



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



## **Council of Delegates 2013**

### **REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP**

#### **HUMANITARIAN EDUCATION PLATFORM**

**Chair:** Joseph Gibson, American Red Cross

**Rapporteur:** Anca Zaharia, the Romanian Red Cross, and Abdullah Al Razwan, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

#### **(A) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The workshop brought together four panelists from National Societies featuring the diverse Humanitarian Education (HE) initiatives involving young people. The initiatives aim to implement the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values through voluntary service and provide further support to vulnerable people. To open the session, Professor Murray Print, Chair of Education at the University of Sydney, provided a backdrop on the trends and opportunities for greater youth engagement in global education and their impact on humanitarian education. Professor Print's opening remarks were followed by the sharing of innovative initiatives by National Societies and the launch of the Humanitarian Education Platform (HEP). The HEP is hosted by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Learning Platform and is accessible to both National Societies and external partners.

Fifteen interventions were made by National Societies, as well as by the International Federation, all of which were highly supportive of the Movement's HE initiative. However, there was a desire for a more specific definition of "humanitarian education". Participants encouraged greater diversity in the target groups of HE initiatives.

While participants acknowledged that the HE initiative is an excellent resource for National Societies, they also highlighted the challenge of ensuring that resources were sustainable and that the activities were accessible and open to all (both Movement components and external education actors, including those facing digital challenges). The incorporation of HE in curricula could be easily achieved through collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other relevant stakeholders. It is essential for HE to be adaptable to the local context for the platform to be successful. Emphasis was also placed on the need to target children between 5 and 12 years of age.

Overall, the feeling was that the HEP would: facilitate dynamic knowledge-sharing and peer learning and coaching; promote innovative ways of strengthening awareness of the

Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values; and encourage people to put these principles and values into action in meaningful and tangible ways, through formal, informal and non-formal channels.

#### **GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:**

- National Societies are very positive about the Movement's HE initiative. Workshop participants indicated a desire to become involved if they were not already. Currently, 30 National Societies from various regions have signed up to participate in a pilot HEP.
- National Societies are encouraged to use the HEP as a dynamic platform allowing greater knowledge-sharing and development, and facilitate innovative ways of promoting the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values through formal, informal and non-formal settings, using peer learning and coaching in "real time", thus helping young people and other stakeholders, both within and outside the Movement, to connect with each other.
- The HEP must be flexible enough to allow for off-line use in communities that face digital challenges.
- The HEP provides opportunities for inter- and intra-generational learning.

#### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Workshop participants endorsed the HEP as a pilot and are committed to using it, promoting it and reporting on it at the Council of Delegates in 2015.
- The online platform will serve as a reservoir of National Societies' experiences and initiatives relating to HE and allow for an exchange of knowledge and best practices.
- Participants suggested refining the definition of "humanitarian education" to foster common understanding and contextualization among National Societies and other relevant groups.
- To ensure the sustainability of the HEP, the International Federation will continue to host it on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Learning Platform.
- Any contributions of resources by National Societies – whether funding, technical expertise or human resources – would be welcomed and appreciated.
- An update on progress and plans for taking the HE initiative forward will be presented at the Council of Delegates in 2015.