



Together for  
humanity



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies promotes the humanitarian activities of National Societies among vulnerable people.

By coordinating international disaster relief and encouraging development support it seeks to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

The International Federation, the National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross together constitute the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

## Household water treatment and storage

This booklet is aimed at Red Cross/Red Crescent field personnel and volunteers responding to emergencies involving problems with water. This manual presents the various options available to improve household water quality.

Contents include:

- An overview of water quality
- How to clean water at the household level through various means
- How to handle household water
- How to choose the right method of improving water quality
- How to promote the use of household water treatment and storage

After an intervention has been chosen, beneficiaries will require training in the use of specific treatment method. This manual contains short fact sheets that can be distributed for use by volunteers in carrying out this training.

For more information, contact the **Water and sanitation unit, Health and care department**

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

P.O. Box 372, CH-1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland  
Telephone: +41 22 730 4222  
Telefax: +41 22 733 0395  
E-mail: [secretariat@ifrc.org](mailto:secretariat@ifrc.org)

For further information, please visit the International Federation web site: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

176400 10/2009 500



# Household water treatment and safe storage in emergencies

A field manual for Red Cross/Red Crescent personnel and volunteers



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



# The International Federation's Global Agenda (2006–2010)

Over the next two years, the collective focus of the Federation will be on achieving the following goals and priorities:

## Our goals

**Goal 1:** Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

**Goal 2:** Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

**Goal 3:** Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

**Goal 4:** Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

## Our priorities

Improving our local, regional and international capacity to respond to disasters and public health emergencies.

Scaling up our actions with vulnerable communities in health promotion, disease prevention and disaster risk reduction.

Increasing significantly our HIV and AIDS programming and advocacy.

Renewing our advocacy on priority humanitarian issues, especially fighting intolerance, stigma and discrimination, and promoting disaster risk reduction.

© International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

*Any part of this handbook may be cited, copied, translated into other languages or adapted to meet local needs without prior permission from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, provided that the source is clearly stated.*

### Disclaimer

While this document is intended as a general manual on household water treatment and storage, it does occasionally identify specific brands of products commonly used in emergencies. Mention of specific products in this manual in no way constitutes an endorsement of that product by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

*Cover photo:* International Federation

*Special thanks to all who have helped to make this publication possible. Especially Rebecca Kabura, Angelika Kessler and Daniele Lantagne.*

2008

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

P.O. Box 372  
CH-1211 Geneva 19  
Switzerland  
Telephone: +41 22 730 4222  
Telefax: +41 22 733 0395  
E-mail: [secretariat@ifrc.org](mailto:secretariat@ifrc.org)  
Web site: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

# The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

## Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

## Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

## Neutrality

In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

## Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

## Voluntary service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

## Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

## Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.