

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Youth as members of affected communities engagement pathway



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

PROMOTING THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, HUMANITARIAN VALUES, AND HUMANITARIAN EDUCATION AS A MEANS OF STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE.

Recommended actions:

1. Establish the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values as the foundation for individual ethical behaviour and promote humanitarian education, including international humanitarian law, as the basis for humanitarian diplomacy.
2. Incorporate non-formal methods and peer-to-peer approaches for the dissemination of the Fundamental Principles, humanitarian values, and international humanitarian law.
3. Incorporate the concept of community resilience strengthening into all programmes involving children, adolescents, and young adults.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

STRENGTHENING THE PERSONAL CAPACITIES OF YOUNG MEMBERS OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES, CONSIDERING THEIR NEEDS IN TERMS OF ABILITIES AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.

Recommended actions:

4. Provide training and educational opportunities for staff and volunteers to enhance their capacity to engage young people of all ages, especially those from marginalized communities.
5. Integrate psychosocial support into all programmes with young people, with a focus on the needs of young people in marginalized communities.
6. Strengthen the capacities of children, adolescents, and young adults through their engagement in Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes.
7. Involve children, adolescents and young adults in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all the programmes they participate in.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG MEMBERS OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES TO ACT AND GIVE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES.

Recommended actions:

8. Develop specific guidelines for engaging young members of affected communities in programmes and service delivery, bearing their specific needs in mind.
9. Ensure that decision-making processes at all levels are informed by the voices of children, adolescents, and young adults from affected communities.
10. Enhance opportunities for the participation of young members of affected communities at all levels within the National Society.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4

MAINTAINING THE RELEVANCE AND RESPONSIVENESS OF ALL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES TO THE NEEDS OF YOUNG MEMBERS OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES.

Recommended actions:

11. Conduct assessments to determine the vulnerability and capacity of children, adolescents and young adults and the National Society's ability to address their needs.
12. Collaborate with stakeholders in our work with young members of affected communities, especially around safeguarding and programming with and for children and adolescents.
13. Uphold the duty of protection and care towards children, adolescents, and young adults, for example, by creating child-friendly spaces in armed conflicts and protracted crises.

Youth as volunteers engagement pathway



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

INCREASING THE MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF YOUNG VOLUNTEERS.

Recommended actions:

1. Support the efforts of young volunteers to engage in the design and implementation of programmes and services delivered by the National Society in their community.
2. Integrate humanitarian education, including international humanitarian law, into school curricula and non-formal education settings.
3. Offer a wide range of volunteering opportunities for children, adolescents and young adults that will attract members of under-represented groups and reflect the make-up of the local community.
4. Complement traditional forms and ways of youth volunteering with innovative ones, including but not limited to shorter-term participation, digital volunteering, and spontaneous volunteering, especially in crisis situations.
5. Create opportunities for intergenerational collaboration and partnerships to address humanitarian challenges.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

MOTIVATING AND RETAINING YOUNG VOLUNTEERS.

Recommended actions:

6. Implement volunteering management practices tailored to young volunteers.
7. Recognize volunteers as a source of knowledge and experience and continue providing opportunities for further skills development that will increase the employability of young volunteers within the National Society and in the labour market.
8. Provide pathways and support for children, adolescents, and young adults across the National Society's range of volunteering opportunities as an effective way of ensuring a smooth and seamless transition into adult volunteering.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

GUARANTEEING THE WELL-BEING, SECURITY, PROTECTION, AND SAFETY OF YOUNG VOLUNTEERS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES.

Recommended actions:

9. Provide young volunteers with the necessary information, training, and resources to ensure that they can protect their physical health, mental well-being and personal property while engaged in voluntary programmes and services.
10. Adopt institutional approaches to keep children, adolescents, and young adults safe from harm, misuse, abuse or exploitation, including through youth-friendly mechanisms for reporting such incidents.
11. Ensure young volunteers are included in the National Society's insurance scheme, especially in crisis situations.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4

RECOGNIZING AND PROMOTING THE ADDED VALUE THAT YOUNG VOLUNTEERS BRING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND COMMUNITIES.

Recommended actions:

12. Promote (internally and externally) best practices, approaches, models, and examples provided by young volunteers who are addressing humanitarian needs in their communities.
13. Create safe environments where young people can propose innovative approaches to address the needs of people from affected communities and the National Society, building on best practices and lessons learnt.

Youth as leaders engagement pathway



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

ENSURING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AT ALL LEVELS OF MANAGEMENT, GOVERNANCE, AND SERVICE DELIVERY, INCLUDING DISASTER RESPONSE.

Recommended actions:

1. Recognize and utilize the leadership skills of children, adolescents, and young adults by empowering them to take initiative and involving them in setting the direction of the National Society.
2. Create youth-led structures that allow young leaders to represent their peers, give voice to matters of concern to their peers and the communities they live in and disseminate relevant information.
3. Ensure a permanent and dedicated seat on the governing board, or equivalent, for young people, with full membership and voting rights and endorsed by the National Society's youth constituency.
4. Ensure the diverse representation of young people (e.g., gender, age, disability, etc.) in National Society decision-making bodies, considering the diversity of volunteers and the communities served.
5. Actively engage young leaders in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

STRENGTHENING THE LEADING ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ADVOCATING FOR THE NEEDS OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES.

Recommended actions:

6. Strengthen the capacities of young people to enable them to effectively advocate for diverse communities, guided by our Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.
7. Ensure that young people and their peers from affected communities have equal opportunities to engage and learn from each other.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

INVESTING IN THE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE FOR LEADERSHIP ROLES TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE.

Recommended actions:

8. Strengthen the capacities of young people and provide opportunities for them to assume and advance in leadership roles and responsibilities.
9. Provide opportunities for intergenerational learning and pathways for the transition towards leadership opportunities within the National Society.
10. Identify and capitalize on the talents of young people engaged with the Red Cross and Red Crescent and promote them into leadership roles.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4

STRENGTHENING THE LEADING ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING, WHICH LEAD TO LEARNING AND PROVIDE NATIONAL SOCIETIES WITH MISSING SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES.

Recommended actions:

11. Support the participation of young leaders in external networking platforms (national youth alliances, youth council, etc.) to promote learning, exchanges, and advocacy on youth matters.
12. Appoint young leaders to represent the National Society in different networks within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and support them in this role.