**GWSI adopting Total Sanitation:**

**Ten principles for sanitation interventions in the Red Cross Red Crescent**

**IFRC WatSan/EH Unit – Geneva Secretariat**

The IFRC through its Global Water and Sanitation Initiative (GWSI) is committed to significantly scaling up efforts for improved sanitation facilities without de-emphasizing the need for safe water and solid waste management. Both are equally important and both require effective hygiene promotion to create the demand for sanitation, ensure effective behaviour change and sustain the use of facilities.

**Ten principles:**

The ten principles are the common foundation for IFRC sanitation programming globally. They provide a framework for action that can be easily adapted for programming in diverse contexts.

1. The aim of IFRC sanitation interventions is to achieve 100 per cent open defecation free (ODF) communities through affordable, appropriate technology and behaviour change.
2. The sustainable use of appropriate sanitation facilities should be measured along with the construction of hardware facilities (sanitation coverage).
3. Successful interventions required the broad engagement with all members of the community, including schools, health centres and traditional leadership structures.
4. Communities lead the change process and use their own capacities to attain their objectives. Their role is central in planning and implementing improved sanitation, taking into account the needs of all community members, vulnerable groups and people with disabilities.
5. Subsidies – whether funds, hardware or other forms – should not be given directly to households. However the IFRC recognized the importance of introducing ‘smart subsidies’ in specific contexts. Community rewards, revolving loans, graded and minimum subsidies, incentives, etc. are acceptable only where they are designed and managed by the community itself and they encourage collective action in support of sustainable ODF status.
6. IFRC recognizes that communities are often able to determine for themselves what design and materials work best for sanitation infrastructure rather than imposing standards. However, in some difficult environments, the Red Cross Red Crescent may need to provide external technical guidance to ensure facilities are technically sound and sustainable in the long run.
7. Sanitation interventions should focus on building local capacities to enable sustainability. Supporting the development of sanitation market in countries through training of community entrepreneurs and local artisans may help to meet the existing local demand.
8. Government participation from the outset – at the local and national levels – ensures the effectiveness of sanitation interventions and the potential for scaling up.
9. An extensive experience on different hygiene promotion methods (CLTS, PHAST, Health Clubs, etc.) is currently available within the Red Cross Red Crescent. The selection of the methods to apply should be related to the context, existing knowledge, resources and experience within the National Society and the guidance provided by the sanitation policy in the country.
10. Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers, especially those who have been trained in PHAST in the past, may lead the community in their sanitation transformation by role modelling and encouragement of other sanitation champions. Their engagement is critical during the post-ODF stage.