



150 years of humanitarian action
**Council of Delegates of the International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**
Sydney, Australia, November 2013



Council of Delegates

Sydney, Australia: 17 November – 18 November 2013

REPORT ON THE WORK OF WORKSHOP 4

17 November 2013 1700 – 1900

Humanitarian Education

Chair: Joseph Gibson, American Red Cross

**Rapporteur: Anca Zaharia, Romanian Red Cross & Abdullah Al Razwan Bangladesh Red Crescent
Society.**

Executive summary:

The workshop engaged 6 panelists from National Societies featuring the diverse Humanitarian Education initiatives involving young people in implementing the RCRC Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values through voluntary service and furthering services to vulnerable people. Professor Murray Print, Professor and Chair of Education, University of Sydney kicked-off the session with a backdrop on the trends and opportunities for greater youth engagement in global education and its impact on humanitarian education. This was followed-up by sharing of the innovative initiatives by National Societies and the launch of the Humanitarian Education Platform (HEP). This Platform is hosted by the Red Cross Red Crescent Learning Platform and is accessible to National Societies as well as external partners.

There were 15 interventions from National Societies, including the International Federation highly supportive of the Movement's Humanitarian Education (HE) initiative. However, there was a desire for more specificity for the definition of Humanitarian Education. The participants encouraged diversity in target groups of HE.

While the HE initiative is an excellent resource to National Societies, the challenges seen by the participants referred to sustainable resources, easy accessibility and ensuring that it is open to all - components of the Movement and external educational actors, and also those facing digital challenges. The incorporation of the HE in the curricula could be achieved easily through collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other relevant stakeholders. Humanitarian Education adaptability to local context is central to the success of the HEP. Emphasis was also expressed for the need to target children 5-12 years of age.

Overall, the feeling was that the HEP would facilitate dynamic knowledge sharing, peer project learning and coaching, encourage innovative ways of strengthening awareness of the RCRC Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values and putting them into action through meaningful and tangible ways through formal, informal and non-formal channels.

General Observations:

The following general observations were made, the National Societies, were:

- Very positive towards the Movement's Humanitarian Education initiative. Participants of the workshop indicated the desire to be involved. Currently, there

are 30 National Societies (across the regions) that have signed up for the pilot of the HEP.

- Encouraged that the HEP is a: dynamic vehicle to facilitate knowledge sharing and development; facilitates innovative ways of promoting the RCRC Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values through formal, informal and non-formal settings using peer project learning and coaching in “real-time” that can connect young people and other stakeholders internal and external to the Movement.
- The HEP must be flexible to encourage off-line use in communities that is digitally challenged
- The HEP provides opportunity to encourage inter and intra generational learning.
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Conclusions and recommendations:

- The participants to the workshop endorse the HEP as a pilot and commit to use it promote it and report on it at the CoD 2015.
- The online availability of the experiences/initiatives shared by the National Societies on the HEP will serve as a reservoir and exchange for knowledge and best-practices.
- The participants suggested the refining of the definition of Humanitarian Education, in order to facilitate common understanding and contextualization among National Societies and other relevant groups.
- In order to ensure the sustainability of the HEP, it will continue to be hosted on the RCRC Learning Platform.
- Resources from National Societies in terms of financial, technical expertise and human resource support are welcomed and appreciated.
- An update on progress and taking the HE initiative forward will be presented to the Council of Delegates in 2015