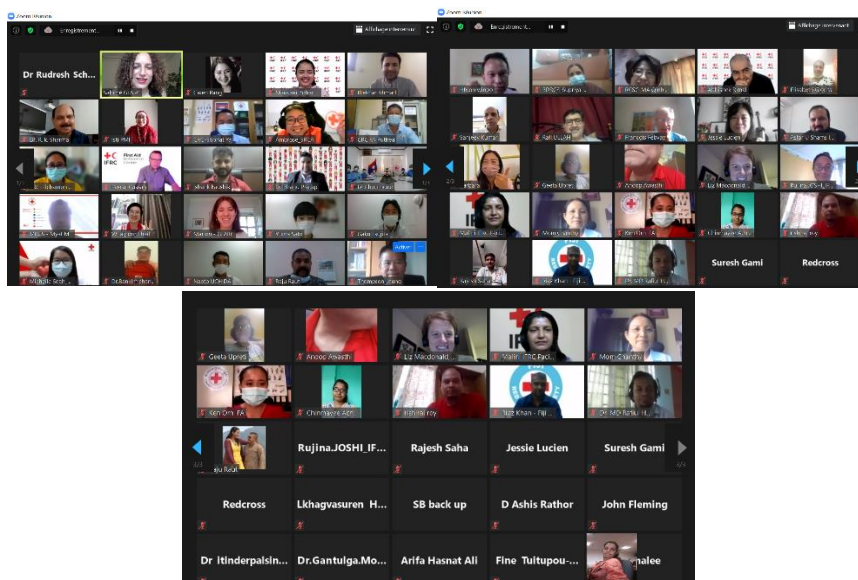


Regional First Aid Meeting 2021

Asia Pacific



[WEBSITE](#) FOR ALL THE MATERIAL

INTRODUCTION

During five days, from **July 5th to July 9th**, the Global First Aid Reference Centre (GFARC) and the IFRC Regional Office for Asia-Pacific (APRO) organised a series of meetings for Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies of the Asia Pacific Region.

Every day and for two hours, around **70 participants** had the opportunity to discuss various topics surrounding First Aid in the region (including 25 delegates from Indian Red Cross).

The goals of these meetings were:

- To discuss and recommend mechanisms and initiatives that contribute to ensuring good quality of first aid programs.
- To share good practices, tools and innovations in the development of first aid knowledge, education and services.
- To explore and agree on knowledge sharing mechanism among first aid managers in the region and globally.

We warmly thank the session facilitators from Red Cross Society of China (Ma Qinghui), Singapore Red Cross (Ambrose Lee), IFRC CSD in Pacific (Malini Nair) !

AGENDA

MONDAY 05	TUESDAY 06	WEDNESDAY 07
<p>Let's advocate for first aid!</p> <p>Opening of the meeting – Gwendolyn Pang ---</p> <p>Repositioning first aid at the centre of our strategy ---</p> <p>Working groups ---</p> <p>Communications for First Aid</p>	<p>First aid tools launched in 2021: harmonization pack</p> <p>First aid platform ---</p> <p>First Aid Guidelines ---</p> <p>International First Aid Attestation (IFAA) ---</p> <p>IFAA case-study – <i>Red Cross Society of China</i> ---</p> <p>Discussing IFAA in working groups</p>	<p>First aid trainings in the “new normal”</p> <p>Collaborative discussion on covid-19 ---</p> <p>Tools for first aid and covid- 19: safe trainings and AEFI ---</p> <p>Digital first aid: exploring approaches ---</p> <p>Case-studies of National Societies implementing blended-learning</p>

THURSDAY 08	FRIDAY 09
<p>Commercial first aid</p> <p>Parking lot – Random questions ---</p> <p>Accidentology and risks at work ---</p> <p>Market your first aid course ---</p> <p>Working groups</p>	<p>First aid, a cross-sector topic</p> <p>ICRC approach ---</p> <p>Disaster risk reduction and first aid ---</p> <p>WFAD: Be a hero at school and in your community ---</p> <p>How to work together? Working groups</p>

UNFOLDING AND OUTCOMES OF THE SESSIONS

The first session started with an opening speech of Gwendolyn Pang, Deputy Regional Director for Asia Pacific Office, who recalled the importance of ensuring that all Red

Cross and Red Crescent National Societies are equipped to provide quality first aid to their communities, and acknowledged the amazing motivation and dedication of their staff.

Dr Pascal Cassan and Dr Bhanu Pratap then presented **the initiative of the IFRC, willing to reposition First Aid at the Centre of its strategy**. The current first aid policy and vision are out of date and no longer applicable to the current scope of work being done by the RCRC movement in First Aid and Resuscitation. With the technical support of the IFRC secretariat and IFRC GFARC, a revised IFRC FA Policy will be built on common approaches and contribute to the harmonization of membership responses, developed through a collaborative process, actively engaging NS, the IFRC, and relevant stakeholders and expert groups as needed. The revised first aid policy should be submitted for adoption at the General assembly 2021. IFRC and GFARC will also develop the IFRC First Aid Vision 2030. It will determine the necessary capacity, resources, organizational structures, support, and partnerships to operationalize the new vision appropriately. IFRC Health and Care Department and IFRC GFARC will work together to develop the FA vision through a Membership-wide extensive consultation process.

Working groups were organised to discuss various subjects around this initiative, and participants were invited to talk about the programs in their National Societies. In the discussion on **First aid in schools**, National Societies mentioned the need for more fund to support the implementation of First Aid trainings in schools and the importance of institutionalizing First Aid in schools, by advocating towards governments. On **First aid education and training**, the need for support to implement AED trainings was mentioned, as well as helping National Societies integrate the changes of the new Guidelines in their trainings. On **first aid in operations and pre-hospital cares**, the team discussed the importance of improving the International Guidelines, which do not develop on this theme and this gap could be filled in the future. On **First Aid Standards and Qualification**, increasing the pedagogical capacities of the National Societies seems to be critical. It is also important for National Societies to have different trainings according to the profile of the trainees, which is not always the case.

These remarks will be the starting points of the discussion of the working groups of the General Assembly.

Finally, Dante Licon from the IFRC presented the last topic of the day: **how to communicate on first aid on social media**. For those creating content on social media, Dante recalled the importance of presence, consistency and shareability. It is always very important to be creative and to follow the trends.

His three main recommendations to communicate on first aid on social media are:

- Define your objectives. Is it creating a community? Recruiting volunteers? Sharing information?
- Assess and focus your resources. It is ok to be realistic. We cannot do everything!

- Partnerships matter. Find ways to collaborate with champions and your audience. Remember: social media is social.

The second session started with an introduction of the **new platform of the Global First Aid Reference Centre**: <https://www.globalfirstaidcentre.org/>.

Dr. Pascal Cassan, Malini Nair and Susanne Schunder Tatzber then presented the **First Aid Guidelines 2020**. A suggestion was made, on including more images in the future guidelines to illustrate the different sections.

Then the GFARC introduced one of his most important projects, the **International First Aid Attestation**. The IFAA is a recognition that a first aid training provided by a Red Cross Red Crescent National Society (RC RC NS) is consistent with the latest IFRC International First Aid, Resuscitation and Education Guidelines, updated every five years. The Red Cross Society of China presented a case study on the process of IFAA.

Seven IFAA representatives facilitated **working groups** in order to answer questions on the IFAA process. The feedbacks of these working groups were very interesting. Almost every National Society who participated sees the IFAA as a benefit to provide quality training, and a useful tool to be more competitive on the first aid market. Most National Societies believe IFAA and guidance will help them for their Commercial First Aid Programs, First Aid in schools and strengthen the quality improvement and monitoring system.

Even though they were all eager to apply, the following challenges were reported:

- Challenges to start the process: Many of the participants are interested in applying, but feel that they do not have the resources to effectively start the process and feel like they need a coordinator dedicated to the IFAA process.
- A group mentioned that filling the self-assessment questionnaire was long and complicated and that the questionnaires are only available in English which creates again a language barrier.

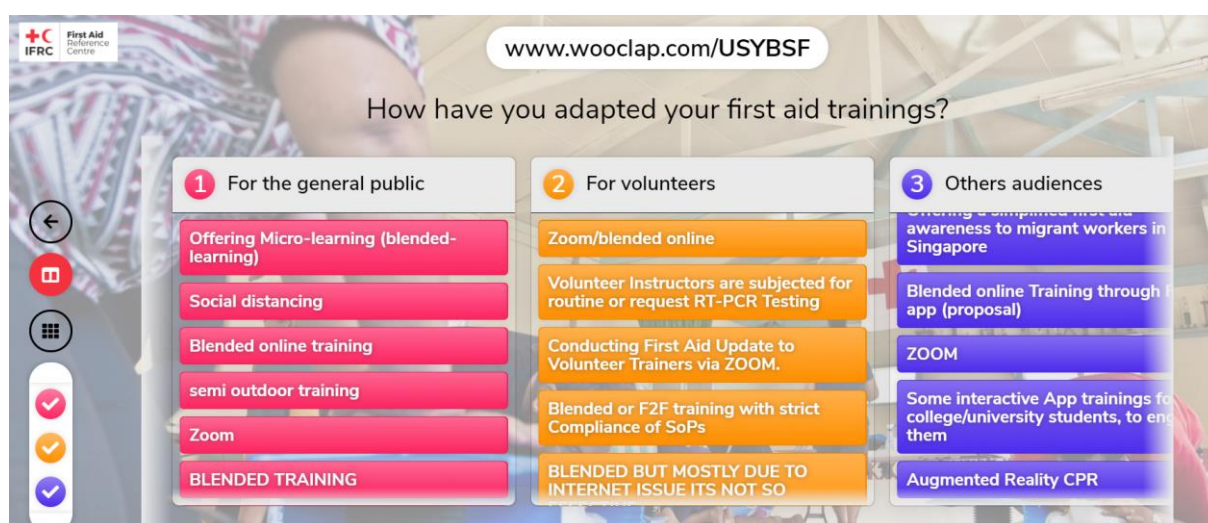
To ensure **harmonization over standardization**, the NS can fill the template in accordance with their culture and language specificity. Providing requirements that are more detailed would also help bridging the gaps that may exist between NS, during the process to determine the content for their training manual. It would also ease the communication between NS.

The NS reported that there is a need for ToT training and first aid training for volunteers.

The GFARC understands that the main points that raise concerns on IFAA are about a clarification on the process and a harmonization. The NS are encouraged to reach Salomé GFARC and Mausam to organize a specific meeting for their NS for support. IFAA Representatives can advise as well.

To answer a question on remote visits, during the pilot test in Costa Rica, there were remote trainings with online IFAA. The outcomes are not as good as a field visit, but we bear in mind that it can help, depending on some technical factors (connexion, techniques etc.). Visits are strongly recommended, and if they have to be organised online, they need to be carefully prepared. Either online or offline, action plans have to be built in all cases.

On the third session, Salomé Boucif opened the meeting with a **collaborative activity** around a question on trainings during Covid-19. She left the floor to participants who explained how they adapted their trainings during the pandemic. She also made a recap on the tools created by the GFARC on first aid and Covid-19.



Then Salomé and Marion from the GFARC made a presentation **on how to shift from traditional first aid trainings to a blended learning approach**, which is something critical for many National Societies as the pandemic stopped them from conducting first aid trainings. Blended learning has many advantages but also comes with various challenges. Many resources on the topic are available on the platform of the GFARC and the First Aid app can be a great tool to teach first aid using a blended learning approach.

Three National Societies presented their own case studies on how they implemented blended courses for first aid (Cambodian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Singapore Red Cross).

The fourth session started with a “**parking lot**” discussion, meaning that participants could ask any question they wanted to the facilitators.

Then Bassinte from the GFARC and François Febvay presented the new guide for National Societies on **how to develop commercial first aid**. Bassinte addressed the risk and accidentology part. She highlighted how important it is to identify the potential causes of workplace injuries, assess the risk of accidents and determine how first aid can be provided. François talked about the part on how to market the first aid courses, how to

come up with a marketing plan, create a profit and loss statement, define the value proposition of the program, etc.

Working groups were organised to discuss the implementation of commercial first aid within National Societies. Currently, the main challenge for National Societies is dealing with the impact of the Covid-19 crisis. They had to stop their face-to-face programs for a long time and it is sometimes hard to adapt to sanitary measures. Most National Societies are now trying to shift to online learning or blended learning programs, but this is not an easy process. However, this new way of delivering courses will be helpful in the long term. It can also be hard to deal with competitors, who have more funds and very attractive commercial first aid programs.

The fifth and last session started with a presentation of Jérôme Faucet **on Disaster Risk Reduction and First Aid**. Jérôme highlighted the crosscutting aspect of First Aid in Disaster Risk reduction, through National Societies Preparedness and through community resilience. He also provided examples on how first Aid is a key component to community disaster response and to school safety programming.

Matthew Earl then presented the **first aid program of the ICRC**. The objectives of these programs are helping people affected by armed conflicts or other situations of violence, and making sure they receive timely and effective first aid assistance and, when needed, as well as evacuating them to referral health care facilities. ICRC mainly do primarily trauma-based first aid.

Marion from the GFARC introduced **World First Aid Day 2021** and the theme, which is “Be a hero at school and in your community”. The event will take place on September 11.

Then **working groups** were organised in order to reflect on how the GFARC and National Societies could improve their collaboration. The main points to take away from these discussions would be :

- **Exchange on a more regular basis (GFARC/NS)**
- **Highlight more case studies from NS**
- **Having an AED training for Indian Red Cross**
- **Support from the GFARC in terms of adaptation to local contexts: it means helping with translation of documents, support NS with toolkits adapted to local context.**
- **More support for NS which would like to create Blended learning and online learning first aid programs**
- **More information on IFAA and support with the process**
- **Organizing a new Training for Master Trainer in the region.**
- **Support in updating the curriculum of first aid trainings regarding the new Guidelines.**

RESULTS OF THE FEEDBACK SURVEY AND NEXT STEPS

After the five sessions ended, the GFARC sent to participants a **survey** in order to collect feedbacks on the overall organisation, content and unfolding of the sessions.

Participants left good appreciations on the five sessions. To the question, "How were the meetings this week compared with your expectations?" - satisfaction level is **4.2/5**.

To the question "How happy are you with the working groups sessions?" - satisfaction level is **4.5/5**.

Participants also left good appreciations on the choice of date, time, organisation, structure and content. Sessions that were most appreciated are the ones on : **commercial first aid, blended learning and the one focusing on the International First Aid Attestation. Participants are asking for more information on these subjects.**

They are also asking for more meetings in general, with a preference for regional meetings that include working groups, technical meetings with a focus on one particular subject, and GFARC/IFRC updates. The favourite recurrence is every month or every two months.

To continue further with this new collaboration, a meeting will be held in September/October to define our strategy and how to organise technical webinars and below the action plan according the discussion in working groups.

**We would like to thank all the
participants for their active
engagement in the first aid file
in the Region!**

2022 First aid strategic planning GFARC – Asia-Pacific

OBJECTIVE 1: National Societies are engaged in the process of harmonisation and of quality improvement

Activity 1: FA and resuscitation guidelines 2020 use

Activity 2: Advocacy paper for FA and resuscitation guidelines 2020 use

Activity 3: IFAA for National Societies, with support of AP IFAA Representatives

Activity 4: IFAA applications follow-up

Activity 5: Organisation of one training of Regional ToT

OBJECTIVE 2: National Societies are engaged in the promotion of first aid and first aid cross-sectors (climate change, disaster risk reduction, schools, road safety...)

Activity 1: World First Aid Day (WFAD)

Activity 2: World restart a heart (WRAH) day

Activity 3: First aid and DRR games

Activity 4: Covid immunization: first aid for adverse effects guide

OBJECTIVE 3: National Societies benefit from initiatives/tools for their development

Activity 1: Commercial first aid tutorials (small groups)

Activity 2: Commercial first aid workshops

Activity 3 : Commercial first aid technical and marketing guide

Activity 4 : Good practices guide on blended learning

Activity 5 : Webinar on blended learning

Activity 6: First aid collaborative platform

Activity 7: Health and First aid newsletter (2)

OBJECTIVE 4: National Societies benefit from networking

Activity 1: Regional first aid gathering every 3 months

Activity 2: Refresher for AP IFAA representatives

Activity 3: Refresher for AP master ToTs

OBJECTIVE 5: National Societies are actors of the global effort for highlighting first aid

Activity 1: Repositioning first aid at the centre of the IFRC strategy working groups from AP

Activity 2 : Consultation: Update of the first aid policy

Activity 3 :Consultation: Update of the first aid vision