



RC3 STRATEGIC VISION 2025-2030



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RC3 Funding partners:





RC3

STRATEGIC

VISION

2025-2030



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WHO ARE WE

RC3 is the Red Cross Red Crescent Research Consortium. It is an open, collaborative, and coordinated network of entities and initiatives created within the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement that are entirely or partially dedicated to conducting and promoting research in the humanitarian field.

In 2025, RC3 has **26 active members**, and **4 associate members** including National Societies research departments, IFRC Global and regional reference centers, and other academic or scientific entities and initiatives within the RCRC Movement. We are based in Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific, and Europe.

Besides connecting their specific expertise, RC3 members join forces to support the Movement in utilizing research to achieve its community-driven goals and missions. We work with National Societies, the IFRC, and the ICRC to help them build safer, more resilient, and more sustainable communities.

RC3 members

Americas



**Canadian
Red Cross**



**Global Disaster
Preparedness Center**

CADRIM

Red Cross Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Reference Centre



CRUZ ROJA
ARGENTINA

**OBSERVATORIO
HUMANITARIO**



ICVD

INTERAMERICAN CENTRE FOR
VOLUNTEERING DEVELOPMENT



CREPD

CENTRO DE REFERENCIA EN
PREPARACION PARA DESASTRES

Africa

ICHA | International Center for
Humanitarian Affairs

At the Kenya Red Cross Society

Inquire • Understand • Influence

croix-rouge française
PIROI
gestión de catástrofes **center**



Global Migration Lab

Asociación
RedCross

26 entities

250+ staff & volunteers

Europe



Asia Pacific

- +C APDRC**
- + 香港紅十字會 HONG KONG RED CROSS**
中國紅十字會分會 Branch of the Red Cross Society of China
- + Australian Red Cross Lifeblood®**
- + Japanese Red Cross Society**

OUR VISION & MISSION

Our Vision

RC3 is based on the idea that science can improve the quality of humanitarian services and help the Movement respond to growing global humanitarian challenges. We envision a Movement where research and scientific results are integral to humanitarian practice and policy – connecting science and lived experience to guide principled, adaptive, and community-driven responses to local and global humanitarian challenges.

Our Mission

RC3's mission is to support the International Movement in achieving its community-driven goals by strengthening its research ecosystem, generating and mobilising knowledge to improve humanitarian action, and promoting the meaningful use of evidence across policy, practice, and operations to alleviate suffering and promote human dignity. We produce knowledge, optimize existing resources, and support Movement-wide research collaborations to help improve humanitarian action and develop a solid scientific culture rooted in a people-centered approach.

HOW WE CAME TO BE

RC3 was born in 2019 out of a simple but powerful question shared by a handful of researchers within the Movement: *“Who else is doing research?”* What began as an informal exchange quickly revealed a deeper need to connect dispersed research efforts, to learn from one another and to strengthen the role of evidence within the world’s largest humanitarian network.

This desire to collaborate and reduce fragmentation led to the creation of RC3 as an open, inclusive, and coordinated research consortium. From the outset, RC3 was conceived not as a structure but as a living network: a distributed community bringing together National Society research units, IFRC reference centres, the ICRC, and multiple academic and scientific initiatives across continents.

RC3 Members share the core belief that research plays a critical role in humanitarian action through helping humanitarian workers document realities on the ground, understand people’s needs, analyse complex social and political dynamics, and design more relevant, principled, and effective humanitarian responses. Strengthening science within the Movement therefore became both the foundation and the driving force of RC3.

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR

Since its early moments, RC3 has supported the building of relationships between RCRC research entities and nurtured a shared scientific culture across the Movement. Annual Global Research Workshops and regular online meetings have enabled members to exchange practices, strengthen their research skills, and initiate collaborations.

RC3 has contributed to creating spaces for collective learning and exchange. In 2023, it launched the first RC3 Long Night of Research – a 24-hour global online event dedicated to research in the RCRC Movement. Bringing together humanitarian researchers and practitioners from all around the world to share ongoing work and discuss emerging findings, the event provided a rich platform for the emergence of constructive, action-oriented and evidence-based debates on current and future humanitarian practices.

In parallel, RC3 has driven key collaborative research initiatives, notably its volunteering flagship project, which produced an international reference guide on volunteering and ethical guidelines for volunteer engagement in data collection. It also developed a global interactive database consolidating hundreds of research outputs and making them easily searchable by topic, region and organization – becoming a valuable tool for operational teams seeking evidence to guide programming, advocacy, and context analysis.

In just a few years, RC3 has helped transform research within the Movement from fragmented efforts into a connected and collaborative ecosystem. These achievements provide a strong foundation for the next phase of the consortium's development and its continued mission to strengthen humanitarian action through research.

RC3 STRATEGIC VISION

2025-2030

With six years of continuous growth and collaboration, RC3 now stands at a defining moment in its journey. What began as a community of researchers seeking connection has evolved into a global, multidisciplinary network shaping how knowledge is produced, shared, and used across the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This Strategic Vision sets the course for RC3's next five years – guiding collective action, reaffirming our mission, and consolidating the progress made during our first years of existence.

Developed through consultations and exchanges during RC3's Global Annual Research Workshops, this vision represents the collective reflections and aspirations of our members. It builds on lessons learned and identifies the priorities that will carry RC3 forward as it continues to strengthen the Movement's research ecosystem.

This Strategic Vision is built around three interconnected pillars:

1. Strengthening peer-to-peer collaboration and fostering dialogue between academia and practitioners;
2. Producing and mobilizing knowledge to inform humanitarian practice, policy, and innovation;
3. Building research capacity and supporting National Societies to do research.

Rooted in the Fundamental Principles of the RCRC Movement and guided by the scientific values of integrity, openness, collaboration and diversity, RC3's next chapter will deepen cooperation and innovation across regions and disciplines.

RC3 Strategic V

OUR VISION: SCIENCE CO

RC3 envisions a Movement where research and scientific results are integral to humanitarian practice and policy - c
and global humanita

OUR MISSION: STRENGTHENING HUMANIT

RC3's mission is to support the International Movement in achieving its community-driven goals by strengthening its
meaningful use of evidence across policy, practice, and opera

GOAL 1: STRENGTHENING PEER-TO-PEER COLLABORATION & FOSTERING DIALOGUE BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND PRACTITIONERS

Objective: Strengthening and broadening a vibrant and connected network of RCRC entities, researchers, experts and academic partners, fostering collaborative and locally grounded research and knowledge exchange relevant to evolving humanitarian trends and community needs.

Axis 1: Create spaces and events for RCRC Researchers and academic partners to connect, share knowledge and expertise and foster collaborative relationships.

Axis 2: Create spaces and events for RCRC and humanitarian researchers, practitioners and volunteers to meet, connect and exchange to ground research in operational and local realities.

Axis 3: Engage RCRC Leadership and Governance (IFRC, ICRC, National Societies) to Promote a Culture of Research and Evidence-Based Decision-Making.

PRIMARY AUDIENCE: RCRC & HUMANITARIAN
RESEARCHERS AND EXPERTS

GOAL 2: PRODUCING & MOBILIZING HUMANITARIAN PRACTICE

Objective: Strengthening the humanitarian landscape by producing knowledge to support a decision-making and forward

Axis 1: Identify knowledge gaps and research agenda.

Axis 2: Enhance knowledge management to improve accessibility to research data across the Movement.

Axis 3: Produce research, knowledge individually and in collaboration with humanitarian actors and academic

Axis 4: Disseminate research and actionable, empowering take evidence-based and innovative affected groups and communiti

PRIMARY AUDIENCE: DECISION
PRACTITIONERS

ision 2025-2030

CONNECTED FOR HUMANITY

Connecting science and lived experience to guide principled, adaptive, and community-driven responses to local humanitarian challenges.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION THROUGH RESEARCH

Building a research ecosystem, generating and mobilising knowledge to improve humanitarian action, and promoting the conditions to alleviate suffering and promote human dignity.

UTILIZING KNOWLEDGE TO INFORM RESEARCH, POLICY & INNOVATION

...the response to an evolving ... synthesizing and producing ... adaptive learning, informed ... -looking humanitarian action.

... and research priorities to set the

... management within the Movement ... research outputs, analysis work and

... knowledge and evidence briefs, ... on with Movement partners, other ... mic institutes.

... and knowledge that is accessible ... humanitarian and local actors to ... rative action that better supports ... es.

LEADERSHIP, POLICY-MAKERS, HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS & ACADEMICS

GOAL 3: BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY & SUPPORTING NATIONAL SOCIETIES TO DO RESEARCH

Objective: Supporting and empowering national societies, staff and volunteers with standards, skills and tools needed to conduct and utilize high-quality research - fostering a strong internal research culture and enhancing the impact of locally-driven humanitarian action to reach higher impact.

Axis 1: Build individual research skills and competencies within the Movement to conduct and operationalize research.

Axis 2: Provide practical guidance and frameworks to National Societies for strengthening research capacities, establish robust standards and practices, and support effective use of research outputs.

Axis 3: Establish shared structures for rigorous and ethical research (e.g. RC3 Ethics Review board, Scientific & Evaluation Committee, Academic journal, etc.)

PRIMARY AUDIENCE: RCRC MOVEMENT & NATIONAL SOCIETIES

1 **Goal 1: Strengthening Peer-to-Peer Collaboration & Fostering Dialogue between academia and practitioners**

Research thrives when people can connect, exchange experiences, and build knowledge together. As humanitarian challenges grow more complex, no single entity can generate or apply the evidence needed to guide effective action alone. Strengthening peer-to-peer collaboration and fostering dialogue between research and practice appears essential to ensure that research remains relevant, grounded, and able to inform decision-making at all levels.

Over the next five years, RC3 will keep strengthening and broadening a vibrant and connected network of RCRC entities, researchers, experts and academic partners, fostering collaborative and locally grounded research and knowledge exchange relevant to evolving humanitarian trends and community needs. By creating spaces for interaction across actors, disciplines and regions, RC3 hopes to ensure research is not only academically rigorous but also relevant and useful to operational realities and the lived experiences of affected communities around the world.

Strategic Axes

- Creating spaces and events for RCRC Researchers and academic partners to connect, share knowledge and expertise and foster collaborative relationships
- Creating spaces and events for RCRC and humanitarian researchers, practitioners and volunteers to meet, connect and exchange to ground research in operational and local realities.
- Engaging RCRC leadership and governance (IFRC, ICRC, National Societies) to promote a culture of research and evidence-based decision-making across the Movement.

Enablers

- RC3 Global Annual Research Workshops
- RC3 Global Online Meetings
- Humanitarian Research Online Community of Practice
- RC3 Long Night of Research

Goal 2: Producing & mobilizing knowledge to inform humanitarian practice, policy & innovation

Mobilizing research is essential to improve operational relevance and support decision-making that is reflexive, responsible and future-oriented. RC3 seeks to contribute to this effort by identifying knowledge gaps, generating research, and synthesizing evidence that account for the realities of affected communities and humanitarian workers.

Over the next five years, RC3 members will work to strengthen the response to an evolving humanitarian landscape by synthesizing and producing knowledge to support adaptive learning, informed decision-making and forward-looking humanitarian action. By advancing systems to make research outputs and data easier to access and by disseminating research in actionable formats it hopes to support efforts in mobilising knowledge to inform humanitarian practice, policy and innovation across diverse settings.

Strategic Axes

- Identifying knowledge gaps and research priorities to set the research agenda;
- Enhancing knowledge management within the Movement to improve accessibility to research outputs, analysis work and data across the Movement.
- Producing research, knowledge and evidence briefs, individually and in collaboration with Movement partners, other humanitarian actors and academic institutes;
- Disseminating research and knowledge that is accessible and actionable, empowering humanitarian and local actors to take evidence-based and innovative action that better supports affected groups and communities.

Enablers

- RCRC Research Database
- RC3 Reference Guides
- RC3 Evidence Briefs
- RC3 Dialogues & Dissemination workshops

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Goal 3: Building research capacity & supporting national societies to do research

A strong research culture begins with ensuring people across the Movement recognize the value of research, understand research processes, and feel confident engaging with and applying evidence in their own context. Strengthening core research literacy, building research capacity and supporting trained researchers is essential to ground humanitarian action in community realities, improve programmes, counter harmful information, reinforce accountability and support trust in the humanitarian sector.

Over the next five years, RC3 will work to support and empower national societies, staff and volunteers with the standards, skills and tools needed to conduct and utilize high-quality research - fostering a strong internal research culture and enhancing the impact of locally-driven humanitarian action to reach higher impact. By doing so, it hopes to ensure all actors - staff, volunteers, communities and partners - are equipped with the right ethical and methodological skills, resources and competencies to contribute to research safely and meaningfully.

Strategic Axes

- Building individual research skills and competencies within the Movement to conduct and operationalize research;
- Providing practical guidance and frameworks to National Societies for strengthening research capacities, establish robust standards and practices, and support effective use of research outputs;
- Establishing shared structures for rigorous and ethical research (e.g. RC3 Ethics Review board, Scientific & Evaluation Committee, Academic journal, etc.)

Enablers

- Research Capacity-Building Workshops
- RC3 Research Training Package
- RC3 Summer School
- RC3 Guidelines Series



RC3 MEMBERS 2025

RC3 Active Members

- Argentine Red Cross Humanitarian Observatory (Argentina)
- Asia Pacific Disaster Resilience Centre (South Korea)
- Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Research (Australia)
- Canadian Red Cross Research Units (Canada)
- Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Reference Centre (Barbados)
- French Red Cross Foundation (France)
- German Red Cross Research Department (Germany)
- Global Disaster Preparedness Center (USA)
- Global First Aid Reference Centre (France)
- Humanitarian needs and analysis department - Norwegian Red Cross (Norway)
- ICRC Centre for Operational Research and Experience (Switzerland)
- IFRC National Society Development Services (Switzerland)
- Interamerican Centre for Volunteering Development (Costa Rica)
- International Centre for Humanitarian Affairs - Kenya Red Cross (Kenya)
- Japanese Red Cross Disaster Management Research Institute (Japan)
- Livelihoods Resource Centre (Spain)
- MHPSS International Movement Hub (Denmark)
- PIROI (France – Indian Ocean)
- RCRC Climate Reference Centre (Netherlands)
- RCRC Global Migration Lab (Australia & Kenya)
- Regional Reference Center for Disaster Preparedness (El Salvador)
- Shelter Research Unit - Humanitarian Aid Luxembourg Red Cross (Luxembourg)
- Strategic Planning and Humanitarian Diplomacy Department - Hong Kong Red Cross (Hong Kong)
- Turkish Red Crescent Academy (Turkey)
- 510 Initiative (Netherlands)

RC3 Associate Members

- Health and Integration Department - Swiss Red Cross (Switzerland)
- IFRC Library & Archives (Global)
- IFRC Global Volunteering Alliance (Global)
- Solferino Academy (Italy)
- ICRC Review (Switzerland)



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