



Afghan Red Crescent Society Guidelines and Procedures of the Project for Health Care in Danger (HCID)

**VIOLENCE AGAINST
HEALTH CARE MUST END** **IT'S A
MATTER
OF LIFE &
DEATH**



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Preface:

Violence against health staff, vehicles and facilities has been widely taken place during the armed conflict and other emergency situations which has a tremendous impact on the people, families and communities.

Violence is considered as a big humanitarian challenge in world today, that is why the violence and its impacts on the health care were raised during the 31st International Conference of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement held in November 2011. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in consultation with the States, members of the Movement and health sectors, established the project of Health Care in Danger (HCID) aimed to improve the provision of safe and efficient health services by respecting the impartiality, neutrality and humanity which are among the seven fundamental principles of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The aforementioned project is currently focusing on the

problems caused by the attacks, illegal obstacles, discrimination and military interferences which have unpleasant consequences on the injured, sick, health mechanisms, health staff and ultimately health vehicles.

The project of Health Care in Danger is not only a health activity, but also aims to provide facility and support to a safe environment and condition to carry out the activities and access to a safe health services.

As an impartial, independent and humanitarian organization, ARCS in coordination and cooperation with the Movement members is ready to enter into discussion and exchanges of views with the various health organizations, hostile groups and relevant governmental organizations to provide facilities for a safe process of the health care services and public access to the health care and to make efforts to support the afore-mentioned process, safety and more access to the health care.

In the current guideline, efforts are made to identify the cases helpful to the above-mentioned project and basic steps have been taken to implement the resolutions of the Movement and commitments (Pledge) of ARCS.

Analysis of the current situation:

As a national humanitarian organization and a member of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and based on its endorsed statute, ARCS makes efforts to respect the commitments and international conventions for the provision of humanitarian services to those who are effected by the natural and man - made disasters. As an incharge organization to alleviate the pain and suffering, it plans and implements various and useful programs. The ARCS since its establishment through its staff and attracting volunteers nationwide has been carrying out urgent and common services through its 34 branches and volunteers network and has established a good image as a humanitarian organization at the level of the country.

More than three decades of war and devastation have damaged or partially affected all the infrastructures of Afghanistan. War and insecurity have caused that the humanitarian services have not reached to vulnerable and needed people of the community which have led to the death of many people. To prevent the fatalities and to look after the people needed for the health services are particular important. Considering the attacks on the health facilities, hostage-taking or the killing of the health staff as well as violence against them, robberies of the vehicles which provide health services are increasingly on daily basis. The security problems and inaccessibility of the government to some remote areas have partially deprived a great number of the people from the access to the health care, among them inaccessibility to Polio vaccination which every children have the right to be benefitted from. (Recently the ARCS and the Ministry of Public Health signed the MoU to provide polio vaccination in the remote areas by ARCS which

there is no access for the government).

Therefore, preservation of the safety of the patients and injured, health staff and facilities and the access to the health services are considered as a priority by respecting the impartiality, neutrality, independence and humanity to provide health services.

ARCS has arranged a guideline to ensure more safety of its staff, vehicles and health facilities by considering its possibilities and capabilities, it makes efforts to achieve the afore-mentioned objectives in cooperation and coordination with the health and non-health organizations.

The Objectives:

-Enhancement of the understanding and awareness to provide and increase a safe health services without any discrimination and the staff, facilities and health vehicles will be respected.

-advocate and essay based on Geneva Conventions, International Humanitarian Law (IHL), new law of

ARCS, International conferences of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement resolutions and fundamental principles of the Movement to reduce the violence against health staff, facilities and vehicles.

- Support to the provision of a safe health services
- Data collection (From incidents).

Working method:

1.Diplomatic activities:

In order to remove the obstacles, increasing access, support and facilitate the provision of a safe health services, it is deemed necessary that the authorized authorities of the ARCS should be in contact with the relevant ministries and health organizations of the country from time to time and by holding meetings, they should make efforts to draw their support in the provision of a safe health care and in the protection of health facilities, staff and vehicle, facilitation of the access of the injured and sick to the health facilities and

remove the illegal obstacles they faced.

The authorized authorities of the ARCS make efforts to discuss on the cases caused by obstacles and violent actions against the health facilities, injured, sick and vehicles. Such cases should be considered as a crime and require prosecution by Afghanistan law. In this stage, the ARCS authorities will widely endeavour to litigate in cooperation and coordination with the component members of the movement.

2. Dissemination Activities:

In order to make awareness of the importance of the access to the health services and its provision to the injured and needed people in time of need and during the armed conflict and other emergency situations, a widespread dissemination activities, awareness sessions with various groups of the communities, conducting training programs for the staff and volunteers, public, scholars, members of social councils and the relevant organizations should be carried out

to reduce the violence caused by non-awareness.

3. Operational Affairs:

All the staff and volunteers of ARCS are expected to respect the principle of neutrality, impartiality, independence and humanity in the provision of health services and also respect the ethical principles and proper methods for a safe access during the armed conflict, other emergencies and peace situations, so that the role of impartiality, independence and neutrality of the ARCS and Movement can be boosted and the reliability on the ARCS and Movement can be enhanced in the provision of humanitarian services, especially safe health services.

The obligations of the relevant department to the project:

1.The authorities of ARCS:

i.Diplomatic efforts and discussion on the facilitation of the process and provision of a safe health services in coordination with the

Movement component members to draw support and respect to the applicable laws of the country, resolutions, commitments, conventions and protocols in relevant to the Health Care in Danger (HCiD).

2.International Relations Department:

- i.Coordinating the meetings in relevant to the HCID
- ii.Writing articles and messages in relevant to the HCID
- iii.Publishing and disseminating awareness promotional material in relevant to HCID project in coordination and cooperation with the Dissemination Department
- iv.Sharing the documents, reports and information related to the project with the relevant departments.

3.Dissemination Department:

- i.Conducting safer access trainings

ii. Conducting IHL trainings

iii. Publishing and Disseminating messages, articles, brochures, booklets and other disseminative-awareness materials related to HCID project

iv. Ensuring contact and publishing - disseminating the subject relevant to HCID with the scientific organizations, religious scholars, social councils and health organizations

v. Conducting meetings with the religious scholars, community elders, influential, public, community councils and other relevant sources involved in the reduction of violence against health care.

4. Health Department:

i. To equip the staff, vehicles and facilities with the indicative and protective Emblem of the Movement according to the law of ARCS

ii. To conduct training and awareness program for the health staff on the ethical principle, the way of attitudes toward the sick and injured

iii. Paying attention to respect the Seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross/ Crescent and Movement as well as the safer access, ethical principle and the way of attitude during the health and humanitarian operations

iv. Report of the incidents relevant to HCID in order to collect information on the violence against health cares

v. Preparedness to look after the health cases by the mobile health team upon the road blockades, demonstration and non-access to the health facilities in the remote areas of the country.

5. Volunteer Management Department:

i. Report of the cases of the violence against health cares by the volunteers in order to collect information on the violence against health cares

ii. Cooperation in publishing and disseminating of the posters, key messages and informative brochures on the reduction of violence against health cares by the volunteers.

6. Legal and Humanitarian Diplomacy

Department:

i. To support and advocate of the provision of impartial and neutral health services to ensure more safety to the staff, injured, sick, health facilities and vehicles.

Review and remark:

This guideline is reviewed once every two year and will be reviewed in conformity with the resolutions of the Movement, commitments of ARCS and con

