

## Messaging Sheet – Migration Crisis Appeal / Accommodation coordination / Syria Appeal

**Distribution:** All members, board, and staff fundraising agents

**Date:** Original - 11.09.2015 **Updated – 18.09.2015**

THEY SAY	WE SAY	Explanation
<b>NEW</b> Is Red Cross collating offers of public support and if so, when will it be happening?	Yes, we are creating a database of offers from the public made to Government departments and other organisations such as NGOs. We are currently consulting with Government officials and civil society groups with a view to agreeing a method for collating the offers and are confident that we will have it agreed by the end of next week.	It is important the Irish Red Cross adopts an inclusive approach to our civil society partners as part of our role on the Government's Refugee Protection Programme Taskforce. With that in mind, we want to proceed in a consultative way that leads to offers of supports to other organisations are registered with us. We know from our experience around the world that good organisation is the essential first step to maximising the impact of all available supports. While the public demand for information is understandable, Irish Red Cross respectfully asks it be recognised that time is needed to co-ordinate the sum of all our parts. At the moment, time is on our side. We are proceeding in an orderly and co-ordinated fashion with all involved.
Refugees/Migrants <b>Updated</b>	Migrants	We don't make a distinction between who we treat with humanity. Refugee is a status accorded to migrants based on their circumstances. It is anticipated that most or all the migrants brought to Ireland will be from Eritrea or Syria. Around 80% are expected to be granted refugee status which means they can live and work in the country like any other citizen.
Refugee / Migrant Crisis	Migration Crisis	Migration is the cause of the crisis not the people.
Mediterranean Crisis	Migration Crisis / Migration Trail	Funds from our appeal will be used for people on the migration trail. This includes the W Balkans, Aegean crossings, Ireland and places outside Europe eg Syria, Jordan, Eritrea, Niger etc.
Influx of... / Flood of... / overrun by ... migrants/refugees/foreigners	Intake / arrival / reception / welcome / protection / humanitarian support	<p>From time to time, members and staff may be challenged by those who object to Ireland providing protection to the 4,000 migrants. The following text may be used or tailored as appropriate either verbally or in correspondence.</p> <p>“The numbers arriving are small and do not present a demographic challenge. The fluctuation in Irish population increases over the past 20 years have been far greater than 4,000 annually. The number of migrants</p>

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		<p>the Government has offered to receive relates to an 18-month – 2-year period.</p> <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Population</th><th>%Change</th></tr><tr><td>2011</td><td>4.58m</td><td>+7.4</td></tr><tr><td>2006</td><td>4.24m</td><td>+8.1</td></tr><tr><td>2002</td><td>3.92m</td><td>+8.2</td></tr><tr><td>1996</td><td>3.63m</td><td>+2.9</td></tr></table> <p>The country will not be flooded. It is clear that that Irish public opinion overwhelmingly favours extending a Cead Mile Failte to migrants coming from unimaginably difficult circumstances, many of whom are families with young children. Some will be traumatised and perhaps fearful. The Irish Red Cross will treat everyone who arrives with sensitivity and humanity and calls on everyone to do likewise.”</p> <p>Any calls or contact using explicit racial or xenophobic slurs or repeated contact from the same person can be concluded with:</p> <p>“We have treated your query with respect through the answer already provided. We have many callers and correspondents and we cannot engage in extended dialogue/correspondence.”</p>	Year	Population	%Change	2011	4.58m	+7.4	2006	4.24m	+8.1	2002	3.92m	+8.2	1996	3.63m	+2.9
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Why are we giving to foreigners when we cannot take care of our own? (Homeless, people in relative poverty / low income / reliant on public services, etc)	The EU is funding half the cost, our economy is experiencing strong growth and relatively speaking the cost is small (approx. €24m or 0.04% of annual public spending). The Irish Red Cross would never engage in any attempt to play the needs of one vulnerable group off another.	Countless surveys show that inward migration has a positive economic impact on a country in the medium term. And in general, government overspends or underspends relative to projections in a single year would always be far in excess of €24m.															

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What are the funds for / where do they go?	They are used to provide basic supplies and specialist personnel along the migration trail. As the appeal develops, funds may also be used to provide supports to migrants in Ireland. We have a task force considering the options in co-ordination with UNHCR, government etc. Updates will be posted on our website and social media channels.	Basic supplies = food, water, clothing, shelter. Specialist personnel = Officers trained in Psychosocial support, Restoring Family Links, logistics specialists, crisis managers.
How much of my donation goes to the appeal?	At least 93%. All funds for the appeal donated online, by post or any other means are directed to one single account for the exclusive purposes of the named appeal.	Costs such as printing, digital services for the purposes of the appeal, advertising, distribution of buckets/posters etc are drawn from the appeal fund.
Does Irish Red Cross have three appeals in relation to the Migration Crisis?	Yes. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Our <b>Migration Crisis Appeal</b> is newly launched and funds will be used on the Migration Trail as appropriate.</li> <li>2. We are also coordinating <b>offers of accommodation</b> for migrants <i>after they are processed</i> through the Government reception centres. Contact: <a href="mailto:Migrationcrisis@redcross.ie">Migrationcrisis@redcross.ie</a> or 01 64 24 600.</li> <li>3. We also have a long-standing <b>Syria Appeal</b>. These funds are only spent in Syria.</li> </ol>	Online donors can select which appeal they prefer through the drop-down menu on our donation page. Donors using other means are advised of the distinction if they make contact. If the intention of the donation is not clear, our fundraising team will do their best to determine whether the donor intends the money for Syria specifically or for the Migration crisis appeal.
What happens if Irish Red Cross cannot help with a donation offer?	We can take contact details of any type of offer and at this time are not referring callers to other organisations and initiatives.	We are compiling a database of offers of goods and services. We will make contact with the donor at a later date and will advise accordingly. Fundraising are compiling the database on a shared drive.
What is being done to stop terrorists entering the country with the migrants?	This is not the responsibility of the Irish Red Cross. However, we can advise that the Government Reception centres will be	When the Government Task Force (of which the Red Cross will be a part) is set up, these matters will be on the agenda. The Irish Red Cross is confident that a coordinated approach will be devised.

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<b>Updated</b> What is being done to stop migrants bringing disease?	processing arrivals where matters such as these will be dealt with. Screening processes for health and security are part of this.	
<b>GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE:</b> Protection Programme (10.09.2015) <a href="http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/pr15000457">http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/pr15000457</a>		