



MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE 32nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT



Power of humanity

Council of Delegates of the International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

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Introduction

Resolution 10 “Power of Humanity”, adopted at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IC), requests the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to report on the follow-up by all conference members to the resolutions adopted and pledges submitted.

This report is not intended as a detailed account of all the activities carried out in furtherance of the 32nd IC outcomes but rather as an overview of the status of implementation, highlighting key achievements and challenges and drawing inspiration for further action through to final reporting to the 33rd IC.

The report is structured around five resolutions: (1) Resolution 3 – Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action on prevention and response; (2) Resolution 4 – Health Care in Danger: Continuing to protect the delivery of health care together; (3) Resolution 5 – The safety and security of humanitarian volunteers; (4) Resolution 6 – Strengthening legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid; and (5) Resolution 7 – Strengthening the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement response to growing humanitarian needs and the pledges of the 32nd IC. With regard to Resolution 1 on “Strengthening international humanitarian law protecting persons deprived of their liberty” and Resolution 2 on “Strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law”, a number of National Societies participated in implementation through periodic consultations with the ICRC, promotion of the resolutions with States or participation in the Open-Ended Reference Group of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (2017–2019) related to the Intergovernmental Process on Strengthening Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The 2017 Council of Delegates (CoD) will take note of the overall progress in implementing Resolutions 1 and 2 in an omnibus IHL resolution and background report (CoD agenda item 12). An online reporting format was made available for information gathering from April 2017 to July 2017 to all conference members. These questionnaires requested brief reports on pledges that were submitted and contained detailed questions on operative paragraphs in the resolutions. In addition to completed online reporting forms for all thematic areas, additional information was drawn from existing reports, newsletters, web sites and social media. A selected number of National Societies, States, IFRC and ICRC substance-matter experts and reference centres were contacted directly to gather more information on progress during the months of June and July 2017.

A significant amount of work has been conducted by National Societies, States, the IFRC and the ICRC during the past two years in implementing the outcomes of the 32nd IC, and a selected number of those achievements are reported on here. In addition, all online reports submitted by National Societies and States are now available at www.rcrcconference.org. The National Societies and States that submitted online reports and gave bilateral interviews are listed in Annex 1.

Many thanks are owed to all the National Societies and States that have provided responses to the questionnaires, taken part in bilateral interviews and shared their reports, case studies, photos and other relevant information, thus giving valuable insights into their efforts and activities during the last two years.

Resolution 3: Sexual and gender-based violence: Joint action on prevention and response

Humanitarian agencies have expressed increased concern over sexual violence in armed conflicts and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in disasters and other emergencies in recent years, as reflected by the adoption of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Resolution 3 at the 32nd International Conference in 2015.

Key achievements

- Minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity, including gender-based violence in emergency programming
- Launch of Gender and Diversity in Emergencies training programme
- Regional write-shop and workshops in Nairobi and Guatemala
- First Training of Trainers on SGBV in emergencies in Sri Lanka
- Work addressing sexual violence through outreach to communities in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Colombia, Somalia and Papua New Guinea

In 2015, the IFRC introduced a set of Minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity, including gender-based violence in emergency programmes, which is designed to be used by the Movement to assist in analysing and responding to the distinct needs of females and males of all ages and backgrounds. During the reporting period, the guidance has been undergoing revision to better reflect external and Movement developments in the area of SGBV. Building on the success of Seven Moves Gender Diversity Training, a training course on gender and diversity in emergencies was launched in 2015. It was developed in close collaboration between the IFRC and the ICRC to specifically address capacity building on preventing and responding to SGBV for all Movement components, staff and volunteers. Training support on protection, gender and inclusion issues directly relating to migration response in Europe was provided through the IFRC Regional Office for Europe. A first Training of Trainers course was organized on 22–26 May 2017 in Sri Lanka with 22 participants from National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC. Roll-out of the SGBV in Emergencies training course will continue throughout the second half of the reporting period.

In the lead-up to the 32nd International Conference, the IFRC commissioned a global study “Unseen, unheard: Gender-based violence in disasters” to bolster advocacy and fill the persistent information gap on how to best prevent and respond to SGBV during and after disasters. The follow-up report to ‘[Unseen, Unheard](#)’, published in 2016, sets recommendations in four different areas: 1) Awareness and understanding of gender-based violence (GBV) during disasters; 2) Availability and access to services; 3) Safety and security and; 4) Livelihoods and migration. Each of the National Societies involved in these case studies has already started following up on the lessons learned.

During the reporting period, the IFRC continued to engage with the Swedish Government, with the GBV Area of Responsibility Regional Emergency GBV Advisors (REGA) and with the Age and Disability Capacity Building Programme (ADCAP) Consortium on creating safer and more inclusive environments for women and girls during and after disasters and on the intersection between aging, disability and gender.

Success stories



Counselling for refugees in community centres in Turkey organized by the Turkish Red Crescent.

The German Red Cross supports the Turkish Red Crescent Society in community centres in Turkey (Adana, Istanbul and Izmir), offering counselling for refugees from Syria and host communities. Many of the refugees, mainly women and children, who use the services provided by the centres have been affected by SGBV. The centres offer them psychosocial support, including counselling, and also refer them to other institutions for further assistance. The Centre's staff and volunteers are trained in psychological first aid and are also sensitized to SGBV issues.

The Palestine Red Crescent holds awareness-raising workshops and training sessions on the subject of gender-based violence, which come under several programmes overseen by various departments of the National Society. For example, the Community Action Department runs campaigns on safe-maternity programmes, and the Disaster Management Department incorporates the issue of gender-based violence into various programmes and its assessments of service needs. The Youth Department of the National Society implements the Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change Initiative and Life Skills Initiatives, which tackle the subject of gender-based violence in detail, based on needs assessments carried out in 2012 and 2014.

The Danish Red Cross has a partnership with National Red Cross Societies in Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria for a two-year project titled "Strengthening psychosocial methods and practices to build resilience of female victims of domestic violence", thanks to which a total of 70 female survivors of domestic violence found solace in one another and received help from trained Red Cross volunteers during its first year.

The IFRC supported facilitation of a psychosocial support SGBV training course in Belgrade in 2016 with 28 participants. Furthermore, in April 2017, the IFRC organized the European regional Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) workshop, the first of its kind, which was attended by 43 participants from 21 National Societies and the ICRC. The IFRC also piloted the first PGI basic training course in Bresso, Milan, for 52 participants from all regions.

The ICRC continued efforts to improve its work to address sexual violence in armed conflicts by strengthening its existing programmes with a strong clinical and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) component and a focus on outreach to communities (e.g. in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic (CAR), South Sudan and Colombia) and by seeking to develop new programmes (e.g. through in-depth assessments in Iraq, Burundi and Nigeria). In Somalia, the ICRC has been providing support to local primary health-care centres and training midwives, with the assistance of the Somali Red Crescent Society. In Papua New Guinea, the ICRC provided training to the staff of national health centres to better equip them to respond to sexual violence. The ICRC has integrated the issue more systematically into its activities. In some instances, action has been taken to change the behaviour of armed and security forces, for example in Jordan, where specific modules on sexual violence have been developed and delivered to weapon bearers. In Bangladesh, Pakistan, Mauritania and India, among others, the ICRC also contributed to raising awareness about the prohibition of sexual violence at pre-deployment sessions for peacekeeping troops. This included a regional workshop carried out in partnership with the United Nations Department for Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO) in India, during which approximately 50 senior officers from 27 peacekeeping troop-contributing countries discussed protection of civilians from violence, including sexual violence.

The National Societies of Belgium and Finland are working with their governments to strengthen the existing laws on protection from SGBV. Many National Societies and States are conducting awareness programmes for the military, focused on protecting women and children in the countries and conflict areas they are deployed to.

The German Red Cross has taken specific measures to prevent incidences of SGBV among the refugee population, providing specific guidance on the design and location of sanitation facilities and the installation of child-friendly spaces and guidelines on housing female-headed households. A child protection policy and a response mechanism for cases of sexual violence were implemented in migrant reception centres.

As part of the Movement's SGBV network, the Danish Red Cross has supported the IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support's development of an educational module on SGBV (psychosocial support for people affected by SGBV), as well as educational activities for psychosocial programmes in the MENA region. The Danish Red Cross now has 20 Aftercare Support Networks involving 155 volunteers and 503 victims/survivors and their children, which it has been running since 2003 for women and their children once they have left the shelter.

The Norwegian Red Cross supports the ICRC in broadening the evidence base on the prevention of sexual violence, with a particular focus on the military, including dialogue with the armed forces to integrate the prohibition of sexual violence into military programmes. The Norwegian Red Cross also engaged in bilateral dialogue with the Norwegian authorities to implement aspects of the resolution and its promotion among other States. In addition, it has contributed to developing and piloting the new SGBV training course for the IFRC and National Societies, co-organized SGBV fora in Africa in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and the SGBV Forum in the Americas in 2017 and chaired the Red Cross Red Crescent SGBV Working Group, consisting of representatives of the ICRC, the IFRC and National Societies.

In Madagascar, as reported by the Ministry of National Defence, in addition to legislative measures at the national level, administrative measures have been taken to preserve the rights of female staff.

In partnership with the IFRC, the Australian Red Cross supports implementation of the SGBV Resolution in the Asia Pacific region, including country-based research on SGBV in disasters, in collaboration with National Societies, States, and other regional organizations (i.e. ASEAN), to build the evidence base and develop specific recommendations to prevent SGBV in disasters, including the Disaster law programme in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Samoa, Indonesia, Laos and the Philippines. The Australian Red Cross is working with the IFRC to support the piloting and roll-out of SGBV training in the Asia Pacific region through three sub-regional training events (South Asia, South-East Asia and Pacific).

The Government of Japan has supported the prevention of sexual violence in armed conflicts by contributing to ICRC activities in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. The Japanese Red Cross Society organized, for the first time in Japan, a seminar on YABC (Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change), the IFRC's initiative to promote a culture of non-violence and peace, established internal regulations for the prevention of sexual and other forms of harassment and provided training for staff members through e-learning.

The British Red Cross provided support to an ICRC cash programme, providing assistance to victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, developing a policy and advocacy briefing on the social safety net project for survivors of sexual violence and providing recommendations for better programmatic responses. The British Red Cross is part of a consortium-led programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights implemented by the Red Cross Society of Guinea, which specifically addresses female genital mutilation. In early June 2016, the British Red Cross held a joint seminar on IHL issues with the Commonwealth Secretariat, which included a session on addressing SGBV in armed conflicts and disasters. In accordance with the UK's High-Level Review commitment, UK troops on large-scale overseas missions now receive pre-deployment training which extends to international partners as well. The British Peace Support Training Team in East Africa provides training on sexual violence issues to over 7,000 African peacekeeping personnel every year, and 2016 also saw the development of the "End Stigma" campaign. British Embassies and High Commissions in Kosovo, Nepal, Nigeria, Somalia, Colombia, Iraq, Sri Lanka and Burma hosted workshops on tackling stigma, and the second round of in-country workshops will take place in September 2017.

The American Red Cross IHL team hosts training on the legal and policy frameworks for bidding sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts and disasters as well as training for humanitarian workers.

In Belgium, there are plans and instructions for the prevention of acts of sexual and gender-based violence, including a Defence Action Plan for the implementation of the National Plan of Action on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. In the reception centres for asylum seekers of the Belgian Red Cross-Flanders, a permanent point on the agenda is to organize focus groups with women to talk with them about their experiences in the centre and to ensure they can feel safe.

The Finnish Red Cross has participated in the consultation process of the Finnish National Action Plan for 2017–2020 (UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security), contributing to prevention, support and protection related to SGBV in the humanitarian context. The process was led by government officials with the participation of various national and civil society organizations. Further, the Finnish Red Cross Emergency Response

Unit (ERU) health clinics have provided health-care services (including sexual and reproductive health-care services), referrals and psychosocial support for victims of SGBV.

The Slovenian Red Cross has provided special measures and assistance to victims of sexual and gender-based abuses or violence, especially women and children in the context of migration. The Slovenian Government continues to raise the issue of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence. Slovenia is enhancing human rights education and training for the armed forces, in particular personnel serving in peace operations, which includes special courses on child protection, women in peacekeeping operations and the protection of civilians.

Gender is a component of the Swiss Red Cross strategic project on social integration and its specific action plan to help people migrating. The Swiss Red Cross has developed the pilot project “Traumatized young refugees” and advanced training modules, including gender-specific content for volunteers and other target groups who are confronted with traumatized young refugees in Switzerland. The Swiss Red Cross Outpatient Clinic for Victims of Torture and War offers women-specific therapy groups in which sexual and gender-based violence is also discussed.

Portugal is committed to preventing SGBV in situations of armed conflict and disaster and to implementing reliable response mechanisms. Related public policies include adopting national and international legislation as well as putting special plans into action at the domestic and international levels, for example, the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention). At the national level, a range of legislation from constitutional law to criminal law addresses SGBV.

The French Red Cross has been involved in maternal and child health in CAR, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire, reducing psychosocial risks for pregnant and nursing mothers, and children, as part of a programme to combat malnutrition with a gender and diversity approach in collaboration with other National Societies.

The parliament of the Republic of Croatia adopted as *lex specialis* the Law on the Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence in the Homeland War, which came into force on 18 June 2015. The Law is based on the results of research conducted in 2013 by UNDP in cooperation with the Croatian Government on the number of victims of sexual violence during the Homeland War (1990–1996), estimated at 2,200 individuals. Victims were provided with additional psychosocial assistance, medical services and rehabilitation and granted financial compensation for the abuse suffered. The Croatian Red Cross provides direct assistance to adult victims of human trafficking, many of whom are also victims of sexual exploitation or victims/survivors of armed conflict.

The Canadian Red Cross Society's New International Operations Strategy 2020 includes protection, gender and community engagement as cross-cutting themes as well as prevention and response to SGBV. The Canadian Red Cross is in the process of developing a new gender and diversity policy, involving a gender audit conducted with the aim of adopting and implementing institutional policies and standards to strengthen gender equality and SGBV prevention. Domestic violence prevention programmes in schools across the country reach over 700,000 children, adolescents and adults each year.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society has created the position of a gender and diversity focal point to lead action in this area. In 2016, the National Society organized a training of trainers course on gender and diversity for the first time. As a result of this training, a gender and diversity trainer is now available in every Malaysian state. These trainers will disseminate knowledge on SGBV at the state level.

The Netherlands Red Cross has been funding and implementing two SGBV programmes in Burundi and in South Sudan with the support of the National Societies. The activities carried out in South Sudan consist of raising awareness among the wider population, including local leaders and men's groups, about the prohibition of sexual violence and the need to prevent such violence and assist and protect victims/survivors, and advocating for access to justice systems for the survivors of SGBV (mainly in South Sudan). In collaboration with the ICRC in Burundi, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Burundi Red Cross ensure that health facilities are accessible and provide adequate post-rape treatment and that they provide easy and friendly access to other services, such as psychological and financial support, according to the needs and wishes of the survivors. In South Sudan, these services are ensured through a referral system.

The Swedish Red Cross has been active in the Swedish Government's working group on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Through this group, it has been able to highlight related key issues addressed in the 32IC resolution. The Swedish Red Cross provides rehabilitation services for survivors of torture and persons traumatized as a result of armed conflicts or similar experiences. Victims of sexual and gender-based violence are offered treatment at these centres. The Swedish Red Cross is also advocating for better access to specialized health services for men, women, boys and girls who have been affected.

Challenges

- Sensitivity of the topic, lack of political will and commitment by States; as a consequence, this is not consistently seen as a concern throughout all regions.
- General lack of gender and diversity competency as a basic requirement in the Movement.
- Extensive preparatory work, time and resources needed to develop high-quality, effective responses to sexual violence.
- Social norms and stigma mean that youth groups are reluctant to speak about the subject of sexual violence and harassment.

Resolution 4: Health Care in Danger: Continuing to protect the delivery of health care together



DRC, North Kivu, town of Beni, general hospital. A panel is put in front of the general hospital to promote the respect of the emblems and the protection of the medical mission



Pakistan, Karachi, Edhi foundation. Mohammad Rja is an ambulance driver of the Edhi Foundation who was targeted and shot during his service

Key achievements

- Regional roundtables linking Safer Access for humanitarian workers and Health Care in Danger were carried out for East Africa, West Africa and Asia together with ICRC delegations and representatives of the International Federation.
- The mandate of the Champion National Societies (Movement Reference Group – MRG) was reviewed and extended to the end of 2019.
- Annual meetings held in May 2016 and 2017 sharing lessons learnt from several national initiatives.
- Establishment of the Community of Action (CoA) for Ambulance and Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Providers in Risk Situations.
- Making the Rapid Preparedness Assessment available for both internal and external use.
- Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on violence against health-care providers.
- Keeping the issue high on the agenda at global level.

Several National Societies in Africa, such as those of Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, carried out information dissemination and consultation programmes on Health Care in Danger (HCiD). Kenya is in the process of drafting a development plan of action to be undertaken by the government and other stakeholders. In Nigeria, the Nigerian Red Cross Society reprinted posters borrowed from the South Sudan Red Cross to be

distributed in Kaduna for the training of 37 branch focal points. In Senegal, three universities, namely UGB, Bambey and Thies, distributed press releases and held photo exhibitions as well as awareness sessions on the theme of HCiD. In Somalia, consultation sessions were held for Somali Red Crescent Society branch secretaries, health officers and key hospital staff responsible for incident reporting. In the South Sudan Red Cross, HCiD meetings were organized with other stakeholders, while the Sudanese Red Crescent held HCiD sessions for emergency preparedness and response teams.

The Malagasy and Canadian Red Cross Societies are carrying out IHL awareness programmes. In Madagascar, the Ministry of Defence has prohibited the use of arms in health centres and the use of ambulances for any purpose other than health emergencies, and protection of the wounded, sick and health-care services is integrated into military school curricula. The Canadian Red Cross launched the “Canada in Conflict” module, part of the Exploring IHL curriculum for teachers to deliver IHL education to high school students (English and French), featuring HCiD as a theme. In 2016, the Canadian Red Cross held eight conferences which focused either directly or indirectly on HCiD and IHL awareness raising.

Cambodia focused on multifaceted awareness programmes on HCiD while working on domestic legal frameworks for policy changes. The Colombian Red Cross Society mobilized five multi-stakeholder regional forums to establish mechanisms to respond to infractions and incidents against medical personnel and facilities, according to the medical services trainers’ manual and communication material, which included a training of trainers course for Cambodian Red Cross Society branches. In Afghanistan, the legal aspect was focused on with the development of the National Society law regulating its affairs and use of the emblem, which was approved by the government. Posters, leaflets, brochures and other promotional materials were distributed as part of the awareness programmes implemented by the Afghan Red Crescent Society. Roundtable sessions were held with religious leaders and scholars as part of its consultation programme.

Success stories

El Salvador signed the Interinstitutional Protocol for the Coordination and Protection of Health-Care Services on 30 May 2016, which has led to a drop in the number of attacks against Red Cross staff and health workers in other organizations. The protocol to protect health-care services operates on three levels: giving the Salvadorean Red Cross Society the tools to ensure all its health-care services and humanitarian work can be carried out safely; enabling the Salvadorean Red Cross to continue working with others to monitor and help improve the safety of their health workers; and building support for a new safety manual for health-care services to be used by other countries in the region experiencing similar social instability. National health-care providers have improved safety by working together to raise awareness and apply safety protocols and procedures. The Salvadorean Red Cross now has a safety manual for health-care services, which is being widely used.

The Australian Red Cross worked with relevant stakeholders to embed information on HCiD in curricula for various academic courses and developed a customized IHL course for medical students in cooperation with the IMPACT Medical Students’ Society in Tasmania. It also strengthened the formal curriculum for all health personnel training run by the Army School of Logistic Operations in Bandiana and delivered training on HCiD to Australian Defence Force personnel in the Northern Territory, New South Wales and Queensland. This created a specialist role to strengthen Australian Red Cross engagement on IHL issues, including HCiD, with the humanitarian and medical sectors, working with the Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA) to develop a policy on HCiD. Australian Red Cross delegates who deploy internationally undergo IMPACT training, which includes a requirement to complete “Stay Safe” training prior to departure as well as HCiD online e-learning modules.

The Australian Red Cross has completed a review of domestic legislation relating to the protection of health-care personnel and is finalizing a report analysing gaps in relation to the integration of HCiD recommendations in Australia, which will be shared with the government and discussed through the National IHL Committee. Additionally, the Australian Government has provided support to the Australian Red Cross's work in disseminating international humanitarian law.

The Japanese Red Cross Society conducted a series of lectures on HCiD at Red Cross nursing schools and at universities. In Nepal, the Nepal Red Cross Society is advocating and appealing to the parties to the conflict for safer transportation of injured and sick people and is also providing orientation sessions on HCiD to government personnel. The American Red Cross is training youth education staff and volunteers on HCiD legal obligations. The IHL team has regular discussions on HCiD issues with the US Department of Defence.

In Pakistan, tools were developed for data collection in baseline surveys on HCiD, focusing on four categories: doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and security guards. A training manual for health-care personnel was developed, along with related information, education and communication material as well as an Attitudinal Change Manual.

In Indonesia, the Jakarta Chapter of the Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) conducted lessons learned exercises related to their operations to provide health services during mass demonstrations linked to the provincial government elections planned for February 2017.

There are several other National Societies, such as the Swiss Red Cross, the Slovenian Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Kazakh Red Crescent, the Swedish Red Cross and the Belgian Red Cross, that are working hand in hand with their respective governments to fulfil the requirements of Resolution 4.

The Belgian Red Cross and interested parliamentarians are working together to organize a colloquium in the Belgian parliament (Senate) on HCiD and the international legal framework for the protection of medical personnel and facilities in armed conflicts. According to a bilateral agreement signed between the Belgian Ministry of Defence and the Belgian Red Cross in June 2016, cooperation between the National Society and the medical component of the Ministry of Defence is planned to implement Resolution 4 of the 32nd International Conference.

The German parliament recently passed a law to strengthen measures to protect enforcement officers, health-care personnel and ambulance services, supported by the German Red Cross. Data on acts of violence against health-care personnel are collected and stored by the public authorities responsible.

In the Swiss Red Cross health project in Honduras, the attitude and behaviour of health staff was analysed, and measures were taken to ensure a more empathetic attitude among health workers. Switzerland regularly promotes the topic of the protection of medical services at the multilateral level (e.g. General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC) as well as in dedicated meetings (e.g. Universal meeting of national IHL commissions held in Geneva in November–December 2016).

The Kazakh Red Crescent is conducting a series of training events and has produced two videos in Russian about the HCiD resolutions, which are available at www.redcrescent.kz.

A working group on the protection of health care in armed conflicts has been established by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Swedish Red Cross has been working closely with parliamentarians to develop a checklist for Swedish MPs on the protection of health care. It has also organized the seminar "What can parliamentarians do to help protect health care?"

in the Swedish parliament together with MSF and the Swedish Afghanistan Committee. The Swedish Red Cross has developed its own awareness-raising campaign, which involves touring Sweden with a wrecked ambulance, and a communication campaign on HCiD.

Since the 32nd IC, the Norwegian Red Cross has supported the national implementation of HCiD recommendations in Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Lebanon, Libya and South Sudan, established and led the Community of Action (CoA) for Ambulance and Pre-Hospital Services in Risk Situations and carried out national advocacy efforts, including through bilateral channels and by organizing seminars. The Norwegian Red Cross has involved the Norwegian ambulance sector in a seminar and invited its personnel to join the Community of Action. In Colombia, El Salvador and Honduras, the Norwegian Red Cross has supported the National Society in collecting data on attacks against health care personnel, facilities, patients and medical transport and has facilitated an exchange of best practices through online courses for which about 1,500 participants registered in 2016 and 2017. In 2016, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross co-hosted a seminar in Oslo where the ambulance sector outlined the scope of the problem in Norway and Sweden and health authorities from both countries were invited to respond to the recommendations. In El Salvador, the National Society has improved the visibility of vehicles and uniforms, developed guidelines for what to do in high-risk situations and made changes to number plates to reduce the risks of targeted attacks.

The Danish Red Cross has adopted a low-profile communication strategy for its health clinics, aimed at people without Danish ID papers. The aim is to allow it to function without attracting controversy while advocating that health care for persons with no ID should be a service provided by the Danish State.

The Egyptian Red Crescent Society conducted lectures and information-sharing sessions with university students on HCiD and IHL as well as an annual IHL lecture, with reference to relevant HCiD publications, delivered to students on the Conflict and Catastrophe Medicine diploma course at the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries. It also conducted awareness sessions on HCiD and IHL for medical students at two universities in Cairo. A three-day training workshop on HCiD and IHL was held at the National Society for non-Egyptian medical students from Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

Magen David Adom in Israel organized a mass casualties incident (MCI) lessons learned workshop in Tel Aviv, with a component dedicated to protecting health care. The ICRC, the IFRC and the Norwegian Red Cross as well as 19 National Societies, SAMUR Madrid and the Israeli Ministry of Health attended the workshop.

In Palestine, protocols and guidelines on HCiD were developed and put in place to help decrease the number of injuries. The Palestine Red Crescent Society has developed a mechanism with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to regulate activities and to carry out awareness campaigns.

In Portugal, the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction conducted a national assessment of building safety at public hospitals in 2016. The government and the National Society have agreed on a joint action plan involving relevant governmental departments (e.g. the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Internal Administration) to assess relevant legislation on the use of distinctive emblems and create a national monitoring system for preventing their misuse.

The Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic and the Czech Red Cross continue to cooperate on courses for crisis managers through the Association of Medical Rescue Services.

The Spanish Red Cross organized a course on the issue of attacks against health-care personnel, which was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the military health service, the Spanish medical association, the ICRC and the National Society. The Spanish Red Cross has been working to have the failure to protect medical personnel and facilities in armed conflict included in the military criminal code as a war crime.

Challenges

- Mobilizing States and other external actors (non-Movement) at national level
- The complex and sensitive process of collecting and analysing qualitative and quantitative data related to violence against health care
- Tracking all HCiD-related initiatives implemented by National Societies which are not part of the HCiD MRG (comprehensive mapping)
- An uncommon but true Movement approach (ICRC–NS–IFRC) to strengthen the protection of health care at national level (e.g. joint problem analysis and plan of action)

Resolution 5: The Safety and security of humanitarian volunteers (32IC/15/R5)

Key achievements

- Safety and security training for staff and volunteers
- Strong willingness to collect and manage volunteer information, including demographic information
- Existence of insurance schemes or strong inclination to establish insurance schemes for volunteers around the globe
- Drafting of policies on volunteering in many National Societies



On shores of Lesbos, A Hellenic Red Cross rescue team of volunteers helps migrants get out.

In June 2016, the Governing Board of the IFRC endorsed a Framework for Action for Volunteering to be driven by an Alliance of National Societies across all five regions. The Plan of Action has two objectives: the first is to identify, share, adapt for replication and/or scale-up successful volunteering practices; the second is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of volunteers and to further develop systems to ensure their safety and wellbeing in dangerous situations. Protecting the safety and wellbeing of volunteers without compromising the mission is a moral imperative for the IFRC. Therefore, the IFRC supports National Societies in providing adequate protection, training, equipment, insurance coverage and psychosocial support as standard to their volunteers. The IFRC Global Volunteer Insurance Scheme is intended for National Societies who do not already have insurance and covers volunteers carrying out activities on behalf of their National Society. Today, there are 76 National Societies using this insurance scheme, and many volunteers have benefitted from this safety net. It provides some coverage for medical treatment costs in the event of accidents, in addition to death and disability coverage. In December 2016, National Societies were invited to join the Alliance of National Societies to work collectively on all volunteering development issues, to discuss and exchange best practices, tools, data systems and other practical ideas on how to improve volunteer recruitment, training and engagement, and accountability for their volunteers' safety and well-being, to develop a charter for volunteers to strengthen volunteering and to identify promising volunteer practices already being deployed or with enough potential for them to be worth piloting by National Societies. Practices include specific topics such as volunteer data systems and innovative approaches to volunteer recruitment as well as peer-to-peer learning. Some of these practices will be evaluated as case studies to understand and share evidence of what works, under what conditions and in what contexts. On this basis, successful volunteering engagement models will be identified with a view to replicating and scaling them up. Draft 1 of the charter was presented to the volunteers of 23 Mediterranean National Societies at a youth camp held in Cyprus on 20 July 2017. It was also presented to French, Spanish and Portuguese-speaking African National Societies on 13 July in Gabon.

The ICRC has an insurance system and provides training and protective equipment to ensure the safety and security of National Society volunteers that cooperate with the ICRC. Furthermore, the ICRC conducts Safer Access assessment and planning workshops both for operational National Societies and partner National Societies, encouraging and mobilizing Movement partners to support the Safer Access plan of action for humanitarian workers of the National Societies. A field instruction has been issued to delegations on how the ICRC can support National Societies in providing insurance for their volunteers either through the Federation system or local insurance companies.

Success stories

In Madagascar, national legislation was adopted on the protection of volunteers. The government has been working towards the introduction of provisions relating to the protection of the safety and security of volunteers in national laws, policies, plans and programmes relating to disaster management.

In late 2017, the Volunteer Services of the American Red Cross determined that it was essential to set up a cross-functional "safety review committee". The goal of this work will be to review and revise and then implement safety plans that include workplace safety, training and awareness as well as the identification and mitigation of potential safety hazards while on the job. The American Red Cross has a national database for collecting and managing volunteer information, including demographic information. Separate (but integrated) systems are also in place to manage volunteer assignments and service delivery information. The Red Cross works with government and non-governmental partners to share relevant information on best practices and lessons learned.



Rwandan Red Cross volunteers active in a food security programme.

Training programmes are a shared feature among several National Societies in promoting this resolution. The Palestine Red Crescent and the German Red Cross have carried out safety and security training events for their staff and volunteers on the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, using the Safer Access Framework, Stay Safe, Staying Alive and Protective Equipment as tools to guide decision-making processes. These training events included information on psychological support as well as insurance. Regular volunteer insurance is closely monitored by the Palestine Red Crescent. They have also provided advocacy and training programmes to other National Societies, supported the drafting of policy on volunteering and developed guidelines on the topic. The German Red Cross uses the State-owned Federal Accident Insurance Fund which covers all injuries incurred by volunteers in the course of their duties or on the way to or from work. The German Red Cross does not usually send volunteers on international operations. Volunteers therefore have insurance providing cover for death, injury and sickness while performing their duties. Additionally, psychological support may be provided to help volunteers cope with traumatic experiences they have endured while carrying out their mission.

The Slovenian Red Cross prepared and carried out special training, including on the safety and security of volunteers involved in the response to the migration crisis in Slovenia, for whom special safety rules were applied. The Slovenian Red Cross also provided all the necessary protective equipment and encouraged volunteers to have the recommended vaccination provided free of charge by the State authorities. The basic principles of voluntary work and specific conditions for the work of volunteers are laid down in the Volunteering Act, and national legislation has been adopted concerning volunteer protection and training, measures to promote public understanding and acceptance of the role of humanitarian volunteers and measures to protect volunteer safety and security.

The Belgian Red Cross collaborates with the authorities on an occasional basis to strengthen and implement the Belgian law of 3 July 2005 on the rights of volunteers. At the legislative level, this law governs voluntary service on Belgian territory and voluntary service in operations abroad when organized from Belgium, provided that the volunteer is a resident in the country. It creates an obligation for the organization calling on the volunteers to provide information and makes it responsible for insuring them.

The American, Australian, Canadian, French, Salvadorean and Norwegian Red Cross Societies and the Afghan Red Crescent Society carried out training programmes on the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and safety and protection frameworks. Additionally, the American Red Cross is working on developing security tools off and online and delivery as part of the Security focal points meeting in Geneva hosted by the IFRC and the ICRC. American Red Cross volunteers deployed on international missions are insured as employees with global emergency medical and security evacuation cover through International SOS services. The Austrian Red Cross is training volunteers in cooperation with the Austrian police (de-escalation training) on a regular basis. According to Austrian law, each volunteer must have adequate insurance, and this is provided by the National Society. Security measures implemented for volunteers deployed internationally include travel insurance, access to International SOS services, a full medical prior to departure, pre-departure safety and security training, pre-departure and post-deployment briefings on health, safety and security, security plans including a designated security focal point and a travel tracker providing up-to-date information on volunteers' whereabouts and any safety/security risks for those areas. The Australian Red Cross has an occupational health and safety and organizational risk assessment approach and tools in place for domestic volunteers. It encourages the government and other relevant stakeholders to develop and/or maintain national systems for the collection and dissemination of comprehensive data, including sex- and age-disaggregated data, relevant to the safety and security of humanitarian volunteers and consistent with national laws.

The Australian, Portuguese, British and Spanish National Societies have established their own legislation and domestic policy frameworks for the protection of volunteers. The Australian Red Cross has a personal accident voluntary workers policy for domestic volunteers, which covers all volunteers and members for any injuries sustained whilst undertaking duties on behalf of the Red Cross, including physio, rehabilitation, income protection and the repair of damaged eyewear. The policy is reviewed annually for effectiveness and to determine whether the cover provided needs to be improved. In Portugal, the law establishing the legal basis for volunteering (Law No. 71/98 of 3 November 1998) and the law regulating conditions for volunteering (Decree-Law No. 389/99 of 30 September 1999) recognize the volunteer's right to a safe and healthy volunteering environment, to insurance and to adequate compensation for any accident or illness suffered during volunteering activities or because of them. Although the British Red Cross does not tend to send volunteers overseas as delegates, it does have a Personal Security Course available for all those staff and volunteers whose roles require travelling to high or extreme risk destinations. It has developed the CALMER framework, which is its approach to providing psychosocial support to people in crisis as well as to its staff and volunteers. As part of its Volunteer Policy, the British Red Cross has a volunteer (telephone) support line that is available to all volunteers in the UK and is insured so that if the organization is found to be negligent, volunteers, staff and members of the public can make a claim against it. The British Red Cross Volunteering Department has been a member of the Volunteering Advisory Panel of the National Health Service (NHS), advising it on how to improve the use of volunteers in the NHS. Pursuant to legislation governing volunteer workers, Spain has a State observatory for volunteer work. This entity currently manages Spain's volunteer platform.

The Danish Red Cross has initiated a study on volunteer safety and security, with a particular focus on urban volunteers in Africa, as part of the Volunteering Alliance. It contributes to the IFRC volunteering plan of action as the majority of the Danish Red Cross's international projects have an organizational development component which aims to support volunteer management. This is carried out together with the Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support.

Challenges

- Losing volunteers owing to a lack of appropriate volunteering practices
- Too many volunteers lose their lives due to a lack of protection and support
- Lack of volunteer data management skills and facilities
- Language barriers
- Limited availability of resources
- Internal gaps, especially between leadership and technical persons in charge of volunteers

Resolution 6: Strengthening legal frameworks for disaster response, risk reduction and first aid (32IC/15/R6)

Strong legal and normative frameworks for disaster response and risk reduction and first aid are indispensable tools for making communities safer, by organizing rapid relief and ensuring full and equitable recovery from disasters.

Key achievements

- 17 relevant national and international laws and policy documents have been completed that include provisions influenced by National Societies with support from the IFRC, including in Mongolia, Thailand, Nauru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, the Andean Community and Argentina.
- 26 draft national laws and policy documents which include provisions influenced by NSs with support from the IFRC, including in Guatemala, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nepal, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, South Sudan, Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa, Kyrgyzstan and Finland.
- 1,545 persons trained by the IFRC in the auxiliary role, disaster law and legislative advocacy.
- Support for ongoing National Society technical assistance projects on disaster law in 41 countries, including IDRL (international disaster response laws, rules and principles) and pilot projects related to [the Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction](#) developed by the IFRC.
- Finalization and publication of 14 disaster law research studies, including in Ecuador, Honduras, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Cambodia, Indonesia and Nepal as well as mapping of Housing Land and Property (HLP) issues in 14 Asia Pacific countries.
- Ongoing support provided by the IFRC for disaster law processes with five regional organizations, including Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres Naturales en América Central (CEPRENAC), The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Success stories

Ecuador implemented the recommendations contained in the study on “Legal Preparedness for International Assistance in Disasters in Ecuador” during the April 2016 earthquake response. This included the adoption of an emergency resolution (17 April 2016) activating international cooperation protocols and asking for international support. The authorities also adopted a resolution to regulate the situation of NGOs, despite the fact that they had legal status in the country (R. 031, SETECI – International Cooperation Department), and a resolution for the provision of telecommunication services free of charge in the area affected by the earthquake for national and international emergency teams (R. 0437 ARCOTEL, May 2016). In addition, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing adopted a decision making informal tenants eligible to receive international assistance (MIDUVI Decision 022-16 of 16 April 2016).

Colombia adopted language based on the recommendations provided by the IFRC’s disaster law programme in its new Customs Decree (1390/2016) and a Decree adopting the National Plan for disaster risk management (308/2016). It also included recommendations from the IDRL Guidelines in new migration procedures (January 2016).



Philippines bringing disaster law to the people

Remarkable work has been carried out in the Philippines on the revision of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) law and implementing regulations (the “Sunset Review” of Republic Act 10121) and the development of guidelines by the Philippines International Humanitarian Assistance Cluster (PIHAC). The Philippine Red Cross and the IFRC are partnering with the Office of Civil Defence to provide technical drafting support on the revised law and regulations. The National Society is also working closely with UN OCHA and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to provide inputs to the Department of Foreign Affairs for the drafting of the new PIHAC operational guidelines.

Many National Societies, with the support of the IFRC, engaged with their respective governments in developing national DRM policies adhering to the international standards. In Kenya, national authorities engaged in the review of the national DRM bill and the development of a national DRM policy throughout 2016. The Kenya Red Cross Society presented the government with an IDRL report and recommendations and was invited by the parliament to a stakeholders meeting where the draft DRM bill was tabled for discussion. The Malagasy Red Cross Society has been engaging its authorities in legal preparedness for disasters since 2014 through a project aimed at strengthening the National Society’s role as first responder. In 2016, the Malawi Red Cross Society and the IFRC received a request from the Malawi Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) for support in drafting the Malawi draft DRM bill and the Operational Guidelines for Disaster Risk Management and in developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for response operations. In Costa Rica, the National Society has been actively engaged with its national authorities in developing a governmental bilateral agreement that would facilitate Red Cross support in pre-hospital care services on the border with Panama. In Guatemala, the National Society received a request from the

national disaster management agency (CONRED) to support the revision of an integrated risk management law in the country. The request was accepted and work commenced in 2016. In Panama, the government formed an IDRL taskforce to develop an IDRL law with the technical support of the IFRC. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, IDRL legislative reviews were underway with the support of the respective National Societies, identifying the key gaps and recommendations to improve their legislation to better facilitate international humanitarian assistance in disasters. In Paraguay, a draft IDRL law was reviewed and finalized for presentation to the National Emergency Department (SEN) in February 2016.



This relief flight landed in Port-au-Prince two days earlier than initially planned after Hurricane Matthew, thanks to new customs rules (10/2016)

In Colombia, the National Society, in collaboration with the national authority responsible for disaster risk management (UNGRD), continued with an evaluation of national laws relating to disaster risk reduction and their implementation, using the Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) as a reference. In Honduras, an advisory group was formed and undertook a review of the legal framework for the entry of international assistance, and three national consultative workshops took place in 2016, culminating in the release of a report with recommendations. Currently, National Societies, with the support of the IFRC, are influencing draft laws and policy documents in Guatemala, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Madagascar, Nepal,

Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, South Sudan, Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa, Kyrgyzstan and Finland. Particularly noteworthy is the intense drafting support provided to three countries in 2016 for their national DRM frameworks, namely Vanuatu, Philippines and Nepal. Meanwhile, agreements were reached between government authorities, the National Society and the IFRC to undertake research on disaster law issues in Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and China.

The Armenian Red Cross Society published the Law and Regulations for Urban Disaster Risk Reduction in Yerevan, and Kyrgyzstan continued the development of a new law on the facilitation and regulation of international disaster assistance, based on the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Model Act on International Disaster Assistance.

The British Red Cross continues to promote the IDRL Guidelines, as appropriate, both with government officials and other relevant stakeholders. It also takes part in peer-to-peer exchanges on IDRL and other disaster law issues, within the country and in other countries. Domestically, the British Red Cross is a part of the UK's civil contingencies framework and performs certain functions in emergency preparedness and response, including public awareness and public education, risk and vulnerability assessments and community-level vulnerability and capacity assessments.

The Danish Red Cross engages in and contributes to national disaster risk reduction platforms, supporting the development and implementation of the national adaptation plan, advocacy, psychosocial support and mental health services. Through a multi-agency process, headed by the Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), a new strategy for national preparedness and risk reduction has been developed and politically endorsed. Through representation at the Danish Reconciliation Council and the Danish First Aid Council, the Danish Red Cross is currently involved in assessing the existing legal frameworks for first aid in the Danish national context and supports the authorities in strengthening first aid-related frameworks in close cooperation with relevant actors. The Danish Red Cross has been supporting the adjustment of existing legal frameworks to ensure that eight hours' first aid training is a mandatory part of obtaining a driver's license in Denmark, and a compulsory twelve hours' training is included in all public vocational training frameworks.

National Societies in Egypt, Lebanon, and Palestine are working with other stakeholders in establishing DRM-related legislation. The Egyptian Red Crescent Society and the IFRC have been collaborating on a project aimed at implementing the Arab Strategy for DRR and incorporating the recommendations of the Sendai Framework for DRR into Egyptian DRM-related legislation and institutions. The Lebanese parliament has continued work on drafting a new disaster management bill which complements the current civil protection mechanism. In Palestine, the national authorities and UNDP are in the process of reviewing the national DRM system and considering changing from a traditional civil defence-led agency to a fully-fledged institutional setup that addresses all cycles of DRM.

The Italian Red Cross conducts activities to increase dissemination and knowledge of the IDRL Guidelines among the general public through its existing communication channels. In addition, several workshops were organized in order to prepare citizens to provide first response in the event of a natural calamity, such as an earthquake or fire. Due to the reorganization process undertaken by the National Society in 2016 (transition from public to private organization), there was no occasion to review the legal framework with the public authorities.

The Malaysian Red Crescent is supporting the government in the drafting of a disaster law. In 2017, the government organized a "month of disaster preparedness", and the National Society organized a workshop to share knowledge of disaster law.

The Canadian Red Cross Society, in support of the Canadian Government, completed a research project on the legal barriers to humanitarian intervention in national disasters, with the aim of preparing humanitarian organizations prior to humanitarian intervention in a natural disaster and serving as a guide to governments and courts on the steps that can be taken to improve health interventions. In May 2016, Canada's Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and the Canadian Red Cross signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) detailing how the organizations will continue to work together on matters of emergency management and disaster risk reduction.

Based on the bilateral meeting of the IFRC with representatives of the Federal Office for Civil Protection in May 2017, the Swiss Red Cross has submitted the IDRL Guidelines as the office is about to engage in a revision process of the national law on civil protection.

In Austria and Portugal, the governments mainstream DRR across contexts and sectors, increase engagement with and contributions to national and local DRR platforms, support the development and implementation of the national DRR plan and strategy and promote public awareness and public education. One of the key activities is the implementation of the EU flood directive. Austria is also running a nationwide network of safety information centres at municipal level, where courses in self-protection are offered to those interested. The legal framework for these activities is provided by sub-national law (rescue services acts, disaster management acts, etc.) as legislation varies from province to province.

The Belgian Red Cross-Flanders is an active participant in the Task Force on First Aid to provide school children with basic knowledge of life-saving actions. A new website was created to inform schoolteachers about first-aid projects: <https://onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/nl/ehbo-op-school>.

The Afghan Red Crescent, partnering with the Ministry of Health in Afghanistan, signed an MoU to work jointly to provide first-aid training for the Ministry's community health workers.

Disaster law issues – and the contribution of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and its partners in this field – are continuing to gain attention in intergovernmental, humanitarian and academic fora. IDRL was featured as a key advocacy message and commitment of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's positioning for the World Humanitarian Summit, as set out in the publication *Istanbul and beyond*. The IFRC disaster law programme provided technical support to the East African Community (EAC) for the drafting of the regional EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, which was adopted by the East African Legislative Assembly in March 2016. The National Societies from the Caribbean held a consultative meeting on options to accelerate progress in resolving regulatory problems in international disaster response operations during the CDEMA Technical Advisory Committee meeting in April 2016. Six National Societies from Central America participated in two consultation workshops and assisted CEPREDENAC in revising the Regional Mechanism for Mutual Assistance in Disasters (MecReg) and the Customs Procedures for Relief Goods. These two regional instruments will include recommendations provided in the IDRL Guidelines and the Checklist on Law and DRR respectively. The IFRC's disaster law programme in Asia Pacific promoted disaster law messages in several regional intergovernmental fora, including the Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, and the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) held in New Delhi, India. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Qatar Red Crescent Society launched the GCC IDRL Manual at a Disaster Law Expert Meeting held in Doha in December 2016. This IDRL Manual, which has been in the making for several years, provides guidance on the facilitation and regulation of international humanitarian assistance to the member States of the GCC.

The Japanese and Slovenian Governments mainstream DRR across contexts and sectors, increasing engagement with and contributions to national DRR platforms and supporting the development and implementation of the national DRR plan. The latter was achieved by adopting new DRR legislation and promoting the development and implementation of the National Adaptation Plan, community early warning systems, and psychosocial support and mental health services. The Framework for DRR is fully aligned with the Slovenian legal system and incorporated into the Resolution on the National Programme for Protection against Natural and Other Disasters 2016–2022, adopted by the National Assembly on 22 November 2016.

Working with the IFRC and the Danish Red Cross, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (Climate Centre) has been engaged in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) project aimed at emphasizing the need for National Societies to engage with governments in focusing on adaptation. Training sessions for staff and volunteers are being or have been conducted in Malawi and Kenya as well as in Armenia, Georgia and Nepal, and action plans on engagement with governments have been drawn up which provide for the formation of NAP task forces. A new five-year strategic partnership, known as Partners for Resilience (PfR II), was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and five agencies, including the Netherlands Red Cross and the Climate Centre, working to enhance community resilience in disaster-prone developing countries. PfR II 2016–20 moves from project implementation toward building capacity for humanitarian dialogue, partnerships and knowledge. PfR II supports implementation of the Sendai Framework for Action by focusing on the capacity of civil society for dialogue on integrated risk management in the domains of policy, investment and practice. Through work on ecosystem- and climate-based risk reduction, PfR has now reached more than half a million people in nine countries.

The German Red Cross maintains a close relationship and permanent exchanges with the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance as well as the Federal Ministry of the Interior. In international cooperation programmes major advances have been made by developing a resilience framework and changing from sectorial to integrated programming. Forecast-based financing (FbF), developed from a long-standing element in the Climate Centre's work, assists in the mainstreaming of the early warning, early action model into Red Cross Red Crescent disaster management worldwide. Twice-yearly dialogue platforms under the IFRC umbrella began in Geneva in July 2015, as part of a German Federal Foreign Office Action Plan on climate, coordinated by the German Red Cross and centring on FbF pilots and operations by National Societies and the World Food Programme (WFP). Forecast-based financing has now been used operationally by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Uganda twice and in Peru. The Federal Foreign Office's Action Plan also includes FbF pilots by the WFP or National Societies in Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mozambique, Nepal and the Philippines. The Togolese and German Red Cross, the Climate Centre and other partners shared in February 2017 in the "Edge of Government Award" made to Togo's Ministry of the Environment at the World Government Summit in Dubai for joint ground-breaking work on forecast-based financing.

The IFRC Global First Aid Reference Centre has been supporting National Societies with tools to discuss legal frameworks related to first aid with their governments. The following tools were made available during the reporting period to advocate for strengthening legislation concerning first aid: data on laws and regulations in 116 countries; examples of laws where first aid is made compulsory at schools and for driving license applicants; and statistics proving that first aid should be taught to individuals and communities for better survival rates.

Challenges

- Political factors extraneous to the content of new disaster legislation and rules often block or slow acceptance of new disaster laws
- Investments in capacity building and training often take a long time to produce direct results
- National Societies sometimes feel uncomfortable about taking on technical “legal” issues
- The Red Cross Red Crescent has not been partnering with non-traditional entities, such as development banks
- A lot of planning around global frameworks happens at the national and international level, but links between global, national and regional partners remain too weak and need to be further developed

Resolution 7: Strengthening the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement response to growing humanitarian needs

Key achievements

- The [Principles and Rules](#) for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance (Principles and Rules) document has been sent to all IFRC offices in the regions and is available online in six languages.
- The Principles and Rules are integrated into all IFRC disaster management training (e.g. ERU, FACT and team leader), and an e-learning module is available.
- Over 1,600 people have signed up to the e-learning course, and over 850 have completed it.

In 2015, the Global Surge Working Group met in Nairobi where more than 25 National Societies and 5 regions agreed to include the online Principles and Rules training in every ERU/FACT and RDRT training course. In 2016, two FACT training events were held in Qatar and Finland as well as two ERU training events in Croatia and Madrid, with the participation of more than 110 people who completed the Principles and Rules training and Principles and Rules sessions. In 2017, a FACT training event was held in Zimbabwe, an ERU training event in Panama and an operation management training event in Malaysia, with a total 100 people trained through e-learning as well as face-to-face methods. Every technical and ERU working group and every Surge working group is reminded about the commitment they made in 2015.

A special workshop training methodology has been developed by the IFRC for the Principles and Rules and piloted in the Asia Pacific region. The training includes simulation modules which help to practise the implementation and utilization of the Principles and Rules in operational situations. Standard evaluation questions on adherence to the Principles and Rules have been developed and used in IFRC real-time evaluations (e.g. in the Nepal and Ecuador earthquake response evaluations).

The Austrian, German, Swiss, Palestinian, Norwegian, Belgian, Salvadorean and Australian National Societies have conducted training programmes to raise awareness about the Principles and Rules among national staff and volunteers. The Austrian Red Cross is part of the steering committee of the Humanitarian Congress of Vienna which discussed humanitarian aid with humanitarians, academics, government officials and the private sector, while actively taking part in the planning process for official Austrian development cooperation. The German and Swiss Red Cross Societies conduct peer-to-peer exchanges with other National Societies on planning and implementing disaster management-related bilateral cooperation programmes and discuss the new Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance with the government. The Swiss Red Cross stressed that there needs to be more clarity on different concepts of “do no harm”. The Swiss Red Cross has a Swiss Red Cross parliamentary group whose 94 members are regularly informed about

relevant topics in which the Swiss Red Cross is involved and needs parliamentary support. All Palestine Red Crescent training courses include a session on promoting its profile and principles. The Australian Red Cross encourages government and other relevant stakeholders to develop and maintain national systems for the collection and dissemination of comprehensive data relevant to the safety and security of humanitarian volunteers, consistent with national laws.

For its part, the American Red Cross has established humanitarian services liaison officers in seven geographical divisions and employs division disaster state relations directors who are tasked with working with government officials (local, state and federal) to ensure that the government is familiar with Red Cross fundamental principles and modalities of operation.

The Government of Madagascar has been in dialogue with the National Society on the dissemination and application of the Principles and Rules under the themes of first aid, organizational development, community health, disaster risk reduction and the promotion of humanitarian principles and values.

The Canadian Red Cross Society has printed the Principles and Rules and disseminated them to its international operations staff, highlighting it as a key document fundamental to their work. In May 2017, the Canadian Red Cross held a workshop session on the Principles and Rules for senior field representatives involved in operations in different contexts internationally.

The Spanish Red Cross has developed a module on the Fundamental Principles and other rules applicable to the National Society, as part of the basic training provided to volunteers. The module is provided in both classroom and online formats and used as part of the basic training given to youth volunteers.

Challenges

- Information dissemination and monitoring of the process
- Most of the key documents are only available in English
- Lack of adequate funding

Pledges

National Societies and States have submitted 251 pledges during and after the 32nd IC, and great progress has been made on a number of pledges according to the information provided in the online reports submitted by States and National Societies.

Most of the work has been done in several thematic areas:

- Migration
- Human trafficking
- International humanitarian law and principles
- Disaster response and risk reduction
- Sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts
- Health Care in Danger
- Youth engagement
- Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- One Billion Coalition: Building community resilience and contributing to sustainable development
- Arms Trade Treaty
- Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention
- Climate change
- Psychological effects of armed conflicts and violence
- Saving lives by strengthening first-aid training
- Taking humanitarian principles to action – innovations in humanitarian education
- Support for the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC)
- Resilience building in a changing risk landscape
- Protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict

A few of the topics listed above were selected to be featured in this report. The selection was made according to the relevance of the pledges in the global context and the innovative approaches used in implementing them but by no means indicates that the pledges not selected to be reported here were prioritized to a lesser degree. The reports provided by the States and National Societies contain a plethora of information and are now available at www.rcrcconference.org.

Migration

Australia – Regional protection of vulnerable migration

- Roundtable discussion on trends and evidence from the Asia Pacific Migration Network (Australian Red Cross is co-chair) to support vulnerable migrants.
- The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) continues to facilitate ongoing access by the Australian Red Cross to all immigration detention facilities.

United Kingdom – Dead migrants and providing information to their families

- A working group on deceased migrants and information for their families has been established by the British Red Cross.

Croatia – Assistance and protection for migrants

- Psychosocial support and social services provided to asylum seekers by the Croatian Red Cross.

Spain – Assistance and protection for migrants

- Integrating asylum seekers into the host society.

International humanitarian law



IHL dissemination session organized by the Italian Red Cross

Canada – Promotion of international humanitarian law and principles

- Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) training across Canada, especially in high schools.

New Zealand – Improving compliance with IHL

- The New Zealand Red Cross has developed a programme for secondary schools, called “Women and War”, promoting awareness of IHL and gendered impacts of conflict.

Austria – Promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law

- Vienna Course on International Law for Military Legal Advisers in 2017/18.

France – Promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law

- The French Red Cross offers awareness training to the French army.

Slovenia – Promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law

- The Slovenian armed forces provide basic and advanced training in international humanitarian law at different levels of military education.
- Sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts

United Kingdom – Preventing sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts

- The government built on the achievements of the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative, by encouraging further training on the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Belgium – Sexual and gender-based violence during or in the aftermath of conflict and other emergencies

- National Action Plan to combat all forms of gender-based violence 2015–2019.

Health Care in Danger

Sweden – Health Care in Danger: Promoting domestic and global implementation

- An HCiD Checklist for Swedish Parliamentarians has been developed together with members of the Swedish parliament.

Afghanistan – Health care in danger pledge

- An MoU has been signed between the Afghan Red Crescent and the Ministry of Public Health to eradicate polio in remote and insecure areas in Afghanistan.

Youth engagement for a better future

United Kingdom – Youth Engagement and strategic integration

- The youth engagement strategy integrates young people across general volunteering, staff, and supporter activity, ensuring that young people's specific needs are met.

Monaco – Youth Engagement and awareness programmes

- The Red Cross of Monaco conducted awareness programmes for young people on the protection of children's rights, preservation of the environment, health, etc.

Montenegro – Youth engagement in volunteering

- The Red Cross of Montenegro is recognized as a National Society with staff from the youth volunteer base.

International Federation – Youth engagement for a better world

- The International Federation Youth Policy 2017 draft proposal, building on previous youth policies, represents another milestone contribution in developing global expertise in youth engagement.

More information related to specific activities

This report is not intended as a detailed account of all the activities carried out in furtherance of the 32nd IC outcomes but rather as an overview of the status of implementation, highlighting key achievements and challenges. The reports submitted by the National Societies, States, the ICRC and the IFRC contain a wealth of information about their activities and progress made and are now available at www.rcrcconference.org.

A detailed final report will be presented at the 33rd IC.

Annex 1

States and National Societies that contributed to the report

REPORTS ON RESOLUTIONS			
No. of reports submitted	States	No. of reports submitted	National Societies
5	Australia	5	Afghan Red Crescent Society
1	Austria	5	American Red Cross
5	Belgium	6	Australian Red Cross
5	Japan	5	Austrian Red Cross
5	Madagascar	6	Belgian Red Cross
5	Norway	4	British Red Cross
5	Portugal	5	Canadian Red Cross Society
5	Slovenia	5	Croatian Red Cross
2	Switzerland	6	Danish Red Cross
1	United Kingdom	4	Netherlands Red Cross
		4	Finnish Red Cross
		6	French Red Cross
		3	Italian Red Cross
		5	German Red Cross
		4	Japanese Red Cross Society
		2	Malaysian Red Crescent Society
		5	Norwegian Red Cross
		3	Palestine Red Crescent
		5	Salvadorean Red Cross Society
		6	Slovenian Red Cross
		5	Spanish Red Cross
		3	Swedish Red Cross
		4	Swiss Red Cross
Total	9		23

REPORTS ON PLEDGES			
No. of reports on pledges submitted	States	No. of reports on pledges submitted	National Societies
13	Australia	1	Afghan Red Crescent Society
17	Austria	3	American Red Cross
25	Belgium	15	Australian Red Cross
3	Ecuador	17	Belgian Red Cross
10	Finland	11	British Red Cross
14	France	6	Canadian Red Cross Society
2	Japan	1	Costa Rican Red Cross
2	Liechtenstein	3	Croatian Red Cross
1	Madagascar	9	Danish Red Cross
3	Monaco	2	Finnish Red Cross
10	Portugal	5	French Red Cross
		5	German Red Cross
8	Slovenia	1	Italian Red Cross
14	Spain	12	Japanese Red Cross Society
6	Switzerland	2	Red Cross of Monaco
12	United Kingdom	1	Red Cross of Montenegro
		7	New Zealand Red Cross
		2	Palestine Red Crescent Society
		22	Spanish Red Cross
		6	Swedish Red Cross
		5	Swiss Red Cross
	15 :Total		21 :Total

MID-TERM REVIEW
OF THE OUTCOMES OF
THE 32nd INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
OF THE RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT



Power of humanity

Council of Delegates of the International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

10-11 November 2017, Turkey

