

Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values

CHF 360,000

Programme No. 01.74/2000

Programme Context

One of the four core areas of Federation activity to improve the lives of vulnerable people, identified in its Strategy 2010, is the promotion of the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values.

As Strategy 2010 notes, in a world of increasing isolation, tension and recourse to violence, the Red Cross/Red Crescent must champion those individual and community values which encourage respect for other human beings and a willingness to work together to find solutions to community problems. The International Federation is in a unique position to help bring this about through its mandate, the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and the esteem in which its emblems are held.

Programme Strategy

Most of the regional and country programmes presented elsewhere in this appeal describe projects to promote the principles and humanitarian values at a national or regional level. The purpose of this global programme is to reinforce these efforts internationally. Specifically it will seek to promote the understanding and use of the Fundamental Principles within the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and at the same time to develop effective communication with public authorities and the community in order to reduce discrimination and promote a culture of non-violence. Its aim is not simply to ensure that people – staff or volunteers, public or private authorities, or the community in general – are familiar with these principles and values, but to influence their behaviour.

In the past the ICRC and other components of the Movement have campaigned hard for the “dissemination” of the Fundamental Principles often, but by no means exclusively, in relation to the application of the Fundamental Principles in conflict situations, and clearly such efforts need to continue.

This programme, however, is built on the concept that more work needs to be done on the application of the Fundamental Principles in peace time situations, and in particular in relation to issues such as the combating of discrimination and the promotion of non-violence in the resolution of disputes. It will also stress that the purpose of promoting the Fundamental Principles is ultimately to influence behaviour, rather than simply to share information or spread knowledge.

Programme Objectives

The programme will have two main priorities. First, to develop an understanding of the Fundamental Principles internally. New initiatives will be developed to ensure that Red Cross/Red Crescent volunteers and staff understand and act on the basis of the Fundamental Principles in their work with vulnerable people in times of

peace, disaster or armed conflict. Second, to raise the awareness of public and private authorities, through initiatives to ensure that they understand the role of National Societies and the Movement, value and protect their independence and emblem, use their capacity and facilitate their access in peaceful and violent situations.

The programme will support the work of National Societies and their interaction with governments and others in the community through the publication of existing material and the development of new material based on analysis of best practices and assessment of new issues and possible new responses. Significant elements of the programme are therefore concerned with the development and publication of materials, training and research.

Best practice

The Federation will carry out research with National Societies on best practice on the promotion of the fundamental principles. These findings will be shared with National Societies for programme development.

The Federation will work on the understanding of the Fundamental Principles in regard to their cultural appropriateness, and seek suitable models for programme development.

The Federation will research the work done by other organisations on combating discrimination and promoting a culture of non-violence. This research will help guide appropriate programme possibilities for National Societies.

Training

The Federation will publicise and promote the existing 'Principles to Action' training programme material for use by National Societies and delegations.

With the ICRC, the Federation will develop training expertise through training of trainers workshops.

Training modules will be further developed on the Fundamental Principles to address understanding of the mandate, structure and work of the Movement. This includes modules on National Society statutes, governance of the Movement and relations with government.

A process will take place to monitor those pilot projects organised by country and regional delegations on the promotion of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.