

***What measures did your National Society take to strengthen the safety and security of your volunteers?***

In 2019, the Swedish Red Cross made a review and updated the Volunteering Policy. In this new updated version, we have used this resolution to emphasize the importance of the security aspects of our volunteers. In the policy, we have also clarified the right and the importance of continuous psychosocial support both in continuous operations and in special emergency operations.

In the SRC strategy 2023 the following is said concerning the safety of volunteers:

- Reorganization of branches with the goal to improve volunteer management
- National support for all branches to secure that all steps in the volunteer management cycle is covered
- Volunteers should get briefing and psychosocial support when needed

All branches should:

- Investment in Volunteer leadership
- Look after that all volunteers are aware of the fundamental principles and acts thereafter.
- All volunteers get the adequate training for their missions

At the Swedish General Assembly 2019, a number of motions from branches was submitted that highlighted the need to review the existing insurance policies that volunteers have today and compensation for costs in connection with the voluntary assignment. The following decisions were made at the General Assembly:

- The Swedish Red Cross Board to review the existing insurance coverage and ensure that it is comprehensive and provides a reasonable remuneration.
- The Swedish Red Cross Board to ensure continued work with training in psychosocial support and further develop it to ensure sustainable assignments for volunteers.

In 2015 the Swedish Red Cross initiated an initiative on Volunteering in Conflicts and Emergencies. It was a research, development and innovation initiative led by the Swedish Red Cross in partnership with Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in Afghanistan, Honduras, Myanmar, South Sudan, Sudan and Ukraine, and the Centre for International Development at Northumbria University in United Kingdom, a globally recognised academic centre on volunteering in humanitarian and development settings.

Together did the involved collect data through a listening study methodology that shed new light on the experiences and challenges faced by local volunteers, and the strategies and mechanisms they adopted to cope with increased risks and vulnerabilities, amid weakened institutional support systems. The findings offered a greater understanding of local volunteering in conflicts and emergencies, the changing nature of humanitarianism in contemporary conflicts and emergency settings, and the multiple and overlapping roles of local volunteers as humanitarian and development actors in their own fragile communities. The research provides a body of knowledge to support and facilitate a volunteer-led approach towards protecting, promoting and recognising local volunteers working in conflicts and emergencies. Building on the research component, the initiative has also driven exploration and innovation activities focused on psychosocial support to volunteers and local insurance solutions. The findings of the initiative have been brought into different advocacy

activities at the Statutory meetings of the Movement in 2015 (Geneva), Aid Ex in 2017 (Brussels), the Great Exhibition of the North in 2018 (Newcastle) and ECOSOC HAS in 2019 (Geneva).

The work of the ViCE team led into the work of the IFRCs Global Volunteering Alliance working group on Volunteering in Dangerous Situations. The Swedish Red Cross has led the work of the working group contributing to the resolution's ambition and intention. The current team is comprised of representatives from the Burundi Red Cross; Egyptian Red Crescent; Honduran Red Cross; Italian Red Cross; Kenyan Red Cross; Swedish Red Cross; and the Centre for International Development at Northumbria University in United Kingdom. The outcome of the working group resulted in a draft global standard on the Safety, Security and Wellbeing of Humanitarian Volunteers and a Theory of Change.

As a supportive member of the Movement technical and financial support related to the resolution been given to the National Societies in partnership and coordination with the ICRC and IFRC in e.g. Afghanistan, Myanmar, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Liberia, Guinea, Cameroon, DR Congo and Sierra Leone.”

***What measures did your National Society take to identify and or review potential threats to the volunteers?***

- To support the volunteering policy implementation guidelines for branches will be developed.