

Cairo Call for Action

We, the Humanitarian Leadership Conference participants, representing Red Cross National Societies' leaders from the Middle East and Africa region, along with the leadership of the IFRC, ICRC, United Nation agency regional leaders, relevant stakeholders, and the Government of Egypt met on 28 February and 01 March in Cairo, Egypt to agree on the way forward in upholding our humanitarian duty, individually and collectively, at local, regional, and international levels.

Acknowledging, in accordance with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement principle of humanity, the importance of respect for the human dignity of all girls, boys, women and men across the Middle East and Africa Region, irrespective of legal status

Reaffirming, the humanitarian approach of the Red Cross Red Crescent, to address the needs, vulnerabilities and potentials of local actors and volunteers, in line with six themes: Health emergencies, Localization, Migration and displacement, Climate Change, Resource Mobilization & Financial sustainability, Youth, Volunteering and Gender.

With much energy and ambition, we aim to continue and scale up our individual and collective efforts to alleviate suffering, serve people in need, promote resilience, cross-regional programs, and effective partnerships.

We hereby declare and agree to:

1. Accelerate impactful local actions promoting Climate Change mitigation and adaptation leading to resilient communities with reduced disaster risks.
2. **Define** the National Society's position on Climate Change, identifying community-led priorities and actions, while engaging with the Public Authorities on the development of National Adaptation Plans.
3. **Renew** the meaningful role and engagement of young people and volunteers in addressing the climate and environmental crises in their communities.
4. **Proactively work** to formalize and implement cross-sectorial and multi-agency partnerships that include key governmental bodies/authorities to scale up humanitarian preparedness and response to different epidemics/pandemics and to activate the role of communities and community health workers in national efforts.
5. **Commit** to initiate joint humanitarian diplomacy efforts to urge decision makers to include specific responses for the most vulnerable populations (e.g., migrants and ethnic minorities) and to ensure equitable distribution of resources, including access to vaccines between nations based on needs, regardless of their wealth status.

6. **Ensure** the full implementation of the funding commitment of 25% to national and local actors, with an emphasis on access to flexible and longer-term funding in order to meet Grand Bargain commitments and systemic efforts to create a more enabling and innovative financing architecture.
7. **Emphasize** a strategic approach to investing in National Societies and their development, with a focus on quality leadership, systems strengthening, enhancing integrity such as transparent financial management and greater accountability
8. **Coordinate** efforts to enhance the relationship with public authorities at national and local level for effective locally led action and better implementation of the auxiliary function.
9. **Promote** the agenda of sustainability (not just financial) and approaches that strengthen National Society mission, positioning and identity whilst also building frameworks for accountability, transparency, and integrity; systems development and digitalization and demonstrating impact and effectiveness.
10. **Expand** partnerships with external actors, partners and donors to ensure access to flexible and longer-term funding, reduced earmarking, government subventions and investment in National Societies that also includes core cost coverage.
11. **Develop** a strategic approach to resource mobilization with a focus on cost recovery, diversifying sources of funding and exploring business and income generating avenues that connect back to NS mission.
12. **Champion** the voices of people affected by crises and disaster to ensure humanitarian work is not hindered, blocked or instrumentalized. Focus on the needs, gaps and challenges and communicate effectively where needed.
13. **Urge** a more inclusive approach to attracting and engaging young people and volunteers, in all their diversity, in National Societies with a focus on women, people with disabilities and other under-represented groups and removing the barriers that inhibit their effective involvement
14. **Establish** policy frameworks, mechanisms and resources that promote voice, participation, access and influence of young people in decision-making spaces with appropriate support and recognition of the crucial role they play.
15. **Adopt** a more strategic approach to volunteering, engaging national authorities, collecting and utilizing data and strengthen efforts on duty of care for volunteers through creating national-level and contextually relevant, comprehensive functional coverage mechanisms development of safety nets; and adherence to standards to ensure volunteer safety, security, wellbeing and protection.
16. **Strengthen** the auxiliary role of RCRC National Societies in supporting the public authorities' response to the needs of migrants, refugees, IDPs and host communities through national, regional and cross regional programmes with Movement and external Partners
17. **Enhance** the coordination between MENA National Societies enforcing the RCRC MENA Migration Network at technical level, and through the organization of at least of one Cross Regional Conference on Migration at Leadership Level for the development of a MENA Migration Strategy