

COMMISSION II — 11 December 2019

Shifting vulnerabilities

Context

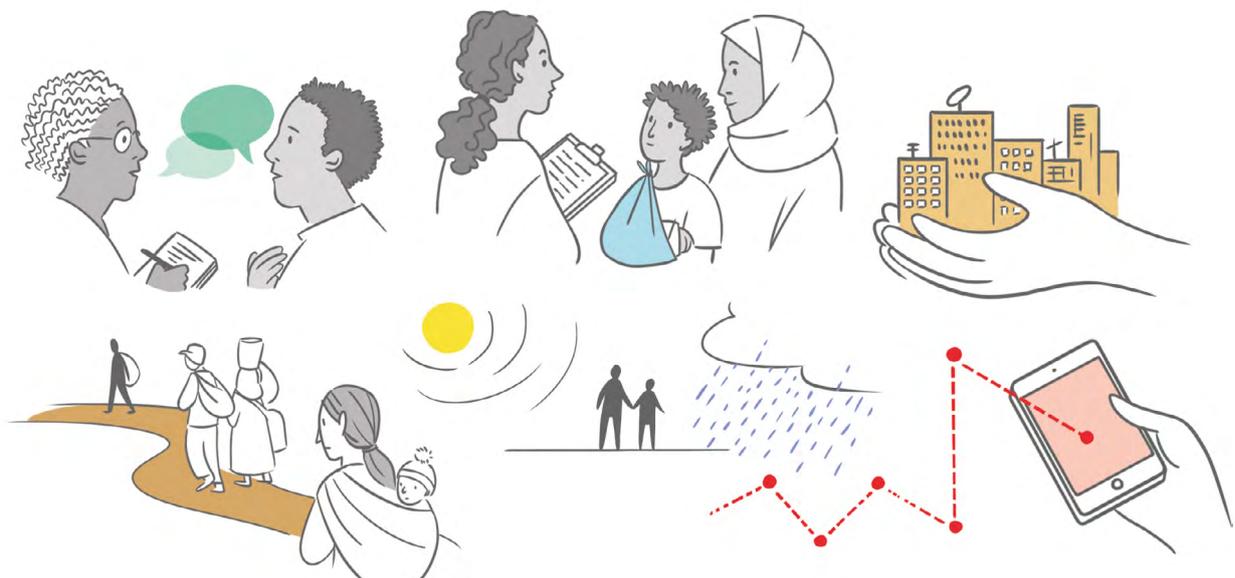
The changes of the 21st century are complex and inter-related. Fast-moving shifts in technology, climate, population movements, demography, urbanization are shaping the world we live in, with unavoidable impact for millions of people across the world, bringing new opportunities but also creating new vulnerabilities. The climate crisis, large-scale health threats, alongside with protracted armed conflicts and violence, are contributing to driving migration and internal displacement at a time when preserving the space for impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian action is increasingly challenged. These trends are fast changing the fabric of societies and the humanitarian landscape, to the extent that our traditional assumptions and ways of working might not be effective in addressing the challenges presented.

Face to this rapidly changing environment we recognize that new approaches are needed to meet the challenges. National Societies' presence at the community level linked with the Movement's global reach enables us to better understand, prevent, prepare, respond to these shifting vulnerabilities, and drive global change. Together with States, the Movement and the humanitarian sector overall have a responsibility to use their reach and resources effectively. To do this we must listen, think and act differently, and be open to learning and adapting along the way.

Overall objective and expected outcomes

The second day of the IC will be dedicated to the theme of "Shifting Vulnerabilities," which well resonates with the overarching slogan of this Conference: Act today, shape tomorrow - in that we recognize that the world is changing and is likely to continue to change rapidly over the next decade.

This Commission aims at highlighting the interconnectedness and cross-cutting nature of these new and emerging vulnerabilities, exploring how these global shifts will impact the lives of affected people and discussing ways on how we - as a global community (States, the RCRC Movement, other humanitarian actors, the private sector and other stakeholders) - can step up our efforts and work better together to prevent, prepare and eventually respond to those needs.



Format

The Commission on Shifting Vulnerabilities will consist of two main plenaries (opening and closing) and six spotlight sessions, on the following topics:

- **The role of volunteers in community health**
- **Addressing the humanitarian consequences of the climate crisis**
- **Building safe and inclusive urban communities through urban humanitarian action**
- **Scaling up mental health and psychosocial support for emergency affected populations**
- **Humanitarian action in the digital era**
- **Migration and internal displacement: upholding humanity**

The **opening plenary** will set the scene for the day, presenting the mega trends and global shifts that are fast changing the world and the societies we live in, and providing a contextual understanding for the topics that will be addressed during the day.

The **closing plenary** will reconnect the debates held in the six thematic sessions and will highlight the cross-cutting nature of these new and emerging vulnerabilities and the imperative that effective responses should reflect and adapt to this interconnected nature.

SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS

THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Date and time: Wednesday 11 December, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm



Objective

This debate will focus on the changing role of volunteers in community health. In particular, it will look at their vital role in addressing a variety of emerging health needs, including epidemic and pandemic detection and response, making the case for increasing support and investments into the communities and shifting the focus from formal health systems to community health systems.

This debate will also make explicit links with the proposed resolution: "Time to Act: working Together to Prevent and Respond to Epidemics and Pandemics"

Key Questions to be discussed

1. How can the role of volunteers be expanded with changing vulnerabilities?
2. How can we ensure that States will increase investments into the communities and strengthen community health systems? And what is the role of RCRC and the other local partners?
3. How can we as a Movement together with States properly recognize, empower and protect volunteers in global policy documents?

Supporting resources

- [Responding to the second deadliest Ebola outbreak in history](#)
- [FROM WORDS TO ACTION: Towards a community-centred approach to preparedness and response in health emergencies](#)



ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Date and time: Wednesday 11 December, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Objective This session will seek to explore the humanitarian impacts of climate change, draw attention to key challenges and opportunities, and identify what can be done now to scale up joint action and foster commitment, including through partnerships.

Key Questions to be discussed

1. What are the current and future humanitarian implications of climate change?
2. How are we acting and innovating today to address the humanitarian impacts climate change, in particular extreme climate and weather-related events?
3. How do we address the humanitarian challenge of climate change and where should we focus our efforts?
4. What can NS, states and other partners do better together?
5. How can we enable and inspire youth, volunteers and local communities to take action?

Supporting resources

- [IFRC Framework for Climate Action towards 2020](#)
- [Cost of Doing Nothing Report](#)
- [REAP: the IFRC commitments for the Climate Summit](#)



BUILDING SAFE AND INCLUSIVE URBAN COMMUNITIES THROUGH URBAN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Date and time: Wednesday 11 December, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Objective Going from the global level to a community perspective, this spotlight session will explore the humanitarian consequences of rapid urbanization, and consider the implications of this for the Movement's humanitarian action. By looking at emerging challenges and opportunities, this spotlight session aims to: create an understanding of the urbanization megatrend; create a sense of what the Movement needs to do to respond better to humanitarian needs in urban settings; and strengthen collaboration between Movement actors, states, local authorities, and communities.

Key Questions to be discussed

1. What are the recurring challenges faced when operating in urban areas?
2. What can the Movement do to better balance responding to immediate needs and also adding value in the long-term?
3. What can States / Governments do to facilitate urban humanitarian action?
4. What is your specific call to action to people present here today?

Supporting resources

- [Building Urban Resilience Guide, IFRC](#)
- [Indonesia RC \(PMI\) Coalition Building in Cities](#)
- [Urban Services during Protracted Armed Conflict: a call for a better approach to assisting affected people, ICRC, 2015](#)



SCALING UP MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Date and time: Wednesday 11 December, 14:30 pm – 16:30 pm

Objective

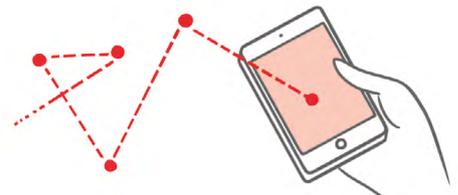
This session aims to increase collective sense of urgency to motivate states and NSs to intensify their efforts on this issue, scaling up collaborative action at all levels to address unmet MHPSS needs in contexts of humanitarian crises and emergencies. In addition, it aims to make the hidden visible and show consequences of the stigma (discrimination and exclusion) and to identify avenues to strengthen and reinforce mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of those responding to humanitarian needs in crisis contexts.

Key Questions to be discussed

1. What is the potential role of the humanitarian community in ensuring that people are provided adequate mental health and psychosocial support in situations of conflict, disasters and other emergencies?
2. How can humanitarian actors and States ensure early access to mental health and psychosocial support? Will this cover integrated care?
3. How can we practically and jointly advance the commitments proposed in the resolution in regard to strengthening of local and community-based response, building the capacity building of workforce (both staff & volunteers) and addressing stigma?

Supporting resources

- [WHO fact sheet: mental health in emergencies](#)
- [Guide to Psychological First Aid, Psychosocial Reference Centre of the Red Cross and Red Crescent](#)
- [ICRC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support](#)



HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN THE DIGITAL ERA

Date and time: Wednesday 11 December, 14:30 pm – 16:30 pm

Objective

This session aims to explain the importance and transformative impact of digital transformation and of the use of new technologies for humanitarian action, and discuss how the Movement components, States and other relevant actors can adopt and maintain a principled approach in the digital era, with an emphasis around issues of digital responsibility (e.g data protection, cash transfer program, etc.), digital inclusion (connectivity/access, leaving no one behind) and digital literacy.

Key Questions to be discussed

1. What means a principled approach in digital era?
2. How can we embrace new technologies without creating new vulnerabilities and leaving no one behind?
3. What would enable us to embrace digital transformation in humanitarian action?
4. How can we capitalize on our strength as a humanitarian community? How can we ensure sharing responsibilities?

Supporting resources

- [Data Playbook](#)
- [Handbook on Data Protection in Humanitarian Action](#)



MIGRATION AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT: UPHOLDING HUMANITY

Date and time: Wednesday 11 December, 14:30 pm – 16:30

Objective

This session aims to raise awareness of the different challenges and humanitarian needs related to Migration and Internal Displacement, discuss the role of the Movement and the responsibilities of States in addressing those needs and foster greater commitment and action to ensure protection and assistance for IDPs and migrants, access to essential services and preservation of humanitarian space. The Statement on Migration, the Resolution on Internal Displacement - both proposed for adoption by the Movement's Council of Delegates, and the proposed Call to Action on Internal Displacement (open pledge) will be brought to the attention of States in this session.

Themes proposed for discussion

Note that reflecting the distinctive Movement approaches and unique sets of challenges posed by migration and internal displacement, the participants will be divided in five subgroups running in parallel to address key questions related to the two issues separately:

- **For Migration:** safety & access to services; preserving humanitarian space; supporting refugees' integration and self-sufficiency in host communities.
- **For Internal Displacement:** focus on durable solutions and response in urban environments.

Key Questions to be discussed

1. How can we ensure that all migrants, irrespective of status, are adequately protected from harm, and afforded access to essential services? How can States, the components of the Movement and other partners best work together to achieve this?
2. How can we preserve the space for neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian action in the context of state mechanisms for migration control? How can States, the components of the Movement and other partners best work together to achieve this?
3. How can the components of the Movement and States best work together to promote refugees' access to education, livelihoods and social inclusion? How can we ensure that host communities' needs are also met?
4. How can States and the components of the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement join efforts to unlock durable solutions for internally displaced persons?
5. How can States, the components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other relevant actors, such as municipal authorities, urban service providers, development actors or civil society organizations, better work together to respond to the protection and assistance needs of increasing numbers of internally displaced persons living in urban environments?

Supporting resources

- [Resolution 3 of the 31st International Conference: "Migration: Ensuring Access, Dignity"](#)
- [Respect for Diversity and Social Inclusion](#)
- [IFRC Migration Strategy](#)
- [Displaced in Cities, ICRC Report \(2018\)](#)
- [ICRC Internal Displacement Strategy 2016-2019](#)