



CH-3003 Berne, SDC

Berne, April 2016

## Guiding the next generation towards humanitarian values and principles

Increased humanitarian needs, protracted crises, violence, conflicts, natural disasters and regionalised complex emergencies, such as forced displacement and migration, are all humanitarian challenges that call for sustainable solutions. Humanitarian education is an important pillar to address such challenges and prevent human suffering as well as strengthen resilience. But how can this be achieved through education while observing the fundamental principles and humanitarian principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent at the same time?

### We strongly believe that...

...prevention is better than cure. Promoting and implementing value-based education allows us to mitigate the harmful effects of emergencies and create a culture of non-violence as well as a peaceful environment. Here communities and their citizens contribute to help those in need by strengthening individual and local resilience. Moreover, value-based education aims at building greater community engagement and overall cohesion to ensure human dignity for all. Developing both the skill and will to care for and help others is at the very heart of humanitarianism.

### But reaching these goals requires innovation and action...

...in humanitarian education. It enables individuals to interpret situations from a humanitarian perspective empowering them to address challenges and take action in the spirit of the humanitarian values and principles. It is important for young people to learn how to look at events through a humanitarian lens and act as active citizens of their communities or, for example, through voluntary services. This innovative approach facilitates formal and non-formal peer-to-peer education in humanitarian values and principles.

## Innovative methodologies and media in humanitarian education and partnerships beyond diversities

Humanity can be learned. That's why Switzerland in collaboration with the Swiss Red Cross and the University of Zug, supported by the IFRC as well as the ICRC runs a school project, which aims at bringing humanitarian principles closer to young people. The project, which was launched in 2015, is based on exploring the humanitarian principles from different perspectives, going beyond cultural and religious diversities that often co-exist in classrooms. The goal is to create a common understanding. The school project's online platform is an innovative teaching tool for value-based education using



Project Humanity

POWERED BY



IN COOPERATION WITH



DEVELOPED BY



visual and functional features of the new media. For example, it allows students to present their ideas, share their posts or keep a diary about their thoughts and insights. Students from all over the world can benefit from deeper examining the humanitarian principles and their global values. This school project allows them to discover the significance and role of the humanitarian principles; assess the importance of the humanitarian principles for people in need; learn how humanitarian aid works; reflect on what they have learned and give thought to their own values; shape a personal opinion and be able to present and defend it.

## Humanity can be learned – a school project and teaching method for raising awareness among young people

The principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence are the foundation of all humanitarian action worldwide. By creating a deeper understanding of the humanitarian principles, the students can benefit from this project in every respect:

- Discovering the relevance and meaning of the humanitarian principles.
- Understanding what the humanitarian principles mean for people in emergency situations as well as for humanitarian practice.
- Learning to understand how humanitarian aid works.
- Applying the newly acquired knowledge to themselves and their own values.
- Shaping their own opinions and being able to defend them.
- Being able to use this knowledge and awareness to teach their communities.

## Project Humanity in the context of the UN global education agenda 2030

Our teaching method and the school project to raise awareness about humanitarian principles is in line with the SDG 4.7. In this way, we want to make sure that all students wanting to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for sustainable development will do so through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Global Citizenship Education and Cultural Diversity Appreciation. It may be noteworthy that this teaching method and the school project enhance the schools' curriculums, especially in the field of the social dimension of the ESD.

## Next Steps

From mid-May 2016, this teaching method will be available in form of a teaching and learning platform for schools. For more detailed information, please refer to the second issue of our newsletter or check out our website at [www.project-humanity.info](http://www.project-humanity.info).

The development and pilot phase is due to be finalised at the end of July. In order to help the individual states, Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies and other organisations interested in adopting and adapting this project for their own context, Switzerland is willing to consider a partnership with the relevant countries, their national societies and/or further organisations.

## Your contact:

Susanna Graf, Public Outreach Humanitarian Aid and SHA, [susanna.graf@eda.admin.ch](mailto:susanna.graf@eda.admin.ch)  
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs / Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



Project Humanity

POWERED BY

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Division für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit DEZA

IN COOPERATION WITH

 ICRC  
Internationaler Komitee vom  
Roten Kreuz IKRK

 IFRC  
Internationale Föderation der Rotkreuz-  
und Rothalbmondgesellschaften

Schweizerisches Rotes Kreuz 

DEVELOPED BY

 PH Zug  
Institut für Intersektoriellen Zusammenarbeit  
in Bildungsfragen IZB

## Impressions from a school project

Four teachers have recently introduced the school project in a secondary school in Kfartoun in northern Lebanon. Please find below two images from the project lessons.



*Students discuss the relevance of the humanitarian principle with their teacher. They try to explain it with their own words, which is the kick-start of shaping their personal opinion.*



*A member of the Lebanese Red Cross tells the students about his work. Here the students find answers to too many of their questions – effective learning by doing.*



**Project Humanity**

POWERED BY



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Directorat für Entwicklung  
und Zusammenarbeit DEZA

IN COOPERATION WITH



ICRC  
Internationaler Komitee vom  
Roten Kreuz IKRK

IFRC Internationale Föderation der Rotkreuz-  
und Rothalbmondgesellschaften

Schweizerisches Rotes Kreuz

DEVELOPED BY



Institut für Internationalen Zusammenarbeit  
in Bildungsfagen IZB