

PARTICIPANT'S WORKBOOK

Draft Copy as of Oct. 28, 2008

MODULE 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

A. Learning Objectives

After completing this module, the participants will be able to describe the basic information about the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Specifically, they will be able to:

1. Discuss Henry Dunant's original vision for the Red Cross and how it has developed to become what it is today.
2. Explain the IFRC/RC's fundamental principles of Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary service, Unity and Universality and how they influence the IFRC/RC's work and their role in CBDRR.
3. Identify the different components/bodies within the organizational structure of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and what their roles and responsibilities are.
4. Discuss the role of volunteerism in how the Red Cross and Red Crescent functions and any special considerations that are needed when working alongside volunteers.
5. Explain the content of the code of conduct and how it influences the Red Cross and Red Crescents activities

B. Learning Sessions

The following topics will be covered in Module 1:

1. History and Origin of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
2. Fundamental Principles
3. Components of Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement
4. Volunteering in the Context of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
5. Code of Conduct

1. HISTORY AND ORIGIN OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Activity: Film Showing: The Story of an Idea

Basic Information About
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The International Federation was founded in 1919 in Paris in the aftermath of World War I. The war had shown a need for close cooperation between Red Cross Societies, which, through their humanitarian activities on behalf of prisoners of war and combatants, had attracted millions of volunteers and built a large body of expertise. A devastated Europe could not afford to lose such a resource.

It was Henry Davison, president of the American Red Cross War Committee, who proposed forming a federation of these National Societies. An international medical conference initiated by Davison resulted in the birth of the League of Red Cross Societies, which was renamed in October 1983 to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and then in November 1991 to become the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The first objective of the Federation was to improve the health of people in countries that had suffered greatly during the four years of war. Its goals were "to strengthen and unite, for health activities, already-existing Red Cross Societies and to promote the creation of new Societies"

There were five founding member Societies: Britain, France, Italy, Japan and the United States. This number has grown over the years and there are now 186 recognized National Societies - one in almost every country in the world. Its first mission was to assist typhus and famine victims in Poland; today it runs more than 80 relief operations a year.

The Red Cross idea was born in 1859, when Henry Dunant, a young Swiss man, came upon the scene of a bloody battle in Solferino, Italy, between the armies of imperial Austria and the Franco-Sardinian alliance. Some 40,000 men lay dead or dying on the battlefield and the wounded were lacking medical attention.

Dunant organized local people to bind the soldiers' wounds and to feed and

comfort them. On his return, he called for the creation of national relief societies to assist those wounded in war, and pointed the way to the future Geneva Conventions.

"Would there not be some means, during a period of peace and calm, of forming relief societies whose object would be to have the wounded cared for in time of war by enthusiastic, devoted volunteers, fully qualified for the task?" he wrote.

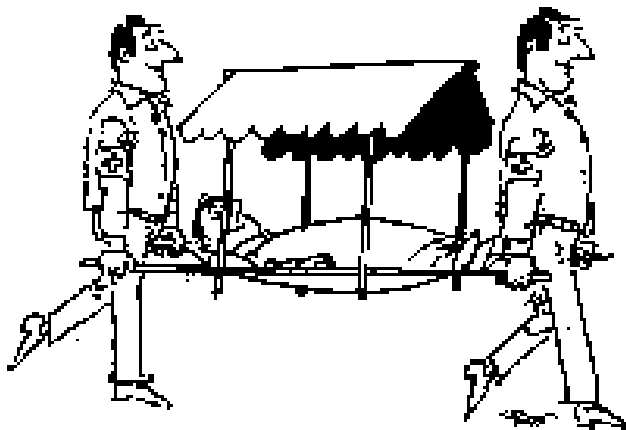
The Red Cross was born in 1863 when five Geneva men, including Dunant, set up the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, later to become the International Committee of the Red Cross. Its emblem was a red cross on a white background: the inverse of the Swiss flag. The following year, 12 governments adopted the first Geneva Convention; a milestone in the history of humanity, offering care for the wounded, and defining medical services as "neutral" on the battlefield.

2. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

The need for the RC/RC to operate under a set of guiding principles was realized as early as 1875. At this time it was suggested that the following principles should be observed:

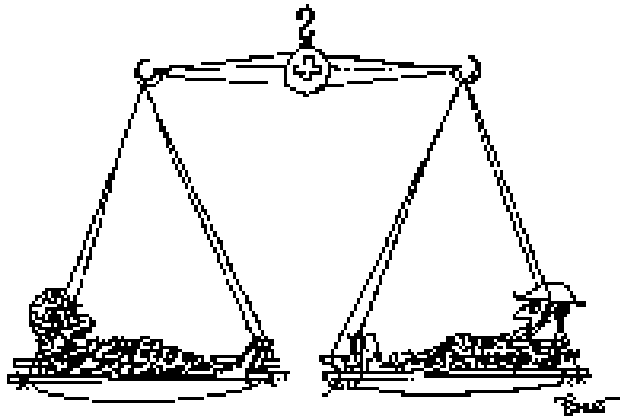
- Foresight (preparation in advance)
- Solidarity (Mutual ties between National Societies)
- Centralization (or one National Society per country)
- Mutuality (assistance given to wounded regardless of nationality)

Currently, the fundamental principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent are as follows:



a. Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.



b. Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.



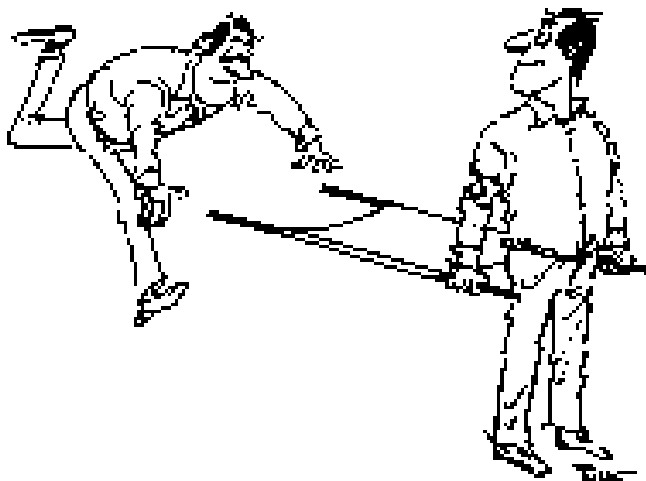
c. Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.



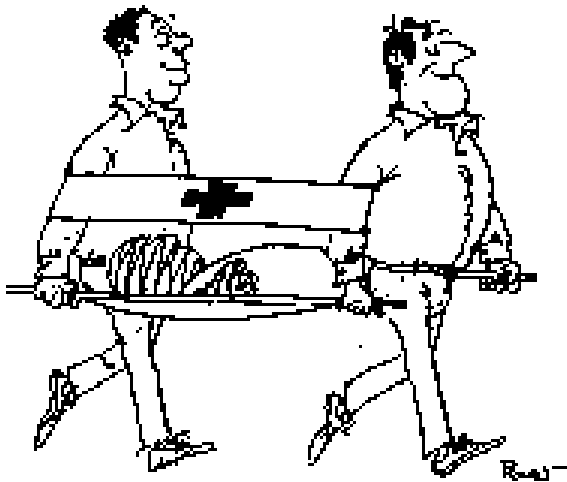
d. Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.



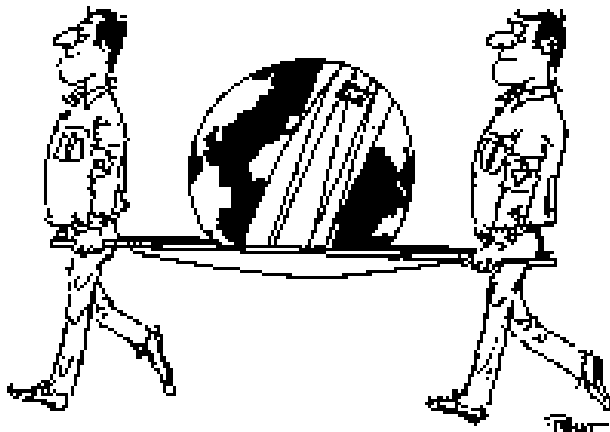
e. Voluntary Service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.



f. Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.



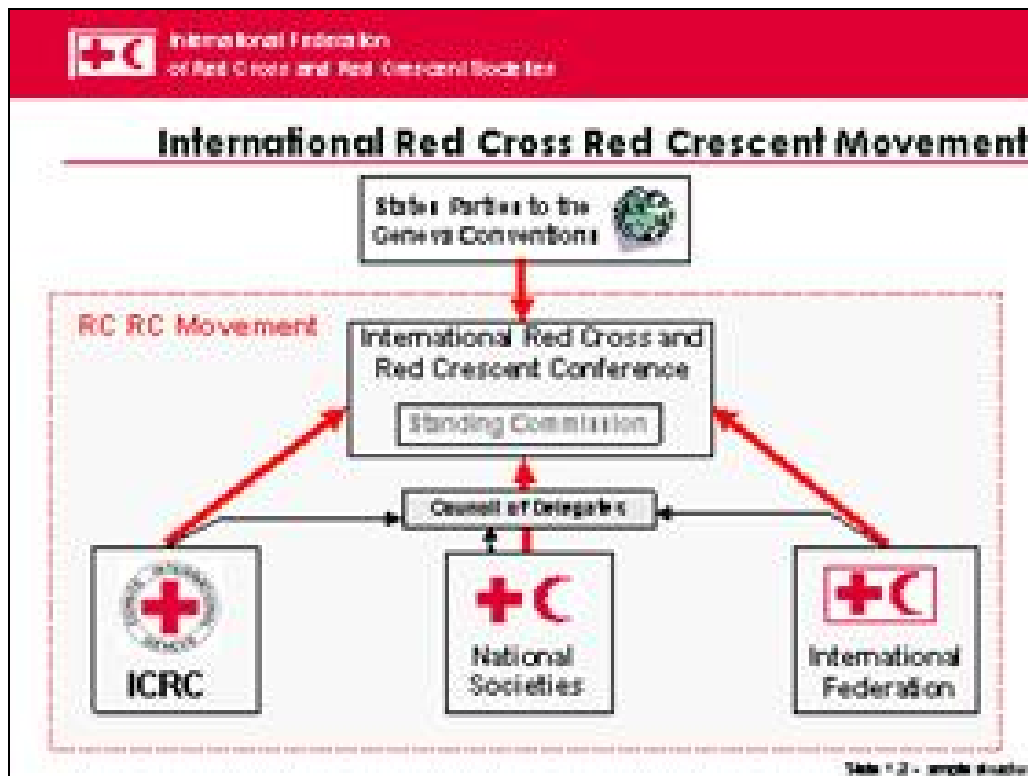
g. Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide

Activity: Film Showing: Helpman

A short video presentation on the Fundamental Principles

3. COMPONENTS OF RED CROSS / RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT



The Federation

- co-ordinates relief and development activities among the member Societies
- assists National Societies in their disaster preparedness, in the organisation of their relief actions and in the relief operations themselves
- encourages and co-ordinates the participation of the National Societies in activities for safeguarding public health and the promotion of social welfare in co-operation with their appropriate national authorities
- is the official representative of the member Societies in the international field

It is also the Federation's role to assist National Societies in implementing Federation policies adopted by the General Assembly or Governing Board.

National Societies are national voluntary organizations acting as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own countries in the humanitarian field.

When a National Society is recognized by the ICRC, it becomes a component of the Movement and can thus apply for membership of the Federation. National Societies provide a wide range of services addressing both immediate and long-term needs, which can be grouped under four areas:

- promotion of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values
- disaster response
- disaster preparedness
- health and care in the community

ICRC recognises National Societies and works with them in building their capacity, in close collaboration with the Federation.

- It is an impartial, neutral and independent organization. Its exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance.
- It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict.
- It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

What is International Humanitarian Law?

What is international humanitarian law?

International humanitarian law is a set of rules which seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects persons who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare. International humanitarian law is also known as the law of war or the law of armed conflict.

International humanitarian law is part of international law, which is the body of rules governing relations between States. International law is contained in agreements between States – treaties or conventions –, in customary rules, which consist of State practice considered by them as legally binding, and in general principles.

International humanitarian law applies to armed conflicts. It does not regulate whether a State may actually use force; this is governed by an important, but distinct, part of international law set out in the United Nations Charter.

Where did international humanitarian law originate?

International humanitarian law is rooted in the rules of ancient civilizations and religions – warfare has always been subject to certain principles and customs.

Universal codification of international humanitarian law began in the nineteenth century. Since then, States have agreed to a series of practical rules, based on the bitter experience of modern warfare. These rules strike a careful

balance between humanitarian concerns and the military requirements of States.

As the international community has grown, an increasing number of States have contributed to the development of those rules. International humanitarian law forms today a universal body of law.

Where is international humanitarian law to be found?

A major part of international humanitarian law is contained in the four **Geneva Conventions of 1949**. Nearly every State in the world has agreed to be bound by them. The Conventions have been developed and supplemented by two further agreements: the **Additional Protocols of 1977 relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts**.

Other agreements prohibit the use of certain weapons and military tactics and protect certain categories of people and goods. These agreements include:

- the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, plus its two protocols;
- the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention;
- the 1980 Conventional Weapons Convention and its five protocols;
- the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention;
- the 1997 Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines;

- the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Many provisions of international humanitarian law are now accepted as customary law – that is, as general rules by which all States are bound.

When does international humanitarian law apply?

International humanitarian law applies only to armed conflict; it does not cover internal tensions or disturbances such as isolated acts of violence. The law applies only once a conflict has begun, and then equally to all sides regardless of who started the fighting.

International humanitarian law distinguishes between international and non-international armed conflict. **International armed conflicts** are those in which at least two States are involved. They are subject to a wide range of rules, including those set out in the four Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I.

Non-international armed conflicts are those restricted to the territory of a single State, involving either regular armed forces fighting groups of armed dissidents, or armed groups fighting each other. A more limited range of rules apply to internal armed conflicts and are laid down in Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions as well as in Additional Protocol II.

It is important to differentiate between international humanitarian law and human rights law. While

some of their rules are similar, these two bodies of law have developed separately and are contained in different treaties. In particular, human rights law – unlike international humanitarian law – applies in peacetime, and many of its provisions may be suspended during an armed conflict.

What does international humanitarian law cover?

International humanitarian law covers two areas:

- the protection of those who are not, or no longer, taking part in fighting;
- restrictions on the means of warfare – in particular weapons – and the methods of warfare, such as military tactics.

What is “protection”?

International humanitarian law protects those who do not take part in the fighting, such as civilians and medical and religious military personnel. It also protects those who have ceased to take part, such as wounded, shipwrecked and sick combatants, and prisoners of war.

These categories of person are entitled to respect for their lives and for their physical and mental integrity. They also enjoy legal guarantees. They must be protected and treated humanely in all circumstances, with no adverse distinction.

More specifically: it is forbidden to kill or wound an enemy who surrenders or is unable to fight; the sick and wounded must be collected and cared for by the party in whose power they find themselves. Medical personnel, supplies, hospitals and ambulances must all be protected.

There are also detailed rules governing the conditions of detention for prisoners of war and

the way in which civilians are to be treated when under the authority of an enemy power. This includes the provision of food, shelter and medical care, and the right to exchange messages with their families.

The law sets out a number of clearly recognizable symbols which can be used to identify protected people, places and objects. The main emblems are the red cross, the red crescent and the symbols identifying cultural property and civil defence facilities.

What restrictions are there on weapons and tactics?

International humanitarian law prohibits all means and methods of warfare which:

- fail to discriminate between those taking part in the fighting and those, such as civilians, who are not, the purpose being to protect the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian property;
- cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering;
- cause severe or long-term damage to the environment.

Humanitarian law has therefore banned the use of many weapons, including exploding bullets, chemical and biological weapons, blinding laser weapons and anti-personnel mines.

Is international humanitarian law actually complied with?

Sadly, there are countless examples of violation of international humanitarian law. Increasingly, the victims of war are civilians. However, there are important cases where international humanitarian law has made a difference in protecting civilians, prisoners, the

sick and the wounded, and in restricting the use of barbaric weapons.

Given that this body of law applies during times of extreme violence, implementing the law will always be a matter of great difficulty. That said, striving for effective compliance remains as urgent as ever.

What should be done to implement the law?

Measures must be taken to ensure respect for international humanitarian law. States have an obligation to teach its rules to their armed forces and the general public. They must prevent violations or punish them if these nevertheless occur.

In particular, they must enact laws to punish the most serious violations of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, which are regarded as war crimes. The States must also pass laws protecting the red cross and red crescent emblems.

Measures have also been taken at an international level: tribunals have been created to punish acts committed in two recent conflicts (the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda). An international criminal court, with the responsibility of repressing *inter alia* war crimes, was created by the 1998 Rome Statute.

Whether as individuals or through governments and various organizations, we can all make an important contribution to compliance with international humanitarian law.

07/2004

International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law

Similarities and differences

Both international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) strive to protect the lives, health and dignity of individuals, albeit from a different angle. It is therefore not surprising that, while very different in formulation, the essence of some of the rules is similar, if not identical. For example, the two bodies of law aim to protect human life, prohibit torture or cruel treatment, prescribe basic rights for persons subject to a criminal justice process, prohibit discrimination, comprise provisions for the protection of women and children, regulate aspects of the right to food and health. On the other hand, rules of IHL deal with many issues that are outside the purview of IHRL, such as the conduct of hostilities, combatant and prisoner of war status and the protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems. Similarly, IHRL deals with aspects of life in peacetime that are not regulated by IHL, such as freedom of the press, the right to assembly, to vote and to strike.

What is international humanitarian law?

IHL is a set of international rules, established by treaty or custom, which are specifically intended to solve humanitarian problems directly arising from international or non-international armed conflicts. It protects persons and property that are, or may be, affected by an armed conflict and limits the rights of the parties to a conflict to use methods and means of warfare of their choice.

IHL main treaty sources applicable in international armed conflict are the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocol I of 1977. The main treaty sources applicable in non-international armed conflict are article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II of 1977.

...and what is international human rights law?

IHRL is a set of international rules, established by treaty or custom, on the basis of which individuals and groups can expect and/or claim certain behavior or benefits from governments. Human rights are inherent entitlements which belong to every person as a consequence of being human. Numerous non-treaty based principles and guidelines ("soft law") also belong to the body of international human rights standards.

IHRL main treaty sources are the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), as

well as Conventions on Genocide (1948), Racial Discrimination (1965), Discrimination Against Women (1979), Torture (1984) and Rights of the Child (1989). The main regional instruments are the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950), the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (1948) and Convention on Human Rights (1969), and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981).

While IHL and IHRL have historically had a separate development, recent treaties include provisions from both bodies of law. Examples are the Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Optional Protocol on the Participation of Children in Armed Conflict, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

When are they applicable?

IHL is applicable in times of armed conflict, whether international or non-international. International conflicts are wars involving two or more states, and wars of liberation, regardless of whether a declaration of war has been made or whether the parties involved recognize that there is a state of war.

Non-international armed conflicts are those in which government forces are fighting against armed insurgents, or rebel groups are fighting among themselves. Because IHL deals with an exceptional situation – armed conflict – no derogations whatsoever from its provisions are permitted.

In principle, IHRL applies at all times, i.e. both in peacetime and in situations of armed conflict. However, some IHRL treaties permit governments to derogate from certain rights in situations of public emergency threatening the life of the nation. Derogations must, however, be proportional to the crisis at hand, must not be introduced on a discriminatory basis and must not contravene other rules of international law – including rules of IHL.

Certain human rights are never derogable. Among them are the right to life, prohibition of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, prohibition of slavery and servitude and the prohibition of retroactive criminal laws.

Who is bound by these bodies of law?

IHL binds all actors to an armed conflict: in international conflicts it must be observed by the states involved, whereas in internal conflict it binds the government, as well as the groups fighting against it or among themselves. Thus, IHL lays down rules that are applicable to both state and non-state actors.

IHRL lays down rules binding governments in their relations with individuals. While there is a growing body of opinion according to which non-state actors – particularly if they exercise government-like functions – must also be expected to respect human rights norms, the issue remains unsettled.

Are individuals also bound?

IHL imposes obligations on individuals and also provides that persons may be held individually criminally responsible for "grave breaches" of the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol I, and for other serious violations of the laws and customs of war (war crimes). IHL establishes universal jurisdiction over persons suspected of having committed all such acts. With the entry into force of the International Criminal Court, individuals will also be accountable for war crimes committed in non-international armed conflict.

While individuals do not have specific duties under IHL treaties, IHL also provides for individual criminal responsibility for violations that may constitute international crimes, such as genocide, crimes against humanity and torture. These crimes are also subject to universal jurisdiction.

The ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, as well as the International Criminal Court, have jurisdiction over violations of both IHL and IHRL.

Who is protected?

IHL aims to protect persons who do not, or are no longer taking part in hostilities. Applicable in international armed conflicts, the Geneva Conventions deal with the treatment of the wounded and sick in the armed forces in the field (Convention I), wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of the armed forces at sea (Convention II), prisoners of war (Convention III) and civilian persons (Convention IV). Civilian persons include internally displaced persons, women, children, refugees, stateless persons, journalists and other categories of individuals (Convention IV and Protocol II).

Similarly, the rules applicable in non-international armed conflict (article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and Protocol II) deal with the treatment of persons not taking, or no longer taking part in the hostilities.

IHL also protects civilians through rules on the conduct of hostilities. For example, parties to a conflict must at all times distinguish between combatants and non-combatants and between military and non-military targets. Neither the civilian population as a whole nor individual civilians may be the object of attack. It is also prohibited to attack military objectives if that would cause disproportionate harm to civilians or civilian objects.

IHRL, being tailored primarily for peacetime, applies to all persons.

What is the system of implementation...

...at the national level ?

The duty to implement both IHL and IHRL lies first and foremost with states.

States have a duty to take a number of legal and practical measures – both in peacetime and in armed conflict situations – aimed at ensuring full compliance with IHL, including :

- translating IHL treaties;
- preventing and punishing war crimes, through the enactment of penal legislation;
- protecting the red cross and red crescent emblems;
- applying fundamental and judicial guarantees;
- disseminating IHL;
- training personnel qualified in IHL and appointing legal advisers to the armed forces.

IHRL also contains provisions obliging states to implement its rules, whether immediately or progressively. They must adopt a variety of legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures that may be necessary to give effect to the rights provided for in the treaties. This may include enacting criminal legislation to outlaw and repress acts prohibited under IHRL treaties, or providing for a remedy before domestic courts for violations of specific rights and ensuring that the remedy is effective.

...at the international level?

As regards international implementation, states have a collective responsibility under article 1 common to the Geneva Conventions *to respect and to ensure respect for the Conventions in all circumstances*. The supervisory system also comprises the Protecting Power mechanism, the enquiry procedure and the International Fact-Finding Commission envisaged in Article 90 of Protocol I. States parties to Protocol I also undertake to act in cooperation with the United Nations in situations of serious violations of Protocol I or of the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC is a key component of the system, by virtue of the mandate entrusted to it under the Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols and the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It ensures protection and

assistance to victims of war, encourages states to implement their IHL obligations and promotes and develops IHL. ICRC's right of initiative allows it to offer its services or to undertake any action which it deems necessary to ensure the faithful application of IHL.

The IHRL supervisory system consists of bodies established either by the United Nations Charter or by the main IHRL treaties. The principal UN Charter-based organ is the UN Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. "Special procedures" have also been developed by the Commission over the last two decades, i.e. thematic or country-specific special rapporteurs, and working groups entrusted with monitoring and reporting on the human rights situations within their mandates.

Six of the main IHRL treaties also provide for the establishment of committees of independent experts charged with monitoring their implementation.

A key role is played by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights which has primary responsibility for the overall protection and promotion of human rights. The Office aims to enhance the effectiveness of the UN's human rights machinery, to increase UN system-wide implementation and coordination of human rights, to build national, regional and international capacity to promote and protect human rights and to disseminate human rights texts and information.

...at the regional level?

The work of regional human rights courts and commissions established under the main regional human rights treaties in Europe, the Americas and Africa is a distinct feature of IHRL, with no equivalent in IHL. Regional human rights mechanisms are, however, increasingly examining violations of IHL.

The European Court of Human Rights is the centrepiece of the European system of human rights protection under the 1950 European Convention. The main regional supervisory bodies in the Americas are the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights is the supervisory body established under the 1981 African Charter. A treaty establishing an African human rights court has not yet come into force.

01/2003

The Emblems

The emblems very important for the RC/RC movement.

- The Red Cross (on a white background) was chosen as it is the inverse of the Swiss flag (the flag of Henry Dunant's country of origin)
- The Red Cross and the Red Crescent are two of the most recognized symbols in the world.
- They may be **indicative** or **protective**
- The use of these emblems is enshrined in international humanitarian law.
- There is also a Red Crystal, adopted in 2005.
- *The different symbols exist because some national societies may not be comfortable wearing particular symbols but all three have equal status.*

4. VOLUNTEERING IN THE CONTEXT OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Volunteering is central to the activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent indeed during the Battle of Solferino, Henry Dunant mobilised local volunteers to tend to the wounded. This became one of the original principles of the Red Cross that there should be a pool of trained volunteers to deal with the injured during times of war. The Red Cross/Red Crescent's tradition of volunteerism lasts till this day. The movement has millions of volunteers living in communities all around the world. This is one of the great strengths of the movement.

Why is voluntary service so important to the RC/RC Movement?

- It is the underlying theme that informs our mission and humanitarian actions
- The universal reach of our volunteer base is what makes us different from all other humanitarian organisations (whether national or global)
- It reinforces our value and ability to be able to provide assistance to all vulnerable people, whoever and wherever they may be, in times of crisis and distress.

What is Volunteering?

Volunteering in the RC/RC is:

- Motivated by the free will of the person volunteering, and not by a desire for material or financial gain or by external social, economic or political pressure.
- Intended to benefit vulnerable people or their communities.
- Organized by recognised representatives of a National Society.

Volunteers can perform a great many functions dependent on level of training, some of these are listed below:

Possible Volunteer Roles in the Community

- Emergency relief distribution

- Formation of DP committees/ task force at the village level
- Village VCA mapping and Community awareness
- First aid and Safety services
- Nursing
- Social work
- Trainings
- Blood donation
- Youth activities
- Many other social activities as per local branch priorities

Trained RC/RC Volunteer roles in the Community

- To provide First Aid and psychosocial support
- TBAs (Training Birth Attendants) help in child birth (deliveries)
- To spread awareness in the community on general health and hygiene, water and sanitation, disaster preparedness and mitigation measures, community rescue and relief etc.
- To form Community DM Committee.
- To carry out VCA mapping in the village with the help of Community DM Committee members and outline Community Contingency Plans.
- To make the community members aware of the community DM plans and the actions to be undertaken before/during and after disaster.
- To participate in community programmes and also to implement any Red Cross Programmes in their communities.

IFRC Volunteering Policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- reinforce the importance of volunteering to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

- establish basic values and attitudes of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies towards volunteering
- set out the responsibilities of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies towards their volunteers
- set out the rights and responsibilities of people who volunteer for a Red Cross or Red Crescent Society

a. Definition

Volunteering in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is an activity that is:

- motivated by the free will of the person volunteering, and not by a desire for material or financial gain or by external social, economic or political pressure
- intended to benefit vulnerable people and their communities in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- organized by recognized representatives of a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society

A Red Cross or Red Crescent volunteer is a person who carries out volunteering activities for a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society, occasionally or regularly.

A Red Cross or Red Crescent member is a person who has formally agreed to the conditions of membership as required under the National Society's constitution or rules, and is usually entitled to elect representatives on governing bodies, and to stand for election.

Red Cross or Red Crescent volunteers may or may not be members of their National Society. This policy refers to Red Cross or Red Crescent volunteers.

b. Scope

This policy applies to all recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies who are members of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

c. Basic principles

Volunteering is a means for an individual or group to put into practice the Movement's Fundamental Principle of Voluntary Service.

The member National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Federation and the Federation secretariat:

- are committed to promoting volunteering as a significant and positive contribution to improving the lives of vulnerable people, and to strengthening communities and civil society
- recognize and value volunteering as a means of creating and supporting a network of people who are available to work for a National Society in an emergency
- value all volunteers primarily for their individual contributions, enthusiasm and commitment, as well as for the experience and skills they can bring
- are aware of and value informal volunteering in communities, outside the formal organization of National Society programmes and activities

d. Statement

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies shall:

- provide a code of conduct approved by the national governing body that sets out the rights and responsibilities of both the National Society and its volunteers
- recruit volunteers for specific, explicitly described roles or tasks
- recruit volunteers on the basis of their commitment and potential
- actively seek to recruit volunteers irrespective of their race, ethnicity, sex, religious belief, disability, age
- ensure that there is appropriate participation of men and women in National Society volunteer programmes for effective and gender-sensitive delivery of services and activities
- provide appropriate training that will enable a volunteer to meet his or her responsibilities towards the Movement, the specific task or role they were recruited to carry out, and for any emergency response activity they may be asked to carry out
- provide appropriate equipment for the task or role they are asked to carry out;
- reward and recognize volunteers whenever possible and appropriate, and provide appropriate personal development opportunities

- ensure that volunteers' views and ideas are actively sought and acted upon at all stages of programme design, development, implementation and evaluation
- reimburse reasonable expenses incurred by volunteers in the course of carrying out approved volunteering tasks
- provide appropriate insurance protection for volunteers
- ensure that volunteering work does not substitute for, and lead to loss of, paid employment
- ensure that, when people need to be paid to perform a task or work, they are recognized as employees, contract workers or casual labour. As such, they should be covered and protected by any relevant employment legislation applicable, such as minimum wages, contract protection and other legal rights and responsibilities
- provide appropriate training and development opportunities for existing and potential governance volunteers
- seek to promote cooperation and partnerships with organizations in civil society and public and private sectors that encourage volunteering

All Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers are expected to:

- act in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and promote their dissemination
- respect the regulations on the use of the emblem and to prevent its misuse;
- strive and work for the highest standards of quality
- sign, and behave in accordance with, the National Society's code of conduct for volunteers, rules and/or the Federation's code of Ethics and Fundamentals of voluntary Services
- be available in an emergency, as agreed with the National Society, and according to their skills and abilities
- respond to the needs of beneficiaries and strengthen their capacity for self-help and active volunteering

All volunteers are entitled to:

- choose to become a member of their National Society, as defined by the statutes
- have appropriate training or personal development to be able to undertake their agreed tasks or role
- have appropriate equipment provided to be able to undertake their agreed tasks or role
- accept or refuse any task or role in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Fundamentals of Voluntary Service

The Federation secretariat shall:

- support National Societies in their work with volunteers
- identify and support research projects that will help to strengthen National Society activities that promote volunteering and share this information systematically
- seek to promote co-operation and partnerships with organizations in civil society and public and private sectors that encourage volunteering

e. References

Volunteering affects most aspects of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' activities; in particular, programme development, implementation and evaluation, and local, national and international governance. This policy should be considered in conjunction with all other Federation policies and with specific reference to:

- Gender policy
- Youth policy
- Disaster preparedness and response policy
- Social welfare policy

5. The Code of Conduct

The principles of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in disaster response programmes are as follows:

a. The Humanitarian imperative comes first

The right to receive humanitarian assistance, and to offer it, is a fundamental humanitarian principle which should be enjoyed by all citizens of all countries. As members of the international community, we recognise our obligation to provide humanitarian assistance wherever it is needed. Hence the need for unimpeded access to affected populations, is of fundamental importance in exercising that responsibility. The prime motivation of our response to disaster is to alleviate human suffering amongst those least able to withstand the stress caused by disaster. When we give humanitarian aid it is not a partisan or political act and should not be viewed as such.

b. Aid is given regardless of the race, creed or nationality of the recipients and without adverse distinction of any kind. Aid priorities are calculated on the basis of need alone

Wherever possible, we will base the provision of relief aid upon a thorough assessment of the needs of the disaster victims and the local capacities already in place to meet those needs. Within the entirety of our programmes, we will reflect considerations of proportionality. Human suffering must be alleviated whenever it is found; life is as precious in one part of a country as another. Thus, our provision of aid will reflect the degree of suffering it seeks to alleviate. In implementing this approach, we recognise the crucial role played by women in disaster prone communities and will ensure that this role is supported, not diminished, by our aid programmes. The implementation of such a universal, impartial and independent policy, can only be effective if we and our partners have access to the necessary resources to provide for such equitable relief, and have equal access to all disaster victims.

c. Aid will not be used to further a particular political or religious standpoint

Humanitarian aid will be given according to the need of individuals, families and communities. Notwithstanding the right of Non-Government Humanitarian Agencies (NGHAs) to espouse particular political or religious opinions, we affirm that assistance will not be dependent on the adherence of the recipients to those opinions. We will not tie the promise, delivery or distribution of assistance to the embracing or acceptance of a particular political or religious creed.

d. We shall endeavour not to act as instruments of government foreign policy

NGHAs are agencies which act independently from governments. We therefore formulate our own policies and implementation strategies and do not seek to implement the policy of any government, except in so far as it coincides with our own independent policy. We will never knowingly - or through negligence - allow ourselves, or our employees, to be used to gather information of a political, military or economically sensitive nature for governments or other bodies that may serve purposes other than those which are strictly humanitarian, nor will we act as instruments of foreign policy of donor governments. We will use the assistance we receive to respond to needs and this assistance should not be driven by the need to dispose of donor commodity surpluses, nor by the political interest of any particular donor. We value and promote the voluntary giving of labour and finances by concerned individuals to support our work and recognise the independence of action promoted by such voluntary motivation. In order to protect our independence we will seek to avoid dependence upon a single funding source.

e. We shall respect culture and custom

We will endeavour to respect the culture, structures and customs of the communities and countries we are working in.

f. We shall attempt to build disaster response on local capacities

All people and communities - even in disaster - possess capacities as well as vulnerabilities. Where possible, we will strengthen these capacities by employing local staff, purchasing local materials and trading with local companies. Where possible, we will work through local NGHAs as partners in planning and implementation, and co-operate with local government structures where appropriate. We will place a high priority on the proper co-ordination of our emergency responses. This is best done within the countries concerned by those most directly involved in the relief operations, and should include representatives of the relevant UN bodies.

g. Ways shall be found to involve programme beneficiaries in the management of relief aid

Disaster response assistance should never be imposed upon the beneficiaries. Effective relief and lasting rehabilitation can best be achieved where the intended beneficiaries are involved in the design, management and implementation of the assistance programme. We will strive to achieve full community participation in our relief and rehabilitation programmes.

h. Relief aid must strive to reduce future vulnerabilities to disaster as well as meeting basic needs

All relief actions affect the prospects for long term development, either in a positive or a negative fashion. Recognising this, we will strive to implement relief programmes which actively reduce the beneficiaries' vulnerability to future disasters and help create sustainable lifestyles. We will pay particular attention to environmental concerns in the design and management of relief programmes. We will also endeavour to minimise the negative impact of humanitarian assistance, seeking to avoid long term beneficiary dependence upon external aid.

i. We hold ourselves accountable to both those we seek to assist and those from whom we accept resources

We often act as an institutional link in the partnership between those who wish to assist and those who need assistance during disasters. We therefore hold ourselves accountable to both constituencies. All our dealings with donors and beneficiaries shall reflect an attitude of openness and transparency. We recognise the need to report on our activities, both from a financial perspective and the perspective of effectiveness. We recognise the obligation to ensure appropriate monitoring of aid distributions and to carry out regular assessments of the impact of disaster assistance. We will also seek to report, in an open fashion, upon the impact of our work, and the factors limiting or enhancing that impact. Our programmes will be based upon high standards of professionalism and expertise in order to minimise the wasting of valuable resources.

j. In our information, publicity and advertising activities, we shall recognise disaster victims as dignified humans, not hopeless objects

Respect for the disaster victim as an equal partner in action should never be lost. In our public information we shall portray an objective image of the disaster situation where the capacities and aspirations of disaster victims are highlighted, and not just their vulnerabilities and fears. While we will co-operate with the media in order to enhance public response, we will not allow external or internal demands for publicity to take precedence over the principle of maximising overall relief assistance. We will avoid competing with other disaster response agencies for media coverage in situations where such coverage may be to the detriment of the service provided to the beneficiaries or to the security of our staff or the beneficiaries.

Module 1: Introduction to Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Name: _____

Instructions:

- (1) Please accomplish this form by listing some of your new learnings and reflections on the blanks below.
- (2) Submit the accomplished form to the facilitator

This image shows a full page of blank white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.