

The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Humanity The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

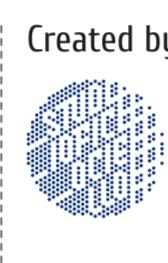
Voluntary service It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.



For further information on volunteering development, please contact:
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E-mail: youth@ifrc.org



in collaboration with

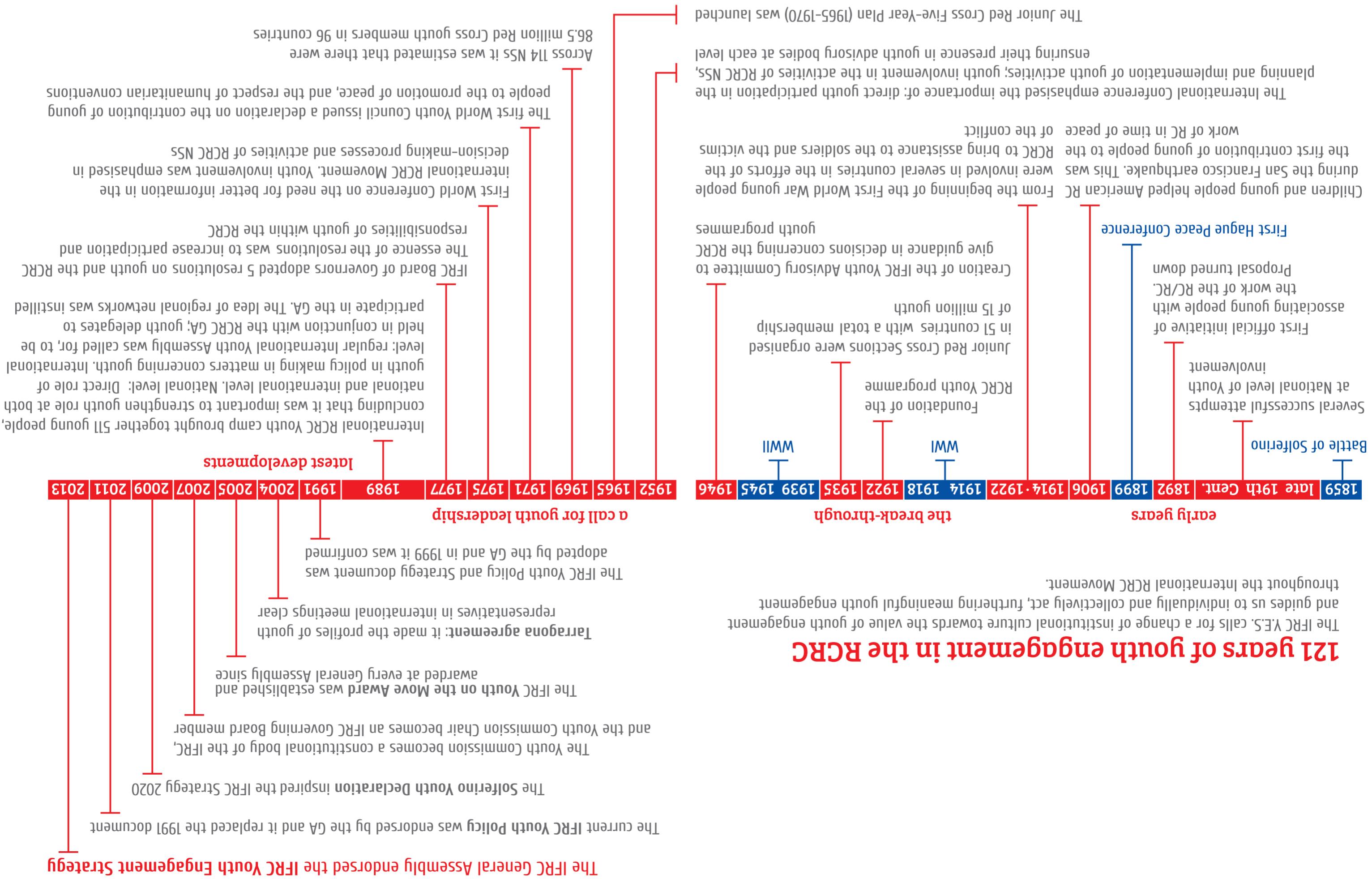
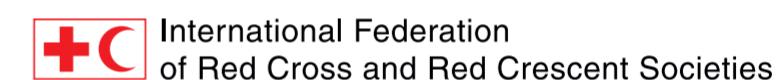


www.ifrc.org  Saving lives, changing minds.

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

RCRC Youth Engagement

**"Strong youth for Stronger National Societies and
Safe and Resilient communities.
Youth doing more, doing better, and reaching further."**



IFRC youth commission (YC) the functions of the YC are:

- to give advice on all matters concerning youth and youth-related activities;
- to promote and assess the implementation of the Youth Policy;
- to consider and study policy development in the area of youth;
- to review and suggest revisions of the Youth Policy to the Governing Board or the General Assembly (GA) for adoption;
- to seek youth opinions on the implementation of relevant International Federation policies and to ensure that those opinions are communicated the Statutory Bodies of the Movement;
- to advise the Secretary General in the implementation of the Youth Policy and all other policies and strategies;
- to report to the GA and GB on its general activities on a regular basis.

rules of procedure

The YC is a constitutional body of the IFRC and its Chair is a full member of the IFRC Governing board. The YC members are appointed for 4 years and meet twice a year.

members (2011-2015)

Ms. Ashanta Osborne-Moses (Chairperson) - Guyana
 Ms. Salimata Konan - Côte d'Ivoire
 Mr. Geoffrey Korir - Kenya
 Mr. Michael Joseph - Antigua and Barbuda
 Ms. Sandy Tesch - USA
 Mr. Abdullah Al Razwan - Bangladesh
 Ms. Salam Khorshid - Syria
 Mr. Mads Espersen (Vice-Chair) - Denmark
 Mr. Milan Mirkovic - Serbia



did you know...

- ...161 NSs have been engaged in the development of the IFRC Y.E.S
- ...The IFRC Y.E.S was endorsed by the IFRC General Assembly in November 2013
- ...The YES complements the IFRC Youth Policy endorsed by the General Assembly in 2011
- ...The IFRC Y.E.S clearly outlines accountability of the senior leadership in changing institutional culture towards valuing the important role and contribution of children, adolescents, and young adults for the benefit of the RCRC programs, service delivery, management, and governance.
- ...In Y.E.S. there are 13 Strategic Directions and 44 Recommended Actions across the three domains of education, youth empowerment and the creation of enabling environments for youth.
- ...Approximately 50% of volunteers, numbering almost 9 million, are young people.

key IFRC youth definitions

youth and young people The terms 'youth' and 'young people' in the IFRC cover people in the age range of 5 to 30 years. This includes children (5-11), adolescents (12-17), and young adults (18-30). National Societies are guided by this range in adopting their own definitions according to local laws, social norms and cultural contexts.

youth as leaders
 In RCRC, youth can take a lead in their capacity as volunteers, members, and staff. However, RCRC youth leadership is not exclusively about the title and position. It also entails and refers to specific abilities or unique qualities of young people to inspire and influence positive change in others by their own actions

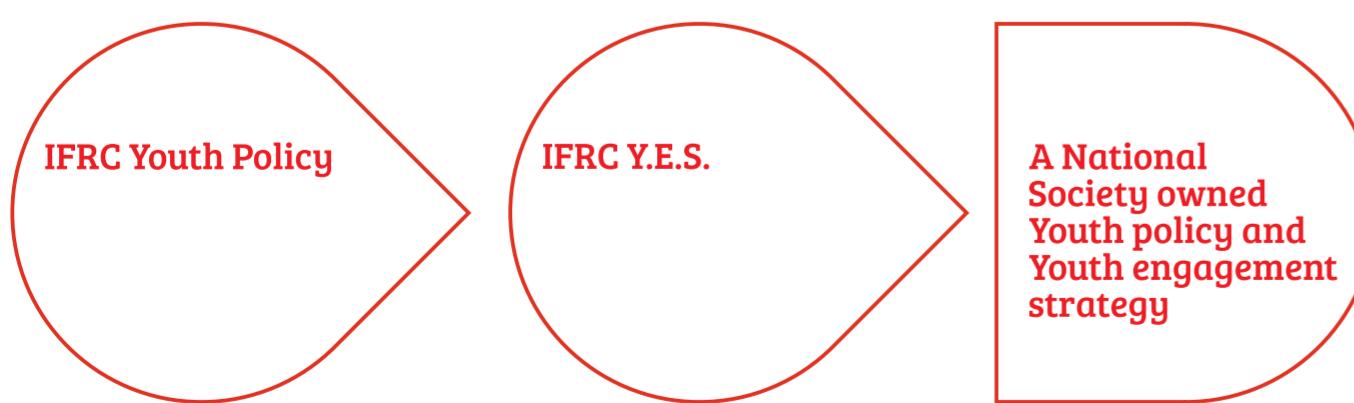
youth as volunteers
 In RCRC, young volunteers engage in planning, designing, delivery, and review of programmes and services. Standard volunteering policies, schemes, and approaches of RCRC are applicable to young volunteers, unless additional specific needs have been identified

youth as beneficiaries
 Young beneficiaries are those children, adolescents, and young adults who participate in, benefit from, and/or are empowered by RCRC programmes and services. They are not passive receivers of aid. On the contrary, young beneficiaries are involved in the planning, design, delivery, and review of RCRC programmes and services affecting them

Please note that these definitions are fluid and can be applicable to the same individual in different times and circumstances or all at once.

implementation of the Y.E.S.

NSs are encouraged to refer to both the IFRC Youth Policy (2011) and Y.E.S. (2013) for the development or review of their policies, strategies, and implementation guidelines for increased youth engagement.



framework for Youth Engagement in NSs

NSs are encouraged to select from the suggested Strategic Directions and Recommended Actions in the IFRC Y.E.S. -those which are relevant for their own contexts and realities. These are then to be holistically reflected in operational and institutional frameworks of NSs.

for more info,
visit the IFRC YC page.



18 - 30 years old
 must: have experience of governance or development on Youth in their NS

RCRC youth networks

IFRC statutory context

According to the IFRC Youth Policy approved by the GA 2011, networks established by young people themselves are an invaluable contribution to sharing knowledge and innovation across the RCRC Movement. Therefore the Youth Policy encourages National Societies (NS) to actively encourage and support youth representatives to participate in these networks aimed at promoting youth leadership and exchange of concrete ideas, innovations and activities.

credibility
 stronger voice
 inspiration motivation
 professional development of NS representatives
 representation of NSs in the youth networks
 effective and efficient communication
 promote youth leadership and best practices
 creation of new initiatives
 greater connectivity
 common identity

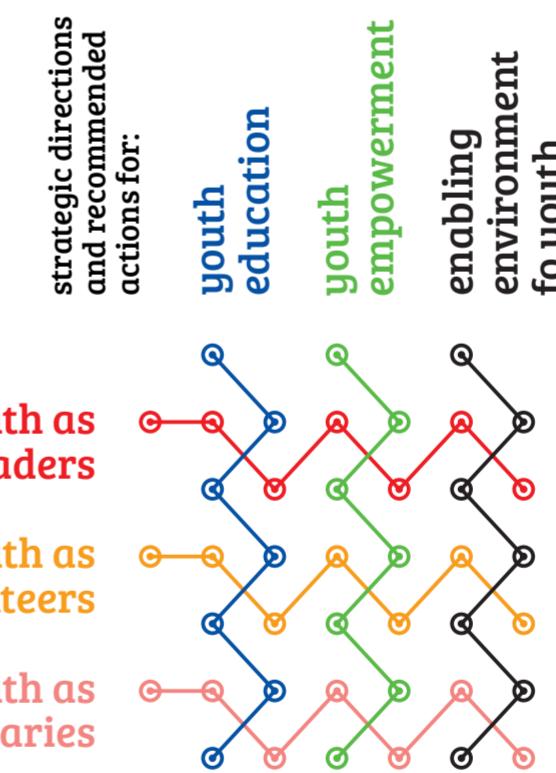
effective and well-functioning networks have:

- Clear profile and Plan of Action including:
 Purpose of the network / Role of the network / Functions of the network
- Common thematic focus that helps increase:
 Visibility / Joint resource mobilization / Ownership of its members
- Functional coordination and communication mechanisms
- At least one, face-to-face meeting of the NSs representatives annually
- Clear, tangible, and demonstrated added value to NSs and global IFRC agenda
- Effective communication of youth representatives in the networks with their NS leadership ensuring continued ownership and commitment
- Connection to and bilateral communication with at least one IFRC Youth Commission member on regular basis and at least 2 times per year before the Youth Commission meetings

MUSTs or Enabling factors for the Networks

- Commitment and support by NS.
- Commitment of individual NSs representatives.
- Commitment and support of the IFRC Secretariat on the global and regional level.
- Youth Commission members acting upon their senses of belonging to and coming from their networks.

IFRC Youth Engagement Strategy (Y.E.S.) building blocks



Solferino
Youth Declaration
(2009)



IFRC Strategy 2020



IFRC Youth policy
(2011)



IFRC 3Es framework

The 3Es framework stems from IFRC's Strategy 2020 and it entails education, empowerment and the creation of enabling environments. This framework has been fundamental in the formulation of the Strategic Directions and Recommended Actions of the Y.E.S. and it is central to delivering any Recommended Actions of this Strategy.

youth education
 Education is about the Universal access of individuals to knowledge, resources, and opportunities. Within RCRC, children, adolescents, and young adults are offered opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies needed to lead a healthy, safe and fulfilling life. In RCRC, all educational and training opportunities with and for young people are to be underpinned by the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values and are to be provided in formal, non-formal, and informal settings

youth empowerment
 Empowerment is about behavioural change of individuals and it builds on education. Empowerment comes from recognition and equal treatment. Within RCRC, empowerment of children, adolescents, and young adults results in their healthier and safer choices, as well as in well-informed decision-making that impacts themselves and others. In RCRC, all activities and programmes with and for youth should entail the concept/principle of empowerment

creating enabling environments for youth
 Creation of enabling environments is about making action and positive change possible. Within RCRC, educated and empowered children, adolescents, and young adults will have safe and secure spaces, equitable resource and support to become agents of positive change. In RCRC, institutional culture, processes, structures, policies, and regulations will be evidenced-based, informed by intergenerational dialogue, and enable youth action throughout the National Society