

**Norwegian Red Cross Report on the implementation of Resolution:**“***Sexual and gender-based violence:***

***Joint action on prevention and response*” 32IC/15/R3**

The Norwegian Red Cross (NorCross) has since the adoption of the Movement SGBV Resolution in 2015 decided to strengthen its work on SGBV at all levels both in its national, as well as its international work. Dedicated resources and a budget have been allocated to working on SGBV, as well as on gender and diversity mainstreaming. In the following is a short summary of main activities and results in relation to the relevant paragraphs in the Resolution:

1. **Sexual Violence in armed conflict**

**Prevention:**

*9. calls upon States, in times of peace as in times of armed conflict, pursuant to legal obligations, to disseminate international humanitarian law, including its existing provisions that prohibit sexual violence in armed conflict, as widely as possible in their respective countries and, in particular, in their programmes of military and, if possible, civil instruction, and also calls upon States to make every effort to fully integrate those prohibitions of sexual violence into all activities of their armed and security forces and their detaining authorities, with the support of the components of the Movement as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;*

NorCross in its work with the Norwegian Armed Forces and Defense University College has been part of IHL courses, dissemination and trainings. During these sessions the prohibition against sexual violence has been included as important IHL norm. Input has been given to scenario-based trainings for military staff and for pre-deployment trainings, as well as injects during military exercise.

The Norwegian Armed Forces have agreed to be part of an in-depth analysis conducted by ICRC and NorCross of how the prohibition of sexual violence has been integrated into Norwegian Armed Forces military doctrine, from policy documents, to military manuals, training and its sanction systems. The results have been shared and recommendations made on how to further strengthen the integration of the prohibition of sexual violence under IHL.

ICRC and NorCross have partnered-up for a two-year research project on the integration of the prohibition of sexual violence under IHL into military doctrine. A total of nine contexts have been studied and analyzed in-depth, cross-reference has been made with additional armed forces. The findings and lessons learned have formed the basis for a Toolkit that has been published: “*A Toolkit for ICRC (and Movement) staff on how to engage in dialogue with State armed forces on preventing sexual violence in armed conflict*".

**Support for victims:**

*20. calls upon States and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) to make every feasible effort to ensure, insofar as possible, that victims/survivors of sexual violence and, where appropriate, gender-based violence, have unimpeded and ongoing access to non-discriminatory and comprehensive health care, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, according to national law, physical rehabilitation, psychological and psychosocial support, legal assistance and socio-economic support and spiritual services, as required, always keeping in mind the need to ensure the dignity and safety of victims/survivors, and the importance of confidentiality and privacy, including addressing issues such as social stigmatization of victims/survivors;*

NorCross has in the past four years in partnership with ICRC mobilized funds to support the ICRC Special Appeal on Sexual Violence to assist survivors of SGBV in priority contexts. Norway and NorCross are among the biggest donors in support of ICRC efforts to respond to SGBV.

In partnership with the Colombian Red Cross, NorCross has developed a comprehensive and multi-sectoral SGBV response program that has assisted and supported over 500 survivors and trained and sensitized over 1000 students, teachers and psychologist on SGBV prevention.

In 2019, NorCross joined a cooperation effort together with Burundi Red Cross, ICRC and Netherlands Red Cross to support a holistic multi-sectoral SGBV response programme in Burundi. Since 2016 this program has assisted over 1000 survivors, build capacity in Burundi Red Cross, national health facilities and sensitized many communities to SGBV.

In Central America (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador), NorCross through support to the National Societies’ violence prevention programs, has integrated psychosocial support for survivors of violence, including survivors of SGBV.

1. **Sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies**

**Legal and policy frameworks:**

*22. calls upon States, National Societies, the International Federation and other relevant humanitarian and development stakeholders to ensure that their disaster- and emergency-management plans and activities include measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in accordance with their respective mandates, such as putting in place specific training for relevant emergency- and disaster-response personnel, including the participation of women in disaster- and emergency-response teams, and engaging community members, in particular women, in decision-making about disaster risk management;*

Since the adoption of the Resolution, NorCross has been involved in Movement efforts to develop Minimum Standards for gender and diversity and the development of a training package for SGBV response in emergencies. It has contributed with resources and jointly with other National Societies and IFRC, worked on the content and on piloting training efforts. Based on the Minimum Standards, NorCross has adapted its own disaster and emergency management accordingly.

**Prevention, information and training**

*25. calls upon States, National Societies, the International Federation and other relevant humanitarian and development stakeholders to ensure that their disaster- and emergency-management plans and activities include measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in accordance with their respective mandates, such as putting in place specific training for relevant emergency- and disaster-response personnel, including the participation of women in disaster- and emergency-response teams, and engaging community members, in particular women, in decision-making about disaster risk management;*

The IFRC Minimum Standards for Gender & Diversity have become an integral part of NorCross training for all emergency roster personnel and to some extent for in-house training as well. The follow-up publication, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) with a stronger focus on risk mitigation and mainstreaming of SGBV awareness into the different emergency response sectors is applied in NorCross training sessions. Participation is a key element of the PGI standards. In 2019 NorCross decided to set-up a surge team to be deployed on short notice for both ICRC and/or IFRC emergency response missions. One surge position is a Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator who will ensure mainstreaming of diversity and inclusion into the Movement response, based on both IFRC and ICRC minimum standards. Finally, NorCross has supported the global IFRC PGI position for several years. This position has been instrumental in establishing the PGI surge roster for IFRC.

**Preparedness and response**

*28. calls upon States, with support, as appropriate, from National Societies and other partners to make every effort to ensure that persons affected by sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and emergencies have unimpeded and ongoing access to non-discriminatory and comprehensive health care, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, according to national law, physical rehabilitation, psychological and psychosocial support, legal assistance, and socio-economic support, spiritual services as required, always keeping in mind the need to ensure their dignity and safety, and the importance of confidentiality and privacy, in order to reduce the likelihood of them not seeking help and to avoid re-victimization;*

In its current international activities, NorCross supports sexual and reproductive health services of National Society mobile and static health clinics (among others in Myanmar, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Somalia, Kenya, Colombia) and has started to integrate SGBV response activities into existing services.

The NorCross field hospital (that was deployed among others to Cox Bazar and Al Hol) include services on maternal and child health and sexual and reproductive health, as well as immediate health care for victims of sexual violence that are later referred for forensic and follow-up.

**Movement implementation, cooperation and partnerships**

*29. encourages the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to intensify its efforts to prevent sexual violence, alongside its efforts to protect and assist the victims/survivors thereof, in line with its mandate as laid down in the Statutes of the Movement, including research and analysis, and to cooperate with other components of the Movement, in accordance with their respective mandates, as appropriate*

With support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NorCross and ICRC in the last four years were able to partner-up on two major operational research projects. One on how the prohibition of sexual violence under IHL is implemented by armed forces and the second on how to overcome gaps in service provision for male survivors of SGBV. The first research produced a practical Toolkit for Movement staff on how to engage in dialogue on sexual violence with armed forces and thus strengthen its prevention work. The second research is ongoing and will recommend how to adapt the Movement SGBV response to make it more inclusive and thus hopefully contribute to better access to services for SGBV survivors.

As part of starting up the Movement Wide SGBV Working Group, NorCross was Chair of the group from 2017 – 2019 and coordinated the mandate and work plan. Norcross has taken the initiative together with other National Societies and the SGBV Working Group to develop SGBV Case Studies to showcase where and how National Societies in cooperation with other Movement partners work on SGBV and assist survivors. In close cooperation with all partners five such case studies are currently being developed (Burundi, South Sudan, Colombia, Kenya and DRC).

*30. also encourages the International Federation, in collaboration with National Societies and other relevant partners, to continue its research and consultations with a view to formulating relevant recommendations to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies*

NorCross has contributed technically and financially to IFRC's research on SGBV in emergencies, including the "Unseen, Unheard" global and regional reports.

*31. calls upon the components of the Movement, in accordance with their respective mandates and institutional focuses, to make every possible effort to make capacity building on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence one of their priorities, including by specifically training their relevant staff and volunteers at all levels, coordinating and cooperating with each other in line with their respective mandates and roles within the Movement, and exchanging experiences and good practices as appropriate;*

Throughout the past four years NorCross has given support to capacity-building for National Societies staff and volunteers, Red Cross Movement staff as well as own staff. Support was given in form of financial and technical support to develop contents, pilot and print training materials (among other for the IFRC SGBV in emergency training, ICRC Sexual Violence Training, Seven Moves Train of Trainers, PGI Train of Trainers). Financial support was also given for National Society staff to participate in these trainings.

Co-hosted by ICRC and IFRC, NorCross has organized four regional SGBV fora in Africa, and one regional for the Americas, for National Societies and Movement components to exchange experience, knowledge, gaps and give an opportunity to discuss cooperation on SGBV. In 2018 a total of 17 American National Societies participated in the regional American Forum, and in 2018 19 African National Societies participate in the African Forum.

NorCross deployed the first PGI delegate to IFRC Europe in 2016 during the population movement crises, which was key in supporting European National Societies in integrating PGI, including SGBV, in their response work. This was also the start of developing the PGI area of work for IFRC. In 2017, NorCross, together with Australia Red Cross and Indonesia Red Crescent, piloted the first PGI roster inclusion in an ERU training to clarify and capture the role and potential of including PGI delegates as advisors in emergency health operations. Gaps, recommendations and a draft Terms of Reference came out of the training and contributed to the establishment of the global IFRC Surge roster.