



## The Beijing Call for Innovation

***We, the leaders of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Asia Pacific, gathered in Beijing for the 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference, from 22 to 24 October 2014,***

*Remembering* those who have lost their lives in the service of humanity.

*Guided by* our belief in Asia Pacific, its people and its future, by the fundamental principles, the International Federation's vision and Strategy 2020 and by our spirit of togetherness.

*Appreciating* that we draw inspiration from our shared history, tradition and responsibility, and that we are committed to finding bottom-up innovative, sustainable solutions to problems that threaten human well-being and dignity in our changing world.

*Recalling* and building on the Amman Declaration and Ajloun Commitment adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference in 2010.

*Endorsing* the Beijing Youth Commitments 2014, "Young Humanitarians in Action".

*Recognising* that the components of the Movement are increasingly engaged in both humanitarian and developmental action and *acknowledging* our commitment to shaping the global humanitarian agenda.

*Promoting* all forms of cooperation within and between regions to foster new initiatives, greater sharing and learning.

*Commit collectively and individually* to implement the Beijing Call for Innovation of the 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference.

### **Rationale for Innovation**

The world is changing at a pace that we have never seen before. At the same time our world is ever more interconnected, creating new opportunities for solidarity but also new and more complex threats. How we adapt to this pace and interconnected reality will be key to the future of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

Only by embracing new ways of thinking and acting, harnessing the power of innovative technologies and developing sustainable partnerships with existing and non-traditional partners can we move to shaping the future and ensuring our relevance.

However, we cannot pursue innovation as an end in itself but innovate to better support people who are daily affected by rapid and often life threatening changes.

We must adapt and be strategically positioned when change happens. We must respond with more speed to save lives. We must be accountable and transparent. But speed, adaptability and accountability are not enough. We must ensure that our actions make a sustained difference to those we assist. It is our duty to place affected people at the core of our humanitarian action. It is our duty to influence policy makers, donors and partners in the interest of the people we serve.

## **Actions**

We commit to implementing the following actions over the next four years:

- 1) To encourage, share, showcase and recognise innovation by accessing, raising and allocating funds for innovation to pilot new and creative ways to work with our communities.
- 2) To increase our collective volunteer base, ensure the protection, retention and diversity of volunteers, and scale-up volunteer-led, locally-resourced ('low-cost') activities that are relevant to volunteers and communities.
- 3) To address the risks brought about by climate change and urbanization, communicable and non-communicable diseases and other causes of vulnerability, by investing in community resilience through participatory, integrated and innovative disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, public health, shelter and livelihoods programmes.
- 4) To respond to pandemics and emergency health crises by utilising International Federation systems and tools, applying the experience of Asia Pacific National Societies in preparing and addressing emergency health crises and joining our resources in solidarity with those affected.

- 5) To foster youth participation by implementing the Youth Policy and Youth Engagement Strategy, in particular, involving young people in decision making at all levels, on all matters and supporting youth-led National Society-owned humanitarian action.
- 6) To provide relevant and sustained humanitarian services by developing meaningful relationships with diverse partners and moving towards financial self-reliance through increasing domestic resource mobilization, at all times emphasising peer exchange and support to foster sharing and innovation.
- 7) To optimise the coverage of our services and to better manage and share knowledge by championing the innovative use of all forms of media and communications technology.
- 8) To further develop service partnerships with governments by leveraging our auxiliary role and to clarify how we interact with the military before, during and after natural disasters.
- 9) To have a strong International Federation that can effectively facilitate all forms of cooperation between its members by adopting a more sustainable business model.
- 10) To be accountable and transparent organisations at all levels by conducting regular board performance reviews, adhering to movement policies and standards and utilising available tools.

### **Measuring Implementation**

Ten indicators have been identified to measure our progress on the agreed actions for the next four years against a 2014 baseline.

Indicator 1: Number of National Societies that have piloted and/or adopted a significant innovation in their work with communities.

Indicator 2: Number of National Societies that have in place policies and implemented guidelines for volunteer management.

Indicator 3: Number of National Societies that have updated their disaster management plans and contributed to the development of the Asia Pacific Disaster Management and Resilience Strategy (2015-2018).

Indicator 4: Number of National Societies with an adopted Youth Policy and Youth Engagement Strategy that have youth as members of national boards and youth as part of delegations to statutory meetings.

Indicator 5: Number of new partnership agreements with domestic and international partners and the number of new regional and cross-regional initiatives between National Societies.

Indicator 6: Number of National Societies providing data on the seven Federation Databank and Reporting System (FDRS) proxy indicators and the number of Societies that can demonstrate an increase in their volunteer base.

Indicator 7: Number of National Societies that are engaged in an organisational capacity assessment and certification process (OCAC).

Indicator 8: Number of National Societies that have a Civil-Military relations strategy and related standard operating procedures in place.

Indicator 9: Number of National Societies that are externally audited annually and produce annual finance statements.

Indicator 10: Number of National Societies that have undertaken annual board performance reviews.

### **Follow up**

- We call on the Secretariat to facilitate the monitoring and reporting of progress against this Call for Innovation.
- We agree to produce a mid-term (2016) and final country report (2018) for our National Societies.
- We agree to report against the above indicators.

### **Acknowledgements**

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