

While the first Red Cross Conference, convened in 1863, marked the “birth of the Red Cross”, it was a birth that no women attended. And well over a century later, no women have ascended to the highest levels of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement’s power structure.

This book examines the implications of introducing gender as a relevant criterion in program planning, addressing two dimensions of Women in Development: women as participants and women as beneficiaries.

The findings indicate that appropriate programming must be based on women’s needs and participation and to achieve this requires their integration into the male dominated decision-making structures of the Movement. Hopefully, a process of institutional self-assessment has been set in motion that will continue for many years to come.

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