

Power of humanity

33rd International Conference
of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

9-12 December 2019, Geneva



Draft resolution: Addressing mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies

1. ensure early and sustained access to mental health and psychosocial support services by people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies
2. invest in local and community-based action, embedded in local and national services, on a longer-term basis to prevent, prepare for and respond to mental health and psychosocial needs, including by strengthening community resilience and the capacities of volunteers
3. encourages States and National Societies to enhance their cooperation building on the National Societies' often unique humanitarian access to affected people and auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field

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4. ensure that mental health and psychosocial support responses include psychosocial, psychological and specialized mental health care
5. integrate mental health and psychosocial support into all activities addressing humanitarian needs, including prevention and protection, and ensure that mental health and psychosocial support and responses addressing other humanitarian needs, such as shelter, food, livelihoods, education and support to separated families and families of the missing, are mutually reinforcing
6. ensure that mental health and psychosocial support is an integral component in domestic and international emergency response systems, including disaster laws, preparedness plans and emergency response coordination mechanisms

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7. take action to address stigma, exclusion and discrimination related to mental health and psychosocial needs through approaches that reinforce the dignity and participation of affected people, in particular persons with lived experiences, in a context-specific and culturally sensitive way
8. strengthen the quality and capacity of the workforce, including volunteers, responding to the mental health and psychosocial needs
9. take measures to protect and promote the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of staff and volunteers who are responding to humanitarian needs across all sectors, equipping them with the necessary skills, tools and supervision to cope with stressful situations and responding to their specific mental health and psychosocial needs