

IFAA PILOT PROJECT

CONCEPT NOTE



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Global First Aid Reference Centre

International First Aid Attestation pilot project

Background

Today Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (RCRC NS) are the major first aid provider in the world¹.

Furthermore, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's leading first aid training

First aid education remains a core area of the RCRC network existing within each and every NS. In 2017, more than 16 million people were trained in first aid by 100 NSs, with an increasing average of 337 people trained per 100,000 inhabitants compared to 243 in 2014³.

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provider, both in terms of educating the public and enabling trained volunteers to respond to and in emergencies in an organised manner².

¹ IFRC First Aid Policy. Available at: <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Governance/Policies/firstaid-policy-en.pdf> [Dec. 2018]

² IFRC *International first aid and resuscitation guidelines*, 2016, p.28 (Education chapter). Available at: <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Publications>

Building on achievements

NSs have been striving for many years towards high quality, evidence-based first aid education available to people throughout the world.

[/Health/First-Aid-2016-Guidelines_EN.pdf](https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Publications/Health/First-Aid-2016-Guidelines_EN.pdf) [Dec. 2018]

³ GFARC, 2018 survey about first aid (100 responding NSs).

Objective & definition

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The objective of this concept note is to serve as a presentation of the **International First Aid Attestation*** (IFAA) and the IFAA pilot project to those who wish to contribute to, participate in and/or gather information on the IFAA pilot project within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement ("the Movement").

The IFAA, International First Aid Attestation, is a recognition (as well as a continuous quality improvement process) that a first aid training provided by a RCRC NS is consistent with the latest IFRC *International first aid and resuscitation guidelines*, updated every five years.

*Note to translators: the term "attestation" refers to a formal statement made to officially acknowledge the compliance with the IFAA frame of reference and process as mentioned in this concept note.



In that regard, key milestones have already been achieved within the Federation and under the coordination of the Global First Aid Reference Centre (GFARC):

- The IFRC *International first aid and resuscitation guidelines*, published every five years since 2011, provide an up-to-date, evidence-based reference for NSs based on scientific clinical and educational recommendations. These guidelines contribute to the harmonisation and continuous quality improvement of first aid education and training programmes around the world⁴;



- Related to the educational recommendations of the guidelines, the IFRC international Training of Trainers (ToTs) curriculum is accessible to NSs who wish to strengthen their pedagogical structure and content, hence increasing capacities and building resilience in local communities.

Responding to requests from National Societies

Building on these key milestones, NSs recently expressed their interest for the development of an international recognition for their first aid trainings towards the general public.

⁴ IFRC *International first aid and resuscitation guidelines*, 2016, p.13.

Indeed, according to the 2018 first aid survey conducted by the GFARC⁵, 81% of responding NSs expressed their will for the IFRC to create an international first aid recognition award.

Such trend confirms the very positive feedback showed through an Ifop⁶ survey in 2012 in which 99% of responding NSs expressed their support to the creation of an international recognition⁷.

According to NSs, IFAA should aim at ensuring quality insurance for the first aid trainings (84% of responding NSs) and allowing for a better recognition of their first aid trainings by the Movement (65%), by companies and organizations (64%) as well as by States (61%)⁸.

Relying on international consensus

Through the IFRC *International first aid and resuscitation guidelines*, on which its frame of reference⁹ is based, the IFAA relies on the international consensus on first aid and resuscitation. Such consensus involves national resuscitation councils, themselves regrouped per regional councils. The International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR)¹⁰, organisation founded in 1992, provides a forum for liaison between principal resuscitation organisations worldwide¹¹.

⁵ GFARC, 2018 survey about first aid, preliminary results (100 responding NSs).

⁶ L'ifop – Institut français d'opinion publique, or French Institute of Public Opinion in English – is an international polling and market research firm headquartered in France.

⁷ Ifop for Croix-Rouge française, *Creation of an International First Aid Certificate (IFAC): Relevance and Impact, Results*, October 2012, p.26. Available upon request to GFARC.

⁸ GFARC, 2018 survey about first aid, preliminary results (100 responding NSs).

⁹ The IFAA frame of reference includes all recommendations which must be verified for a training to be awarded the IFAA.

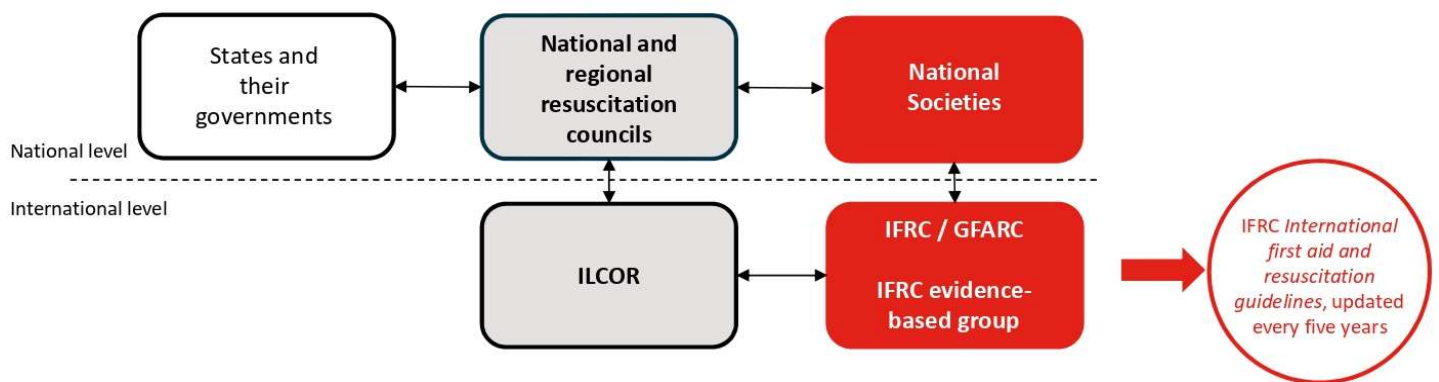
¹⁰ <https://www.ilcor.org/about-ilcor/about-ilcor/> [Dec. 2018]

¹¹ The 7 member councils: American Heart Association (AHA); European Resuscitation Council (ERC); Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC); Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa (RCSA); Australian and New Zealand Committee on Resuscitation (ANZCOR); InterAmerican Heart Foundation; and Resuscitation Council of Asia (RCA). <http://www.ilcor.org/data/strategicplan/StrategicPlan2016.pdf> [Dec. 2018]

The ILCOR's aim is to preserve life by improving standards of resuscitation and first aid globally¹². The IFRC GFARC and other RCRC members have been involved in ILCOR task forces on first aid and resuscitation. Furthermore, as a member of the ILCOR first aid task force, the GFRAC plays an active role in constantly reviewing the science towards international consensus on first aid and resuscitation.

Such international cooperation and continuous learning process materialise themselves within the Federation through the IFRC *International first aid and resuscitation guidelines*, updated every five years by the GFARC and directly inspired by the international consensus on science.

The below chart illustrates interactions within the international consensus on first aid and resuscitation towards the publication of the IFRC *International first aid and resuscitation guidelines*:



The International First Aid Attestation (IFAA)

a) What is IFAA?

The IFAA, International First Aid Attestation, is a recognition (as well as a continuous quality improvement process) that a first aid training provided by a RCRC NS is consistent with the latest IFRC *International first aid and resuscitation guidelines*, updated every five years.

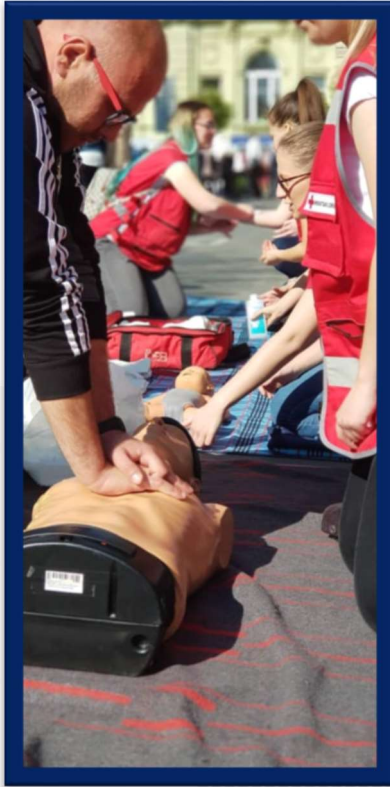


The IFAA frame of reference¹³ is based on the IFRC *International first aid and resuscitation guidelines* as well as additional recommendations which will be jointly agreed on by NSs and IFRC representatives during the IFAA pilot project.

The IFAA will ensure that learners, considered as future first aid providers, have access to the best quality first aid education in order to increase their knowledge, skills and confidence as well as their willingness to apply first aid competencies. The IFAA therefore contributes to a better prevention and response system in a people-centred approach to community resilience strengthening at community levels.

¹² <http://www.ilcor.org/data/strategicplan/StrategicPlan2016.pdf> [Dec. 2018]

¹³ The IFAA frame of reference includes all recommendations which must be verified for a training to be awarded the IFAA.



The IFAA's methodology relies on harmonisation rather than standardisation: the intention is not to have the same unique first aid training available around the world, but rather to reach a consensus on minimum agreed principles relying on evidence-based first aid recommendations and knowledge gained from the experience and expertise of the RCRC network.

Therefore, the IFAA is not meant to replace national first aid certificates.

In order for NSs to keep their own certificates for their IFAA awarded training(s), the IFAA award consists of a stamp provided by the IFRC GFARC. This stamp indicates that the training related to the certificate is "in accordance with IFRC First Aid and Resuscitation Guidelines", in addition to the year of the latest guidelines issue. The NS acquires the right to use this stamp on the certificate(s) of the awarded training(s) during five years. Please note that both GFARC and/or IFRC logos cannot be added on the certificates.

The IFAA is valid for five years and can be renewed afterwards. The renewal process will be defined during the IFAA pilot project.

b) IFAA process

The IFAA process consists of different stages towards the IFAA award:

- **Stage 1: Application & self-assessment**

The applicant NS should formally apply to the IFAA for the first aid training(s) of its choice by communicating relevant application form(s) to the GFARC, attaching manuals and teaching materials from the relevant first aid training(s) and training(s) of trainers. Please note that some documents will have to be provided in English language.

The self-assessment stage allows to gather information on content and process of the first aid training(s) for which the NS has applied and provides a first analysis on training(s) strengths and weaknesses by the NS itself. The GFARC provides detailed feedbacks to this self-assessment.

- **Stage 2: IFAA Monitoring & Evaluation field visit**

The objectives of the IFAA Monitoring & Evaluation field visit are to:

- assess whether the recommendations communicated through the GFARC self-assessment feedbacks and related IFAA checklist were taken into account;
- assess whether observed training sessions are consistent with the IFRC *International first aid and resuscitation guidelines*;
- support the draft of an action plan for continuous improvements in first aid education if required.

The IFAA Representative attends and assesses first aid trainings provided by the NS.
He/she reports directly to GFARC and makes recommendations based on his/her field visit report.

During the IFAA pilot project, one or two IFAA Representative(s) are involved in the IFAA Monitoring & Evaluation field visits.

In addition, a focal person is appointed by the NS in order to facilitate the field visit as well as to get to know more about the IFAA process and the IFAA Representative's role and duties.

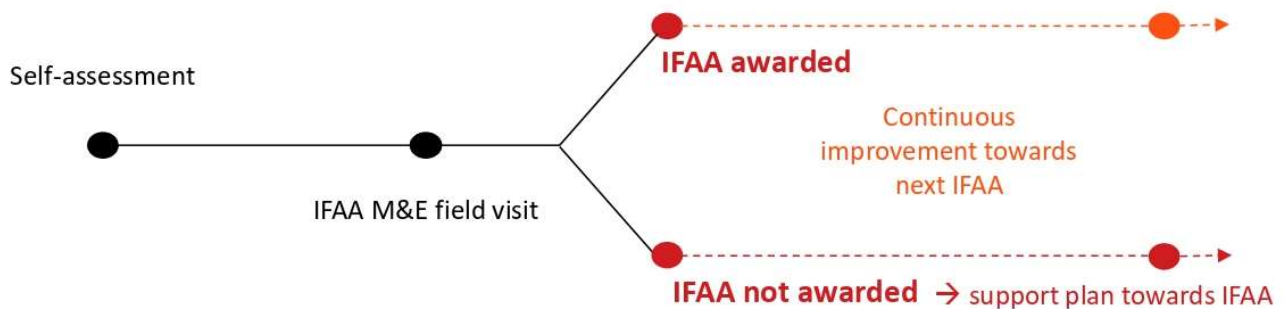


If all stages are duly completed and validated by the GFARC for one training, the IFAA is awarded to this training.

During the process, the GFARC will mention to the applicant NS whether the outcomes of stage 1 already indicate that a training will not be awarded the IFAA. In this case, the applicant NS and the GFARC can decide to invest in capacity-building actions based on the GFARC's recommendations instead of pursuing with stage 2.

In case the IFAA is not awarded, the outcomes of stage 1 and stage 2 could lead to recommendations made to the NS which could include but are not limited to: adapting or revising a training curriculum, organising a Training of Trainers, undertaking monitoring and evaluation visits to branches, etc. This is at the discretion of the NS to implement these recommendations and to reapply to IFAA or not.

The below chart illustrates the IFAA process and award stages:



The IFAA pilot project

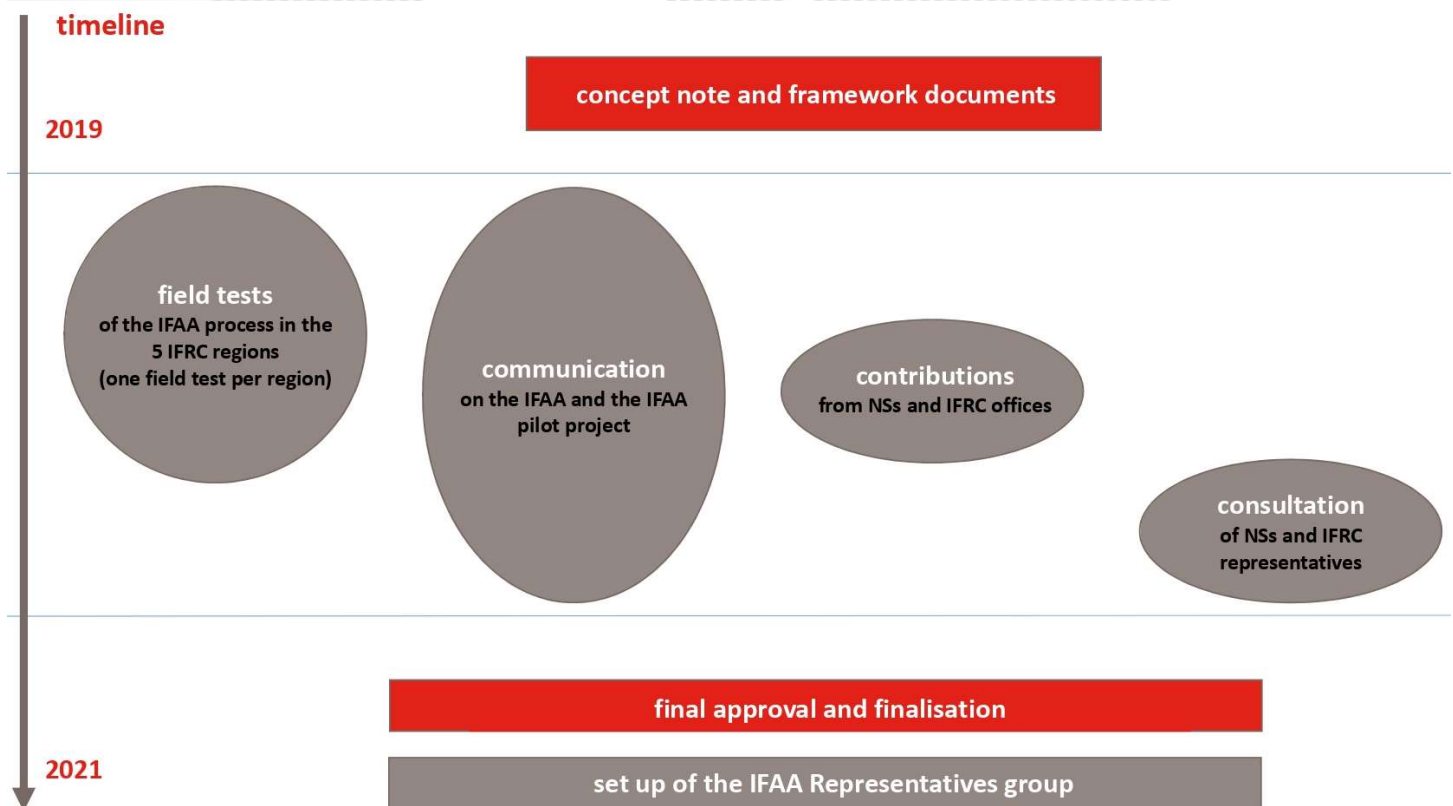
a) Project purpose

Based on previous achievements on first aid and the will expressed by RCRC NSs to create an international first aid recognition award, the purpose of the IFAA pilot project is to define, together with RCRC NSs, the content, the process and the feasibility of the IFAA.

b) Pilot project activities

The IFAA pilot project includes:

- **Field tests** of the IFAA process in five NSs from the five IFRC regions;
- **Contributions** to enrich and complete the IFAA framework documents¹⁴. Members from NSs (including field test NSs), IFRC and IFAA Representatives, gathered as the **"IFAA working group"**, will contribute by sharing lessons learned from the IFAA field tests and bringing inputs from their field experience and expertise;
- The setup of an **IFAA Representatives** group;
- **Consultations** of representatives from RCRC NSs and IFRC on the IFAA framework documents.

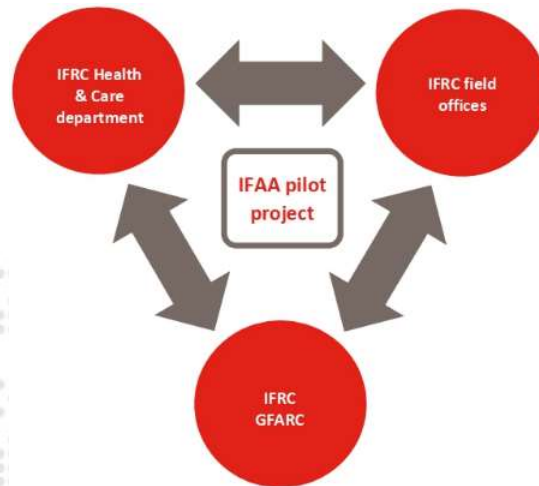


¹⁴ The framework documents are all documents defining the IFAA. Final versions will be designed during the IFAA pilot project and will include: a concept paper with glossary, a frame of reference, a description of the process.

c) Project structure

The IFAA pilot project is coordinated by a project team and includes representatives from RCRC NSs and IFRC who contribute to and/or are consulted on the IFAA framework.

The **project team** is based within the IFRC GFARC. All along the pilot project, the project team will coordinate with and report to the IFRC Health & Care department (based in Geneva) as well as relevant IFRC field offices.



The Global First Aid Reference Centre (GFARC)
is a hub of technical expertise and
a support for RCRC members on first aid,
part the IFRC Global Health Team and hosted by the French Red Cross.
GFARC's objectives are to reduce the number of deaths and the severity
of injuries as well as to make people and communities more resilient
using first aid.

For more **information** on GFARC:
globalfirstaidcentre.org
[@GlobalFirstAidReferenceCentre](https://twitter.com/GlobalFirstAidReferenceCentre)
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