

Internal Two-pager: International First Aid Attestation (IFAA)

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

Building on RCRC's extensive network of local branches and volunteers as well as its global reach, the International First Aid Attestation (IFAA) is an opportunity for the RCRC membership to collectively learn and continuously improve the quality of our first aid education.

"I would like to thank the GFARC team for a well-coordinated IFAA process. We will encourage other National Societies to take part, as we received quality support". Sammy Kamanu, Kenya Red Cross

IFAA in practice

- ➔ Self-assessment: allows the National Society to self-assess their applicant first aid training programme, in a participative way and based on the IFAA frame of reference. The GFARC provides feedbacks on this self-assessment.
- ➔ Monitoring & Evaluation field visits: involves training workshops observations and meetings with key informants in the field, in order to confirm that practice is in accordance with the training materials and to assess the teaching methodologies.
- ➔ IFAA award: granted to the applicant first aid training programme, if all stages of the IFAA process are duly completed.
- ➔ Action plan: if needed, based on the IFAA process outcomes and to focus on middle to long term continuous quality improvement of first aid education within the National Society.

Through IFAA, the RCRC network reaffirms its commitment to:

- **Align with the international consensus on first aid and resuscitation:**

The IFAA frame of reference, which includes all recommendations that must be verified for a training to be awarded IFAA, is based on the IFRC *International first aid, resuscitation and education guidelines*. Through these IFRC *Guidelines*, the IFAA relies on the evidence-based international consensus on first aid and resuscitation in which GFARC has participated, including an active role in ILCOR's (International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation) task forces.

- **Promote learning centred on the learner to ensure people and communities' resilience:**

Going beyond clinical recommendations on first aid and resuscitation, the IFRC took a clear stance in 2020 by including learner-centred education as a key element of their new *Guidelines*. Promoting learner-centred education means putting the learners at the centre of the learning experience and planning education around their needs.

Moving in the same direction, 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.

- **Adapt global standards to local contexts and resources:**

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

➤ **Engage in continuous quality improvement of first aid education**

The IFAA is not an on/off process assessing one training every five years. If needed, an action plan comes along with the IFAA award listing commitments towards first aid education quality improvement on the middle and long terms. If, following the IFAA process, the training is not awarded, the action plan is drawn with the objective of reaching the IFAA award in the following months. Through IFAA, the RCRC network also learns collectively from the field experience of each National Society and shares learning innovations via the GFARC platform.

Why engaging in IFAA for your first aid training programme? Why supporting a sister National Society to engage in IFAA for their first aid training programme?

- ✓ The IFAA process is a positive tool to bring change and quality improvement in a participative way;
- ✓ The IFAA process assesses one training and not a National Society, and it acknowledges the local context and resources;
- ✓ Via the IFRC name and recognition, this quality recognition gives an international dimension to a first aid training certificate, which can reinforce the positioning of National Societies in their local first aid training market as well as towards national bodies;
- ✓ The IFAA is a long-term investment: the plan drafted by international and national first aid experts following the outcomes of the IFAA process can serve as a baseline to develop future projects or programmes;
- ✓ IFAA can be an added value to sell quality first aid courses both to companies and lay people;
- ✓ The IFAA process brings excellent value for money and can easily be included in a project budget.

“One of the benefit is that the affiliation with the IFAA gave the Lebanese Red Cross First Aid course a lot of credibility, improved its image and as a result helped the public know how valuable this course is”.
Charbel Aidamouni, Lebanese Red Cross

Don't hesitate to contact us for more information:

- globalfirstaidcentre.org
- first.aid@ifrc.org
- **Facebook:** @GlobalFirstAidReferenceCentre
- **Youtube channel:** Global First Aid Reference Centre GFARC

The **IFRC Global First Aid Reference Centre (GFARC)** is a Centre of Excellence and hub of technical expertise in first aid supporting the Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies. It is part of 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.