

COVID-19 OPERATION

REGIONAL MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED
CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES
Regional Office for Europe

June 2021



Since the launch of the COVID-19 mobile testing project in March, German Red Cross has trained more than 350 volunteers and carried out nearly 10,000 rapid tests in collaboration with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health. © German Red Cross

Europe – COVID-19 epidemiological overview

By the end of June 2021, the Europe region reported in total 56,226,308 confirmed cases (30.6% of global cases) and 1,188,799 deaths (29.9 of global deaths). During the last week of June, there were over 372,000 new cases reported in the region, a 10% increase compared to the previous week, and over 6,400 new deaths, similar to the previous week. After more than two months of a decreasing trend, an increase was observed in the number of cases and deaths reported. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the following countries: Russian Federation (134,465 new cases; 92.1 new cases per 100,000; a 24% increase), United Kingdom (96,843 new cases; 142.7 new cases per 100,000; a 55% increase). The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Russian Federation (3,921 new deaths; 2.7 new deaths per 100,000; a 34% increase).

By 29 June 2021, all 54 countries in the region continued their national vaccination campaigns against COVID-19. In total **561,064,017 doses of COVID-19 vaccine** have been administered: **345,639,983 individuals (37% of the total population) have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, and 223,433,957 people (23.9% of the total population) have received a complete COVID-19 vaccine series.**

The availability of vaccines in the region is unequal: in the EU countries and the UK, **52.2% of the population received the first dose of vaccine and 34.5% completed the dose series**, while in the rest of the region the vaccine coverage varies from **1.6 to 21.2%**. Several countries in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia are receiving vaccines through the COVAX mechanism and from March 2021 the first batch of vaccines started to arrive to the countries.

National Society involvement per COVID-19 Operational Priority



46/54 NS
Sustaining
Health and
WASH



41/54 NS
Addressing
Socio-economic
Impact



38/54 NS
Strengthening
National
Societies



More than 30 NSs of the region actively supported their health authorities in the vaccination roll-out.

Data source: National Society activities as reported in the COVID-19 field reports, as of 14 July 2021. For vaccine roll-out information: regional Health team data collection.

IFRC Highlights

- Since the beginning of the pandemic, 33 National Societies (NS) of the Europe region with support from the IFRC Regional Office for Europe (ROE), have been implementing preparedness and response actions to tackle the pandemic and address the needs of the most affected people. These 33 NSs received funding support from the global COVID-19 Emergency Appeal since the beginning of 2020. There is an ongoing operational engagement with 19 of these NSs. The total value of past and ongoing allocation in Europe region is CHF 50.4 million (excl. DG SANTE which represents an additional CHF 38.8 million).
- The activities in the region continue to focus on maintaining awareness raising. To this extent, several CEA trainings and capacity building activities were conducted. Various NSs in the region identified an increased need for support in tackling the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic.
- With the onset of the second half of the year, IFRC ROE is initiating its first planning steps for 2022.
- In June 2021 the DG SANTE-funded COVID-19 mobile testing initiative in Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain has been running on full capacity in all 7 participating countries. 5,672 Red Cross staff and volunteers and 2,884 health professionals were trained on COVID-19 testing. In addition, 328 Red Cross mobile testing teams were operating with more than 537,250 COVID-19 (PCR and rapid antigen) tests conducted for different groups of population (including migrants and other hard to reach groups).
- In June 2021, more than 30 NSs of the region continued to actively support their health authorities in the vaccination roll-out. Since the beginning of the vaccination roll-out in the Europe region (December 2020), over 3.5 million people were covered by NS vaccination support actions.
- World Blood Donor Day - 14 June 2021: "Give blood and keep the world beating."
- In June 2021 in the framework of the global campaign, the IFRC Regional Health and Care Team jointly with the Global Advisory Panel of RCRC on Blood Services in RCRC Societies (GAP) conducted public awareness-raising campaigns to thank blood donors in the world and to create wider public awareness of the need for regular, voluntary blood donation; and to promote the community values of blood donation, enhancing community solidarity and social cohesion; and celebrating the potential of youth as partners in promoting health.
- The Regional Office in cooperation with the Global First Aid Reference Center, conducted a training of trainers (ToT) on First Aid for 5 National Societies between 22 and 26 June; and a ToT on MHPSS in Emergencies between 27 and 20 June, in collaboration with the Global Psychosocial Support Reference Center, both within the project: "Strengthening local capacities for effective preparedness and response including Health Emergencies in the Europe region" - funded by USAID.



Letters from the COVID-19 frontlines in Europe

Four volunteers of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have written poignant [letters](#) about their experiences while assisting exhausted migrants, caring for patients in a COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit and supporting emergency services through a mobile team.

Farouk Hwedy, an asylum seeker from Syria, is now part of the Mobile Team of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo: *"We help people from Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Pakistan, Algeria, Afghanistan, Morocco, Tunisia... For me, it is a great honour to serve them because I know what they have been through and what they are suffering from."*

Miguel Vela is assisting migrants who arrive by sea to the Canary Islands through the Spanish Red Cross: *"We have had some cases of babies only one day - and even hours - old, with the umbilical cord still attached to the mother's placenta. And children born in the boat and who would touch the mainland for the first time in our arms."*

Rebeka Szilágyi joined the Hungarian Red Cross' H-HERO Health Emergency Response Unit: *"Our team in the hospital is fantastic. We are like a family. On the toughest days, we keep our spirits up together. I look up to my colleagues: doctors, nurses, other medics and cleaning staff, each of them is a true hero! I am proud to be one of them, to work with them."*

Arlen Matkasimov is a volunteer in the mobile team of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent: *"Once, following an emergency call, I saw a patient with oxygen saturation 43, when it should normally be above 95. We did everything to save her life. She fought very hard, and in the end she survived. At moments like these, you realise how extreme reality can be."*

Protecting the most vulnerable from the deadly combination of heatwaves and COVID-19

Heatwaves are the deadliest type of disaster in Europe, and pose significant threat to the most vulnerable in our society.

Since last year, risks associated with these extreme weather events have been compounded by COVID-19. And while there is a perception that we are at the beginning of the end of the pandemic, every day in Europe tens of thousands of new cases are detected and hundreds of people die on average.

Dr Davron Mukhamadiev, IFRC Regional Health and Care Coordinator for Europe, said:

“The double risk of heat and COVID-19 is particularly dangerous for our most vulnerable – homeless, migrants, older people, pregnant women and those with chronic conditions. As temperatures soar, these people are at heightened risk. It is crucial for governments and civil society to increase support for them. Lives are at stake.”

IFRC is supporting National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Europe to expand their services during the warmest months, including first aid, facilitating access to health services and checking in on isolated or at-risk people.

French Red Cross is assisting the homeless, while Belgian Red Cross is vaccinating people living in the streets or in informal settlements as well as undocumented migrants. Austrian Red Cross is opening up cooling centres in cities, and the Netherlands Red Cross is visiting older people to share life-saving tips about staying cool and safe.

More information in this [press release](#).



IFRC is supporting National Societies across Europe to expand their services during the warmest months. © Spanish Red Cross

“The double risk of heat and COVID-19 is particularly dangerous for our most vulnerable – homeless, migrants, older people, pregnant women and those with chronic conditions. As temperatures soar, these people are at heightened risk. It is crucial for governments and civil society to increase support for them. Lives are at stake.”

National Society's psychosocial support centres operate in an emergency mode in Yerevan, from where Armenian Red Cross psychologists provide psychosocial support services to citizens, including people in isolation.

Austrian Red Cross*



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

Since the start of the outbreak, 148,670 infectious transports and 1,078,335 COVID-19 helpline calls were handled. 10,005,554 regular COVID-19 tests were performed by RC staff and 85 mobile teams are still actively conducting tests on a daily basis. 58 drive-in and 94 fixed testing stations, as well as 12 quarantine accommodations remain open and operational.

Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society*



Health: During the reporting period, the RC Society of Azerbaijan succeeded in reaching 55,448 local citizens through awareness raising and risk communication campaigns, involving the dissemination of IEMs on COVID-19 printed with the funding allocation through the IFRC emergency appeal. The hotline continues to function and responds to calls such as requests for psychosocial support (PSS) and clarifications on vaccination, as well as information and referral to state and non-state services. Within the PROACT initiative (a COVID-19 response initiative implemented in partnership with UNICEF), the RC Society of Azerbaijan carried out a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey on COVID-19 interviewing 344 respondents. The final report has been prepared and will be shared with donor and partner organizations. In coordination with non-state partners including the WHO, the RC Society of Azerbaijan is involved in supporting the process of vaccination of older people. The volunteers of the RC Society of Azerbaijan encouraged them to get vaccinated through face-to-face communication and provision of information regarding the available COVID-19 vaccines. NS Institutional Strengthening: 36 local branches (out of the targeted 58) were sensitized for the implementation of the COVID-19 response activities. 335 volunteers were mobilized for refresher trainings on COVID-19 safety. 44 volunteers were trained on COVID-19 safety, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and other relevant matters. The RC Society of Azerbaijan designated 3 focal points to be involved in project implementation, as well as the planned CEA training in the coming months, including the CEA Focal Point, Risk Communication Focal Point and Volunteers Management Assistant. Actions taken by IFRC: The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for South Caucasus has continued its preparatory efforts for the CEA training of trainers together with the IFRC Regional Office for Europe and the Turkish Red Crescent. The training module is being prepared to facilitate planned activities in the field of CEA to ensure that all participants share a common understanding of the role of CEA in contributing to the quality and impact of work in their National Societies and to integrate CEA into programming. The prepared materials are being translated to the Azerbaijani language.

Belarus Red Cross*



Health: Volunteers got 212 calls at the helpline "201". There were requests for delivery of products, prescriptions; PSS, care activities, humanitarian aid and referral. Institutional Strengthening: 1 PSS ToT was held at the national level in June. 10 trainers were trained. The BRC is receiving financial and methodological support from the IFRC. The procurement Senior Officer from IFRC

will visit the BRC in July 2021 to work together to make the tender procedures (vouchers, food parcels and hygiene kits) simpler.

Belgian Red Cross*



Health: 1. For isolated and socio-economically vulnerable people : - Launch of "Connected Smiles" program : Collection and distribution of unused communication devices in order to fight social exclusion 2. For homeless people : - Creation of a new center for COVID-19-positive people. - New health and "heat" supports - Creation of vaccination support (mobivax) 3. For asylum seekers - Extension of regular support : structural presence and help of nurses for symptomatic residents 4. For other institutions (airport, hospitals, nursing homes and care institutions) - Logistic help - Management and distribution of medical equipment - Medical and professional teams support (testing procedures and realization of tests) 5. For its members - Creation and promotion of psychosocial support and tools/games 6. For civil society - Creation of testing devices (centers, villages, bus) - Creation of vaccination centers Creation of a humanitarian diplomacy on a fairer access to vaccination. Socio-economic interventions: 1. For isolated and socio-economically vulnerable people : - Creation of a food hub - Relaunch of food-aid 2. For homeless people : Launch of new prowling practices.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Health: The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina marked World Health Day, and volunteers distributed protective masks to citizens in order to prevent the spread of and promote protection against COVID-19. The Red Cross Society of BiH established 2 telephone lines for psychosocial support through which citizens receive help from psychologists. The Civil Protection Service, in cooperation with the Municipal Organization of the Red Cross Novo Sarajevo, formed 10 teams, 2 volunteers each, who provide assistance and support to older and vulnerable people. The teams visit at-risk and vulnerable categories of the population in the Municipality, and provide them with the necessary assistance in the procurement of medicines and food items, as well as hot meals, all with the aim of reducing the movement and contacts of this most vulnerable population. The Red Cross of Republika Srpska made the Red Cross volunteer network available to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Institute of Public Health and the crisis headquarters of municipalities and cities, and offered support during the process of immunization of citizens that has already begun in some municipalities and cities of Republika Srpska. Volunteers and staff of the Republika Srpska Red Cross provide support in administrative tasks. This is a contribution to the health system, but also to citizens who need a certain type of assistance before and during the vaccination process, where the health system is relieved in the administrative part of the job (receiving phone calls from citizens to register for vaccination in health centers), assistance to older people for vaccination, measuring body temperature with a non-contact thermometer, disinfection, etc. The Republika Srpska Red Cross is also involved in disinfecting public buildings in certain municipalities. The Red Cross of the Brcko District is actively involved in the vaccination process in the Brcko District, from the development of a vaccination plan to the establishment of an operational communication center through which, in cooperation with the health department, they invite the population and schedule vaccinations. In addition, the transport of potentially infected people is being carried out, and the transport

of older people for vaccination has been established. The Red Cross of the Brcko District also provides support to the population at the locations where vaccinations are performed. Socioeconomic Interventions: The BiH Red Cross Society provided support for 1,000 Roma families who were given vouchers for the purchase of food and hygiene items, as well as protected masks and household disinfectants. Funds are provided from the global COVID appeal.

British Red Cross*



Normalisation of the COVID-19 situation has seen British Red Cross (BRC) incorporate learning from our pandemic specific programmes and into business-as-usual activity. The evolving focus of our vaccination support to prioritise community outreach and engagement has ensured we continue targeting the most excluded communities, including vaccine hesitant, refugees and asylum-seekers and the homeless. Alongside assisting 176,805 people at vaccination sites across the four UK nations, we have supported refugees by providing vaccination information or through registering them with local medical centres and held information group sessions. Facilitated by our relationships within asylum and refugee networks, in June we have supported 431 individuals from these groups with their first vaccination; operating through a combination of door-to-door engagement, mass texts and leaflet drops, we have utilised the mobility of pop-up clinics to reach individuals falling through the gaps of the national health system, providing a range of health checks and support services alongside vaccinations. This is aided by our volunteer vaccination training programme (in partnership with St John Ambulance), which trains volunteers to directly administer the vaccine and care for patients in vulnerable communities, training 845 volunteers by the close of June with 12,000 hours of support delivered to partners across the country and 33,560 vaccinations given. Our international support for the critical situation in India and the surrounding region has been maintained. As of the end of June, our Global Coronavirus Appeal raised GBP 2.24m in specific support of the Indian Red Cross India, with GBP 780,000 raised in the wider appeal. We've been continuing to provide crucial awareness across our social media channels with specific focus on updates and stories from the region, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Yemen. In considering our post-pandemic recovery plans, we are currently integrating learning from our COVID-19 cash-based assistance and support line programmes to develop long-term peace-time alternatives. Our core support for people in crisis continues, although our regional response teams (tactical cells) have been scaled down in recognition of the projected recovery phase. We maintain support to isolated and vulnerable individuals with over 54,581 people assisted through our localised responses in June, including with cash, food and medicines deliveries (although these are declining as national reopening reduces individual reliance on BRC services). This included 2,955 instances of practical at-home support to isolated individuals (helping them with food and medicine deliveries, healthcare transportation and support regaining their independence), assisting 903 refugees and their dependents to access accommodation, and providing transport for 501 COVID-19 patients to reach hospital (an increase on last month and illustrative of rising cases). Our emotional and practical support line continues to receive high volumes of callers; in June we assisted a further 1,545 people (15,758 since January 2021), providing psychosocial support to 28.6% of callers and coordinating critical BRC food deliveries to those reporting greatest need. Our cash-based assistance programme (Hardship Fund) remains as a key lifeline to those facing destitution and no resource to public funds, with 1,210 new households receiving payments this month, increasing by 35% from the previous month and

demonstrating the compounding financial impacts of COVID-19 afflicting households across the UK. Work to relieve pressure on National Health Service staff continues, as we aid increasing numbers of patients with transport and resettlement from hospital (3,929 people) and facilitating 1,876 Ambulance journeys.

Bulgarian Red Cross*



**BULGARIAN
RED CROSS**

Summary: The activities of the Bulgarian RC in response to COVID-19 continue in the following priority areas: logistics and dispatch of PPE as well as medical equipment to hospitals; food support for various vulnerable groups; public activities related to hygiene promotion and prevention; mental health, PSS and emotional support through local hotlines managed by the RC branches, national PSS chat served by psychologists, contact center, and hotline and humanitarian aid support for refugees and migrants, as well as information on prevention activities and vaccination, incl. on social media. Health: The NS volunteers and professional psychologists continue providing PSS since the beginning of the pandemic, through local hotlines, online chat available at the webpage of the National Society, and via a toll-free contact support center, giving information about the activities of the Bulgarian Red Cross and the current measures. The NS aims to help the Bulgarian population in coping with stress and the consequences of the pandemic. Over 1,300 migrants have been reached via the dedicated hotline of the Bulgarian RC Refugee and Migrant Service since the beginning of 2021, many of them inquiring about vaccination possibilities. 57 asylum seekers were vaccinated with the support of the Bulgarian RC, and the NS actively promotes vaccination. The NS continues to support hospitals and medical personnel by distributing hygiene products, specialized medical equipment and refreshments. Other activities include purchase of medicaments, hygiene materials and support to access medical services. NS Institutional Strengthening: The NS continues to provide situation updates and instructions to staff and volunteers related to prevention and response activities, as well as to distribute PPE, hygiene materials, information about vaccination and procedure, provision of training to volunteers and staff members working on the frontline of the COVID-19 response. Contingency and business continuity plans are being followed and regularly updated. The NS continues maintaining its activities in response to COVID-19 supported by domestic Resource Mobilization and a re-launched national fundraising campaign. Socioeconomic Interventions: The NS has provided more than 130,000 people affected by COVID-19 with food products and has reached out to more than 770,000 people with prevention materials and information thanks to the engagement of more than 7,312 volunteers and staff members. Migrant families continue to benefit from humanitarian assistance, including in-kind, access to services, RFL, and integration activities.

Croatian Red Cross*



CROATIAN RED CROSS

The economic situation in the Republic of Croatia become more difficult faced with the COVID-19 crisis, but also affected by two strong earthquakes occurred in Zagreb city (22 March 2020) and in Petrinja town (29 December 2020). Hundreds of people left their homes and were accommodated in settlement of prefabricated houses. The Croatian Red Cross personnel continuously observes the COVID-19 protective measures during the emergency operation. Health: The Croatian Red Cross continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation to ensure risk reduction and hygiene measures. The Croatian Red Cross Call Center (0800 11 88) operates on daily basis and the psychosocial support phone line is provided to alleviate

people's anxiety due to the COVID-19 situation. The COVID-19 risk reduction measures also maintained at the two Reception Centers for Asylum Seekers in Zagreb city and Kutina town. A mass promotion campaign with Handwashing Guide leaflet/ poster is advertised in large number of places across the country. The Croatian Red Cross with its local Red Cross branches provides support at vaccination sites in logistic and triage assistance (phone calls, receiving persons, avoiding crowds, temperature measurement, data entry, patient observation). Rapid tests on SARS-CoV-2 are regularly performed in the Croatian Red Cross for its personnel and volunteers. Recommendation for voluntary blood donors for protection against COVID-19 and instructions for protection against heat waves have been issued. NS Institutional Strengthening: The Croatian Red Cross teams in continuation assist to meet basic needs (distribute food, water, blankets, clothes, disinfections) for hundreds of people hit by the strong earthquake in Sisak – Moslavina county. NS Institutional Strengthening: Despite the overall situation, the interventions of the Croatian Red Cross continue to fill the gaps in all of 21 counties and regularly provide home care services for 20,000 vulnerable persons by the assistance of 3,500 volunteers and 1,600 staff.

Cyprus Red Cross Society



Health: At the beginning of the pandemic, leaflets were sent electronically to vulnerable points (migration Centres, homeless spots, check-points, etc.), promoting health and hygiene in four languages: Greek, English, Turkish and Arabic. A new service "Let's Talk" was opened, aiming to combat loneliness especially for older people. This service is still an ongoing activity. NS Institutional Strengthening: Support to Volunteers: through extensive trainings, psychological support and provision of protective materials. National Society sustainability: opened a new budget for the "Emergency Service for the support of older people and vulnerable groups" including own funds and donations. National Society readiness: re-organisation of emergency storages all over the country, including purchases of sterilisation equipment, protective materials and continuous risk assessment actions. Socioeconomic Interventions: Needs assessments are performed in order to meet the needs of vulnerable groups. All Branches provide Social Welfare Programmes including food, hygiene items, clothes, etc. in order to meet the basic needs of people assisted. Assistance was also given in the form of vouchers.

Czech Red Cross



The Czech Red Cross (CRC) Emergency Response Unit together with local branches, provides assistance in 11 hospitals as part of the "[M-72: Mobile Teams for 72 Hours](#)" project. Right now 800 volunteers are involved in the project, with 250 of them currently deployed. Since October 2020, the "[Fundamentals of Modern Nursing Care](#)" program provides courses to train and prepare volunteers for hospitals and social facilities (so far 4,500 people have been trained). The Prague local branch, in cooperation with the Municipality of Prague, runs a facility for COVID-19-infected people. The CRC is responsible for provision of services (setting of non/infection zones, catering, cleaning, waste management, laundry). Preventions programmes aim to train staff of medical/social facilities in protective measures, and the Ministry of Health Care informs CRC on hospital requests on need of volunteers. "[Dog for Doc](#)": [dogs help to reveal COVID-19](#); the CRC is a partner of the project. The Czech Red Cross (CRC) is operating its "[Vaccination against COVID 19: Important - Czech Red Cross Is Helping](#)" program, promoting vaccination and encouraging people to get vaccinated. CRC is currently involved in the vaccination of older people in senior facilities, running mobile vaccination units in Prague and Olomouc. At headquarters level, CRC conducts educative campaigns on COVID-19 on its websites and social media. It works in cooperation with

the Ministry of Health and the Integrated Rescue System. It provides counselling services and cooperates with private sector partners as well such as in the [“We Will Manage It” program](#) on health and hygiene promotion and mental health issues. As part of [the “I Help to Care” project](#), CRC in cooperation with the Ministry of Health organizes training courses for voluntary auxiliary medical staff in Prague and Brno since 5 October 2020. In cooperation with the Czech army, CRC started providing courses for non-medical staff members of the army, to be deployed to civil medical and social facilities to support professional medical staff. The courses are held by the CRC local branch of Olomuk and by the Prague branch directly in a field hospital. In the [“Give a Notebook” program](#), donors can support schools with electronic equipment. CRC is also organizing plasma donation for treatment of those infected with COVID-19. CRC local branches coordinate volunteers to provide aid for the most vulnerable such as older people, children and those living with disability. They help with shopping for basic food items, drugstore goods and medicines, and provide transport services including medical transportation. CRC branches work together with the local authorities (many of them being part of local Crisis Teams), organizing blood and plasma donations, operating hotlines, providing psychosocial support services, producing and distributing masks and other protective equipment and emergency tents, assisting parents with children’s education in home schooling, and are supporting hospitals and other social and medical facilities such as asylums and homes for older people.

Danish Red Cross



DRC HQ has set up two call centres, where the NS on behalf of the Danish authorities hosts a COVID-19 call centre for three weeks. In the second call centre DRC has established a network linking those in need of support services (shopping/walking the dog) with volunteers to support them. More than 10,000 persons have volunteered. DRC is also supporting in running a shelter for the homeless and undocumented migrants, who have symptoms of COVID-19. A phone service platform has been set up so that volunteers can chat with people who are alone.

Estonian Red Cross*



The Estonian Red Cross (ERC) Southern Region is currently supporting local health authorities in vaccination activities. In Tartu Vaccination Center ERC volunteers have been conducting supportive activities such as guidance, information sharing and post-vaccination observation. ERC Pärnumaa Branch is supporting Pärnu Hospital in vaccination activities.

Finnish Red Cross*



Health: Finnish Red Cross (FRC) volunteers are supporting authorities in the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in 11 districts and in 52 municipalities. The number of RC volunteers operating is approximately 125 per day. In total 2,095 volunteers are registered to assist in the vaccination campaign. The RC distributes risk-awareness information and shares health promotion messages via its social media channels. Socioeconomic Interventions: The Finnish Red Cross distributes food assistance at municipality level.

French Red Cross*



To face the spread of the Delta variant, the French Red Cross decided to intensify its efforts throughout the summer. The objective is to reinforce the outreach mechanisms to convince the

undecided and to ensure the vaccination of the vast majority of the population, especially the most vulnerable. The French Red Cross will intensify awareness-raising activities such as outreach activities during "*maraudes*"; activities directly at the places where people live such as in informal settlements, etc; accompanying people to vaccination sites; vaccination at home for people who have lost their mobility or who are geographically remote (e.g. rural areas); the social linkages system "*Croix-Rouge Chez Vous*" for people who wish to benefit from an accompaniment in their vaccination process: making an appointment, information on the nearest vaccination sites, transportation, information on vaccination. The French Red Cross teams also run temporary vaccination centres set up in the heart of cities and close to people's daily lives. The anti-COVID-19 mediators - known as LAC mediators - organize flash awareness-raising operations in shopping centers and in places frequented by holidaymakers and festival-goers. A large number of volunteers of the association will raise awareness during the summer to all the people they accompany in their different services (food aid, day centres, social or emergency accommodation, etc.) and also for the general public during cultural or sports events where the French Red Cross is in charge of preventive emergency service. A digital communication campaign via the French Red Cross social networks (Facebook, Instagram and TikTok) will take place throughout the summer to raise awareness, inform and convince the general public of the importance of vaccination. Throughout France, volunteers will distribute leaflets with a QR code to the public. They will contain useful information on vaccination and its benefits, as well as the address of the nearest vaccination centers. They will also find the telephone number of the "*Croix-Rouge Chez Vous*" telephone platform, which is available to all those who need support. To date, the French Red Cross has enabled the vaccination of more than 1.5 million people in nearly 130 vaccination centres in mainland France and in the overseas territories. More than 30,000 French Red Cross volunteers have taken part in this commitment. In June only, the FRC assisted 318,626 people to be tested and vaccinated. More than 71 territorial delegations were involved in vaccination and 41 territorial delegations were involved in testing.

Georgia Red Cross Society*



The Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) continues its coordination with the Emergency Management Service (EMS) under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia representatives, and joint Response Teams (EMS and GRCS) are established for rapid and effective response in case of need, including the existing pandemic situation. During the reporting period two meetings (one online and one offline) were held. The Georgia Red Cross is taking an active part in the preparation process for mass immunization. The draft Communication Strategy has been finalized to deliver main messages to the population and contribute to the national COVID-19 immunization program of the Government of Georgia. The volunteers of Georgia Red Cross Society participated in monitoring and coordinating the groups of people in the vaccination centers. Queue management support was provided to over 750 persons registered for vaccination. During the queue management GRCS volunteers disseminated information on COVID-19 and are providing PFA in case of need. 3,694 persons in Kvemo Kartli region were supported with primary health care services which became more challenging during COVID-19 because of PH overload and lack of transportation. In the reporting period GRCS continued to disseminate relevant information on vaccination and immunization strategy to support the country in the vaccine rollout, this included the support by the GRCS volunteers to the people unable to register online

for vaccination. Registration support was also provided remotely through the NS hotline. In total 630 persons were assisted. 2,464 persons were provided with information on proper hygiene and COVID-19 risk reduction recommendation through face-to-face communication by GRCS volunteers. GRCS continued to support people seeking information related to COVID-19, country regulations, available social benefits, proper referral to relevant state and non-state services, provision of Remote Psychological First Aid (PFA), further psychological support and recommendations on home-based care through its hotline. To date, 7 staff members and 10 MHPSS volunteers are involved in the hotline operation in Tbilisi and Batumi branches. In June 2021, through the GRCS hotline Psychological First Aid was provided to 296 persons. Psychological Support (online individual sessions) for staff and volunteers responding to the COVID-19 crisis is ongoing. Besides, GRCS Psychologists provide online psychological consultations to general population, among them to patients, their family members and medical personnel from self-isolation and quarantine zones, referred from the GRCS hotline. The GRCS Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Coordination Platform continues its work: updating the list of the existing MHPSS services, updating information on the upcoming website, and sharing information. Moreover, NS provided 425 hygiene and 872 food and hygiene parcels for the most vulnerable people in Tbilisi and 15 municipalities of Georgia. Up to 79 volunteers participated in the process of distribution.

German Red Cross



Since 10 March 2020, a specific COVID-19 task force was set up with employees of the German RC headquarters. Furthermore, the German RC maintains a liaison office at the Joint Medical Service of the German Bundeswehr and the Ministry of Health, so that effective communication is guaranteed. The main functions of the task force are the following: Coordination of the German RC headquarters and branches responses and assistance in collaboration with public authorities. Conducting operations of the German RC which are commissioned by the Federal Government (e.g. taking care of returnees -care services, MHPSS, medical check-ups during quarantine in a military barrack or other buildings- patient transport of six Italian (region Bergamo) COVID-19 and two French (region Grand Est) COVID-19 patients for further intensive medical treatment in six hospitals run by the German RC. Provision of situation reports and updates. Central procurement and distribution of PPE and disinfectants. On 17 March 2020, the pandemic was internally classified as a "state of crisis" according to Art. 5.2 of the German Crisis Management Regulation and this is still in force. A detailed and comprehensive Pandemic Preparedness Plan was implemented for the German RC headquarters, which was developed in cooperation with the Robert-Koch-Institute (Germany's leading governmental institution for public health). The National Society has communicated about COVID-19 via social media and through press releases. So far 13 million Euros has been raised via a Corona-emergency assistance fund. COVID-19 responses on a regional/Länder and local level: The 19 regional branches and the Federal Nursing Association of the German Red Cross and its more than 500 local branches conduct a wide spectrum of COVID-19 activities, such as opening of emergency operation centres, operating quarantine facilities, psychosocial support, support in outpatient clinics, conducting COVID-19 pre-tests, support services for people in home quarantine, infectious disease transports, hotline services, care for homeless people and stranded travellers, emergency day care services in kindergartens and schools.

Hellenic Red Cross*



The Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) has been providing critical support to communities and the most vulnerable to access basic primary health services and to address the socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic. Since May 2021, the HRC has been dedicated to supporting the efforts of the Greek Authorities to reach the community with life-saving vaccines. For the reporting period, the HRC medical and administrative teams have been initially mobilized in three public vaccination centers of Attica where they monitor vaccinations, administer vaccines, provide Psychological First Aid (if needed) and logistics/administrative support to the whole vaccination procedure. Health: During May 2021, the HRC conducted 30,222 temperature checks (COVID-19 screening) of people assisted and people passing through various public spaces and state buildings. The total number of COVID-19 screenings conducted by the HRC medical teams since the beginning of the emergency operation has reached 603,113. 338 people, who were likely to have been infected with COVID-19 (and thus were self-isolated), received immediate support by the HRC, while 1,075 people were tested to diagnose COVID-19 (with Rapid tests, PCR test, etc). In the meanwhile, 61,029 people were vaccinated and were under surveillance after the administration of vaccine by the HRC nurses at the state vaccination sites. In addition, 1,128 people were reached through risk communication & community engagement for Health & Hygiene promotion activities, and 2,661 people were reached with essential Health services adapted or scaled to respond to needs created during the pandemic. In parallel, 39 health facilities have been supported in maintaining services to pre-COVID-19 levels, including Mobile Health Teams operating in accommodation camps for migrants, Nursing Services, and Educational Health Stations. 1,699 people were reached with the provision of Mental Health & Psychosocial Support services through the implementation of 701 individual and group PSS sessions and 246 psychosocial activities -mainly organized in the 5 Unaccompanied Minors shelters and the 2 Multifunctional Centers for Migrants & Refugees operated by the HRC. Finally, 517 Accompaniments & Interpretation services were provided through the ACCREF program that facilitates access and accompaniment of refugees and migrants to public Health Facilities by interpreters and cultural mediators of the HRC. Socioeconomic Interventions: 1,333 people were reached with food and other in-kind assistance, and 3,005 people were reached by programs addressing exclusion, through a) Home & Older People Care activities, b) Activities for Homeless, c) MFCs tailor-made activities, d) UM shelters activities, e) Assistance provided by HRC Social Services, such as HRC Psychosocial Support Services or other Social Services via the HRC Local Branches. 6,429 people were reached with CEA activities and 230 community feedback comments were collected.

Hungarian Red Cross



The Hungarian Red Cross has scaled up its activities in response to the pandemic. The response activities have been extended countrywide with intense involvement of all county branches. National coordination of COVID-19 response activities is provided by the DM Department of the Hungarian Red Cross including professionals in charge of organization of tasks supported by five Regional Coordinators. Regional Coordinators were appointed to coordinate the work in five regions of the country who regularly monitor the development of the pandemic locally, carry out needs assessments, receive the requests for assistance, analyse and meet the needs based on available resources and organize the

response activities in their area of residence. Large number of volunteers have joined Branches' staff to take part in the implementation of the tasks. Within the framework of the pandemic response operation, the Hungarian Red Cross volunteers carried out 30,340 hours of activities between February and December 2020. During this period, they helped 140,804 households with a total of 191,863 hygiene and food packages. 131 vehicles were used to perform the tasks. The Hungarian RC volunteers and staff help isolated population in different parts of the country by shopping food and medicines, delivering hot meals, or dog walking. More than 191 thousands hygiene and food packages were distributed since the beginning of the pandemic. The Hungarian Red Cross supports hospitals directly with equipment and materials, and is providing institutional and logistical support (tents for pre-screening, vehicles for transportation, PPE). The organization also takes an active role in the organizational and administrative tasks of the epidemic situation, such as organizing population testing and operating the dispatch center of the National Ambulance Service. Public information are disseminated through several channels, Hungarian RC website, social media platforms, dissemination of information leaflets.

Icelandic Red Cross*



The Icelandic Red Cross is part of the country's national task force and all district task forces and continues to support vulnerable and marginalized groups by providing them with basic health care, emergency shelter, access to hygiene kits and awareness-raising on COVID-19. The NS runs three quarantine centres on behalf of the Icelandic authorities. Additionally, its helpline serves as a national MGPSS hotline and during the COVID-19 situation it has become the national social affairs hotline on behalf of the Ministry of Social Affairs and municipalities. PSS has been provided to selected groups and individuals. Key messages on COVID-19 are being provided through social media and newspaper platforms for awareness raising. Food distribution is provided to households in quarantine and isolation when needed.

Irish Red Cross Society



Throughout this reporting period (1 – 31 January 2021), ambulance and patient transfer services continued to be provided across the Irish Red Cross (IRC) branch network. IRC volunteers continue to provide essential aid, delivering food, medication, and heating supplies. During this month, the IRC also distributed across its network of community partners nearly 8,500 pieces of personal care and household cleaning essentials. The IRC provided online training in PFA to 22 volunteers so as to equip them with the necessary skills to help people who are struggling with anxiety and other issues as a result of the pandemic.

Italian Red Cross*



In June 81,907 molecular and antigen COVID-19 tests were carried out. In parallel, a total of 180 ItRC operators performed 225,755 vaccinations on the Italian territory. During the same reporting period, the National Response Centre handled 9,144 calls from the general public. The ItRC also performed 5,455 psychosocial services during the month of June, including 210 PFA services directed at volunteers, 536 at staff members and 1,133 at the general population. In June,

the ItRC also provided medical and psychological assistance to 3,136 migrants hosted on vessels, as well as to 2,339 migrants hosted in Lecce and Settimo Torinese quarantine centres. The ItRC also managed 199 COVID-19-related tracing requests, as part of its 'Restoring Family Links' (RFL) service. In addition, a total of 42,664 ambulances services were also performed by ItRC operators. Finally, in order to keep the population informed and sensitized, in June the ItRC published more than 53 COVID-19-related pieces of information on its social media channels. During the month of June, ItRC Volunteers delivered hundreds of food parcels, groceries, vouchers and medicines in support of vulnerable people. On 26 June, many ItRC Volunteers gathered in Solferino to celebrate the founding of the Red Cross and the important work volunteers have carried out during the pandemic.

Kazakh Red Crescent*



Health: The Red Crescent of Kazakhstan has been implementing activities through 18 branches, mobilizing more than 70 staff and training 4,435 volunteers. The RC of Kazakhstan continues its efforts in risk communication and in managing community feedback through social media, through electronic mailings and putting up leaflets in various organizations. 1,867,885 IEC materials for COVID-19 information, tutorials for the proper wearing of masks, handwashing, and etiquette of coughing and sneezing have also been disseminated. To date, 10,466,847 people were informed about protective measures of COVID-19. Socioeconomic Interventions: To date, 25,357 vulnerable families received parcels consisting of essential food and non-food (hygiene) items. NS Institutional Strengthening: The Red Crescent of Kazakhstan continues to search for opportunities (donors) to continue activities in this direction, as the joint project with IFRC (Belgian RC) has finished on 31/05/2021.

Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan



Red Crescent Society
of Kyrgyzstan

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) keeps on supporting the experts in reacting to the pandemic and helping vulnerable groups with a view to forestalling and mitigating the adverse effects caused by COVID-19. All activities are coordinated with health activities, government agencies and partners. The Republican Immunoprophylaxis Center together with RCSK opened a Call Center to inform the population about vaccinations. Assistance to the health care system. At this stage, volunteers at the 5 family medicine centers in Bishkek help manage queues and provide water, inform the population about vaccinations. Preparations are underway to activate the mobile brigade in case the overall situation worsens. The development of the National Registry of Volunteers and Volunteer Organizations is in the final stages. A general meeting with volunteer organizations is expected, where the MoH will announce the database, hear the opinions of all participants, and present the RCSK as the agency that will administer the database.

Latvian Red Cross



Latvian Red Cross (LRC) has worked without a stop, especially in providing services that cannot be done remotely, such as providing home care, running social centres, shelters for homeless people, crisis centre, accommodation centre for people in crisis (24/7) and day centres (also remotely). The National Society is also distributing food packages (through the 'FEAD' program), as well as buying and

delivering food and medicine to isolated people by volunteers and providing meals in night shelters and social apartments with a support of donations (catering companies) and volunteers. Latvian Red Cross continuously works with refugees and asylum seekers. The Secretariat of the NS has continued work non-stop. First Aid trainings had to be stopped for the whole period of state of emergency but started again since 23 May with certain restrictions. First aid provision at public events has stopped at least until Autumn. LRC maintains regular communication with governmental institutions and municipalities to work together with local branches to provide support to people in need.

Lithuanian Red Cross Society



Vaccination is accelerating in Lithuania: currently more than 40% of the population is vaccinated with one vaccine and more than 25% of the population with two vaccines. New cases are steadily declining, with the entry into force of a passport of opportunities that allows people to meet lower quarantine requirements, more business reopen their activities. NS Institutional Strengthening: The Lithuanian Red Cross Society is the leading NGO in the vaccination process, coordinating actions of all other NGOs. To fulfill needs for massive vaccination, Lithuanian Red Cross constantly invites people to become volunteers, provides trainings for them, coordinates actions with authorities, vaccination centers, other NGOs. The same time we constantly communicate about the vaccination process both to authorities and the media, providing our insights on the process and needs. All these activities contribute to the growth of the organization, strengthen and improve our processes, form team competencies.

Luxembourg Red Cross



LRC has a Business Continuity Plan in place for the critical activities. Additionally, the NS created a coordination cell to answer the questions regarding precautions, etc. This cell is likely to also coordinate human resources if those become limited (an important part of their health-personal comes from the countries around Luxembourg). For the Health Department services (including home-care services, Rehabilitation Centre, Home for older people, Blood-Transfusion centre) there is work on preparedness and managing the stocks. Discussions with the Ministry of Health are ongoing evaluating the situation and human resources mobilization capacities.

Malta Red Cross Society



The Malta Red Cross is working in coordination with the government in responding to COVID-19 amongst the migrant community. Activities include the following. Migrant Isolation Unit: Part of the Hal Far Tent Village (HTV) has been isolated to segregate those migrants who had been in direct contact with others who have tested positive for COVID-19. The Red Cross provides the medical assistance to those residing at the centre, including the daily monitoring of parameters, whilst taking all precautions recommended. The National Society is also managing a clinic at another reception centre to care for migrants who have tested positive for the virus, with 44 migrants receiving care up to 27 April. In direct contact with the Public Health Department, Malta Red Cross is also in charge of the swabbing procedure for the migrant community. Up until 27 April the Malta Red Cross have done 513 swabs in HTV. This is by far the largest sample of random swabbing that has been conducted on the Maltese islands since

the beginning of the spread of COVID-19. These tests have yielded results as they managed to identify a cluster of positive cases. In the coming days more swabbing will be carried out in other migrant centres.

Magen David Adom in Israel*



1. MDA continues the activity in the sampling project. Measures are being taken to increase the willingness of individuals to be tested. MDA takes part in these measures and in different cities, mobile drive-through complexes are active at the request of the HMOs. Over the last weeks a decrease in the number of people being sampled for COVID-19 was demonstrated. The number of samples taken in MDA has decreased as well. 2. So far, 4,473,346 samples for COVID-19 were taken by MDA. Over the last week, MDA has taken a daily average of 1,523 samples. Since 3 May 2020, the responsibility for home sampling is of the HMOs. 3. MDA teams are treating and transporting patients that are under home quarantine and suffer a situation that requires medical assistance, or exacerbation of their condition, or become symptomatic and are tested positive for COVID-19. MDA is also transporting the patients who tested positive to the hospitals, and those who are discharged from the hospital to the quarantine hotel. 4. MDA was responsible for the vaccination campaign in the long-term care facilities at the request of the MoH. MDA teams were specially trained to carry out the task, and vaccinated all the residents and employees (more than 140,000 people) with the first and second doses within seven weeks. MDA staff and volunteers were also vaccinating in large workplaces and remote locations, using the designated mobile vaccination caravan. In places with low vaccination rates, MDA teams vaccinated the most vulnerable communities. MDA operated vaccination sites for irregular migrants and for Palestinian laborers with employment permits in Israel at the crossings and industrial areas. 5. MDA's blood services collect plasma from patients who recovered from COVID-19 and have antibodies, and provide it to hospitals to treat severe patients. More than 23,625 plasma units have been collected up to date, and 3,456 patients were treated this way so far, as a treatment protocol with promising results. 6. MDA conducted webinars, virtual meetings, discussions, and questions and answers sessions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and vaccine safety. MDA had also issued several publications and short explanatory videos in Hebrew and Arabic. Some activities aim at the general public, and others focus on the most vulnerable communities. MDA's website has a dedicated section, with all the relevant information and instructions in several languages, available [here](#).

Red Cross Society of the Republic of Moldova



The Moldova Red Cross Society has worked actively since the beginning of the pandemic and offered not only information but also moral support. Different Red Cross branches such as the Balti Red Cross branch, Edinet Red Cross branch, Calarasi Red Cross branch, Anenii Noi Red Cross branch, Bendery Red Cross branch, Ungheni Red Cross branch and Criuleni Red Cross branch, mobilized to offer psycho-social support to isolated people in state care facilities. Red Cross volunteers were the first visitors to these facilities once the pandemic rules eased. The volunteers went to speak with people, offered them psycho-social support, in which they were trained once again in March and April, and offered small personal hygiene kits, to support and promote the hygiene measures. For the facilities for children, the volunteers prepared toys, drawing kits, games and other interesting surprises. IFRC contributed to the purchase and

distribution of 3,777 food parcels, from which benefited almost 11,290 people from vulnerable groups, people with disabilities, people on the verge of poverty and in absolute poverty. Along with the food parcel they received two masks of personal protection, were informed in person about the protection and prevention measures of COVID-19, and received psychosocial support from RC staff, volunteers and local social assistants. Moldova also benefited from the support of the Swiss Red Cross in Chisinau, with the help of whom were purchased and distributed 490 food parcels to 6 regions with high numbers of COVID-19 infection, from which benefited 1,443 people from vulnerable groups.

Red Cross of Monaco*



In view of the marked improvement in the health situation, our teams are gradually withdrawing from the COVID-19 missions supervised by the government, in agreement with the Department of Social Affairs and Health of the Princely Government. The Monaco Red Cross remains available should there be a change in the situation, or for occasional missions. Health: On 31 May, the Monaco Red Cross has stopped supporting the COVID-19 call center, which is still operating with much fewer demands. The Monaco Red Cross stopped supporting the Home Monitoring Centre [HMC] on 15 June. From 1 to 15 June, 5 volunteers have been ready at the HMC for 4 days but no home visits were needed. In June, 1 staff member have delivered pharmaceutical products to 1 patient. The Monaco Red Cross still distributes PPE (surgical masks and FFP2 masks) to the Princess Grace Hospital Centre, medical establishments, laboratories, general practitioners, pharmacies, ambulance drivers, fire brigades, general public, etc. In June, 3 PPE deliveries were performed by 2 staff members and 8 volunteers. Socioeconomic interventions: Since the beginning of the crisis, the social service of the Monaco Red Cross remained open, supporting hundreds of people socially affected by the COVID-19 crisis, helping them to afford rental fees, electricity, food and clothes. Also in June, 14 volunteers from the Monaco Red Cross kept providing educational support to 13 children affected by the crisis. The Monaco Red Cross is still supporting the Monaco Public Hospital and health facilities with monthly PPE deliveries.

Red Cross of Montenegro*



The Red Cross of Montenegro (RCM) continuously organizes distribution of relief items to socially vulnerable population. From the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, until 30 June 2021, the RCM distributed 102,662 humanitarian parcels (food, hygiene and baby parcels) reaching 75,347 households. 7,196 persons received PSS in the same period. Volunteers spent 29,319 hours responding to COVID-19 in the same period. There are 104 professional home helpers who are assisting older people across the country. The Red Cross volunteers still provide assistance in vaccination points across the country.

The Netherlands Red Cross



Netherlands Red Cross volunteers in the worst hit areas support clinics with non-medical tasks and provide transport to hospitals, test facilities and vaccination points. Most vulnerable people are assisted with food parcels, vouchers and shelter. Volunteers and paid staff support the Ministry of Health with contact tracing, testing and vaccination.

Norwegian Red Cross*



As the number of reported COVID-19 cases continues to decrease and fewer people are hospitalised, the situation in Norway seems very promising. Norway has seen a steady decline in new cases over a long period of time, which has led to many restrictions being lifted. Norway is now on stage three of a four-stage plan to reopen the country by lifting restrictions, as more and more people are getting vaccinated. It is believed that all Norwegians over the age of 18 will receive an offer to get vaccinated before the month of September. NorCross' local branches continue to assist their local municipalities. Throughout June, approximately 130 local branches have been assisting the government with various tasks, predominantly with vaccination and testing for the coronavirus. More than 100 local branches have been assisting with the on-going vaccination over the past few months and will likely continue their efforts throughout the summer. The summer vacation is starting, and NorCross are planning to provide 63 vacation experiences for children and families from low-income households over the summer period.

Polish Red Cross*



"By donating blood, you save life" - this is the slogan of the mobile blood donation campaign organized by Bank Pekao S.A. together with the Polish Red Cross. In blood buses in several cities in the country, any interested person can donate blood. The action is to contribute to replenishing blood shortages caused by the pandemic and increased accident rates in the summer. Bank Pekao together with the Polish Red Cross organized a blood donation campaign in Kraków, Warsaw and Gdańsk. The campaign is aimed at promoting blood donation, making people more sensitive to helping others, as well as making people aware that blood saves lives and may be needed by each of us at any time. Therefore, the bank encourages all interested parties to donate it and join the idea of voluntary blood donation.

Portuguese Red Cross*



Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Portuguese Red Cross (PRC) has been a front-line responder to this crisis. Mobilizing staff and volunteers, but also developing fundraising actions for the purchase of medical material, individual protection equipment and logistics. PRC has more than 40 fixed stations distributed across the country and 14 mobile intervention teams with more than 70 professionals. We also created a hotline for testing and an online website where people can book a PCR test or a rapid test. For the Civil Protection Agents, our National Society created a free way of direct access to testing. PRC managed the vaccination for some of the national security forces (12,800 vaccines administered). PRC has been training professionals for COVID-19 testing and developed a free online training for this purpose. In the school community, PRC intervention has been crucial on structures with outbreaks, regulating pandemic control in Portugal with health authorities. PRC applied a total of 648,955 tests. In the social sector we supported more than 55,000 families, namely with food support (127,367 persons). 77,325 persons have received non-food items. 2,417 homeless persons have received shelter, and 242,908 people have been reached with risk communication. PRC has supported 7,930 people with medicines and 5,054 with shopping services. 714 calls for maintaining family links to COVID-19 patients have been provided. Thousands of people sought the PRC support and we received an increase of more than 40% concerning

help requests during this last year. We managed 24 structures for COVID-19 for patients unable to maintain prophylactic treatment at home, 17 structures to help Central Hospitals, 597 teams with specialized training on the emergency transport of patients with suspected COVID-19 infection; we have a support line answered by psychologists and social workers for health care professionals of PRC and community in general, answering a total of 8,436 calls. The PRC promoted actions of sensibilization to 105,960 people and instructed for the dangers of COVID-19, in all country, especially in groups of risk. In each local branch we adapted our responses to the community local needs. Portuguese RC has trained 900 staff and volunteers in COVID-19 surveillance, and 1,081 have also received training in community engagement. PRC action has been possible because of the dedicated daily work of our staff and 13,785 volunteers. PRC has been a major partner for public events, testing in large scale on site as risk reduction strategy.

Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia*



Црвен крст на Република Северна Македонија
Red Cross of The Republic of North Macedonia

RCNM is active since the beginning of the pandemic and the activities in the past month are:

- Mobile teams for distribution of food, hygiene, medicines, etc.
- Distribution of humanitarian food and hygiene parcels to vulnerable groups
- Preparation and conducting blood donation actions
- Distribution of protective masks and other protective materials
- Distribution of clothing and footwear
- Psychosocial support SOS line
- Older people people support teams
- Distribution of parcels with disinfection materials
- Distribution of meals for the homeless and other vulnerable groups
- Distribution of chronic therapy in cooperation with the Ministry of Health
- Delivery of oncology therapy through the Oncology Clinic
- Distribution of flyers for protection against COVID-19
- Monitoring of thermal cameras at airports
- Support of migration camps/support for migrants
- Setting up tents in front of hospitals and emergency services
- COVID-19 contact tracing to assist the Public Health Centers
- Hygiene promotion campaigns
- 24/7 active EOC
- Assistance in vaccination (checking temperature, etc.)

Key data from the beginning up until 01.07.2021:

- Assisted vulnerable groups with PSS: 8,864
- Assisted vulnerable groups with delivery service for food, hygiene, medicines: 9,603
- Distributed monthly food parcels: 36,162
- Distributed monthly hygiene parcels: 36,305
- Distributed disinfection kits: 13,894
- Distributed baby parcels: 3,084
- Mobilized staff and volunteers on a daily basis: 500 – 600
- Distributed protective masks: 246,171
- Distributed protective gloves: 260,524
- Medical check-ups: 21,599
- Distributed hot meals for vulnerable groups: 49,244
- Distributed chronic therapy: 5,051

Romanian Red Cross



The Romanian Red Cross has been an active responder to the COVID-19 crisis throughout the entire country. The IEC caravan was implemented in 44 counties in Romania with 250 communities reached by 412 volunteers in March 2021. Information sessions were organized in risk areas such as in rural and Roma communities, isolated population groups, migrants, as well as at public places such as train and bus stations, open markets and during door to door visits, reaching 28,425 people directly during the reporting month. Online IEC sessions were held for 6,104 pupils aged 6-18 on topics such as general COVID-19 information, hygiene rules, mental health, stress management and efforts against stigmatization of those infected with COVID-19. 8,100 hygiene parcels were distributed in 44 counties and additionally up to 10,000 hygiene parcels were purchased. 15 monitoring visits were held by the project team. Subjects approached: the implementation of the

information campaign; lessons learned; the HQ coordination; reporting. 4 of the monitoring visits were accompanied by community media events, implemented by the RRC Media Centre or by the national television. Video materials were registered in 4 counties, in poor communities and they showed the work of the volunteers while informing the community members and distributing hygiene parcels.

The Russian Red Cross Society

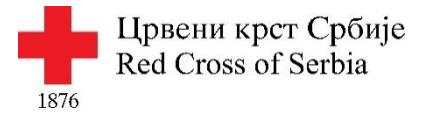


Almost all the National Society's branches have been mobilized. More than 4,000 Russian Red Cross volunteers and staff are providing critical support to communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Red Cross teams are distributing masks to public transport staff, providing food and water to some hospitals: more than 2,000,000 masks distributed, and 12,000 masks produced by local Red Cross branches, humanitarian aid in the amount of more than CHF 300,000 (food and hygiene kits, vitamins and cream from Bayer, clothing) was transferred to health facilities. The Russian Red Cross focuses its efforts on helping those most vulnerable, including migrants and those experiencing homelessness. Teams are distributing food and hygiene items to older people, those living with chronic diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis, people with disabilities and other vulnerable households. More than 20,000 vulnerable migrants have been supported with more than 5 tonnes of food and hygiene kits. The National Society also runs a phone line where older people can request assistance in food delivery and rubbish collection. More than 18,000 appeals were received by the Russian red cross hotlines. Food, hygiene items and medicine delivered to more than 50,000 people. More than 1,000 people are under the permanent patronage of the Russian red cross (nursing service). The Russian Red Cross is conducting information and awareness-raising activities in media, public areas, via social networks, telephone hotlines. Red Cross teams are organizing COVID-19 information sessions in public areas such as shopping centres and universities. The National Society also provides reliable information on how to protect oneself from COVID-19, how to cope with isolation and how to manage stress. More than 7,000 vulnerable people have been supported through Red Cross operated telephone hotline, including psychosocial support.

Red Cross of San Marino

The Red Cross of San Marino is responding to COVID-19 emergency through the provision of clinical and paramedical services in the hospital of San Marino as well as emergency social services for quarantined individuals. Regarding clinical and paramedical services at the hospital of San Marino, 20 services are performed monthly with shifts of 6 hours. During these services, the volunteer staff of the San Marino Red Cross carries out patient assistance activities. In addition, the Red Cross of San Marino, in collaboration with the hospital, carries out both emergency and non-emergency patient transport services for patients with COVID-19. The number of these services is 40 per month. For quarantined people, the San Marino Red Cross carries out home care services and transport of COVID-19 patients to health facilities for medical visits. The number of these services is 20 per month. The number of active volunteers in both services is 25.

The Red Cross of Serbia



Health: 17 local RC branches organized info-centers to provide information to citizens and to receive requests where support is needed (21,580 people helped). • 14 local RC branches organized psychosocial support for citizens in need, volunteers, and RC personnel through local info centers. In total 3,702 people were supported during May 2021. • 6 local RC branches are providing support to the Health care system and institutions in Serbia – by the placement of 9 tents and 3 prefab containers for triage of patients, their examinations, and support in data processing of tested persons. Safe space for triage within these tents supported during April more than 3,702 people. • In May 2021, the Red Cross of Serbia local branches continued with support to the Health system on the vaccination process in Serbia (staff, volunteers, logistics). This support was provided in 28 municipalities, by engaging 789 staff and volunteers. In support of immunization activities, the RCS volunteers spent 30,690 engagement hours while providing support to 200,835 citizens. The Red Cross of Serbia continued with the process of supporting people in substandard settlements in the immunization process. • During May, the Red Cross of Serbia with NTS organized in 116 RC branches 268 blood drives collecting 9,910 blood units. 37 blood units per blood drive were collected on average and 63 blood drives were organized per week. NS Institutional Strengthening: The Red Cross of Serbia continued implementation of the ICT Capacity strengthening project with the aim to improve internal communication, the flow of information and to ease some existing processes, and introduce new features. • The Red Cross of Serbia implemented ToT training to scale up its capacity related to volunteer management in emergencies. The training course was implemented with staff and leader volunteers – especially the ones engaged in national disaster response teams. On 2 May, a training was organized with 27 local Red Cross branches. Socioeconomic interventions: 20 local RC branches were distributing food and hygiene parcels (3,988 parcels, reached 5,298 persons); • 30 local RC branches implemented cash assistance activities in order to support additional 2,000 households with children. In total, by implementing previously mentioned activities during May 2021, the Red Cross of Serbia reached and helped more than 232,773 people. There were 4,539 volunteer engagements, 42,694 volunteers and 13,600 RC staff working hours dedicated, 14,095 kilometers passed over during implementation of activities.

Slovak Red Cross



In May, the volume of the Slovak Red Cross activities related to COVID-19 significantly decreased due to pandemic situation improvement. The number of assisted people as well as NS members and volunteers involved therefore lessened, too. However, testing still remains the main NS pandemic operation. There were 77,566 individuals assisted by 608 Slovak Red Cross staff and volunteers from 31 regional offices (almost 90% of the offices) involved in testing in May. Number of NS regional offices participated in vaccination process increased to 16 in May. Their members and volunteers actively supported/assisted older people, vulnerable communities and social care facilities (advisory/explanation, ordering, accompanying, transportation etc.).

Slovenian Red Cross*



Slovenian Red Cross (SRC) is assisting the Ministry of Health, the National Institute of Public Health and other public stakeholders with organization and implementation of vaccination promotional activities. SRC is providing support to medical staff and local communities in organizing and implementing vaccination roll-out. It is supporting medical staff performing rapid antigen tests - securing respect of protective measures (such as physical distance) among persons waiting to take the test. Testing is implemented for the general population on beforehand established sites. SRC operates as a member of the National Operational Group for providing psychological aid, and is gathering information and reporting on experience of 21 NGOs and other organizations on mental health of vulnerable groups, proposing solutions to be taken by the decision makers. SRC continues to provide support to persons in quarantine (PSS; assistance in delivery of medicine, food, and hygiene items). Collaboration between Slovenian (LC Koper), Croatian (LC Buje) and Italian Red Cross (LC Trieste) is ongoing and still providing crucial goods (such as medication) for citizens staying across the border. SRC is providing home delivery of food parcels, medicine, hygiene kits and/or hot meals to vulnerable persons (older adults, persons with chronic illness, etc.) It provides open phone lines for offering PSS, COVID-19 information, and support requests from the public. It provides COVID-19 trainings for staff/volunteers and assists public and private institutions by taking body temperature and scanning for signs of infection of the visitors. SRC provides FA to the homeless in Ljubljana, clothing and footwear for the Asylum Home Ljubljana and Government Office for Support and Integration of Migrants. SRC is informing and building awareness on COVID-19 prevention and response measures. It is distributing food parcels and hot meals at humanitarian centres of SRC local branches, along with protective face masks. It is organizing blood-drives, where possible donors are invited individually by SMS upon which a blood donation appointment is made. It is continuing to provide learning aid for students/pupils and is exploring options for digitalisation and online provision of services and support where possible. SRC is taking part in coordination meetings organized by UNHCR for securing provision of needed support to persons with granted international protection and asylum seekers.

Spanish Red Cross



The Spanish Red Cross supports health, social and emergency services in all regions, mobilizing 63,759 volunteers, reaching 2,822,156 people of which 1,590,085 are women, 1,231,455 are men and 616 non-binary or without data. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Spanish Red Cross provided relief services to a total of 588,506 people through different services such as shelter and provision of essential supplies, articles to people quarantined in special circumstances, support to emergency testing, etc. Regarding Health, 1,145,725 people were reached mainly through risk communication and promotion of preventive measures as well as psychosocial support. Spanish Red Cross has been participating actively in the flu vaccination campaign, both within the general population and also in direct contact with people with risk factors amongst users. Collaboration started with the Ministry of Health and the regional health departments to assess the National Society's role in the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Spanish Red Cross action is also focused on the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic. Through its support to social inclusion, the Spanish Red Cross reached 861,792 people, of which

271,692 received food and non-food essential items, with 808,683 responses as the prolonged nature of the crisis requires support over time. It also provided cash assistance to vulnerable and at-risk populations (119,496 people with 221,764 responses) and accompaniment and aid on essential procedures, including support to access the minimum subsistence income. The Spanish Red Cross assisted over 92,011 people through employment guidance, helping unemployed people and those who recently lost their jobs survive this unprecedented economic crisis. The Spanish Red Cross education program focused its effort on support, follow-up and providing goods, reaching more than 501,015 people. An updated overview of SpRC's COVID-19 operations is available [here](#).

Swedish Red Cross*



Health: The health referral clinic for irregular migrants focuses on spreading information about how to access COVID-19 vaccination. The patients are motivated to get vaccinated but experience difficulties in finding information on how to go about to make an appointment. The clinic has ongoing communication with the regions regarding this. The Swedish Red Cross continues to support the national 24mmunization program. 750 volunteers are currently active in the vaccination programs on approximately 40 locations. The web hub for psychosocial support is maintained and adapted to the current situation. Psychosocial support is given to people assisted in the regular programs that are adapted to the COVID-19 situation. NS Institutional Strenghtneing: Continued operational and technical support are offered to local branches and the volunteers, to continue to offer services. Training is digitalised to reach volunteers. Psychosocial support tools are offered to support volunteers. Financial support is provided for sustainability. Local preparedness is enhanced by operational and technical support. The major activity has been and still is to support to local branches to introduce volunteers and support local branches to assist in the vaccination program. Socioeconomic Interventions: The major activity is still disseminating the information package on COVID-19 testing and vaccine to vulnerable groups e.g. in areas where socioeconomic factors have had a greater impact. By 1 May, 954 people were reached with mobile meeting spots and information activities.

Swiss Red Cross*



In addition to the previous services, the Swiss RC is strengthening its commitment to equal access to COVID-19 services for vulnerable populations by developing low-threshold vaccination services for migrants on the domestic level. The SRC provides currently access to immunization for undocumented migrants in three outpatient clinics in the bigger cities.

Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan*



On 2 June, together with the Immunization Center and the Association of Young Doctors under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Tajikistan, a training was carried out for project personnel and employees of 13 provinces, as well as regional employees of Sughd, Khatlon and GBAO regions (2,100 volunteers and 15 staff in total were trained). The topic of the training was providing information about Tajikistan's National Immunization Program, vaccines used at the country level, myths and misinformation disseminated through social media and traditional media. Staff from UNICEF Tajikistan and the Healthy Lifestyle Center also took part in the training. After the staff training, a

training program for project volunteers begins at the level of each pilot district. On 5 July, with the initiative of the National Society, additional training was conducted for all staff of the headquarters on COVID-19 immunization with the participation of trainers - specialists from WHO and UNICEF. During the reporting period, 2,100 project volunteers conducted RCCE information sessions for 342,113 people. Topics of RCCE campaigns: Immunization Program of Tajikistan, Vaccines used at the country level, myths and inaccurate information disseminated in social networks and the mass media. 65 directors of the Healthy Lifestyle Center active providing professional information for populations on immunization with project volunteers. 40 volunteers of the Association of Young Doctors under the Ministry of Health continue to educate the capital citizens about COVID-19 vaccination, in collaboration with Road Policy. All activities are actively carried out with consultants from WHO and UNICEF. Activities to support people affected by tuberculosis are actively carried out as part of the provision of one-time cash assistance supported by IFRC. This action is carried out jointly with the microcredit organization "Dushanbe City", which provided ATM cards for 300 recipients in 8 districts of Sogd and RRS area.

Turkish Red Crescent Society



Health: TRC teams have produced a total of 3,384,290 masks and 3,934 visors to date and distributed a total of 13,193,537 PPEs. The Public Health and PSH Directorate delivered 63 respirators to state hospitals for COVID-19 treatment. Over 400,000 hygiene kits/materials have been distributed to date to the most vulnerable groups including people diagnosed with COVID-19 as well as vulnerable Turkish and refugee families. A total of 78,807 individuals have been reached under the health sector health screening calls, health trainings, health referrals for migrants, hygiene promotion activities and COVID-19 symptom screening calls. The operation in support of COVID-19 treatment continued at TRC's 28 blood centres. A total of 58,932 units of blood donation have been collected through which 137,769 units of immune plasma have been produced and 111,476 units have been distributed to date. TRC volunteers organized blood donation campaigns and provided information to the public in many strategic points across Turkey. To date, TRC community centres have reached a total of 184,755 individuals including community members, volunteers and staff through various PSS activities including online psychoeducation: PSS group sessions and psychosocial consultancy activities. Overall, TRC teams have provided 33,791 PSS/training kits to 55,244 children through household visits. PSS activities through these household visits which also included identification of needs and other vulnerabilities in the household within the scope of COVID-19 related measures. Socioeconomic Interventions: People who are under high risk or who do not obey the quarantine rules at home spend their quarantine period in state-run dormitories which were transformed into quarantine places in various locations across the country. TRC continues to provide hot meals including breakfast to these individuals. A total of 7,685,890 units of meals have been provided to 1,203,406 people to date during the pandemic. Overall, under socio-economic interventions, over four million people have been reached through in-kind food distribution; over three million through hot meals distribution; and over one million through cash vouchers since the start of the pandemic. TRC field teams helped distribution of hot meals prepared by various soup kitchens to vulnerable people under quarantine during the period under review. NS Institutional Strengthening: A total of 137 staff participated in 17 group counselling sessions in which COVID-19 and stress management

subjects were handled. Psychiatrists organized online individual meetings with staff and volunteers. Awareness-raising trainings have been provided for 2,874 staff and volunteers to date.

Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan



The NS continues to reach and educate the public about COVID-19 infection prevention through IEC materials and broadcasting of videos in schools and other public places. For this purpose, the NS has been using leaflets, posters and other RCCE and training materials on COVID-19 prevention, which were adapted from IFRC materials and translated into Turkmen language. It also reached large number of audiences through dissemination of videos with COVID-19 prevention messages, that have been developed under this project. During this reporting period, the achievements are as follows: Volunteers conducted door-to-door visits, 4,600 people have been covered in total. The number of distributed posters is 5,000. Weekly activities among the population on the observance of mask regime and social distancing are on progress, the risk communication videos are broadcasted on local TV (about 2 mln. views per month). The training for volunteers on lessons learned was conducted as part of the project. During the training, volunteers shared their experiences, positive lessons learned, and difficulties during the project. Staff and volunteers were provided with personal protective equipment, and hygiene kits for volunteers, and all branches and the headquarters were treated with disinfectants. 50 schools broadcasted videos daily on the observance of mask regime, handwashing hygiene and social distancing. The total coverage is 17,500 students.

Ukrainian Red Cross Society*



The Ukrainian Red Cross Society continued its activities raising awareness about COVID-19. Regional branches disseminated printed materials at schools, governmental authorities and other public places. Also, information sessions and public meetings took place. For example, such a session for medical workers was organized in Donetsk oblast. The regional branch in the Lugansk oblast conducted a public meeting with 500 beneficiaries living near the contact line on the topic of crossing the checkpoints in the circumstances of the COVID-19-related measures. In Kherson oblast, 6 public sessions were run on the vaccination process in Ukraine. As in previous months, all the regional branches distributed protective masks, gloves and other personal protective equipment. Other support activities included but were not limited to psychological and recreational events and consultancies. The Ukrainian Red Cross Society has become a partner with the Ministry of Health and other actors in a new study to determine the percentage of people in the general population who have antibodies to COVID-19. To sum up, this month the URCS has been an active actor throughout Ukraine in sharing useful information on COVID-19, raising awareness on vaccination, and providing social assistance to people in need. Overall, regional branches reported that more than 17,000 people were supported by the URCS.

Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan



The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan (RCSU) is actively involved in COVID-19 preparedness and response coordination with the relevant ministries, authorities and WHO. In total, RCSU distributed 166,559 masks (4,898 in March) and 60,352 hygiene items (1,958 in March)

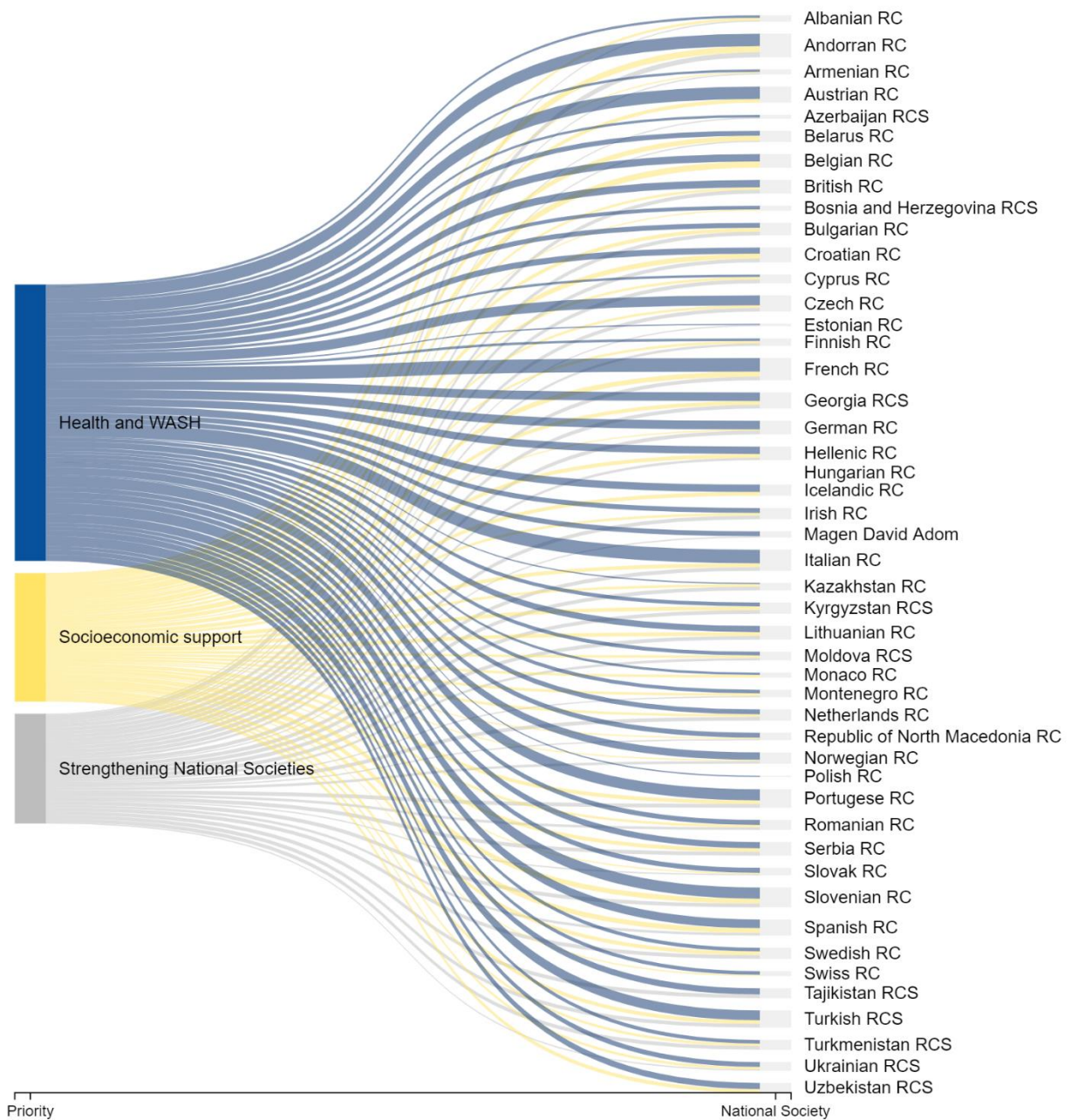
to staff and volunteers, and to at risk groups. Throughout Uzbekistan, in local communities, in marketplaces, on public transport etc., from March 2020 to March 2021, RCSU distributed a total of 60,927 information materials on COVID-19 prevention (3,218 in March 2021), in Russian and Uzbek languages. 630 vulnerable families were reached with tailor-made COVID-19 prevention messages, accompanied with the distribution of hygiene kits for each family. Distribution of personal protective equipment for 1,500 employees and volunteers of the National Society: 3,000 hand sanitizers, 3,000 masks and 7,500 pairs of gloves. 312,000 pieces of 5 types of printed materials that were adapted from WHO materials in discussion with the WHO office in Uzbekistan were delivered to all regions. These materials included messages on key prevention methods from COVID-19 infection for individuals, how to maintain mental health and wellbeing during the pandemic, how to take care of someone who is sick with COVID-19 at home and other related messages for the public. Monitoring visits were carried out to the Republic of Karakalpakstan and Khorezm regions, during which the project activities of regional organizations and some district (city) offices have been monitored. A workshop on lessons learned was organized on 10 March 2021.

The list of National Societies and activities above is based on information submitted to the IFRC Regional Office for Europe on various channels and will be kept up to date. In case of required revisions/amendments or information about your NS which is missing, please let us know and it will be added with the next update.

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Annex: National Society Activities per COVID-19 priority areas



For activity level details on National Society response please see GO-platform

Data source: National Society activities per Operational Priorities as reported in public COVID-19 field reports on [GO-platform](#), as of 14 July 2021. Reported National Society activities include all reported activities by the National Society in country regardless of the funding source.