



Prepared by: **WHITE & CASE**

IFRC COVID-19 Emergency Decree Research: Italy

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- ***Questions to be answered by close of business Friday, 20 March are listed below.***
- ***Please be sure to include English translations of relevant text where possible.***

1. Is there coordination between state and non-state actors, e.g. through a national emergency response mechanism?

Yes. The arrangements of non-state actors such as RC are regulated by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Since the outbreak at the end of January 2020, the Presidency has issued several ministerial circulars limiting any activity by non-state actors such as the volunteers at the RC.

2. Is there mention of the role of Red Cross (RC) or humanitarian actors? In what areas/sectors? What responsibilities are ascribed to RC?

In its latest ministerial circular dated 10 March 2020, the Presidency has repealed all its previous ministerial circulars in respect of the activities of non-state actors and issued the following circular. All non-state activities are suspended until 3 April 2020; but, to the extent that any activities are functional to the current state of emergency, and subject to the consent of each individual volunteer agreeing to assist, such activities may be continued.

The *Dipartimento per le Politiche Giovanili e il Servizio Civile Universale* (the ministry in charge of implementing measures supporting the youth and social services) maintains its discretion to implement additional measures to safeguard the activities of humanitarian actors which decide to continue the activities in the current state of emergency.

The RC is currently assisting with the following:

- transportation of suspected COVID-19 cases in special vehicles to hospitals
- testing of COVID-19
- checking identification documents of passengers at airports
- delivery of food and pharmaceuticals
- general assistance and information at the operations centers installed for COVID-19

3. Are there exceptions to travel restrictions that will facilitate the movement of RC/humanitarian relief teams and/or aid across borders? What (if any) quarantine requirements or other conditions are attached?

Anyone travelling in Italy is required to fill in a declaration where they confirm that they are fit and healthy and outline the circumstances of their travel, including approved work reasons, leaving the house to buy food, returning to residency address. There does not appear to be any exception in place for volunteer teams at the RC.

4. Are there exceptions to quarantines, curfews and other restrictions on movement that allow RC/humanitarian organizations access to vulnerable populations (including for psychosocial or non-medical aid)?

There do not appear to be any exceptions in place.

5. Have any special legal facilities or exemptions been put in place for the importation of medical aid or other relief items or personnel (International Disaster Response Law)? What (if any) quarantine requirements or other conditions are attached?

The ministry of defence has made special arrangements for the military forces. The measures deploy approx. 400 militaries, 321 vehicles, 5 ambulances, 5 helicopters and 3 cargo airplanes. In addition, the military forces have made available up to 6800 beds for COVID-19 patients who do **not** require intensive care.

In addition on 22 March a group of 37 doctors and 15 nurses from Cuba landed at Milano Malpensa airport. The team will be assisting the hospital in the Lombardy city of Crema which has been struggling with lack of medics on the frontline. There does not appear to be any specific legislation/decreed in place to accept such aids. The offer to send medics from Cuba came directly from the Cuban ministry to the Lombardy region. The president of the Lombardy region accepted the offer.

It is worth noting that in each of the decrees passed by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the PM gives discretion to each region to adopt stricter rules as they think fit. There is however no express mentioning of international aids.

6. Is the RC (or humanitarian organizations) categorized as 'essential' or 'emergency' services, for the purposes of exemptions to restrictions on business operations and opening hours?

Emergency services.

7. What other measures are provided in the emergency decrees? (for governmental actors, for communities, for health workers, etc).

All movements of people outside their constituency are banned save for pre-approved work reasons or emergency reasons, i.e. health related reasons.

All commercial activities which are considered non-essentials or non-strategic in light of the COVID-19 outbreak are banned. The only commercial activities that will remain open are supermarkets, pharmacies and newsletter agents (without any restrictions on opening times). In addition a necessary transport network remains available across Italy.

8. Have restrictions been adopted or put in place that ban the export of protective medical equipment?

There have been a number of disruptions in the export of protective medical equipment, in particular France and Germany initially blocked all exports of protective medical equipment to Italy. The Ministry of Economic Development together with the help of the EU commission managed to lift the ban.

Italy has not implemented any bans on export of protective medical equipment.