

Declaration of the “Meeting of Political Youth and Traditional Youth Leaders on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles, Humanitarian Values, and International Humanitarian Law”

Tamale Declaration

May 31, 2025

INTRODUCTION

Ghana, recognized as a beacon of democracy in West Africa faces evolving challenges to its social, political, and traditional stability. Increasingly interconnected regional security issues, including the spread of extremism and political instability in neighbouring countries, carry significant implications for Ghana’s internal security environment. This shifting geopolitical landscape, combined with the potential for heightened political, chieftaincy, and ethnic tensions within our borders, creates a complex operating environment for all humanitarian actors.

Ghana’s demographic profile is distinguished by a young population: as of 2023, approximately 57 percent of Ghanaians are under the age of 25, with nearly 6.5 million individuals between 15 and 24 years old. This cohort of youth is not only numerically significant but also plays a vital role as influencers, interlocutors, and bridge builders within our communities. Their voices and leadership potential are critical to fostering peace, stability, and social cohesion across the nation.

We commend the Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for prioritizing youth engagement and for recognizing the unique influence of traditional youth chiefs. By forging strong partnerships with both political youth structures and traditional youth authorities, the GRCS and ICRC demonstrate a forward-thinking approach to cultivating humanitarian values at the grassroots level. This is the first time such an inclusive collaboration has been formalized, and we applaud both organizations for taking this significant step.

We are confident that this new collaboration, initiated by the GRCS with the support of the ICRC will, among many other benefits, facilitate safe and unimpeded access to vulnerable populations throughout the country, regardless of prevailing political, ethnic, or chieftaincy dynamics.

THE DECLARATION

Preamble

The undersigned delegation, comprising Youth Representatives of the National Democratic Congress, the New Patriotic Party, Eminent Youth Chiefs and Representatives representing the Gukpe Naa, Buglana and Dakpema, palaces in the Northern Region, convened at the Workshop

for Political Youth and Traditional Youth Leaders on May 28th and 29th, 2025, in Tamale, hereby:

Recalling that the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as the norms of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the practice of First Aid for Basic Life Support, remain as vital today as ever before in Ghana;

Affirming the unconditional obligation under any circumstances to respect and ensure respect for International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian values within the territory of Ghana;

Noting the fundamental role of Traditional Authorities and youth leaders in disseminating IHL and Humanitarian Values within their respective communities and constituencies;

Recognizing the imperative for the Ghana Red Cross Society to strengthen communication channels, share experiences, and build effective mechanisms for sustained cooperation with both political and traditional youth leaders;

Acknowledging the invaluable support provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the Ghana Red Cross Society in promoting the Fundamental Principles, Humanitarian Values, International Humanitarian Law, and Basic Life Support training across Ghana;

Convinced that the actions recommended herein will serve as a clear roadmap for the effective promotion of Fundamental Principles, Humanitarian Values, International Humanitarian Law, and First Aid for Basic Life Support at the local level;

a. We hereby confirm and recognize the collaborative efforts and initiatives of the Ghana Red Cross Society in working alongside Traditional Authorities and political youth to disseminate and promote:

- i. The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
- ii. Core Humanitarian Values;
- iii. International Humanitarian Law at the national level; and
- iv. First Aid for Basic Life Support.

b. We undertake to encourage action to intensify and formalize cooperation between the Ghana Red Cross Society and both Traditional Youth and Political Youth organizations, ensuring:

- i. Active participation in periodic meetings, workshops, and capacity building sessions;
- ii. The establishment of joint working groups to monitor progress and resolve emerging challenges; and
- iii. Open, transparent channels of communication at local, regional, and national levels.

c. We welcome the ongoing work of the ICRC and request that it continues to provide collaboration and technical support so that the Ghana Red Cross Society can sustain activities aimed at:

- i. Organic strengthening and institutional development;
 - ii. Enhanced dissemination of Fundamental Principles, Humanitarian Values, IHL, and Basic Life Support training; and
 - iii. Capacity building among Traditional and Political Youth leaders.
- d. We encourage the Government of Ghana to adopt and enforce necessary legislative, administrative, and practical measures to:
- i. Integrate International Humanitarian Law into domestic legal frameworks and educational curricula;
 - ii. Promote greater participation of Traditional and Political Youth, as well as Civil Society Organizations, in national discourse on IHL, humanitarian values, and peacebuilding; and
 - iii. Allocate resources to support community level outreach and training initiatives in remote and vulnerable areas.
- e. We express our sincere gratitude to the Ghana Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for organizing the “Meeting of Political Youth and Traditional Youth Leaders on the Red Cross and Red Crescent’s Fundamental Principles, Humanitarian Values, International Humanitarian Law, and Basic Life Support.”

Presented in Tamale, Republic of Ghana, at the Commemoration of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, Northern Sector Event, this 31st day of May, 2025.

Declarants:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Chief Fuseini Alhassan | Gukpegu Safini Naa, Tamale |
| 2. Nuhu Nkabo | Nyab Buglana Palace, Tamale |
| 3. Shaibu M. Seidu | Dakpema Palace, Tamale |
| 4. Mohammed Amin Abdulai | Nyab Buglana Palace, Tamale |
| 5. Seini Fuseini Abdul-Latif | National Democratic Congress youth representative |
| 6. Saibu Jabobli | National Democratic Congress youth representative |
| 7. Philemon Hemes Ayinedenaba | New Patriotic Party youth representative |
| 8. Abdul Samed Yussif | New Patriotic Party youth representative |