Vision of youth engagement 2020

Young people will be living the RCRC Fundamental principles and Humanitarian values and they will excel as key RCRC actors in both alleviating human suffering and advocating for equality.

In the RCRC, young people will be treated with respect and as equal partners to adults. Intergenerational cooperation throughout the RCRC will result in humanitarian actions and extended partnerships that will increase the number of safe and resilient communities around the world.
Young people, including those outside of the mainstream, will have opportunities responsive to their needs, potential, ambitions, and dreams and will be able to evolve personally, and secure livelihoods for themselves and their families.

Young people, knowledgeable and empowered to stay healthy, will assume roles as responsible members of their communities, will care for and engage with those in the shadows and those affected by the “Solferinos of the day”, being motivated by free will, as opposed to a desire for material or financial gain or by external social, economic, and political pressure.

Through, recognition of youth contributions and creation of space for youth by adults, young people will develop ownership for nurturing their communities and will favour ethical decisions that lead to collective community advancement over decisions of individual gain.
PRINCIPLES OF THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN RCRC

Youth engagement is intrinsic to building strong National Societies.

RCRC volunteerism is central to youth engagement and is an effective and meaningful way of youth civic engagement.

Education, Empowerment, and Enabling environments for young people are vital for youth engagement.

Youth are agents of change addressing global humanitarian challenges pertinent to local communities.

Youth in decision-making at all levels of management, governance, and service delivery are crucial for intergenerational transfer of experiences and continuity.
“YOUTH-LED AND NS-OWNED” CONCEPT

Young people are key actors in building-up and sustaining strong National Societies and thus equal partners of adults.

Youth is not a homogenous group - intra-group dynamics, gender, age, and diversity are key factors to access resources and equal opportunities.

Working with RCRC does not inherently benefit only young people, but also the communities they reside in.

Youth in RCRC is a threshold for inclusion and engagement of other vulnerable and marginalized groups.

LACK of SUPPORT to and INVESTMENTS in youth development ARE SHORT-SIGHTED.
MAGICAL NUMBER OF THE Y.E.S.

3 Age groups
✓ Children (5-11)
✓ Adolescents (12-17)
✓ Young adults (18-30)

3 Es concept

3 Pathways
THE IFRC Y.E.S. IS ...

MENU of the IFRC Youth Policy’s "HOWs"
- Select from the list of Strategic directions & Recommended Actions.
- Regional and NSs’ specific adaptations are encouraged.

Unifying global strategic framework for youth engagement in RCRC
- 3Es concept
- Key Youth definitions
- Roles and commitments
- Glossary
THE IFRC POLICY AND THE IFRC Y.E.S. ARE for NSs

IFRC Youth Policy

IFRC Y.E.S.

A National Society owned youth policy and youth engagement strategy
CORNER STONES OF RESILIENCE IN THE Y.E.S.
“WELL-EQUIPPED, EMPOWERED, HEALTHY AND ENABLED CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS, AND YOUNG ADULTS AS AGENTS OF CHANGE”

Youth education
Youth empowerment
Humanitarian Education

RCRC creating enabling environments for youth
The Y.E.S. Cycle

1. RCRC Youth Volunteering
2. Youth Education
3. Youth Empowerment
4. Enabling Environments for Youth
5. Change in the Self
6. Change in Communities
7. Change in the NS

Resilient communities
Section: Youth as volunteers

Strategic direction #1: Increasing meaningful engagement of young volunteers

Recommended actions:

1. Integrate humanitarian education in school curricula and non-formal education
2. 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
3. Complement traditional forms and ways of volunteering with innovative, non-traditional ways of volunteering, including shorter-term participation, online volunteering, and less formal forms of engagement.

Section: Youth as beneficiaries

Strategic direction #1: Promoting Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values to all young people as a means of changing minds, saving lives, and strengthening resilience

Recommended actions:

1. Establish RCRC Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values as the foundation for the individual's ethical behaviour.
2. Promote the Fundamental principles and humanitarian values as the foundation for RCRC advocacy on behalf of and with marginalized groups.
3. Incorporate non-formal methods and peer-to-peer approaches in the dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values within the National Society and its programmes in communities.
4. Incorporate the IFRC framework of strengthening resilience in all programmes targeting or working with young people.
5. Engage young beneficiaries as key advocates in changing minds and as agents of change in strengthening the resilience of their communities.

Strategic direction #2: Strengthening personal capacities of young beneficiaries by putting special emphasis on their abilities and developmental needs

Recommended actions:

1. Provide training and educational opportunities for staff and volunteers to enhance their capacity to work with young people of all ages, including youth workers in programmes with young people.
2. Include youth in decision-making processes.
3. Incorporate new volunteer programmes in all programmes where youth are engaged.
4. Encourage personal competences that children, adolescents, and young adults acquire through their engagement in RCRC programmes.
5. Include children, adolescents, and young adults in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all programmes they participate in.

Strategic direction #3: Developing a culture of young beneficiaries taking action and giving back to their communities

Recommended actions:

1. Recognize young beneficiaries as key to RCRC actions and community development and include them as key stakeholders in service delivery, taking their specific needs in mind.
2. Apply mechanisms for peer-to-peer mentoring among young beneficiaries so that they become empowered and participate in decision-making processes.
3. Seek feedback from young beneficiaries on all aspects of National Society's program and service delivery.
4. Review internal procedures to ensure the participation of young beneficiaries in bodies that represent the National Society's beneficiaries.

Strategic direction #4: Maintaining relevance and responsiveness of all RCRC/RC programmes and services to the needs of young beneficiaries and marginalized youth groups

Recommended actions:

1. Conduct vulnerability and capacity assessments with a specific focus on involving young people, especially in programmes and services targeting young beneficiaries.
2. Set mechanisms for self-assessment of the National Society's outreach to young beneficiaries.
3. Partner with external experts to identify and address needs of vulnerable youth and marginalized youth groups.
Youth as Leaders - IMPACT

- Advocacy of National Societies for vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- Creation of new partnerships for the benefit of programs and services of National Societies.
- Personal and professional development opportunities of young people for assuming their current and future leadership roles within National Societies.
- Youth engagement in decision-making process of National Societies at all levels.
Youth as Volunteers - IMPACT

Motivation and retention of young people engaging with programs and services of National Societies.

Social value that young volunteers bring to development of local communities and National Societies.

Diversification of the volunteers base of National Societies better mirroring makeup of local communities.

Well-being, security, and safety of young volunteers being guaranteed by National Societies.

Innovation of programs and services of National Societies through implementation of youth-led initiatives.
Youth as Beneficiaries - IMPACT

- Relevance and responsiveness of RCRC programs and services to needs of young beneficiaries and marginalized and vulnerable youth.

- Strengthening resilience of young beneficiaries while considering their abilities and developmental needs in project planning cycles of respective RCRC programs and services.

- Children, adolescents, and young adults considered three distinct groups participating in RCRC programs and services.

- Nurturing of a culture of young beneficiaries taking actions and giving back to their communities.
Key factors impacting the cycle

1. RCRC Youth Volunteering
2. Youth Education
3. Youth Empowerment
4. Enabling Environments for Youth
5. Change in the Self
6. Change in Communities
7. Change in the NS

Resilient communities

Unemployability
Health risks
Urbanisation
Migration
Qs&As
Thank you for your attention

For further information on youth engagement and development

Marcel Stefanik
Senior officer
Youth Action and Volunteering Development dpt.
IFRC Secretariat
Tel.: +41 (0) 22 730 4222
E-mail: stefanik.marcel@ifrc.org