

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO REDCROSS

OUR SELECTED EXPERIENCE



During the general elections held on 30 December 2018 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Red Cross of DRC (RCDRC) as a humanitarian organization was recognized by all stakeholders to evacuate killed and wounded.

This high level of acceptance, professionalism and, in general, of access of RCDRC to transport wounded and killed in urban areas to nearest health centers during mass public mobilization or protest is the result of years of preparedness and experience of interventions including integration of Safer Access elements into RCDRC trainings, deployment mechanisms or communication strategies. More importantly, it involves protection and identification material for volunteers, creation of health posts in sensitive areas, external communication, positioning of RCDRC towards external actors, training of volunteers on safety, simulation exercises, etc. As the RCDRC President states: ***“all preparedness measures integrate SAF elements and are based on an evaluation process of the NS response to previous situations of violence”.***



Wounded evacuated by RCDRC volunteers during a day electoral process

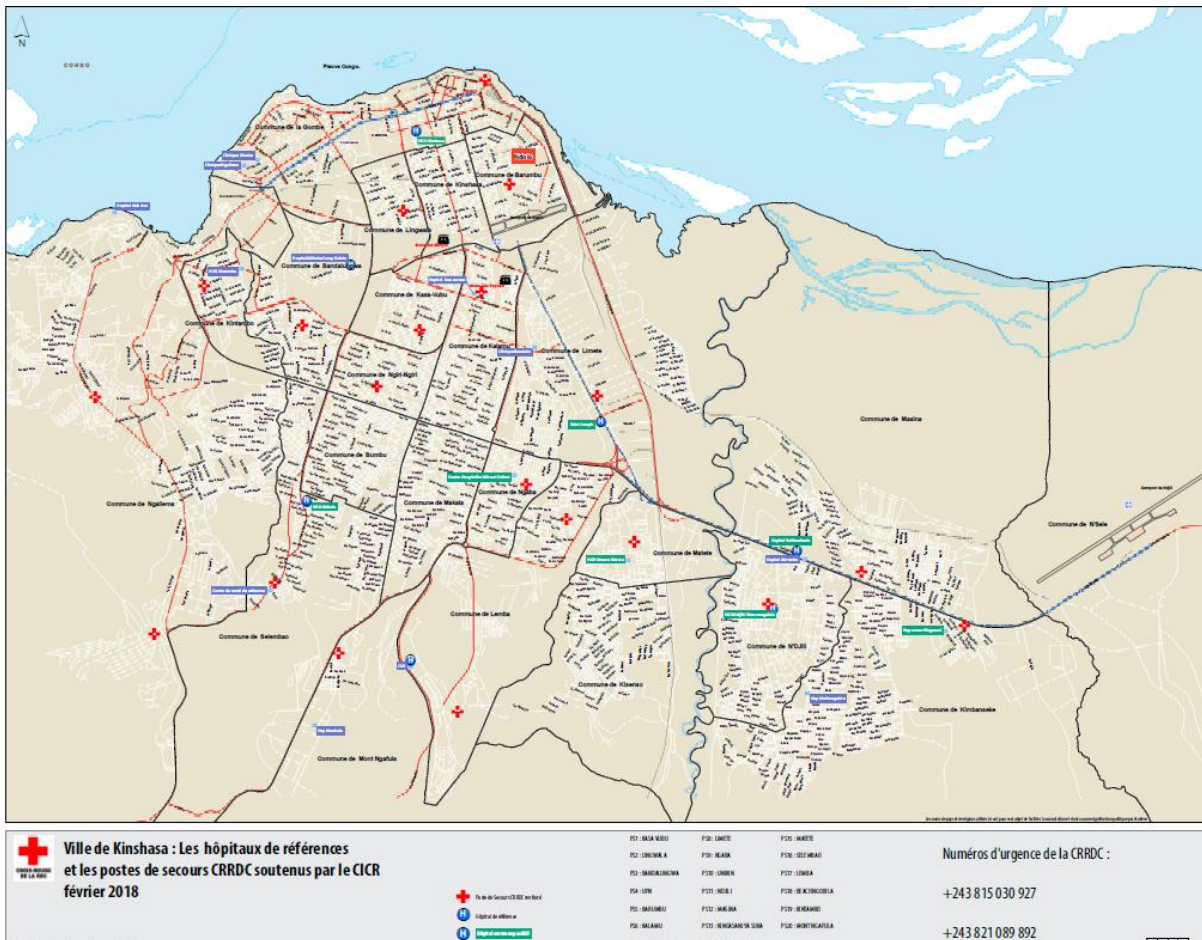
Nearly 1.000 volunteers have been identified, trained and deployed in hotspots of main cities of the country. Hence, a few weeks before the elections, the RCDRC, with ICRC support, decided to boost its external communication by organizing basic First Aid sessions for political parties, in complementarity of radio spots addressed to general public, including messages on RCDRC mandate and role in order to increase access of RCDRC.

The ICRC and RCDRC had met the Heads of main political parties, or their representatives, to present the RCDRC contingency plan on the electoral process and to propose sessions on First Aid. The participants were representatives of youth sections of the main 5 political parties of DRC.



First Aid session to youth representatives of one of the main political party in November 2018.

These sessions of 2-3 days each one were really appreciated by the participants who have increased their knowledge in basic First Aid and learnt more about the mandate of the RCDRC. The map of health posts in Kinshasa was distributed to the participants. This map, which includes emergency phone numbers, was also shared with general public. As a participant suggested: **“you should continue to disseminate the importance of having a contingency plan since it can save lives of people during days of mobilization and protest”**.



Map of RCDRC health posts in Kinshasa