

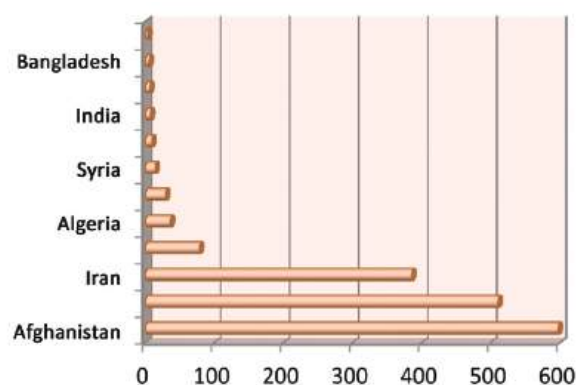
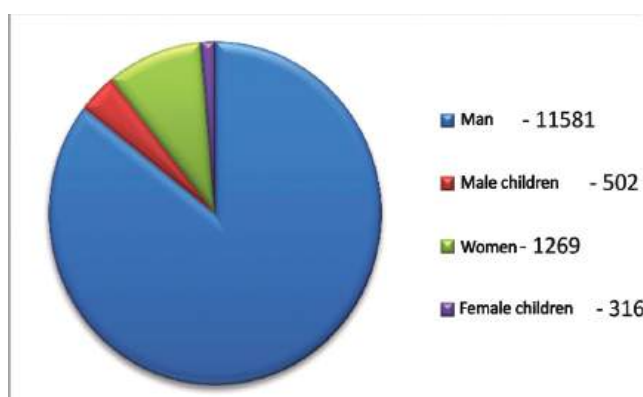


With the start of the third year since the beginning of the migrant crisis, in 2018 there is a re-ignition of the irregular movement of refugees and migrants, with the Red Cross continuing to provide a 24-hour presence in both transit centers, as well as a 12-hour presence in both northern border villages in the municipality of Lipkovo, with a total of 60 volunteers deployed in eight teams. During the year, the Red Cross distributed 1.222 hygiene parcels, 5.704 food parcels, 32.704 ready to eat meals (hot meals), and 35.097 first aid interventions were provided to 21.911 irregular migrants. In the period January - December 2018, 77 cases of restoring family links were provided to the persons of interest.

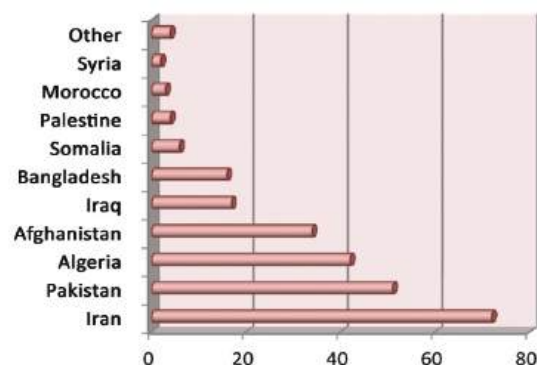
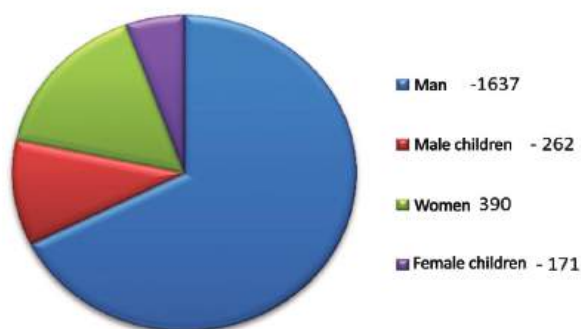
In 2018, 3,675 people were accommodated in RTC Vinojug, and 3,675 migrants in TC Tabanovce. 2018 was also marked by the move-

ment of people from Iran who used the favorable moment of the visa liberalization with the Republic of Serbia. They used the air flights to Belgrade, and started crossing over in Macedonia, heading to Gevgelija, i.e. to Greece in an attempt to reach some of the EU countries. Meanwhile, the Red Cross started dissemination trainings in the village of Lojane in order to recruit new volunteers. Numerous educational lectures were conducted for the local population in order to raise public awareness on the danger of spreading infectious diseases during the migration wave, as well as lectures within the traditional calendar of activities of the Red Cross. Youth Club was opened in the primary school Rilindja in the village of Lojane and people were encouraged to take part in the blood donation campaigns. The cooperation

Overview of irregular migration at the Northern border of RNM (2018)



Overview of migrants in the reception transit centers Tabanovce (Kumanovo) and Vinojug (Gevgelija) (2018)



with the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of North Macedonia was promoted through conducted training by a Red Cross doctor for 1,500 people on prevention of infectious diseases. In parallel with the implementation of the regular activities, RCRNM actively worked on capacity building by conducting various seminars, trainings and workshops, both in RNM and abroad in order to improve the knowledge of the volunteers, especially about the role of the Red Cross in combating human trafficking, disaster preparedness and response and hygiene promotion.

2019 marked the fourth year since the beginning of the migration crisis. The transit centers were still operational in accordance with the decision of the Assembly of RNM for declaring crisis situation at the two state borders, being proposed by the Steering Committee. From day to day the illegal migration gradually increased and there was a growing trend of detected smuggling chains of migrants on the territory of RNM. First cases were also detected for redirecting the trajectory of movement of migrants heading towards the eastern part of the country. There was also a sharp increase in the monthly figures for the total number of migrants being assisted by the mobile teams of the RCRNM. The Red Cross undertook efforts to mobilize new donors to address the needs of the migrants

given that the migrant crisis, despite all expectations, did not stop with the closure of the so-called Balkan route.

From year to year, the migrants became more vulnerable, tired, exhausted, manipulated and they came across closed borders and fences regardless of their needs, seeking international protection. This resulted with the opening of a new route through RNM to Serbia, and later to BiH and their hardship in the improvised camps at the border with Republic of Croatia where migrants were desperately looking for a way to cross over the border in an attempt to continue their journey in some of the EU member states.

Unlike BiH where migrants chose to be accommodated in improvised camps, people on the move in RNM, despite the existing facilities, and despite the awareness of the risks, became victims of smuggling and victims of traffic accidents as they happened to be left injured somewhere on the road left by the drivers of the vans who were illegally transporting migrants. The migrants chose to bypass the reception centers, as evidenced by the figures of irregular migration at the northern border by mobile teams in the village Lojane and Vaksince. During 2019, the RCRNM assisted 14,030 migrants compared to 20,580 at the southern border who were returned to Greece immediately after their registration in the RCC Vinojug.

449 people who were institutionally assisted in the camp, compared to 2,267 people who sought accommodation in TC Tabanovce. 379 people were assisted with first aid at the Reception Center for Foreigners Gazi Baba. The medical assistance was provided by a Red Cross doctor. During the same year, RCRNM distributed 8,936 food parcels, 14,062 ready to eat meals, and provided 23,232 first aid interventions and support. Regarding the number of assisted people, RCRNM registered 34,989 assisted migrants, of which 2,716 were sheltered in the two reception centers. Twenty-five people were assisted with RFL service.

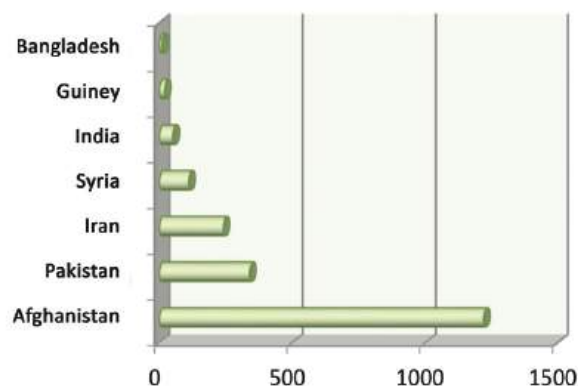
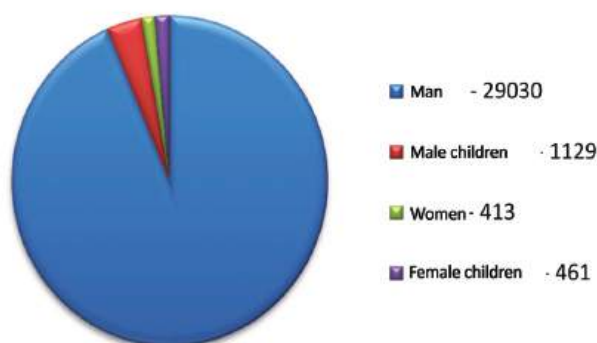
On the other hand, the Ministry of Interior through the four regional centers presented a different picture regarding the movement and prevention of entry of irregular migrants in 2019. The publicly available information state that during the same year, 19,090 people were

prevented from entering RNM at the border crossing Gevgelija, with a total of 45 reported cases of smuggling of migrants, and only 1,529 people detected migrants. 319 people were staying at the Center for Foreigners Gazi Baba, and only 68 sought asylum in RNM.

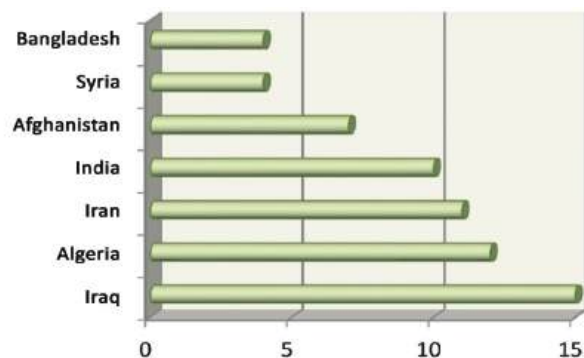
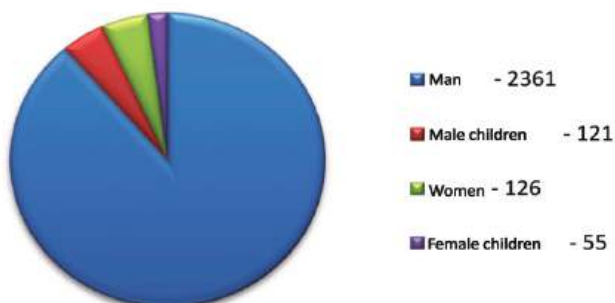
2020 was the fifth year from the beginning of the migration crisis. The Assembly of RNM prolonged the decision for declaring a state of crisis at the northern and southern borders. This time instead of being for a period of six months, the decision was passed for a period of 30 days with subsequent extension for the following 30 days due to the dissolution of Parliament and inability of such a decision to be voted in the Assembly of RNM for a longer period. The Red Cross continued with the provision of humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants.

Unfortunately, in this period the Red Cross patrols report human bodies of deceased mi-

Overview of irregular migration at the Northern and Southern border of RNM (2019)



Overview of migrants in the reception transit centers Tabanovce (Kumanovo) and Vinojug (Gevgelija) (2019)



Overview of irregular migration at the Northern and Southern border of RNM (2020)



Overview of migrants in the reception transit centers Tabanovce (Kumanovo) and Vinojug (Gevgelija) (2020)



grants near the villages of Lojane and Vaksince. Some of the assisted migrants reported alleged police torture and use of excessive force on the Serbian side of the border. The Red Cross reports new families on the move, and activities for transport of migrants to the General Hospitals in Kumanovo and Gevgelija due to seriously deteriorated health conditions of some of the migrants.

The activities are now implemented during a declared pandemic of COVID – 19 which represented a new challenge. The Red Cross had to protect its volunteers but also to provide adequate medical first aid to migrants. It distributed protective masks, disinfection gels and gloves, and worked on detecting suspected cases by measuring the body temperature of people with non-contact thermometers. It also helped in terms of referring the ill people to appropriate medical care through the Ministry of Health,

and the Centers for Public Health. Another significant challenge for the Red Cross at this time was the curfew in force in accordance with the legal restrictions on free movement of people.

In 2020, The Red Cross distributed 9468 food parcels and 15005 ready-to-eat meals.

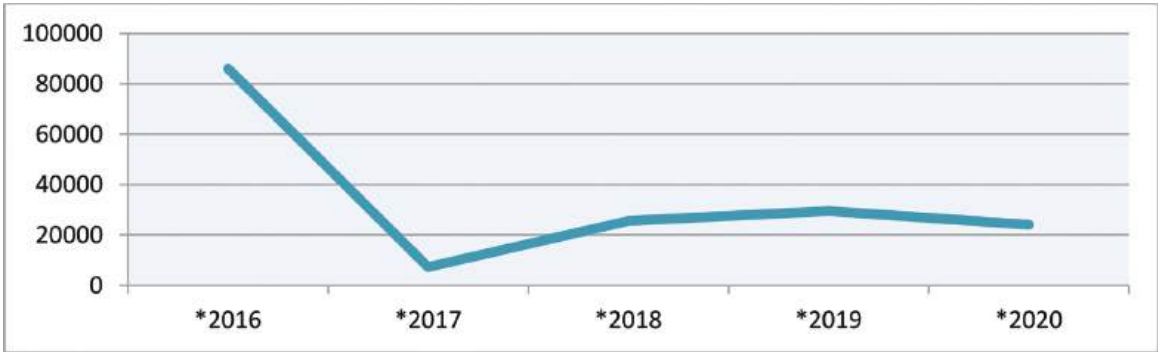
The Red Cross provided 26,830 first aid interventions, assisting 43,319 persons - irregular migrants. 2937 people were assisted In the Reception Centers Vinojug and Tabanovce. The restoring family links service enabled 66 family reunifications.

In 2020, there were cases of deportation of migrants being caught in smuggling channels at the northern border. Despite the expressed intention to seek asylum of some families reported torture by certain organizers of their transfer across the border with Serbia. The RC mobile teams used all their knowledge and skills to help the victims of such inhuman behavior and

to provide the innocent women and children with the required institutional care and safely by the responsible state institutions, in this case the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

The information presented in the semi-annual reports of the RCRNM related to the work of the mobile teams in the two reception-transit centers, and along the northern border, indicate that mixed migration flows continue to undermine the security system, but also testify about the high vulnerability and desire of the migrants and refugees from the Middle East and Central Asia to seek a better life in one of the EU Member States.

In this spirit, the installation of the wire fence by the Serbian authorities along the northern border, which as a project began in July 2020, with the announcement that the fence will extend to a length of 400 km, raised a new question of whether the wire fence also would ensure secure protection of state borders if it was known that in the south of the country, despite the protective barrier, migrants and refugees still found a way to cross from the opposite side. Question was raised whether such an approach would stop the mixed migration wave from crossing the former Balkans route, but also the question of what would happen to those migrants who will not have the opportunity to continue their journey in conditions of undeclared crisis situation.



Overview of irregular migration

	2018	2019	2020
January	573	955	3101
February	672	1269	4732
March	894	2854	2957
April	1033	2559	1162
May	1867	2205	1772
June	1982	2866	4513
July	3080	3306	5733
August	4457	3148	5642
September	3555	4027	5284
October	3666	4709	4059
November	1685	3871	3294
December	932	3147	1070
Total	24396	34916	43319

Overview of irregular migration

THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES OF THE RED CROSS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA IN THE RESPONSE TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS



The reaction and the response of the RCRNM to the migration crisis, indicate that this was one of the bigger operations of the national society implemented in the field. In addition to material-technical and financial resources, the response to the crisis included significant human resources. The Red Cross volunteers, who were previously part of the program and project activities of the organization, were the first to be mobilized for

the implementation of the field activities. Their previous experience, personal competencies and skills were crucial for successful implementation of the operation from the very first moments. Although in the beginning the Red Cross did not have well defined system and mechanisms for crisis management of this kind, the field activities were successfully implemented in several phases from the very beginning of the operation until this day.

STATISTICAL DATA ABOUT THE HUMAN RESOURCES INCLUDED IN THE OPERATION

TOTAL PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION: **201**

PERSONS PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RED CROSS : **75 PERSONS (37 %)**

PERSONS RECRUITED TO BE PART OF THE MOBILE TEAMS
WITHOUT PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THE RED CROSS: **126 PERSONS (63 %)**

AGE:

18 TO 25 YEARS – 35%	35 %
25 TO 35 YEARS – 45%	45 %
35 TO 45 YEARS – 15%	15 %
OLDER THAN 45 YEARS – 5%	5 %

GENDER:

MALE	75 %
FEMALE	25 %



MANAGEMENT AND CARE FOR PERSONS RECRUITED BY THE RCRNM IN THE RESPONSE TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS

In order to successfully cope with all the challenges brought by the migrant crisis, the Red Cross of RNM made significant efforts for ensuring good management of the recruited personnel for various activities to respond and mitigate the consequences of the migration crisis. Regular meetings were conducted with the volunteers and the recruited personnel and with the team leaders and the managers. Special reports and analysis about the operation of the recruited personnel were prepared and the national society organized various trainings on different topics to enhance their capacities.

Dissemination sessions were organized for all members of the mobile teams, in order to introduce them about the Red Cross activities in the country, the fundamental principles, the emblem, the Geneva Conventions and other matters of interest about the Red Cross. During each training, people were briefed about the role and mandate of the Red Cross, and the mission and the guiding principles, as well as the responsibilities of the people wearing the Red Cross emblem.

These special trainings and workshops for volunteers and staff, enabled enhancement of the capacities of the personnel in various areas (reporting, teamwork, evaluation of activities, exchange of experiences ...) which in turn resulted in an adequate and more successful field response. Professional support was provided for the members of the mobile teams licensed for psychotherapists for Gestalt therapy, who were trained through group and individual sessions about stress management and overcoming „burnout“ due to different reasons that affect each individual professionally and personally.

In this way, adequate care was provided for the recruited personnel in order to ensure well-structured and efficient response to the migration crisis. Following the modern trends related to the development and promotion of information tools, an information system for management of volunteers was created and introduced, within the integrated software of the Red Cross of RNM, which is an accepted tool for further activities in the organization.

In recent years, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia has been active in the field of trafficking in human beings with an emphasis on improving the prevention of trafficking in the country by strengthening capacities and raising awareness among young people about all forms of trafficking. Special trainings were provided for members of mobile teams on trafficking in human beings in the context of migration.

In accordance with the new situation with migration, and in the framework of improving the existing tools and forms for training educators on the mentioned topic, representatives of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia participated in a workshop on trafficking in human beings with an emphasis on migration. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies also presented and developed a new training manual on this topic in order to enhance the work of the national societies in this area.

Our National Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, implemented two workshops on „Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Context of Migration“ which included members of mobile

teams (paramedics, doctors, team for distribution, translators) for purpose of training of educators on this topic. Informative and educational flyers were prepared and published on the mentioned topic, and mapping of the situation in RNM and SWOT analysis in RCRNM about this issue.

This ensured strengthening the capacities of the teams that face daily challenges on this topic in the field work, and the role of the ND regarding this issue. They were also introduced about the national system for referral of potential victims of trafficking and standard operational procedures for handling these persons.



MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES AND DONOR OVERVIEW

The implementation of the activities for support of the migrants who transited through the Republic of North Macedonia was carried out in cooperation with several state and international agencies. Special support was provided by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Luxembourg Red Cross, UNHCR, IOM and state institutions such as the Crisis Management Center, which is responsible for coordination between different actors in the field. Additionally, the activities included the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Ministry of Defense, as well as non-governmental organizations (La Strada, Legis, etc.), the private sector and support from individual donors.

On June 22, 2015 the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia, received 193.218 CHF from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to support the most urgent needs of 4,600 migrants over a period of 3 months. With the intensive increase in the number of migrants and the need to cover basic needs of the migrants with food and non-food items, hygiene kits, first aid and the restoring family links between separated families, the International Federation of Red



Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched an Emergency and allocated 5.6 million Swiss francs to support the activities of the Red Cross in 2017.

Significant additional bilateral support for the activities was provided by the Red Cross of Luxembourg amounting to 74.500 EUR, and the German Red Cross amounting to 458.367 EUR.

In 2018, an additional 369.279 Swiss francs were allocated by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies within the national migration response plan.

For twenty years in a row, the Red Cross of the City of Skopje has been working as a partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Skopje. While the partnership initially focused on improving the lives of the refugee community since the 1999 Kosovo crisis, it later focused on provision of assistance to refugees and others in need of international protection from third countries entering the country in the mixed migration flow. The support from the UNHCR for the period 2015-2020 covers several aspects starting from financial support for the recruited human resources - mobile teams, procurement of material resources, support for procurement of food, food items, hygiene items, clothing, promotional materials, etc.

The partnership support throughout the period enabled the national society to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance and to implement the required activities. In addition to the support for the human resources for direct work in transit centers and mobile teams, during the operation the vehicle fleet of the national company was expanded with the support of donors with the purchasing of 3 off-road jeeps, truck, freight van, passenger van, and 3 light vehicles for distribution of humanitarian aid.

A new logistics center was opened with a complete reconstruction of the Central Warehouse of the National Society. The reconstruction was supported by IFRC, German Red Cross, UNHCR, Save the Children and ProCredit Bank.

With the support of IFRC and ProCredit Bank, the national society reconstructed 687 m2 of the training center „Solferino“ - Struga for purpose of ensuring possible long-terms housing of migrants in the country.

Additionally, the capacities of the national society have been significantly strengthened through adaptation and translation of several tools and manuals used within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which are related to resource mobilization, crisis management and volunteer management.

For more efficient coordination of the activities and the engagement of the volunteers, special software has been created which is an innovative information solution for rapid and timely processing of individual performance, development and interests for action.





OVERVIEW OF THE RESPONSE OF THE RED CROSS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS



If we take in consideration that this migration crisis had a different character from all previous crises in our country, then we can undoubtedly conclude that we have faced many challenges in its implementation. They demanded a quick and timely response, adaptation in accordance with field experiences as well as ongoing monitoring of the situation, which was changing on a daily basis. The Red Cross of RNM, the management, the staff and the recruited personnel in the field, as well as the volunteers, often conducted meetings and workshops for analysis of the whole operation.

This was certainly in the direction of strengthening the capacities for field response, finding solutions and developing a systemic approach, but also for detecting the insufficiently realized aspects that affected the operation. The process of analysis implied the involvement of other organizations (government and NGO sector) that were part of the crisis management and/or crisis management system. This overview is divided into two areas, namely the insufficiently realized aspects of the response to the migration crisis and Positive aspects of the response to the migration crisis.

This overview, formulates separate aspects, referring to our capacities and the appropriateness of the response of the Red Cross of RNM, but it also refers to the capacities and the response of other institutions and organizations working in this field. It should also be borne in mind that the situation at some periods changed, and the aspects that are mentioned refer to all the stages of the migrant crisis.

INSUFFICIENTLY REALIZED ASPECTS OF THE RESPONSE TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS

- LACK OF INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY AND DOCUMENTED EXPERIENCES OF THE ACTORS INVOLVED IN RESPONDING TO THIS AND SIMILAR SITUATIONS;
- LACK OF A SYSTEM FOR RAPID TRAINING AND MOBILIZATION OF PERSONS TO WORK IN CRISIS SITUATIONS;
- A COMPLEX AND SLOW SYSTEM FOR RESOLVING THE STATUS OF PERSONS ENTERING THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY;
- PARTIAL PREPAREDNESS OF THE LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT UNITS AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS TO RESPOND TO CRISIS SITUATIONS;
- INSUFFICIENT TRAINING OF THE NGO SECTOR FOR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CRISIS RESPONSE.

POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE RESPONSE TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS

- WELL-DEFINER ROLE OF THE RCRNM FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE MIGRATION CRISIS;
- GOOD COORDINATION OF FIELD ACTIVITIES;
- RATIONAL FINANCIAL SPENDING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES;
- ADEQUATE RESPONSE OF SOME STATE INSTITUTIONS IN CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF THE CRISIS;
- FAST AND EFFICIENT RED CROSS SYSTEM IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES FOR THE VULNERABLE POPULATION;
- SUPPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN DEALING WITH THE REFUGEE AND MIGRATION CRISIS;
- GOOD COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBORING NATIONAL SOCIETIES, DONOR SOCIETIES AND IFRC AND ICRC
- MEDIA SUPPORT, TRANSPARENT REPORTING ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RED CROSS AND PROMOTION OF THE WORK FOR BETTER COVERAGE OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS;
- PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED INFORMATION MATERIALS INTENDED FOR MIGRANTS, TRANSLATED INTO APPROPRIATE LANGUAGES;
- DEVELOPED DATABASE OF VOLUNTEERS WHO WOULD BE MOBILIZED ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THEIR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES.

RECOMMENDATIONS



The implemented activities, field experiences, and the crisis management at all levels and the lessons learned, are the basis on which we set all the next plans for implementation of field activities. The Red Cross of RNM, in accordance with the mandate and position it has in the system, continues with activities aimed at alleviating the suffering of migrants and refugees. At the same time, with its experience and capacities the Red Cross remains committed to fulfilling its mission. The Analysis covers all the aspects of the migration crisis, and the recommendations that are part of this document are aimed at building even more stable and stronger positions of action. They relate to both our work and the response that other stakeholders need to improve in order to ensure more successful and coordinated response to the needs of refugees and migrants as a vulnerable group. The recommendations are defined in form of short statements, offering a clear overview and directions for creating a series of activities that can be initiated in the forthcoming period. The positive approach is dominant among them, they are drawn on basis of many analyzes and enable a coordinated approach.

Defined recommendations :

- There is a need for establishment of institutional memory;
- Improvement of the coordination of actors working in the field;
- Capacity building of the institutions responsible for response in times of disasters and crisis situations (material - technical training);
- Raising public awareness on the needs of refugees and migrants on overcoming stereotypes and prejudices that lead to discrimination;
- Designing activities for coping in the post-rehabilitation period;
- Establishment of an advisory body composed of relevant representatives from the institutions of the crisis management system and NGOs working in this field, aimed at promoting normative solutions, practical modalities of communication and promoting dialogue on certain topics in the area of crisis management;
- Systematic work with NGOs and civil society for crisis response (more professional identification and delivery of necessary services, mobilization of resources, professional support and transparency, involvement in crisis response analysis);
- Introduction of early warning activities;
- Activities with the media on reporting during a crisis;
- Enhancement of the volunteer database.

Pursuant to the defined aspects and recommendations, the Red Cross of RNM in frames of the exit strategy on this issue, on basis of its mandate, plays an auxiliary role to the authorities and can provide these services to migrants temporarily or during crisis. On the other hand, the state has to develop a mechanism for ensuring long-term services and appropriate exit strategy. As a biggest humanitarian organization in the country, the Red Cross is open for partnerships for purpose of joint mobilization of funds and resources, but also for further implementation of activities of this kind.



CONCLUSIONS



The experience conveyed through the document „Analysis of the response of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia to the migrant crisis in the Republic of North Macedonia (2015-2020)“, detects clear and key messages that trace the future steps in the area of crisis preparedness and response, especially in times of migration crises.

This document clearly indicates the international role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement during the migration crisis, and at the same time clearly defines the position of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia at the national level, both through direct activities undertaken in the field and through membership in the HQ of the Steering Committee for Coordination and Management of the National Crisis Management System, on basis of the Law on the Red Cross and on basis of the membership in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Taking into account the presented data on the formation of mobile teams of the Red Cross, which provided humanitarian support to the migrants even before the official opening of the so-called Balkan route, we can conclude as follows:

- The previous experience in organizing and managing operations before the migrant crisis, and the experiences and lessons learned from the past are extremely important for the effective and efficient provision of humanitarian assistance;
- There is a mutual confidence between the migrants and the Red Cross which enable rapid intervention, on basis of the recognized needs of the people at risk, in this case the migrants;
- The long-term and continuous humanitarian work, resulted with confidence among the domestic population which ensured mobilization and training of volunteers, in accordance with the real needs on the field;
- The existence of a developed network of the Red Cross throughout the country is extremely important for easier and more comprehensive management of the migrant crisis.

At the same time, one of the specially important aspects for proper intervention during the migrant crisis 2015-2020, was the inter-institutional cooperation and inter-organizational direct communication, i.e. the productive cooperation that exists between the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with office in Skopje, RNM.

The key recommendation that may be derived from this Analysis is the need for raising institutional awareness for building and developing the institutional systems of the countries for successful management of the migrant crises and in that direction, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of continuous capacity building of the responsible organizations and the Red Cross of North Macedonia for purpose of improvement of services for migrants in case of a migration crisis.

One of the activities that the Red Cross of RNM is planning in the coming period is the provision of support in the process of local integration / early integration of persons with different status in our

country. Local integration and early integration of asylum seekers is a process through which the individuals go through several stages, in order to facilitate them with access to all public services, social and health care and education, and integration with other members of the community in the country where the integration process takes place. Each community, society, and system has its own specifics, but also laws that apply to all persons living in that society. The local context is perhaps the most difficult segment in terms of adaptation of the person who has not been and has not lived in that system, which may result with possible rejection from the environment. We would also mention the existence of prejudices, stereotypes, insufficient or incorrect information of members of the community about diversity, something that might lead to discrimination.

In our local context, the process is planned to be realized through the piloted model „Guide for migrants“ and is intended for service providers in the social protection system (professionals, practitioners, volunteers, cultural mediators) who provide services to asylum seekers and persons under international protection (persons with refugee status, persons under subsidiary protection). Service providers previously go through a uniform training process that correlates with the manual. Then, they work directly with the beneficiaries, while building relationship of trust and mutual respect. With this activity, actually defined as an exit strategy, RCRNM continues the process of support to refugees and asylum seekers in RNM, guided by the fundamental principles, respecting the human rights and freedoms of the people.



TESTIMONIALS



On my way to R. Serbia, I was injured, with two broken legs lying on the road, helpless and exhausted from pain. Then the mobile team of the Red Cross came by. Their doctor examined me immediately and suggested hospitalization.

After three weeks, I had an operation. During my hospital stay, the Red Cross did not leave me alone. They were my family in Macedonia. An additional relief was that there were Arabic translators in the Red Cross, which meant a lot to me. The Red Cross took me from the hospital, and had taken me in the Tabanovce camp where I am still staying.

I will never be able to pay back to the Red Cross. I will never forget the treatment I received. A treatment to a person like me who found himself at a crossroads in Macedonia without any fault of his own.

Z. Z., 28 years old
- A migrant on move from Palestine

As a general practitioner, I started volunteering at the Red Cross in 2018. Then I was on the threshold of my career. I come from Jordan. I am married here to a girl, who is Macedonian on her mother's side. Together we fight to defend the colors of the Red Cross. I'm proud to do what I have learned. I am happy to help those who need help the most, but also unhappy when I witness the mistreatment of migrants in other countries. My personal gratitude to the Red Cross for accepting me as part of their family.

Dr. Omar Al Yassin, from the Kingdom of Jordan
- Doctor in TC Tabanovce, member of the
mobile teams of the Red Cross at the northern
border



In the fall of 2016, I started volunteering in the Red Cross Mobile Team, later called the Lipkovo Mobile Team. I am a logistician, but also a team leader of one of the two teams that work around the clock providing humanitarian assistance to people on the move. I live and volunteer in the village where I was born, more precisely in the village Lojane, where transit of migrants through RNM has been taking place for years. The smile I see on the faces of migrants after providing them with medical treatment or assistance with food and water cannot be replaced by anything else in the world. Their gratitude gives me so much satisfaction.

I feel proud to be helping the vulnerable on behalf of the Red Cross. I help the migrants, but also the local population. It is an honor to wear the uniform and the emblem of the Red Cross

**Hesat Osmani,
Logistician - mobile teams of the Red Cross
at the northern border**



In the summer of 2015, I was at the Gevgelija train station and I thought that that day would be an „ordinary day“ like any other day before. Unfortunately, it was not like that. That was the first, but not the last case of a migrant who was a victim of an electrocution from the cables that power the railway. The moment was terrible, and it was all happening before my eyes ... a disturbing sight ... Fortunately we managed to help him. We did our best and the person survived. He was only 17 then. Later on he became a volunteer of the Red Cross in the RTC Vinojug, before continuing his journey.

**Slobodan Mitrovic,
Coordinator of the mobile teams of the Red
Cross at the southern border**



Only 15 minutes our shift started a visibly tired migrant came, moving on crutches and asked to have his foot examined. Due to the painstaking walking, there was a wound on one of his feet and I helped him with first aid. I insisted on examining the other foot, although he told me in a conversation that he did not feel any pain. After the examination I noticed that he has developed gangrene on the other foot and because of that, he could not feel the other foot. I will never forget that image, and the thought of what would have happened if I had not insisted to have both of his feet examined. This experience happened on my first arrival at the PTC Vinojug camp.

Dimche Milanov,
First aider - Mobile teams of the Red Cross
at the southern border

With the opening of the camp, my part time engagement became full time. As a logistician, my team and I were assigned to provide all the items we needed at the transit center on a daily basis. For me it was the first meeting with people from these countries. I was pleasantly surprised with their commitment to help us in order to speed up the whole process of transfer and distribution of products on a daily basis. Some of them knowing English was a nice advantage as they were able to communicate with other people at a time when our translators were busy with other responsibilities.

Ilija Pop Stefanija,
Logistician - mobile teams of the Red Cross
at the southern border



After a tragic car accident, a refugee with broken ribs was brought in the camp. I and my team ran to help him. Due to the severity of the injury, he could not move on his own, so we provided him with full care and even helped him with the physiological needs. After the tests, it was concluded that he was positive for Covid-19. There was a great risk at stake, but because we wore a complete protective equipment, and we did not get infected. Now, looking back I do not regret the risk we took at all and I would do the same for those who need help.

**A. K.,
Asylum seeker in RNM, working as a
translator in the Mobile teams of the Red
Cross at the southern border**



It was a hot Saturday when we received a call from the police that a migrant was laying in a hard-to-reach mountain area with broken legs and unconscious. We immediately went together with the police to the indicated area. After an hour and a half of driving up the hill, a seemingly lifeless body covered in blood lay far down the abyss. With the help of ropes we descended to the abyss where a railway line Gvg-Sk was passing through. The migrant had polytrauma, torn lower legs, bruises, contusions in the chest and pelvis, acute bleeding and he was in a pre-shock condition. I immediately asked for reinforcements, after which members of the foreign police arrived. We performed immobilization, fixation and provided first aid and we opened his airway. In the meantime I called an ambulance to come immediately to the nearest point where we can reach it and we immediately send him to the Clinic. Eight people carried him in our hands, and put him in the ambulance. The migrant was hit by a train. I never saw him again after that event. We were informed by the Clinic that his life was saved and he his situation was stabilized in few days. It was one of these warm days in July.....

**Dr. Jovan Uzunov
RTC Vinojug Gevgelija**

USED TERMINOLOGY

ASYLUM SEEKER

An asylum seeker is someone who is not a citizen of a particular country, but that country recognizes his or her need for protection. He can apply for asylum in that country. He is an asylum seeker in the asylum process. If that request is accepted, that asylum seeker becomes a refugee. Applying for asylum is a legal process.

IRREGULAR MIGRANT

Although a universally accepted definition of irregular migration does not exist, the term irregular migrant or undocumented migrant refers to a person who, owing to unauthorized entry, breach of a condition of entry, unapproved request for asylum or the expiry of his or her visa lacks legal status in a transit or host country.

www.iom.int/key-migration-terms

MIGRANT

According to the definition of the International federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, migrants are persons who leave or flee their habitual residence to go to new places – usually abroad – to seek opportunities or safer and better prospects. Migration can be voluntary or involuntary, but most of the time a combination of choices and constraints is involved.

Due to the reasons, IFRC categorizes migrants in several subgroups as follows: Stateless migrants, migrants deemed irregular by public authorities, migrants displaced within their own country, refugees and asylum-seekers.

(IFRC, European Migration Framework 2016)

SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS

“Smuggling of migrants” shall mean the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident.

(Article 3, Protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air, 2000)

MIXED MIGRATIONS

Mixed migration generally refers to complex population movements, made up of people that have different reasons for moving and distinct needs including refugees, smuggled migrants and victims of trafficking, and often use the same routes and means of transportation on their travels.

Some categories of migrants are protected by certain legal mechanisms, such as international refugee law, labor law, international smuggling regulations, and human trafficking and child protection laws.

(UNDOC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016)

REFUGEE

A refugee is a person who is forced to flee his country due to a justified fear of persecution. Refugees fear persecution for a variety of reasons, such as their race, religion, nationality, certain political beliefs, or social background. According to the “Convention relating to the Status of Refugees” of 1951, a “refugee” is a person that due to justified fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.

Individuals have the right to seek protection if they fear for their lives. Refugees have the right to protection under international law.

** Article 1A(2), Convention relating to the Status of Refugees”,951*

STATELESS MIGRANT

A stateless migrant is a person who is not recognized as a citizen by any state.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

„Trafficking in persons“ shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;

(Article 3, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against transnational organized crime)

UNREGISTERED MIGRANT

Unregistered migrants are migrants who enter, stay and work in a particular country without a permit or documents prescribed by immigration regulations.

(British Red Cross, glossary of terms based on: Panos Europa and UNAOC, terms suitable for public migration; IOM, key terms for migration and PERCO, solidarity workshop)

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

An unaccompanied minor is a child who is separated from both parents and other relatives and who has no protection from an adult responsible for that child. Any person under the age of 18 is considered a child.

ANNEX 1

The most important laws that regulate the manner in which the Red Cross of RNM participates in the organization and implementation of activities in the Republic of North Macedonia.

LAWS

1. Law on the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia („Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia“ No. 41/94, 7/97, 21/98 and „Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia“ No. 101/19)
2. Law on Public Roads („Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia“ No. 84/08, 52/09, 114/09, 124/10, 23/11, 53/11, 44/12, 168/12, 163 / 13, 187/13, 39/14, 42/14, 166/14, 44/15, 116/15, 150/15, 31/16, 71/16 and 163/16)
3. Customs Law („Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia“ No. 39/05, 4/08, 48/10, 158/10, 44/11, 53/11, 11/12, 171/12, 187/13, 15/15, 129/15, 154/15, 192/15, 23/16 and 144/18)
 - Exemption from import duties
4. Law on Road Traffic Safety („Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia“ No. 169/15, 226/15, 55/16, 11/18, 83/18 and „Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia“ No. 98 / 19)
 - Training of candidates for drivers, first aid training
5. Law on Protection and Rescue („Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia“ No. 36/04, 49/04, 86/08, 124/10, 18/11, 41/14, 129/15, 71/16, 106 / 16 and 83/18)
 - Participation of non-governmental organizations
6. Law on Crisis Management („Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia“ No. 29/05, 36/11, 41/14, 104/15, 39/16 and 83/18)
 - Participation of the Red Cross of RNM
7. Law on Safety in Blood Supply („Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia“ No. 110/07, 164/13, 144/14 and 150/15)

ACRONYMS:

IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ND	National Society
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
RCRNM	Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia
RNM	Republic of North Macedonia
RTC	Reception Transit Centre
(RFL)	Restoring Family Links
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IOM	International Organization on Migration
MLSP	Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
LATP	Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection
BIH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
EU	European Union
BC	Border Crossing

USED LITERATURE

1. World Migration Report 2020, IOM UN Migration
2. <https://www.ifrc.org/en/who-we-are/>
1. <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/misc/components-movement.htm>
2. <https://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/migration/what-is-a-migrant/#:~:text=Migrants%20are%20persons%20who%20leave,or%20safer%20and%20better%20prospects.>
3. https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/12/IFRC_StrategyOnMigration_EN_20171222.pdf
4. https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/01/CD-19-R8_Adopted_Movement-Declaration-on-Migration_EN_clean.pdf
5. <https://ckrm.org.mk/publikacii-cat/godishni-programi/>
6. <https://ckrm.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ZAKON-ZA-CRVENIOT-KRST-NA-REPUBLIKA-MAKEDONIJA.pdf> („Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 41/94, 7/97, 21/98 and “Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia” No. 101/19)
7. Project name: Support for refugees in Macedonia (17MK01), provided by the Luxembourgish Government through the Red Cross of Luxemburg.
 - Project name: Proof of Employment of Funds in accordance with No. 10.2 of the Administrative Regulations pertaining to section 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and No. 6.2 of the General Auxiliary Conditions for Project Grants (ANBest P)
 - Emergency Plan of Action Final Report
 - Final report emergency appeal -IFRC
 - Final Project performance report UNHCR (2015-2019)
8. <https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2015/4/553652699/mediterranean-boat-capsizing-deadliest-incident-record.html>
9. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/EUCrisisResponse_FINALWEB.pdf, стр.8
10. <https://mvr.gov.mk/vest/155>
11. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/it/IP_15_5904
12. The Draft Law on Amending the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection made a distinction between the intention to submit a request for full recognition of asylum and the formal aspect, i.e. the submission of a request for recognition of the right to asylum by potential applicants for asylum.
13. The Steering Committee is the operational expert body of the Crisis Management Center, which manages the activities for prevention and management of crises. The Steering Committee is composed of representatives of the Ministries of Interior, Health, Transport and Communications, Defense and Foreign Affairs. Its members are the head of the Emergency Medical Service in Skopje, the Director of the Directorate for Protection and Rescue, as well as representatives of the Army, the Intelligence Agency, and the Directorate for Security of Classified Information and the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia. The Director of the Crisis Management Center manages the Steering Committee, according to Article 26 of the Law on Crisis Management (“Official Gazette of RM” No. 29/05)
14. See Analysis of the declared crisis situation on part of the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, in the areas of the southern and northern border of the Republic of Macedonia, due to increased number of entries and transits of migrants through the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, which endangers safety, health and property of the population for the period from the proclamation on 19.08.2015 to 17.09.2015, Crisis Management Center, pg. 3
15. <https://mhc.org.mk/publicationsanalyzes/pravata-na-begalczite-naczionalni-i-meg/>
16. <https://www.ia.gov.mk/FolderNovosti/Statistika.pdf>
17. <https://myla.org.mk/%d0%be%d0%b1%d0%bb%d0%b0%d1%81%d1%82%d0%b8-%d0%b-d%d0%b0-%d0%b4%d0%b5%d0%bb%d1%83%d0%b2%d0%b0%d1%9a%d0%b5/%d0%b1%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b0%d0%bb%d1%86%d0%b8-%d0%b8-%d0%bc%d0%b8%d0%b3%d1%80%d0%b0%d0%bd%d1%82%d0%b8/>
18. <http://nacionalnakomisija.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/SOP-za-postapuvanje-so-nepridruzuvani-deca-stranci.pdf>
19. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/it/MEMO_16_1494
20. Rubhall is a commercial name for a large tent used in emergency situations, or/and in humanitarian crisis or natural disasters.
21. Trafficking in human beings in context of migrations – Training Manual (IFRC, 2018)
22. UNODC, Global Report on HT (2016)
23. <https://frontex.europa.eu>



