



# Lebanese Red Cross

**Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Diplomacy**

*St. Marino - May 2015*



‘Humanitarian diplomacy is concerned with persuading decision-makers and opinion leaders to act, at all times, in **the interests of vulnerable people**, and with full respect for our fundamental principles” - IFRC



Humanitarian Diplomacy can be applied in different ways and it is relative to the context of the National Society.

As an operational NS , our approach to HD is conducted on a daily basis and in particular missions and operations in general.

### Humanitarian Diplomacy in the field relates to :



COMMUNICATION



OPERATION



COORDINATION

## How is it applied in the LRC

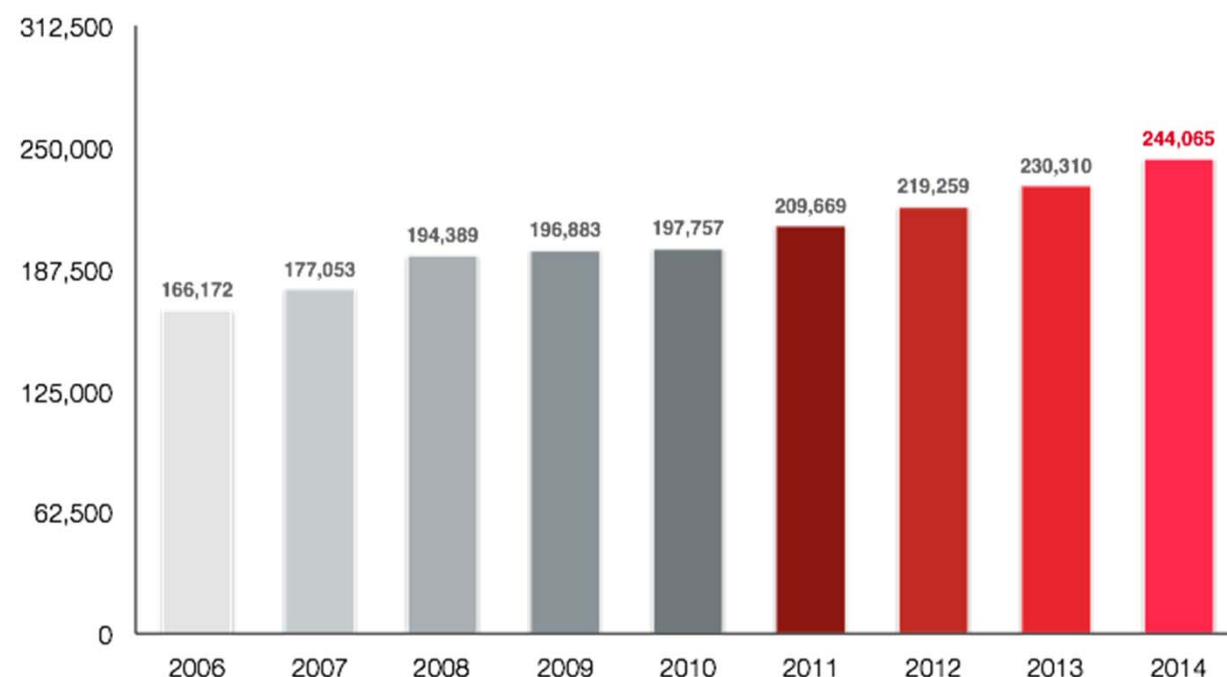
The Lebanese Red Cross is the Leading emergency medical services provider in the country. 80% of Emergency missions are conducted by the Lebanese Red Cross. In 2014, the LRC conducted 244,065 Emergency Missions through 2700 Volunteers and 285 Ambulances.

The LRC is also the sole provider of Blood in Lebanon with 12 Blood banks all throughout the country. Medical - Social , Disaster Management and Youth services are also core services the LRC Provides.

In 2014, the number of missions and beneficiaries of the LRC totaled to 994,000.



Lebanese Red Cross - Humanitarian Diplomacy and the FPs



[www.redcross.org.lb](http://www.redcross.org.lb)



@LebaneseRedCross



@RedCrossLebanon



As the objective of Humanitarian Diplomacy is to persuade and act towards the interest of vulnerable people, HD is applied in our daily missions and at different levels.

It is mostly persuading different parties to provide access to Lebanese Red Cross to reach vulnerable people.

By communicating and negotiating with different parties, our fundamental principles are essential and specifically when it comes to neutrality, impartiality and independence

## HD IS APPLIED AT DIFFERENT LEVELS

STATIONS AND BRANCHES APPLY IT DAILY IN THEIR COMMUNITY

HQ APPLY IT WITH DIFFERENT STATE ACTORS AND NO STATE ACTORS

MOVEMENT COMPONENTS ALONG WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES APPLY IT IN CRISIS



**GAIN ACCESS AND SUPPORT THE VULNERABLE**







The increasing challenges in the region and in Lebanon in particular created new challenges that can be tackled through humanitarian diplomacy. The new context in the region brought in players that the movement in general and the LRC in particular is not familiar with. These players affect our access to the vulnerable.

### PUBLIC HD

In 2014, the first clash between the Lebanese Armed Forces and external armed groups took place in the outskirts of the bordering town of Aarsal. The LRC intervened with 20 Ambulances and 130 EMTs. Over 6 days, the LRC was transporting LAF wounded and dead bodies as access to the village was not possible. The LRC was in constant negotiations to extract wounded civilians who were trapped inside the village



On the 7th Day the LRC was able to get a clearance from the government and the Lebanese Army to enter the village. Indirect negotiations and coordination with the armed groups also cleared the LRC to enter the village and help civilians and fighters who were wounded.

**44 wounded civilians and fighters were evacuated.**

**The LRC was given access to extract the bodies of 6 fighters.**







This was publicly covered by national and international media and was promoted to enforce the LRC's ability to access vulnerable people and to make value of the fundamental principles and how they were applied. It was a straight forward approach to state actors and non state actors that the LRC is neutral , impartial , independent and strives to help and support the vulnerable community





## Confidential HD

After the clashes in Arsal, the dead bodies of the fighters remained at a governmental hospital. After 2 months of negotiations between the LRC, the ICRC, the government and the Lebanese to decently bury the bodies of the fighter, the LRC was granted a clearance to transport the bodies back to the village and handed over to their party for burial. The LRC conducted indirect confidential discussions with the armed groups and informed them of handing them over the bodies. This was also an opportunity that promoted our fundamental principles taking into consideration the auxiliary role of support to the government when at war.

Confidentially the bodies were transported and handed over at the village. Families appreciated the red cross for the effort.

## Bodies of Jihadi Militants Buried in Arsal

Wed 18 Mar 2015 - 04:40 PM



The bodies of six militants killed during clashes with the Lebanese Army on the outskirts of Ras Baalbeck were laid to rest Wednesday in a Lebanese border town.

The Lebanese Red Cross had transported the corpses to Arsal where they have been buried.



**15 MARTYRS**  
SINCE 1981

© Lebanese Red Cross



# Thank You

