



## Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean

### ACTIVITIES

- Youth Workshop on the promotion of a culture on non-violence and peace
- Atlantis VIII, Andorra 2012

### VOLUNTEERS CORNER

- Omar Farhat –Libyan Red Crescent

### PARTNERSHIP

- Partnership with the Italian Red Cross
- United Nations International Youth Day (IYD) 2012
- Launch of the RC/RC Global Migration Database
- 'A Sea of Words' short story contest
- IFRC North Africa Regional Programme on Youth and Migration
- Publication: Youth Seminar on the Humanitarian Consequences of Forced Migration
- The Lebanese Red Cross celebrates Peace Festival 2012
- The International RC/RC Movement in Syria

### OPINION

**Red Crescent Youth and Volunteers in North Africa**  
by the IFRC North Africa Regional Office



### EDITORIAL

#### Active ageing: a social asset for all

Promoting participation in society, countering discrimination, enhancing care, independence, self-fulfilment and dignity of the elderly are amongst the basic features of healthy and strong communities. In its strategic aim no. 3, IFRC Strategy 2020 focuses on Social Inclusion and a culture on violence and peace, and the celebration of the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012 is a further opportunity to raise awareness on the essential role the elderly play in society and the need for their participative inclusion.

According to the WHO, active ageing is *"the process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age [...] it allows people to realize their potential for physical, social, and mental well-being and to participate in society [...]".* The challenge is to make the most of the enormous potential that people have even at a more advanced age, while fostering all along the intergenerational solidarity that ageing implies, as it takes place in the context of friends, work associates and family members.

Underlining the relevance of the exchange of knowledge and experiences among generations and promoting intercultural dialogue, the Youth Camp Atlantis VIII, organized in Andorra with the support of the IFRC Mena Zone and the Council of Europe, offered memorable moments of sharing and learning among generations thanks to the Association 'Grup de Ball de la Casa Pairal' of the City Council of Andorra la Vella whom contributed to the overall objective of the Camp: promoting our Principles and Values for more inclusive and stronger communities.

European Year 2012

## ACTIVITIES

● **Youth Workshop on the promotion of a culture on non violence and peace:** The promotion of social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace is one of the three strategic aims of the Strategy 2020 of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and an essential part of its activities to create stronger, healthier and more resilient communities. Moreover the IFRC Strategy 2020 highlights the **fundamental role of young people, as intercultural ambassadors and peer-to-peer facilitators**, and encourages their empowerment to be active in promoting a global culture of non-violence and peace.



Inspired by IFRC-Strategy 2020, the 11<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Dubrovnik (Croatia) in March 2010, set out – through its final declaration – to tackle current and future humanitarian issues among which are those related to the respect of diversity, tolerance, peaceful coexistence and cooperation, and it underlines the **necessity to mobilize human resources, above all young people as agent of behavioural change.**

In this frame of action, both the CCM and the Algerian Red Crescent will organize a technical **Mediterranean Workshop on Youth as agents of positive change within communities** which will have a special focus on the empowerment of youth volunteers to **promote a global culture of non-violence and peace.**

The five-day workshop, addressed to Mediterranean Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth volunteers, aims at improving participants' interpersonal skills to live peacefully and interact harmoniously, such as empathy, active listening, non-violent communication and peaceful resolution of tensions. The whole workshop will be lead through a peer educational approach, integrating non-cognitive learning and working groups, using games and role plays, to train and inspire creative leaders who will be able to set up and develop activities and campaigns concerning the promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace in their home communities.

Location: Algeria  
Dates: 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012

[Youth Workshop](#)

● **Atlantis VIII, Andorra 2012**

**Report of Atlantis VIII:** The online report of the 8th edition of Atlantis is now available on the [CCM website](#). The Camp took place in l'Aldosa de la Massana (Andorra), from the 1st to 8th of July, and it was organized by the CCM and the Andorran Red Cross. 82 youth volunteers attended different workshops and activities which allowed them to exchange experiences and deepen their knowledge in various fields of action related to the tasks they carry out within their respective National Societies.

Among the workshops delivered were: Gender and Sustainable development; International Humanitarian Law and Principles and Values; Leadership Skills; YABC; Migration and Intercultural Dialogue; Human Rights and Environment. Special sessions and side events focused on the presentation of the *IFRC Strategy on Violence Prevention, Mitigation and Response*; the Sharing of best practices; Healthy lifestyle promotion; Club 25; the Som.Nit project; a special edition of the Raid Cross focused on the IHL and refugees; a First Aid demonstration; the Terra Game and a cultural flea market.

Location: L'Aldosa de la Massana (Andorra)  
Dates: 1st to 8th July 2012

[Atlantis VIII](#)

**Workshop on International Humanitarian Law and Principles and Values:**

The workshop on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Principles and Values was facilitated by Josep David Pol Pedrós, a volunteer from the Andorran RC. The workshop aimed to reinforce the knowledge and awareness of participants towards the IHL, its basic elements, and its relation with the RC/RC Principles and Values.

The facilitator engaged participants through debates and practical activities which addressed several issues such as the basic notions of IHL, the limits of armed conflicts, human dignity, the concept of enemy and civilians, the role of women and children in wartime, the witnesses of war, children combatants and landmines.



Finally, participants had the opportunity to work on the roles that the different components of the RC/RC Movement (ICRC, IFRC, and National Societies) have during wartime and to debate on the importance of IHL as a fundamental tool to ensure the protection of human beings during armed conflicts



**Workshop on Gender and Sustainable Development:** Rocío Saavedra, a volunteer from the Spanish Red Cross Youth, facilitated the workshop on Gender and Sustainable Development. The aim of the session was to raise participants' awareness towards gender-related issues, clarifying concepts and challenges through various dynamics.

Participants, by means of interactive and practical sessions, enhanced their understanding of the relation between genders with a focus on women's role in societies' development. The facilitator clarified the concepts of 'sex' and 'gender', and tackled -through various visual materials- the biased image that media constructs on gender roles.



The facilitator worked with participants to understand why international organizations focus on women when handling sustainable development issues, and why it is important to understand the extent of women participation in society, focusing on the solutions that can be given by a RC/RC perspective to improve women's situation in fields as education, entrepreneurship, wage gap, migration and participation.

**Workshop on YABC (Youth as Agents of Behavioral Change):** The workshop on YABC was facilitated by Tamer Abdelfattah, from the Egyptian RC, Manel Meftah, from the Tunisian RC, and Bouchra Makhoulouf, from the French RC with the aim of disseminating and practising YABC, an initiative of the IFRC P&V Department, and it focused on how to use this toolkit in National Societies within the youth programmes to make a positive change in communities.

YABC uses unconventional and non-cognitive learning methodology focused on role plays, simulations, games and visualization exercises. Through early-morning Chi-kung sessions participants started the day dedicating time to themselves and balancing inner energies. Later, through the rest of YABC activities, participants experienced 'real life' situations that guided them to learn how self-criticism, dropping bias and inner change can lead towards a more inclusive and peace-based society.



**Workshop on Leadership Skills:** Marcello Srgoi, from the Italian Red Cross, facilitated the workshop on Leadership Skills using a non-cognitive method. The aim of the workshop was to improve the capacities of the young volunteers to play a leadership role in their National Societies, and to promote a positive change in attitudes and behaviors.



Following the principles of freedom and non-judgment, participants worked on the concept of leadership through their self awareness, their bodies and by being responsible for their relationships with the others. The key issues that were handled during the workshop were communication, trust, credibility, cooperation, and relationship.

Participants understood how leadership is based on relationship through communication, trust and cooperation. They learned to use creativity to solve problems, to listen to their own and to the others' feelings, to work and think as a team, and to have trust within the group. They also learned that good leadership is based on a balanced relationship between the leaders and the members of the group.

**Workshop on Human Rights and Environment:** Enrico Di Lena, Montse Lopez, Silvia Pistelli and Isabelle David from the CCM facilitated the workshop with the aim of reinforcing the knowledge and raising awareness over Human Rights and their relation with environmental issues, such as water access and climate change.



Through different dynamics, debates, role plays and videos, the workshop dealt with the concept and the meaning of human rights by analysing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its values: human dignity, equality, freedom, respect, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice and responsibility, leading participants to work on the relation among human rights, environment and sustainable development.

By the preparation of an awareness campaign on human rights and environment, participants understood the importance of advocating in favour of a cultural change in order to achieve a sustainable life, and the responsibility that everybody has in reducing the impact that our production system has on environment, society and economy.

**Workshop on Migration and Intercultural Dialogue:** Nour Oughly and Stefan Galve, representing the Unesco Chair of Intercultural Dialogue in the Mediterranean (Rovira i Virgili University of Tarragona, Spain), facilitated the workshop on Migration and Intercultural Dialogue to raise young participants' awareness towards the social effects of the displacement of people such as migrants and refugees, as well as the consequences this can have on receiving communities.



Participants worked on the causes of migration, on discrimination seen as a matter of economic issues, on cultural diversity as a necessary component of society, on the different attitudes concerning the contact and knowledge of new cultures and persons, on the models of managing diversity (assimilation, segregation, melting pot, multiculturalism, pluralism and interculturalism), and intercultural dialogue.

During the workshop participants understood the importance of promoting cooperation and mutual understanding, and the fundamental role of the RC/RC Youth in promoting a change in attitude when dealing with migration-related issues and advocating for a more inclusive society.

**Special Session - IFRC Strategy on Violence Prevention, Mitigation and Response:** Self-directed and interpersonal violence, including urban violence, is the core challenge addressed by the *IFRC Strategy on Violence Prevention, Mitigation and Response* presented in Atlantis by Reema Chopra and Hamzah Zekrya, from the IFRC Principles and Values Department.



After watching a video about the different kinds of violence that can be found in our society, the facilitators explained how the IFRC achieved the strategy on violence and its purpose: provide specific strategic directions to National Societies to support the strategic aims and enabling actions of IFRC Strategy 2020, as each of them relates to violence prevention, mitigation and response.

**Projects, Programmes and Best Practices:** Throughout the Camp, 'Best Practices' concerning programmes and/or activities undertaken by the attending Youth Sections and related to the dissemination of RC/RC Principles and Values, were presented, standing as one fundamental element of Atlantis: the sharing of experiences among peers and the setting up of new synergies and networks at RC/RC Youth level.



Moreover, a number of projects were also presented in special sessions by specific National Societies, focused on the promotion of healthy lifestyles and blood donation.

Miguel Lago, from the Portuguese Red Cross Youth, presented several programmes carried out by his National Society in the framework of 'Healthy Lifestyle promotion and Drug Response'. The speaker explained how to raise awareness on risk related to alcohol abuse through the national project "Copos – quem decide és tu", as well as through the international project "Improving harm reduction strategies in Europe: a Red Cross approach" related to the drug prevention.

Eva Martinez Bonet and Sara Romero Casas, from the youth section of the Spanish Red Cross in Catalonia, presented the project 'Som.Nit' which started in 1999 and targets young people on the prevention and risks related to drugs. The project is implemented in public and private night leisure locations (discos, festivals, concerts' premises, etc) but also in high schools and educational centres.

Finally, the Croatian and Serbian delegations presented the project **International Club 25** which encourages young adults aged between 16 and 25 to donate blood. The members commit themselves to give blood regularly, and to adopt a healthy lifestyle in order to be low-risk donors. The first Club 25 started in 1989 in Zimbabwe. Since then, 15 more Club 25 have been established in sub-Saharan Africa, and there are Clubs 25 in Europe, America and the Asia-Pacific region. Belonging to Club 25 provides young people with the peer support that is crucial in maintaining a healthy lifestyle, with a sense of belonging, purpose and achievement.

A five-hrs session was also dedicated to a special edition of the **Raid Cross** game, based on IHL and focused on the condition and the humanitarian challenges faced by refugees. The role play was facilitated by the Lebanese Red Cross together with the French Red Cross.





**Side events:** During the camp different side events were displayed to complement the daytime workshops. The activities aimed to reinforce the knowledge and enhance the network between participants, tackling current challenges and priorities such as intercultural dialogue, climate change and first aid.

The RC of Serbia, in collaboration with the Croatian RC, the RC Society of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Montenegro RC prepared a **First Aid Interactive Demonstration**. There were four posts displaying several first aid procedures. They were all visited by the volunteers who actively participated in the demonstrations.



The participants had the chance to approach their partners' cultures during the **Cultural Flea Market**. On this occasion volunteers shared a common space where they could display their own cultural traditions through gastronomy, dance and music.



The Youth representatives also participated in the **TERRA Game**, a Spanish Red Cross role play aiming at raising awareness and taking action towards environmental challenges and climate change. The participants were engaged in the role of civil and private stakeholders who are involved in the decision-making process and its consequences on the environment.



During the whole Camp, the participants could enjoy the sight of the exhibition of the Spanish Red Cross campaign '*It's your responsibility. It's our responsibility*', focused on the challenges posed by the conciliation between personal, family and working life.

Exposed were also the best pictures of the **4<sup>th</sup> photography contest** launched by the CCM. There was an exhibition of 15 pictures selected among all the pictures received for the contest under the theme "*Youth across the borders: one click for one change*", portraying the humanitarian values and the principles of the RC/RC.



First prize: *Humanité*, by Abdessamie Elkabir (Morocco)

## VOLUNTEERS CORNER



Name: Omar Farhat

Age : 29

National Society: Libyan Red Crescent



●When did you start volunteering for your National Society?

I have been a volunteer in the Libyan Red Crescent since 2010

●What is your current commitment as a volunteer?

I am a volunteer in the Mine Risk Education Team and in the Psychosocial Support Team

●How did you hear about your National Society?

It was by chance. I was listening to the radio and I heard news about the Libyan Red Crescent.

●What information about the International RC/RC Movement did you know before you decided to become a volunteer?

I knew that National Societies worked in first aid and blood donation, but i did not know about all the other programmes and initiatives.

●Why did you join the Libyan Red Crescent?

I joined my National Society because of its humanitarian side as I think that in order to be a good human being you should help the vulnerable categories around the world.

●What has been your favourite experience as volunteer of the Red Crescent so far?

The mine risk education campaigns in my city ZLITEN, and distributing Relief and Humanitarian Aid to the refugees (during and following the conflicts in 2011).

●In few words, how would you describe your experience as volunteer of the Red Crescent?

It changed my way of thinking, now I can feel and touch the suffering of others in our planet.

●In your opinion, which aspects of the RC/RC Movement stands out the most?

The Humanity and the Neutrality.



**Official Name:** LIBYAN RED CRESCENT

**Date of Foundation:** October 5, 1957 member of the international Movement since September , 1958

**Main Programmes:** Libyan Red Crescent has developed many activities, especially during the Libyan Revolution such as:

1. first aid activities
2. Distributing Relief and Humanitarian Aid to the vulnerable categories in many cities of Libya.
3. Blood donation campaigns in many branches
4. Health care activities.
5. Tracing Service.
6. Social programmes (psychosocial support).
7. Rehabilitation and building the Volunteers' capacities and capabilities.
8. Mines and unexploded ordnance risk education.
9. Youth.

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## PARTNERSHIP

● **Partnership with the Italian Red Cross:** Contributing to one of the main objectives of the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean, which is the promotion of partnership amongst the RC/RC Youth sections throughout the region, since 2007 the Italian Red Cross has been supporting the CCM on yearly bases by providing a Youth Officer.



For the past year the CCM counted on the valuable work and dedication of Enrico Di Lena, who carried out the tasks assigned to the post with outstanding commitment and results. Wishing Enrico all the best for the new stage in his professional life, we would like to welcome Eliana Del Bianco into the RC/RC Mediterranean family.

● **United Nations International Youth Day (IYD) 2012:** Under the slogan "Building a better world: Partnering with Youth", the past 12th of August 2012 several initiatives such as seminars, trainings, cultural and sport activities were organized all over the world to celebrate this year's edition of the International Youth Day.



The IYD 2012 provided an important opportunity to explore various and innovative ways that the UN Member States, civil society, private sector and other relevant stakeholders can effectively use to partner and collaborate with young people, especially in the areas of employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, citizenship and protection of rights, education, including sexual and reproductive health.

In the run up to the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Youth Conference on 9th December 2012, the International Federation of RC/RC Societies also underlined the celebration as an opportunity to mark and celebrate the valuable work that young volunteers bring to the RC/RC movement all around the world.

● **RC/RC Global Migration Database:** On July 25th the IFRC launched the RCRC Global Database on Migration. This comprehensive database will enable National Societies and other Red Cross Red Crescent movement partners to search for background documentation related to RC/RC migration activities. The initiative will foster and strengthen peer to peer partnerships and cooperation among National Societies working on similar issues or initiatives along migratory routes. The database also provides names and contact details of focal points and persons responsible for migration activities within the Red Cross/ Red Crescent.

It is important to note that the Migration Database is a living project as the information provided will be regularly updated. To this end, National Societies are invited to have a look at the database and send the IFRC their updated contact details and supporting documentation related to their migration projects.

For further information please contact the Migration Unit: [migration.unit@ifrc.org](mailto:migration.unit@ifrc.org)

● **"A Sea of Words", International Short Story Contest, 2012:** On 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of November, Barcelona will receive the 20 best participants from the 2012 "A Sea of Words" contest in their awards ceremony. In accordance with the European Year for Solidarity between Generations, this year's theme is aimed at the youth expectations about their future and the contact amid different generations of Euro-Mediterranean societies. The awarded writers will participate in cultural visits and activities in Girona and Barcelona. Each year the Anna Lindh Foundation and the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) organize the contest "A Sea of Words" to encourage the dialogue between people.



● **North Africa Regional Programme on Youth and Migration:** For the last three and a half years the IFRC-North Africa Regional Office, together with the National Societies of Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Libya has been running a EU funded regional programme aiming to improve the protection and living conditions of international migrants and those made vulnerable by migration.

The programme addressed to Red Crescent local branches –with a special focus on Youth; host communities in areas exposed to migratory flows; national and local authorities; and the media. The main components of the programme were: strengthening advocacy efforts towards the target groups, developing a regional awareness campaign "Let us live our humanity. It is for us to act", achieving better-prepared communities and better-sensitized authorities and ensuring assistance and protection to migrants.

Many tools have been developed, adapted to the migration thematic and to the regional context. Some examples are: advocacy, awareness and animation Kits; YABC Peer education manual, Guidelines for peer educators working on community engagements activities; Principles and Values Toolkit; fact sheets on risk and rights of irregular migrants; or a booklet on the main conclusions of the Seminar on forced migration, organized by the CCM and the Italian Red Cross in Rome this year.



The main outcome of the programme has been youth empowerment, raising awareness and enabling young people to be main vectors to promote respect for diversity, non discrimination and non stigma towards migrants. The programme worked on a better understanding of migration-related vulnerabilities and the real national and regional context of the migration phenomenon. This work has had great results in terms of youth engagement to work on migration issues according to their community needs. One clear example are the activities undertaken by the Moroccan Red Crescent in order to raise youth awareness about the rights of migrants and the risks of irregular migration, through artistic platforms and the involvement of the associative network. For more information about this programme you are welcome to visit the official website of the regional campaign: [www.vivons-notre-humanite.org](http://www.vivons-notre-humanite.org).

For further information:


- North Africa Regional Office  
[tunisia.northafricaoffice@ifrc.org](mailto:tunisia.northafricaoffice@ifrc.org)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies - [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

● **IFRC North Africa Regional Office's publication: Youth Seminar on Migration:** Following the cooperation between the IFRC North Africa Regional Office and the CCM, a publication concerning the Key Issues addressed by the Youth Seminar 'Humanitarian Consequences of Forced Migration' which was organized in partnership with the Italian Red Cross from the 2nd to the 6th of May, is now available.

Youth representatives of 13 Mediterranean RC and RC National Societies attended the meeting, building their capacities and sharing experiences on how to face the current challenges of the migratory phenomenon.

To receive copies of the publication please contact the CCM.



 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

 Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean  Italian Red Cross

● **The Lebanese Red Cross celebrates the 2012 Peace Festival:** The Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) celebrated 'Peace Festival 2012' on the 24, 25 and 26 of August in Beirut. The Youth department of the LRC organized the festival to promote a culture of non-violence, mutual understanding, tolerance, non discrimination and the respect for diversity. Art, music, dance, theatre and other cultural expressions served to encourage cooperation and collaboration among diverse communities.



Martyrs' Square hosted several of the activities of the festival. Performances by musicians, singers, dancers and DJs were displayed on the main stage, while a group of artists was given space to paint live and exhibit their artworks. A basketball game was also played by groups of Lebanese teams to show respect for diversity and cooperation. Several workshops based on YABC (Youth Agents for Behavioural Change) were also carried out and two regions were set up under the names 'Peace' and 'Non Peace' to raise awareness about peace and non-violence.

[Peace Festival](#)

● **The RC/RC International Movement in Syria:** The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Peter Maurer, visited Syria during three days (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of September). The president witnessed how the civilians are coping with the extreme violence by visiting the areas affected by the fighting in Rural Damascus. Peter Maurer held talks with the Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad, and some of the Syrian ministers over the need of humanitarian aid and the access to the detained people.



On the other hand, at the end of August the Extraordinary Commissioner of the Italian Red Cross (ItRC), Francesco Rocca, visited Syria in response to the invitation of the President of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), Abdul Rahman Attar, following the involvement of the ItRC in providing support to the SARC.



Both personalities praised the excellent endeavour and perseverance of the volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, performing their tasks in a context of extreme violence. As underlined by Mr. Rocca, notwithstanding the Geneva Convention which protects those who wear our emblems, 6 SARC members have already lost their lives.



*Photographs by Ibrahim Malla-SARC*

[Italian Red Cross](#)  
[International Committee of the Red Cross](#)



## Red Crescent Youth and Volunteers in North Africa

Since the Arab Uprising (beginning of 2011) the North Africa region has been facing **unprecedented challenges** and their socio-economical and political implications.

Youth unemployment, poverty and regional disparities, migration, increase of religious activism, urban violence and civil unrest, traffic injuries or the slow transformation of economic structures are among the most important challenges to address in a drive towards stronger and more inclusive growth in the region. The North Africa region also faces growing challenges from environmental stress, resulting from population pressures, urban growth, water scarcity and pollution, desertification and climate change exacerbating water shortages. This also matters for the future security and stability of the region.

In this new context, the role of Red Crescent volunteers is more crucial than ever in order to preserve the independence and image of the North Africa National Societies -Moroccan Red Crescent, Algerian Red Crescent, Tunisian Red Crescent, Libyan Red Crescent and Egyptian Red Crescent-, as well as adapt themselves to the new needs and challenges of the most vulnerable.

Some of the **services that Red Crescent volunteers are providing** in this region include: community-based health and care, migrant and refugee services, integration of disadvantaged people into their communities, first aid, disaster preparedness, response and recovery, disaster risk reduction, and promotion of the practical application of the Fundamental Principles and related Values of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

At the same time, the Arab Uprising has imposed a new perception of young people's capacities and aspirations. As crucial actors in the processes of political changes, young people have stood up for more freedom, equality and justice. But they also stand up for better future perspectives in education, work and economic and social development.

Some of the **areas where youth are able to make a significant contribution** in the region are: the promotion of healthy youth and healthy world (prevention of sexually-transmitted infections, including HIV, promote the "right to know" about substance-related harm, promote healthy lifestyles and install humanitarian values through programmes such as Club 25; and address road safety as a humanitarian challenge, by encouraging young people to act responsibly); adapting to climate change and addressing catastrophes (increasing youth involvement in climate change activities and promoting a greater public adoption of environmentally sustainable living); and promote harmony and positive attitudes within communities, renounce violence, promote non-discrimination and respect for diversity, and a culture of peace in the world.

In response to the challenges posed by the changing context, and in addition to the traditional activities of Red Crescent in the region, in line with IFRC Strategy 2020 the IFRC North Africa has elaborated a Long Term Planning Framework for 2012-2015 ([http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual12/SP682\\_LT\\_PF12.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual12/SP682_LT_PF12.pdf)) which among other objectives focuses on **development of volunteers structures and youth action**.

Strengthening volunteer's development reverts in an increased capacity of National Societies for the management of their volunteers, in terms of volunteer promotion, integration and participation. It also helps to improve the contribution of volunteers to the success of the humanitarian mission of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Enhancing the impact of youth networks as main vectors of behavioural change within their National Societies and communities implies enhancing youth performance through reinforcing the structures and the members' capacities within the National Societies. The IFRC-North Africa Office is also working in capitalizing capacities and experiences already existing on the YABC networks to be a resource for youth programmes in order to promote positive attitudes and behavioural change.

To achieve these objectives many actions are being carried out with the National Societies in the region and many tools are being prepared. Some examples are:

- ✓ Regional campaign "let us live our humanity. It is for us to act", supported by the European Commission, with the aim to promote RCRC humanitarian values towards the most vulnerable, as well as non-discrimination as a crucial aspect to achieve social cohesion.
- ✓ Participation at the Mediterranean Youth seminar "Humanitarian consequences of forced migration", organised by CCM and the Italian Red Cross, and the edition of a booklet containing the key issues of the seminar.
- ✓ Capacity building activities in order to promote and further consolidate YABC networks and volunteers management.
- ✓ Exchanging learning experiences on the application of YABC approach (<http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/principles-and-values/youth-as-agents-of-behavioural-change-yabc/>) in the frame of emergency and conflict, with the preparation of dissemination materials, such as videos and fact sheets
- ✓ Pedagogical material and information to better engage volunteers in their National Societies' activities and in the Principles of the Movement.
- ✓ Publications regarding the dissemination of Principles and Values and training tools: "Manual of YABC peer-educators" and "Guidelines for peer-educators working in community engagement" together with the IFRC Principles and Values Department, and a tool on Principles and Values application "Toolkit on Principles and Values", to be integrated in different trainings undertaken by the National Societies.

For more information you can address to:

[tunisia.northafricaoffice@ifrc.org](mailto:tunisia.northafricaoffice@ifrc.org)

<http://www.vivons-notre-humanite.org/en>

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