

World First Aid Day -14th Sept 2019

Message from the Secretary General



World First Aid Day is observed the world over on the second Saturday in September. It is being celebrated each year ever since the year 2000. The term “first aid” refers to the assistance given to anyone suffering a sudden injury or illness.

***Theme for this year is: “First Aid and Excluded People”
Addressing Exclusion through first aid***

Excluding somebody means denying her or him “access to a place, group, or privilege” or “removing her or him from consideration”. All communities have groups of people –often unseen – who are unable to enjoy the comprehensive benefits that are accessible to mainstream society.

Such disadvantaged groups can include, among others; women and girls, older people, prisoners, those with certain diseases such as TB, HIV and those with disabilities, children and young people in difficulty such as orphans, child labourers or those on the street, people who have been trafficked or displaced, refugees and other migrants, people of particular sexual orientation, members of minority groups, those subjected to harmful cultural practices and countless others deprived of their human rights.

*Some excluded groups are more likely to be injured or become ill suddenly, or to come into contact with someone needing help. All of them have the potential to learn first aid and save lives and therefore **Red Cross first aid trainings** should cover them as much as possible. At the same time, first aid is an act of humanity, showing willingness to save lives with full respect for diversity and without discrimination.*

*It being one of our core activities, on the occasion of the **World First Aid Day** the national headquarters aims to raise awareness of first aid for all individuals to prevent injuries and save lives in everyday and crisis situations, as well as at promoting the accessibility of the first aid. In view of this year’s world First aid day theme, IRCS national headquarters has designed a braille version of First aid module for visually challenged individuals under the project name “**First Aid for Students and Teachers**” (FAST).*

On this occasion I congratulate all Red Cross branches to raise the standard of training and services for which advisories have already been issued. We should now achieve the task of standardizing the training with the new methods that have evolved and imparted to our master trainers.

I congratulate the trainers on this occasion for their good work and wish them good luck.

R K Jain, IAS (Retd)