

Kenya

The Kenya Red Cross Society recently published a brief summary of the seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross adopted at the XXth International Conference in 1965, and it introduced them thus: " These short notes have been prepared to help explain the meaning of the Red Cross Principles especially when applied to African conditions and way of life, and are distributed by the Kenya Red Cross Society ". Each principle is commented on bearing in mind the African context in which it is to be put into practice, and by way of example we quote what is said about the principle of *Voluntary Service*.

" The Red Cross is a voluntary relief organization not promoted in any manner by a desire for gain.

The spirit of volunteerism is not foreign to the African way of life, and many examples of it can be found every day, but what is still foreign in many of the African countries is membership of Voluntary Societies, which in themselves are an imported, foreign idea. However, this spirit of volunteerism can be harnessed and channelled into positive participation in Red Cross work by adequate motivation at all levels of the community. In fact, this is what has happened to activate the various self-help schemes, the National Youth Service and the Young Pioneer Organization."
