

PANEL DISCUSSION 5

Date and time

Date: 26 January 2017
Time: 90 Minutes

Subject of the session

Volunteers, their services and safety

Panel members

Chair:

- Algerian Red Crescent

Panel members:

- Libyan Red Crescent
- Kuwait Red Crescent Society
- Syrian Arab Red Crescent
- United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

Objective of the session

1. To highlight to the participants, the challenges and gaps in today's volunteering context in the MENA region and the risks some of the volunteers face in their daily work
2. Highlight how do National Societies in MENA attract and retain volunteers in some of the most difficult contexts in the region and the globe
3. Highlight successful actions undertaken by National Societies in MENA that contributed to improving their volunteers wellbeing and sense of belonging
4. Raise awareness of the contributions of the Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers in providing humanitarian relief and implementing humanitarian projects with many Movement and other humanitarian partners

Expected results

1. To identify specific ways of improving the safety and security of volunteers as a Movement
2. To arrive at concrete actions for National Societies and IFRC Secretariat to follow-up on improving the safety, security and well-being of volunteers
3. To provide input to the IFRC Volunteering Plan of Action and Volunteer Charter for presentation to the 2017 General Assembly
4. To identify ways of attracting new volunteers and maintain current volunteers in the MENA National Societies

Building questions for discussion

Question 1: In today's complex environments in which volunteers serve, what are the major challenges in the MENA region in ensuring their safety and security?

Question 2: How can we as a Movement minimize the risk faced by volunteers? What are concrete actions that can be taken?

Question 3: How can we increase investment in volunteers, including insurance, legislation, training, psychosocial support and well-being? What are specific actions you would like to see (including working with government and external partners)?

Question 4: How can MENA National Societies attract new volunteers? How can they keep their current volunteers?

