



Pedagogy, Content and Technology: Developing Learning Systems for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

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Learning is a central driver for the 187 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide and its network of 13.1 million active, community-based volunteers. Global health (including first aid), disaster management (including risk reduction), humanitarian diplomacy (HD) and leadership are four core themes around which volunteers can engage in lifelong learning through participation in their National Societies. In 2009, in an austerity context in which resources became scarce to organize face-to-face, classroom-based training requiring traveling bodies and materials, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched an e-learning platform (<http://www.ifrc.org/learning-platform>) open to anyone with reliable Internet access to offer online courses. A year later, the Federation declared that fostering a culture of learning and knowledge sharing would become a key objective for the next decade, to stimulate new thinking, set standards, and establish curricula of relevance for its humanitarian and development work. By 2012, the IFRC's learning platform had 16000 active users from 185 countries, and a certificate programme in humanitarian diplomacy, developed in collaboration with an established, accredited academic institution, had enrolled its first class. By combining innovative pedagogy rooted in teaching to community-based volunteers from vulnerable communities, content grounded in its unique experience as a global humanitarian movement with local roots, and e-learning technology, the Red Cross Red Crescent Learning Network has developed a sustainable model for "new learning" adapted to the needs of tomorrow's humanitarian and development workers.