



St Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross Society



YOUTH POLICY

Revised Draft 2017

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross Society was founded on 15th July, 1949 as a branch of the British Red Cross and later became an independent National Society on 15th May, 1984. It was recognized by the International Movement as a National Society in 1989.

The SVGRC serves the country in a number of areas including but not limited to disaster preparedness, response and relief, First Aid and CPR services, Social Welfare and Psychosocial support. A General Assembly is hosted biennially by the NS to elect a Management Committee and other Officers. Unfortunately, the last General assembly was held in 2011, at which time there were the following:

- Ten (10) Primary School Groups.
- Ten (10) Secondary School Groups.
- One (1) College Group.
- Seven (7) Adult Groups.

At present there has been a dwindling in the membership of the Youth and Adult groups. The focus has shifted to the formation of CDRT's who are not members of the RC. The question can then be asked, if a General assembly is called what voting right will the CRDT members have? The Youth Division of the SVGRC is led by the Youth Officer who is elected at the General assembly. According to the constitution, this person's tenure should run for two years. The Youth Officer, although elected by the General Assembly, reports to the Volunteer Manager or Volunteer Management Committee for the implementation of the policy.

1.2. DEFINITION OF YOUTH

While 'Youth' is identified as individuals aged 15-24 by the National Statistical Office, for the sake of this document, it is defined as persons within the ages of 5 years and 24 years of age. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, primary schooling begins at age 5 while students may continue at the college level to During this wide period of time, many social, physical and

psychological changes occur. At the NS, it is important for us that everyone be given the opportunity to grow, learn and develop into productive and capable individuals and citizens.

1.3. YOUTH PROFILE

The 2014 National Census data of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, released by the Statistical Office, put the youth population at 36,799 or roughly a third of the population. In 2017, the unemployment rate of youth between ages 15-24 was 44.3 % with unemployment being higher among females. In 2016, 43.8% of live births were to young women between ages 15 and 24 years according to the Statistical Office. These bits of data are important because it indicates a large number of youth in the country who may be vulnerable. This has wide implications for NS policies and strategies especially with the increased risk of disasters as a result of climate change. The data also highlights the potential for growth and development of the NS and the community at large if this part of the population is tapped into strategically.

1.4. PRINCIPLES AND VALUES UNDERLYING YOUTH POLICY

The SVGRC has a clear mission which reflects the Fundamental Principles of the movement. These can be found in the IFRC Youth Policy document and are listed here.

- I. Humanity: The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavors, 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.
- II. Impartiality: It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavors to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

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- III. Neutrality: In order to continue 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.
 - IV. Independence: The National Societies, while they act as auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and are 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.
 - V. Voluntary service: It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.
 - VI. Unity: There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.
 - VII. 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.

1.5 OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

The **Youth Pledge** should be learnt by members of the Youth groups and should be recited each time the group meets. Standard Operating Procedure (**SOP** ____) should be followed by group leaders for the induction of a new youth member into any Red Cross youth group. The conduct of every Red Cross volunteer is governed under the **Code of Conduct** of the NS. This document aligns with seven fundamental principles of the IFRC and shows give a more practical application in a Vincentian setting. The Youth Policy aligns with the **SVGRCS Volunteer Policy** which identifies the rights of every volunteer including the youth group members. Expectations from each volunteer and what they can expect from the NS are also shown.

2. GOALS and OBJECTIVES

2.1 Goal 1

The acquisition of socially accepted skills/values by young people

Strategies

- Provide first aid/CPR training to members
- Ensure the application of the seven fundamental principles in practical situations and role playing.
- Use of media to model and promote the seven fundamental principles of the IFRC.

2.2 Goal 2

The provision of relevant education to youth to enable them to become well-adjusted, contributing members of society.

Strategies

- Provide first aid/CPR training to members.
- Provide training in psychosocial support to members.
- Actively seek to identify opportunities for internships for older youth volunteers.
- Provide avenues for personal and academic development for remedial volunteers.

2.3 Goal 3

2.4 Goal 4

3 STRATEGIES AND KEY STRATEGY AREAS

The strategies listed below are recommended for the achievement of every goal and their accompanying objectives. Any overlap in strategy is necessary to provide flexibility aimed at addressing the multi-faceted nature of life and living in a social context. The result is a more comprehensive program aimed at reaching and engaging with a wider cross section of Vincentian youth.

3.1 Goal 1 Strategies

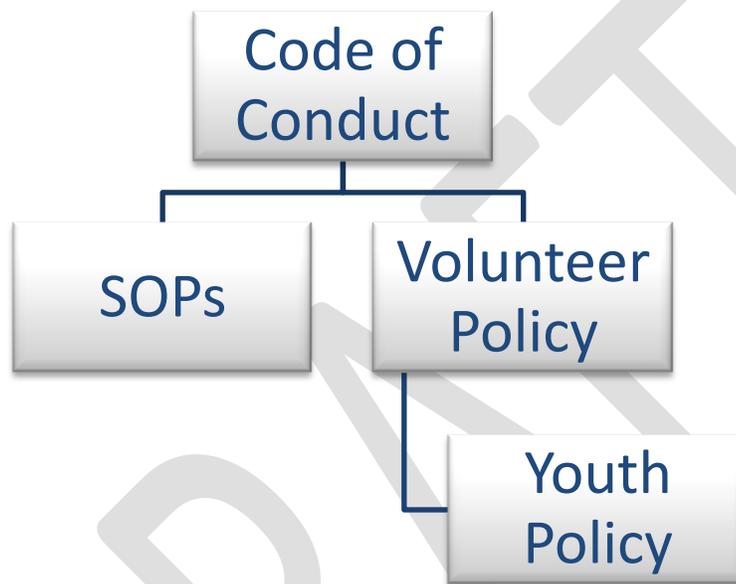
3.2 Goal 2 Strategies

3.3 Goal 3 Strategies

3.4 Goal 4 Strategies

4 IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

The current Youth policy document is in keeping with the IFRC Youth Policy and Youth Empowerment Strategy. Under the National Society, it is designed to fit into the existing Volunteer Policy which in turn is governed by the Code of Conduct. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) is another document which exists alongside both the Volunteer Policy and the Youth Policy and serves as a guide for the implementation of the policies and the day-to-day running of the NS.



The Youth Officer will assure the implementation of the Youth Policy in keeping with the overall Volunteer Policy of the NS. He/She will report directly to the Volunteer Manager and will be involved in all meetings for the development of Volunteer Policy and budgetary allocations.

5 CONCLUSION

6 ANNEXOS

6.1 SOP ___: Starting a new Red Cross Youth Group

6.2 Youth Pledge

6.3 Red Cross Primary school Uniforms

6.4 Term Plan example for RC School/Youth groups