

BOOK REVIEWS

- **Ian McAllister**, *Projects for Relief and Development — Some Red Cross and Red Crescent Dimensions*, Henry Dunant Institute, Geneva, 1991 (Development Studies), 40 pp. (Also available in *French* and *Spanish*).

In *Projects for Relief and Development — Some Red Cross and Red Crescent Dimensions*, Professor Ian McAllister, Senior Development Adviser of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from July 1989 to July 1991, describes in detail each of the main phases of a Red Cross or Red Crescent development project. Special consideration is given to the humanitarian dimension.

Throughout this booklet, which above all is realistic and practical, the author places particular emphasis on the essential questions which must be asked when initiating and implementing a development project and on the criteria to be complied with in order to ensure that each project is “a powerful messenger of Red Cross/Red Crescent humanitarian principles”.

Divided into five main parts (project identification; project preparation; project negotiations and financing; project execution; evaluation and follow-up), this work is intended for the National Societies and for delegates of the Federation and the ICRC who are working on a development programme within a Red Cross or Red Crescent Society. This clearly and concisely written booklet can serve as a reference tool at any stage of a development project.

McAllister supports his statements with numerous examples and brief commentaries on the procedures and the diverse possible approaches; he particularly emphasises the two basic principles which must be observed when planning a development programme: clearness and coherence.

The author then lists and analyses the main guidelines for various development programmes set up within the Movement or by other development agencies (World Bank, FINNIDA, etc.).

Professor McAllister’s monograph, with its down-to-earth approach, its many specific examples and its extensive, annotated bibliography, is a very useful addition to the handbooks on National Society development. It gives practical answers to questions which are bound to arise for National Societies and ICRC or Federation delegates engaged in the identification and execution of a Red Cross or Red Crescent project.

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