



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

Dear friend,

In this issue of the IFRC youth e-news, we have some interesting news items, as well as opportunities for you to take action. We would like to strongly congratulate the winners of the IFRC Youth Award 2009, which will be presented at the General Assembly this week in Kenya, but more than that we would like to thank those of you who took the time to apply. It was difficult to choose the winners, and we hope that even if you were not successful, that using your energy and enthusiasm, you will find a way to get your project started!

We know how proud you are of the Solferino Youth Declaration, so you will read it mentioned many times in this e-news. In the declaration, we all made commitments, and now the time has come to live up to them. In the areas of road safety, HIV, and principles and values there is the chance for you to take the first steps, if you take the time to read on, and follow the links.

If English is not your language, don't worry – on the online version, you can translate the e-news to 46 other languages! We hope that you enjoy reading the e-news in any language, but more than that, we hope that it inspires you to take action.



Youth matters



IFRC Youth Award 2009

During the 17th session of the IFRC General Assembly, the IFRC Youth Award 2009 will be presented to three National Societies that have applied with innovative projects to respond to the humanitarian challenges of local communities; today's Solferinos. The award aims to promote youth action in doing more, doing better and reaching further. A total of 31 applications were received from 24 National Societies for the award. The winners are:

- Youth empowerment project
Sierra Leone Red Cross Society
- Youth mental health and character building
Indonesian Red Cross Society
- El-Niño as a foundation for building community resilience, drought recovery and growth



Kenya Red Cross Society (Kwale Branch)

Also awarded are three runner-up projects from the youth sections of the National Societies of The Gambia, Ivory Coast and Kenya. The IFRC youth team would like to congratulate the winners and runners up, and thank all of the applicants for their efforts so far. You can read more about the award, and the winning projects on the [award pages](#).



Youth voices for stronger societies

The General Assembly, the highest decision making body of the International Federation, will be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 18–21 November 2009. During this assembly, a new President and Governing Board will be elected, and the strategy for the coming 10 years, Strategy 2020 will also be put forward for adoption. This document will guide the work of the IFRC and its member societies for the coming decade.

Prior to the opening of the General Assembly, the IFRC organized a meeting for youth representatives to help to prepare them by providing information about the General Assembly, its topics and the active participation of youth representatives. More than 40 youth representatives participated in the youth meeting and over the course of the General Assembly and Council of Delegates, which will take place from 23–25 November. You can find out more about the meetings, and follow the activities and decisions on the [event page](#) and the [General Assembly youth page](#).



Road safety starts with me

Did you know that road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among young people aged 15 to 29, and the second cause of death for those aged 5 to 14? Your document, the Solferino Youth Declaration identifies road safety as a key humanitarian challenge, and through the document, young people just like you are committed to promote road safety and encourage their peers to act responsibly as road users. The IFRC has listened to you, and to help you promote awareness and personal responsibility, have printed a ten point [commitment card](#). To make committing to road safety even easier, we have also set up a simple page on [Facebook](#) where you can join, make your commitment and show your support. Please [join us](#), and share your commitment with your friends, so that we can all live up to our commitments to road safety.

If you are interested in finding more information on road safety and the humanitarian crisis we are facing, visit [this page](#) and download the call to action.



Want to change the world? YABC!

The IFRC's "Youth as agents of behavioural change" (YABC) programme is an initiative to empower youth to play a lead role in transforming mindsets, attitudes and behaviour in their local communities. It starts from the premise that a prior commitment to inner change and being the living example of our Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values is the best way to reach this objective. The past months have seen great progress, particularly through Youth on the move, but there is still a long way to go. A side event during the IFRC General Assembly on violence and YABC will be another important step. If you want more information on the programme, contact the IFRC [principles and values department](#).

Youth opportunities



Learn online

The International Federation has developed the Learning Platform, a self-study course that Red Cross and Red Crescent staff, volunteers and registered members can do on-line. Among several courses already available you can find the Introduction to the Red Cross Red Crescent World including different modules such as the origin and history, Fundamental Principles, and the organization of our Movement. The purpose of the course is to increase the amount of people with knowledge of the organization, its components as well as the principles and values that guide the work of the Red Cross Red Crescent. To access the platform, and start learning, visit www.ifrc.org/learning.



World AIDS Day

Each year, the first day of December marks World AIDS Day. Reducing spread of HIV is a humanitarian challenge that is faced by communities across the world. In the Solferino Youth Declaration, you(th) made the following commitment:

To ramp up prevention efforts for sexually-transmitted infections, including HIV, through peer education and, for example, condom distribution programmes and other suitable approaches.

1 December 2009 is an opportunity for you to personally reflect on this commitment and take action. Where ever you are, HIV is an issue that affects people in your community. Whether your action is spreading awareness on the streets, distributing condoms, holding workshops, photo exhibitions, or simply talking to your friends about HIV, you can make a difference. Please let us know of any action that you take, either by [email](#), or on [Facebook](#).



Volunteers, this is your moment!

International Volunteer Day is now only weeks away. How will you celebrate on 5 December? IVD offers an opportunity for volunteer organizations such as the Red Cross Red Crescent and individual volunteers just like you, to concretely show their contributions to peace and development. Over the years, rallies, parades, community volunteering projects, environmental awareness, free medical care and advocacy campaigns have all featured prominently on IVD. You can get more information about the day, and find ideas on how to celebrate by visiting [World Volunteer Web](#).



Empress Shôken Fund

Have you heard of the Empress Shôken Fund? For almost 90 years, the fund has been supporting National Societies around the world in the areas such as disaster preparedness, health, and humanitarian values, but one of the specific focuses of the fund is youth development. Do you have a programme that involves youth in one of these areas? You may be able to benefit from up to CHF 50,000 to support your programme! The deadline for applications is 31 December 2009, so act now – visit the [Empress Shôken pages](#) on FedNet.

Youth resources



Youth views

- [Youth with a vision – Youth on the move](#)

Relive the memories of June and July by watching this video featuring scenes from Youth on the move, the Journey of an idea and the presentation of the Solferino Youth Declaration.

- [Saving lives, changing minds](#)

This movie was featured in the opening ceremony of the 17th session of the General Assembly of the International Federation.

- [Youth as agents of behavioural change at Solferino 2009](#)

During the opening ceremony of Youth on the move, Amal Emam, Egyptian Red Crescent presented the YABC programme.

- [Aw bé dé lé kéléyé - We are the same](#)

The camp song of Youth on the move, presented by participants of the IFRC principles and values department's YABC programme.

Visit the [IFRC YouTube channel](#) to see more Red Cross and Red Crescent related videos. Do you have a Red Cross or Red Crescent video that you think should be featured? [Let us know](#).



Youth documents

- [Red Cross Red Crescent Magazine](#)

This issue of the quarterly magazine features the events of Solferino 2009, as well as many other interesting topics.

- [The economic crisis and its humanitarian impact on Europe](#)

The economic downturn has affected virtually everyone, but none more so than young people. Read this report to discover the impact in Europe.

- [Believe in humanity](#)

A new survey revealing how the world powers – known as the G20 – perceive today's top challenges as well as 12 emerging influences on humanitarian policy.

- [Solferino Youth Declaration](#)

We are eager to have this declaration translated to your language. If you would like to have the document to have the same design as [this one](#), please [contact us](#).

Does your National Society have interesting documents that you think should be featured? You can easily have them shared by emailing the [editor](#).
