**Volunteering in Conflict and Emergencies**

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.”