



ICRC

WORKSHOP REPORT

Workshop for Political and Traditional Youth Leaders



Tamale, Northern Ghana

28 – 29 May 2025

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Date: 19 June 2025

1 . Executive Summary

Between 28 and 31 May 2025 the Ghana Red Cross Society, with technical and financial backing from the ICRC, brought together 15 influential youth actors in Tamale, 3 from the New Patriotic Party (NPP), 3 from the National Democratic Congress (NDC), 4 youth chiefs and traditional advisers representing three major palaces in Tamale in the Northern Region, 5 Red Cross Youth leaders. Over two intensive workshop days, followed by the Northern Sector celebration of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, participants deepened their understanding of the Movement's Fundamental Principles, International Humanitarian Law (IHL), humanitarian communication, and Basic Life Support (BLS).

Learning translated quickly into results. A pre- and post-test revealed that average knowledge scores jumped from less than 15% to 87% (follow link on testimonies below). All 15 participants completed fourteen hours of theory and hands-on practice (follow link); 10 immediately expressed their desire and readiness to sign up as community first-aid volunteers, and all agreed to remain connected through a new WhatsApp alert group linking GRCS headquarters, the Tamale branch, and the cohort itself. The event culminated in the preparation and unanimous adoption of the "Tamale Declaration", a roadmap for joint humanitarian outreach and advocacy, including the integration of IHL into national curricula and policies (follow links).

2 . Background & Rationale

Ghana's revised [National Youth Policy 2022 – 2032](#) positions young people as pivotal agents of peace-building and civic engagement. Yet northern Ghana continues to grapple with sporadic chieftaincy disputes and politically charged flashpoints. Conflict mapping conducted by GRCS and the ICRC in 2024 showed that party youth wings and emerging traditional authorities are often the first on the scene, and capable of either dampening tensions or fanning the flames.

Against this backdrop, the workshop set out to:

- a. Equip these frontline actors with humanitarian principles and life-saving skills;
- b. Offer a neutral, Red-Cross-branded space for cross-party and inter-traditional dialogue; and
- c. Establish durable early-warning and coordinated-response channels for future crises.

3. Implementation

Approach and Facilitation

GRCS trainers from the National Society Development, Communication and First Aid units blended short plenary inputs with highly participatory exercises. Role-plays and scenario-based quizzes allowed participants to apply concepts immediately, while three rotating skills stations, fracture management, airway/CPR, and bleeding control, transformed theory into memory using mannequins.

4. Programme Highlights

- a. Day 1: An exploration of the Red Cross mission, emblem protection and neutrality principles was followed by bipartisan presentations showcasing how humanitarian action transcends party lines; and how traditional authority plays a pivotal role in conflict resolution or escalation. Participants analysed GRCS and ICRC operations from 2024, mapping lessons to their own constituencies.
- b. Day 2: Case-work on misinformation and disinformation led into intensive IHL scenario discussions. A four-hour Basic Life Support (BLS) practicum solidified first-aid competencies, after which participants co-drafted and refined the Tamale Declaration.
- c. The sessions were conducted in English and simultaneously translated into Dagbanli to ensure participants could fully grasp the messages. This was essential, as they would later engage with the wider community and needed to understand, translate, and disseminate the information accurately and confidently.

5. Outcomes & Impact

- a. Humanitarian literacy: All participants understood and could accurately recite the [Seven Fundamental Principles](#) and identify the proper and improper uses of the Movement [Emblems](#) (Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Crystal). Participants pledged to incorporate short humanitarian primers into party meetings and palace councils.
- b. First-aid coverage: Participants understood that CPR and trauma-management skills are expected to [reduce morbidity and mortality](#) at political rallies, traditional ceremonies and road-traffic incidents across the north. Participants acquired some basic skills through practical sessions in CPR and bleeding. The time was short to cover more topics and depth.
- c. Advocacy momentum: After an extensive [session on IHL](#) and relating it to localized conflict situations, the participants admitted the importance of the international law and the need to adapt it to suit local conflict situations. The workshop's collective voice, branded the "[Tamale Declaration](#)" by participants will be transmitted to the Government, the ICRC, the Northern Regional Coordinating Council, all the major Traditional Rulers, and relevant parliamentary committees, advancing the need to open a national dialogue on IHL mainstreaming. The Tamale Declaration was [presented at a ceremony](#) to commemorate the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day Celebration in Tamale on the 31st of May 2025.

6. Testimonies

Participants shared powerful testimonies that revealed a significant shift in perception. Before the workshop, many held limited or unclear views about the relevance of the Red Cross. However, through the sessions, they came to understand its vital role in everyday life and during times of crisis. This newfound appreciation inspired several participants to express a strong desire to become actively involved with the Red Cross in Ghana. Following are excerpts from some of their statements: [Chief Fuseini Alhassan](#); [Shaibu Seidu](#); [Seini Abdul-Latif](#); [Philemon Hemes](#);

7. Perspectives and Recommendations

- a. Political and traditional youth leaders have formally asked the ICRC, through the GRCS, to extend the workshop and its curriculum to all paramount chiefs and chieftaincy administrators in northern Ghana ([Chief Nuhu](#) and [Ziblim Abdul-Razak](#)). Given heightened tensions in

several districts, particularly in the Walewale and Bawku areas, prompt expansion is essential ([Ibrahim Seidu](#)).

- b. The cohort of Traditional Youth will facilitate a consensus invitation for the ICRC and GRCS to visit each traditional palace. These visits will familiarise chiefs and councils with the Movement's Fundamental Principles, Red Cross humanitarian values, and context-specific humanitarian norms.
- c. Working through their Members of Parliament, participants will champion legislation that codifies humanitarian standards applicable to chieftaincy and ethnic disputes, positioning the Red Cross as a recognised neutral intermediary. The ICRC should provide comparative international guidance, while the GRCS anchors national consultations.
- d. Participants urged the ICRC and GRCS to intensify [community-level education](#) on Red Cross mandates and services. Clearer public understanding will bolster trust, volunteer mobilisation, and acceptance of humanitarian interventions.
- e. An expanded session, targeting youth leaders from the Mamprusi, Kusasi, Konkomba, Dagbon, Nanumba, Gonja, Wa and other conflict-prone communities and the [Ghana Police Service](#) should be convened without delay. The agenda would replicate and deepen the Tamale training, embedding first aid, IHL, and conflict-sensitivity skills where they are most needed.
- f. The duration of the workshop was inadequate. Participants' interest demanded more questions and answers, more hands-on engagements, group work and case studies. Couple with the fact that we were dealing with traditional rulers where sessions had to be translated into the local languages, the workshop became more interesting and engaging making the time woefully inadequate. A lot of things were jumped or hurried as a result. An extension of the time to four days would be most adequate.
- g. The non-residential nature of the workshop posed significant challenges to timely attendance and full participation. Some participants, particularly those who travelled from the Savannah and Northeast Regions, arrived late and had to leave early due to the long distances involved. As a result, we were unable to invite participants from the Upper West and Upper East Regions entirely. To ensure broader inclusion and more effective participation, it is recommended that future workshops either be organized on a regional basis or conducted as residential programmes.

8. Conclusion

The Tamale workshop proved that uniting political and traditional youth under the neutral Red Cross emblem can be catalytic. Beyond impressive knowledge gains, the gathering forged a common, action-oriented agenda that positions young leaders as multipliers of humanitarian norms in northern Ghana. Sustained ICRC partnership, combined with the enthusiasm of this inaugural cohort will be essential to expand the model, entrench early-warning mechanisms, and bolster community resilience against conflict and disaster. GRCS deeply appreciates the ICRC's steadfast support and looks forward to translating the commitments of the Tamale Youth Resolution into measurable impact in the months ahead.