

## **Job Description**

<b>Position:</b>	Communications Advisor
<b>Primary Job Family:</b>	Communications
<b>Project/Location:</b>	Safer Access Framework Partnership Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
<b>Line Manager:</b>	ICRC Cooperation Coordinator in ICRC Abidjan regional Delegation
<b>Technical Reporting Line within FRC:</b>	FRC Head of International Programmes

### **Purpose:**

The Communications Advisor position is a joint Finnish Red Cross (FRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) effort to facilitate strengthened support in Operational Communications (OpComs) to National Societies operating in sensitive and insecure environments such as protracted crisis and conflicts. The support will be implemented in contexts where there is a need of additional Red Cross Red Crescent Movement resources to develop OpComs and where FRC's and ICRC's complementary expertise and mandate can have added value in strengthening the capacity of the National Societies' staff and volunteer networks to carry out their dissemination work and achieve greater access to and impact for affected people. These efforts follow ICRC operational planning priorities in the targeted countries/contexts for 2022, and are consistent with FRC's commitment to strengthening the capacities in National Societies to operate in complex and insecure humanitarian settings.

The support will be implemented in four contexts as a pilot partnership between the ICRC and FRC in Operational Communications. Experiences and impact of the cooperation model will then be reviewed and potentially replicated in other contexts. This joint initiative builds on existing ICRC and FRC cooperation in Operational Communications linked to the Safer Access Framework (SAF), and can contribute to future initiatives in this field in West Africa.

The Communications Advisor will be based in the ICRC Regional Delegation in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and will provide technical support to four selected Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies in West Africa in Operational Communications as agreed between the ICRC and FRC. The Communications Advisor will be an integral part of the ICRC National Society Development (NSD) Hub based in Abidjan, and will work closely with relevant departments of the ICRC Regional Delegation, ICRC Country Delegations/Missions, and FRC HQ.

The Cooperation Coordinator of the ICRC Abidjan regional Delegation will be the overall line manager and supervisor of the delegate, while the delegate will work in close coordination with the ICRC Communication Coordinator. The person responsible for the coordination of SAF initiative in FRC HQ will provide further technical support to the delegate in the accomplishment of his/her mission.

The work involves extensive travels to the identified four countries - movement restrictions and physical distancing due to Covid-19 pandemic may impact traveling -, as well as direct engagement with National Society staff and volunteers. The delegate will support the National Societies in different aspects of Operational Communications as per the ICRC regional operational plan (as detailed in the Delegation's PfR – Planning for Results). Specific OpComs strengthening plans will be developed with each National Society and the support provided will be tailored to meet the National Society's specific operational context and existing capacities.

The delegate is expected to have an advisory role in relation to the involved National Societies and ICRC delegations. The role will include guidance on a strategic level, dissemination of technical knowledge and skills in Operational Communications as well as coaching and training of National Society staff and volunteers to ensure ownership and sustainability of implemented activities.

The technical support will be conducted in line with the Movement's policies, standards, tools and best practises. The results of the recent learning exercise and experiences from other contexts on best practices and modalities in terms of Operational Communications - part of the ICRC and FRC cooperation in Operational Communications in SAF - will be applied as appropriate.

### **Main Responsibilities:**

- To lead, in coordination with ICRC Regional Cooperation Coordinator and Regional Communications Coordinator, the pilot roll-out of ICRC's Operational Communications strengthening support to four National Societies in West Africa.
- To support and facilitate the National Societies in conducting capacity and needs assessments in Operational Communications, and based on the analysis of the identified needs and priorities, guide the development of an Operational Communications strengthening plan. Ensure this work is aligned to the possibly already existing SAF plans of the National Societies.
- To establish coordination and cooperation mechanisms with the IFRC NSD and communications experts to ensure that the cooperation on communication follows the IFRC priorities and guidelines, specifically the IFRC NS communication capacity building initiative 2020-2021.
- To provide technical support and advice to the National Societies' leadership and relevant staff in the implementation of the Operational Communications strengthening plan; including developing adequate monitoring and quality control practices, and development and application of contextualized tools.
- To provide on-the-job coaching and training to communication teams of the National Societies in the areas relevant to the Operational Communications strengthening plan.
- To coordinate/liaise with ICRC counterparts, FRC, and other Movement Partners on the mobilisation of additional resources required to support the implementation of the Operational Communications strengthening plan.
- To support coordination with IFRC and other Movement Partners in order to promote coherence in wider communications development support to the National Societies.
- To assess the feasibility of developing a wider SAF partnership between ICRC and FRC in West Africa linked to Operational Communications, based on needs identified and experiences gained from ongoing projects in East and Southern Africa.
- In close coordination with the Communication Counterparts, to contribute actively to the in-country and regional Movement coordination and cooperation within the area of Operational Communications.

### **Specific duties, responsibilities and accountabilities**

- To work in full adherence to the Movement Principles.
- To work towards the achievement of the defined goals and objectives.

### **Reporting**

- Ensure that lessons learnt and good practice from the ICRC and FRC partnership are compiled and used further to improve future planning, programming and implementation of other relevant initiatives, and that these lessons learnt are shared within the ICRC and FRC for wider dissemination.
- Support, in coordination with relevant ICRC departments, National Societies to prepare regular narrative and financial reports as stipulated in the Cooperation agreements between the National Society, the ICRC and FRC.
- Draft internal technical and management reports as required by ICRC and FRC.

### **Target Profile**

## **1. Education**

- Professional qualifications in Communications, Journalism or similar field
- University Degree in Communications, Journalism or similar field

## **2. Experience**

- Experience in Communications related capacity building in international context (preferably Red Cross/Red Crescent).
- Profound understanding of strategic communications, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Principles.
- At least 5 years of professional experience in Communications (communications specialist, journalism etc.)
- Working experience with Finnish Red Cross/Federation/ICRC.

## **3. Skills and knowledge**

- Knowledge of the Movement and more specifically the ICRC work and structures, especially in the field of communications
- Excellent communication skills
- Project management skills and capacity to plan and facilitate communication trainings and to develop tools, materials and methods.
- Proven skills in financial and narrative reporting
- Skills in training and developing staff
- Self-supporting in computers

## **4. Languages**

- Fluent in written and spoken French and English.

## **5. Competencies**

- National Society relations
- Teamwork
- Results focused and accountability
- Communication
- Professional standards
- Managerial effectiveness

Date: 27 November 2020, updated August 2022, February 2023