



Global Innovation Accelerator Pioneers' Profiles

Innovation Team – December 2016

MEET OUR 2017 PIONEERS!



Abdulkadir Mohamud

KENYA RED CROSS SOCIETY
ICT MANAGER-INFRASTRUCTURE



REGION
AFRICA

KENYA RED
CROSS SOCIETY

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Abdulkadir joined the Pioneers to further his goal of closing the gap between communities and the organization. He wants to implement new approaches to address serious disasters in his community, and to find new ways to utilise technology to improve dialogue with communities.

His ideas:

His project will upgrade the existing fire alarm system utilizing solar panels to charge them and re-program them to make them more efficient. Furthermore, he wants to develop an SMS-based system to get in touch with the communities saving resources and improving community input.



Adnan Khan

DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS MANAGER



REGION
ASIA

PAKISTAN
RED CRESCENT

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Adnan is committed to youth empowerment. Through the use of technology, he wants to address disaster preparedness and make disaster response more efficient.

Idea: EWS Without Boarder

Mobile phone early warning system which monitors different threats, seeking to improve the efficiency of humanitarian response as well as encouraging better disaster preparedness.



Alessandro Fedele

UNIT MANAGER, PARTNERSHIP AND
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT



REGION
EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Allessandro wants to develop projects to substantially raise income and build brand awareness at the same time.

Idea: Red Water

The idea is to turn bottled-water business into a charity opportunity. The model will be supported by a global partnership with bottled water producer's around the world.



Anna Gevorgyan

EUROPEAN YOUTH
COMMITTEE COORDINATION



REGION
EUROPE

ARMENIAN RED
CROSS SOCIETY

Why she decided to become a Pioneer?

Anna is the organizer of social innovation projects and Start-up Acceleration programs. She is actively looking to improve and apply her ideas in real situations.

Some of her ideas:

Healthy lifestyle promotion supported by film projection with static bicycle energy; gaming techniques to spread awareness about Armenia's refugees; creativity workshops with communities to seek new solutions.

SOME FACTS...



27
PIONEERS



5
REGIONS



MORE THAN
50 AWESOME
IDEAS



1 GOAL
CREATE NEW
SOLUTIONS



Christian Robdrup

DANISH RED CROSS DELEGATE OF
CENTRAL EUROPE



REGION
EUROPE

DANISH
RED CROSS

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Christian has vast experience with youth and volunteer management. This opportunity will help him to develop a new model that could be the future of humanitarian aid.

Idea: Humanitarian Aid 2.0

This project combines a strong collaboration between volunteers and communities, the idea is to organize approaches that can ensure more community led initiatives.



Courtney Raita

RESIDENT HEALTH
COORDINATOR



REGION
ASIA

COOK ISLANDS RED
CROSS SOCIETY

Why she decided to become a Pioneer?

Courtney is in charge of coordinating community-based health programs that focus on identifying diseases affecting various groups, for instance obesity amongst youth.

Idea: By youth for youth

This initiative will include new approaches to cooking healthy food, teaching the importance of nutrition, incorporating physical activity in daily life, encouraging work wellness programs, etc.

“Building a Global Network of Innovation Pioneers”

The Global Innovators Accelerator aims to promote innovation in our work and create opportunities for our entrepreneurial staff and volunteers to develop and showcase ideas which are grounded in the needs of the communities they are working with.



Ernest Nyame

NATIONAL YOUTH
COORDINATOR



REGION
AFRICA

GHANA RED
CROSS SOCIETY

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Ernest joined the movement 20 years ago as a volunteer and his passion for making a difference has remained the same since that time. Joining as a Pioneer will give Ernest the tools to continue spreading his creative projects.

Idea: Hand Washing with Ananse

This project combines storytelling, games and songs to encourage kids to wash their hands properly, having high engagement and acceptance from target audience.



Hamza Hamwie

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR



REGION
MENA

SYRIAN ARAB
RED CRESCENT

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

As Communications and Facebook group manager, Hamza wants to help develop the group's members and to encourage new enthusiastic people to collaborate.

Turning humanitarian principles into actions:

His ideas include enabling quick access to local services and training workshops through mobile applications; developing a best practice platform; promoting good engagement between community and volunteers; efficiently promoting quality and accountability; and ensuring suitable health insurance for all volunteers.

COACHING, MENTORING & ADDITIONAL SUPPORT



The Pioneers will have access to advanced training on innovation, they will be assigned expert coaches and mentors.



Furthermore, Participants will be linked to technical support networks and provided some tools and resources to help them develop their innovation ideas.



Jaclyn Haggerty

PROGRAM OFFICER
INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS



REGION
AMERICAS

THE CANADIAN RED
CROSS SOCIETY

Why she decided to become a Pioneer?

Jaclyn is a passionate and creative staff member, proficient in IT and Emergency Tools. She launched the CRC Innovations Roundtable and is eager to craft new solutions to address major problems around the world.

Some of her ideas:

Virtual reality training course, participatory mapping with remote communities, reusable mosquito traps, unmanned aerial vehicles to transport medical equipment, and 3D printing to produce customized medical equipment.



Kelvin Njenga

YOUTH
COORDINATOR



REGION
AFRICA

KENYA RED
CROSS SOCIETY

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Kelvin is now leading a five-member youth group that develops IT, communication and design tools. With all the coaching Kelvin will receive as a Pioneer, he will continue to develop and scale his ideas.

Idea: iVolunteers

Njenga created an automatic system to manage volunteer networks in the region. He wants to develop a knowledge tool in order to share their results and ideas internally, but also as an external advertising instrument to encourage people to join and support.



Khadar Awil

NATIONAL YOUTH AND VOLUNTEER
PROJECT COORDINATOR



REGION
AFRICA

SOMALI RED
CRESCENT SOCIETY

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Khadar has always been aware of the advantages of having professional people working as volunteers, thus his commitment is to increase the number of highly-prepared members in the national society.

Idea: Attracting High-skill Volunteers

This project will not only inspire well-prepared professionals to join the Red Crescent, but retain them and expand their abilities. In order to complete this task, a standardized innovative management system is required, enabling volunteers to take part in different departments inside the organization.



Kit Elmes

BRITISH RED
CROSS VOLUNTEER



REGION
EUROPE

BRITISH
RED CROSS

Why she decided to become a Pioneer?

Kit is a highly-driven and passionate university student. One of Kit's major desires is to raise awareness about refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

Some of her ideas:

'Refugee Starter Guide' that covers useful information and practical advice printed in several languages. Moreover, she is planning a 'Skill Sessions' to motivate collaboration between volunteers and refugees, where both can learn and apply new skills.



Lucia Taboada

DANISH RED CROSS LIVELIHOOD
DELEGATE IN NEPAL



REGION
ASIA

NEPAL RED
CROSS SOCIETY

Why she decided to become a Pioneer?

Lucia is helping with implementation of the livelihood component of the integrated recovery and resilience program. Her task is to support the NRCS in resource mobilization and coordination.

Some of her ideas:

Lucia's project would explore creating tools to close the gap between markets and livelihood activities. The idea is to connect local traders with farmers, using intelligent data-base and mobile applications.



Mahmoud Elsi

QRCS HEAD OF QUALITY AND
PROCESS MANAGEMENT



REGION
MENA

QATAR RED
CRESCENT SOCIETY

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Mahmoud is a creative leader with proficiency in quality improvement and project management. As a Pioneer, he seeks to improve his strategies and learn new methods.

His ideas:

Business Process Re-Engineering Project: this project aims to enhance the overall quality of the medical and relief operation services. Standardization and Accreditation Program: aiming to promote, adopt and implement international best practices in quality.



Mariya Hristova

BULGARIAN RED CROSS
YOUTH PRESIDENT



REGION
EUROPE

BULGARIAN
RED CROSS

Why she decided to become a Pioneer?

Mariya is aiming to craft a different model to prepare the new generations of volunteers. She's got plenty of experience engaging with youth activities at a national level.

Idea: Humanitarian Aid 2.0

This project combines a strong sense of improvement between volunteers and beneficiaries. The idea is to organize helpful workshops where beneficiaries can become potential trainers.



Mesha King

ST LUCIA RED
CROSS VOLUNTEER



REGION
AMERICAS

ST LUCIA
RED CROSS

Why she decided to become a Pioneer?

Mesha's eagerness to make her island home a better place for everyone was the main reason why she joined the movement.

Idea: Health and fitness program for kids

Her idea seeks strong participation from the local schools, where attractive physical activity projects will be launched and proper nutrition plans will be taught.



Miguel Rodríguez

TECSOS FOUNDATION
PROJECT ENGINEER



REGION
EUROPE

SPANISH
RED CROSS

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Finding new ways of channeling talent, ideas and innovation becomes key to achieve the purpose of lifting young people to the decision-making sphere where their world is built.

Idea: Hospitalized Children and Virtual Reality

To tackle the leisure and educational needs of hospitalized children building a bridge between creativity and cutting-edge technology



Mimmu Piirto

FRC HEAD OF
DEVELOPMENT



REGION
EUROPE

FINNISH
RED CROSS

Why she decided to become a Pioneer?

Mimmu is committed to child protection and assistance, and facilitating social interaction between vulnerable families to promote development. She has a particular interest in tackling complex social problems.

Innovation and experimental culture as a mindset

The idea is to apply and help to improve the best projects of our beneficiaries and partners. By empowering locals, sustainability is easier to reach. Sometimes advanced technologies and complex plans are not needed, just watch and listen to what people need.



Roza Freriks

HUMANITARIAN
EXPERT



REGION
EUROPE

THE NETHERLANDS
RED CROSS

Why she decided to become a Pioneer?

Since she was 12 years old, Roza knew she wanted to follow the path of humanitarian work. By joining the Global Accelerator, she desires to closely collaborate with other Pioneers from different National Societies.

Her idea:

As part of a Dutch coalition for humanitarian innovation, she wants to target solutions for humanitarian challenges by leveraging the expertise of new partners. She's eager to receive feedback not only from experts, but from other Pioneers.



Safia Verjee

DISASTER RISK
MANAGER



REGION
AFRICA

KENYA RED
CROSS SOCIETY

Why she decided to become a Pioneer?

Since was a little girl, her desire was to work in an environment to help others, now, she's living that dream. As a pioneer, she would like to explore different methods to ensure the sustainability of development interventions.

Her idea:

She wants to learn in depth how to approach communities and guarantee that solutions are designed with locals and not for them. Furthermore, she would like to go into innovative ideas to solve issues in road safety, urban risk reduction and youth engagement.



Saju Shahjahan

FORECAST-BASED
FINANCE PROGRAMME



REGION
ASIA

BANGLADESH RED
CRESCENT SOCIETY

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Saju's research seeks to efficiently utilize the short time gap between a forecast warning and the arrival of the disaster. This investigation will result in risk reduction and better preparedness.

Community-based flood forecast and early action

The project will provide an accurate flood forecast to lead to early action in the community level. This will empower vulnerable people to protect their lives, crops, lands and belongings.



Seyed Jamaldini

EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND
TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



REGION
MENA

RED CRESCENT SOCIETY OF THE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Seyed believes that the partnership between knowledge, humanitarian and community organizations is the most efficient way to collect funds, ideas and facts to tackle the overwhelming problems.

His ideas:

Household Hazard Preparedness Plan, this project involves the use of a volunteer network platform to advertise household hazard preparedness.



Sinclair Wun Sing Cheng

HONG KONG RED
CROSS VOLUNTEER



REGION
ASIA

HONG KONG RED CROSS,
BRANCH OF THE RED CROSS
SOCIETY OF CHINA

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Sinclair wants to push forward his premium initiative, The Worldwide Humanitarian Advocator Training Program, which supports young volunteers for in-depth learning and exploration of humanitarian issues.

Worldwide Humanitarian Advocator Training Program

This one-year programme targets young students helping them to learn about humanitarian issues and how to make a difference and support their friends to make a difference



Taariq Twaha

KENYA RED CROSS
ICT MANAGER



REGION
AFRICA

KENYA RED
CROSS SOCIETY

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Taariq is a technology expert with proficiency in data management, as a Pioneer he wants to merge his professional knowledge with innovation projects that can be replicated in his National Society.

His idea: Beneficiary mapping and Ambulance Service

The ICT Unit is combining health projects with innovative technology to offer a better response and have a better environment understanding. This project includes upgraded data collection, volunteer technology training and more efficient emergency response.



Teona Navdarashvili

COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR



REGION
EUROPE

RED CROSS SOCIETY
OF GEORGIA

Why she decided to become a Pioneer?

Since Teona was a volunteer, she began to merge her professional skills with the humanitarian principles. Her knowledge in development, training and research supports her work in the youth management program.

Idea: Volunteer Hub

This project wants to unify volunteers all around the country. This initiative will gather together people with diverse backgrounds, all of them coordinated by Volunteer leaders that will coach them to be the future of the GRC.



Thiago Quintaneiro

NATIONAL YOUTH
COORDINATOR



REGION
AMERICAS

BRAZILIAN
RED CROSS

Why he decided to become a Pioneer?

Thiago is a young energetic leader, who is in charge of renovating the youth program. He utilises music, dance, theatrical representation and social media engagement to attract young people to the National Society.

Some of his ideas:

"Safety Friday", an initiative where young volunteers visit night-life leisure centers and they inform people about potential threats that can be easily prevented. "Slow driving", a program that shows young people the principles of safe driving.



Wiem Chamsi

TUNSIAN RED
CRESCENT VOLUNTEER



REGION
MENA

TUNSIAN
RED CRESCENT

Why she decided to become a Pioneer?

Wiem is an enthusiastic member of the TRCS, as a Pioneer, she will be able to share her ideas and projects with other members, receiving direct feedback and new projects to implement in her own country.

Some of her ideas:

Promote testimonies of volunteers around the world that demonstrate how they deal with their local problems. Moreover, she wants to encourage innovative partnerships with academic institutions to solve humanitarian challenges.

“We think helping our people grow is important”

Our single greatest asset is our people. In National Societies all around the world we have talented individuals who are creative, entrepreneurial and who are trying innovative approaches in their work with communities.



“We should continually try new approaches”

The world is rapidly changing and humanitarian and development contexts are becoming more complex and demanding, at the same time resources are becoming more difficult to secure.



We believe good ideas should travel.



Across our vast network people are innovating on a daily basis.



Replicate the good ideas and let them adapt to other contexts.



We trust our Pioneers will transform those new ideas into impact in humanitarian and development challenges.

THANK YOU!