

International Co-operation



The German Red Cross International Co-operation

The German Red Cross (GRC) is not only one of the biggest welfare organisations in Germany. It also plays a major role at international level by assisting sister National Red Cross/ Red Crescent Societies in the event of natural or technical disasters and in humanitarian crises brought about by internal unrest, conflict and war. The GRC also co-operates with these Societies in order to strengthen their capacity to respond to disasters and vulnerabilities.

The responsibility for these activities lies with the international co-operation department of GRC's national headquarters, based in Berlin.

The international operations of the GRC rely on two main funding sources: contributions from public funds and private donations. The most important donor institutions are the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation and Development, and the European Union (the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office ECHO, Europe Aid). However, the GRC would not be able to do its international work without the contributions it receives from large numbers of dedicated private donors all over Germany.

In international operations, GRC headquarters act as a part of the worldwide Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement. The Movement is comprised of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as well as more than 180 Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies all over the world. The way in which these organisations co-operate is defined by International Humanitarian Law, the Statutes of the Movement, the Principles and Rules for Disaster Relief and other provisions and agreements adopted at international level.



ICRC

The ICRC is in fact the core and the most historical institution of the International Red Cross Movement. It was created in 1863 by a group of Swiss citizens on the initiative of Henry Dunant, the founding father of the Red Cross. The basic idea was to establish a neutral international institution whose mission, to assist victims of war, would be recognised and respected by a maximum number of national governments.

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Today, the ICRC is a Geneva based Swiss organisation with an international legal mandate derived from the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977. Thus endorsed by more than 190 States adhering to the Geneva Conventions, the mandate of the ICRC is to guard, promote, develop and disseminate International Humanitarian Law in all signatory countries and beyond. The International Humanitarian Law includes clear rules for the protection of all those who do not take part in the fighting during armed conflict (civilians, wounded or shipwrecked soldiers, prisoners of war etc.).

The ICRC also has the mandate to co-ordinate the operations of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Movement in zones of conflict and war. It issues yearly and special appeals for contributions of Governments and National Societies to international relief, protection and rehabilitation missions. In accordance with its mandate, the ICRC also visits prisoners and detainees to ensure their protection and runs a tracing service with the aim to reunite people separated by conflict or to provide them with much needed information on their closest relatives.

Within the Movement, the ICRC is also in charge of the accreditation of new Red Cross/ Red Crescent Societies.

The ICRC's financial resources consist mainly of voluntary contributions made by States and Governments, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as well as other organisations.



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)

The International Federation was founded in 1919 on the initiative of Henry P. Davison, then President of the American Red Cross. It is the umbrella organisation of all, i.e. more than 180 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It co-ordinates international disaster relief under peacetime conditions on request of National Societies and promotes disaster preparedness and prevention programmes. It supports the development of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and assists them in the development of their services. Furthermore, the IFRC develops guidelines and policies for the humanitarian work of its member Societies and co-ordinates their activities in multilateral operations.

The Federation has its headquarters (*the Secretariat*) in Geneva. Its main financial resources and core costs are the annual membership fees of its member Societies and voluntary contributions. After disaster situations and in response to global problems, it appeals for funds to run relief programs in support of National Red Cross/ Red Crescent Societies who want help.

The seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Movement

The Movement has adopted a set of principles which govern all action of its components, whether at national or at international level. These Fundamental Principles are an outstanding feature of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Movement. Proclaimed in Vienna in 1965, the seven Fundamental Principles bond together the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. They guarantee the continuity of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Movement and its humanitarian work.

Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their Governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

Extract from XXVIth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

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The Emblems of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies uses two globally recognised emblems - the red cross and the red crescent - set on a white background. The Federation's member National Societies use one or the other of these emblems, either the cross or the crescent.

The International Federation can use both emblems because it is neither a state nor a National Society.

Unfortunately, the emblems are sometimes perceived as having religious, cultural or political connotations. This has affected respect for the emblems especially in certain conflict situations and has diminished the protection the emblems offer to victims and to humanitarian and medical personnel.

An additional emblem without any religious connotations has therefore been introduced - the red crystal on a white background.



Main areas of German Red Cross intervention

Abroad, the GRC always acts in co-operation with another component of the Red Cross Movement. This may be bilateral - directly through and in support of another National Society - or multilateral - in conflict situations under the auspices of the ICRC and in peacetime situations under IFRC co-ordina-

tion on request of National Societies. No National Society will bypass this framework for co-operation within the Red Cross Movement.

With the advent of more and more complex humanitarian emergencies, certain crises require the action of all components. In such situations, their work is governed by an agreement signed in Spain in November of 1997, known as the "Seville Agreement" - which provides for the selection of one of the Geneva institutions, or a National Society, as the 'lead agency' responsible for spearheading the Movement's work overall.

GRC’s international co-operation

Within this framework, the GRC’s areas of intervention are based on three main pillars: emergency response, rehabilitation, and development co-operation. Emergency response consists of relief operations in disaster and conflict situations, which are followed by rehabilitation and reconstruction after disasters and conflicts. Such assistance can then be extended to long-term development co-operation. Throughout these phases of assistance, the GRC concentrates on the following sectors of intervention:

- Health
- Water and Sanitation
- Rehabilitation and Reconstruction/ Habitat Security
- Economic Security/ Livelihood Programs
- Disaster Preparedness and Organisational Development

1. Emergency Response

All international action of the Red Cross Movement requires a request of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Society affected by an emergency situation and a specific assessment of the situation. The assessment is aimed at obtaining a clearer picture of the nature and extent of the emergency and the needs of the local communities and people. One instrument used for this purpose is the deployment of a *Field Assessment and Co-ordination Team (FACT)*. The GRC often sends delegates on such FACT missions performed jointly by members of various National Societies.

On the basis of the assessment report specifying the need of assistance in terms of cash, kind and services, the IFRC or ICRC will then co-ordinate the international response to the appeal of the affected National Society including the contributions from

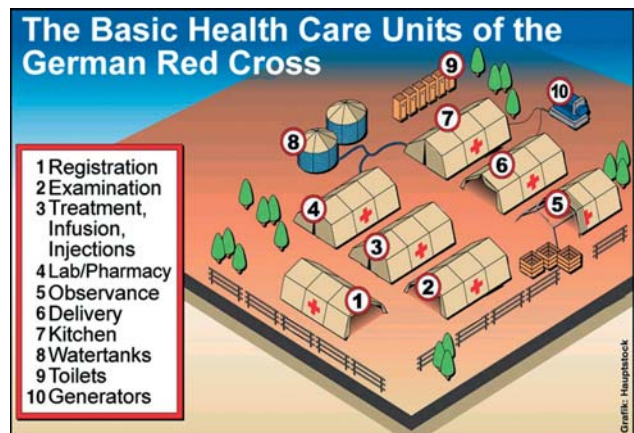
National Societies. If appropriate, the IFRC or ICRC will also deploy Emergency Response Units (ERUs).

ERUs are standardised, pre-packed modules for disaster response which are sent out with pre-trained personnel at very short notice. Some National Societies specialise in providing certain ERU elements by keeping a stock of equipment and by training personnel to use this emergency response tool. This may also include traditional relief activities like distributing food and non food items or running voucher and cash based interventions.

The ERUs available at the German Red Cross are the following:

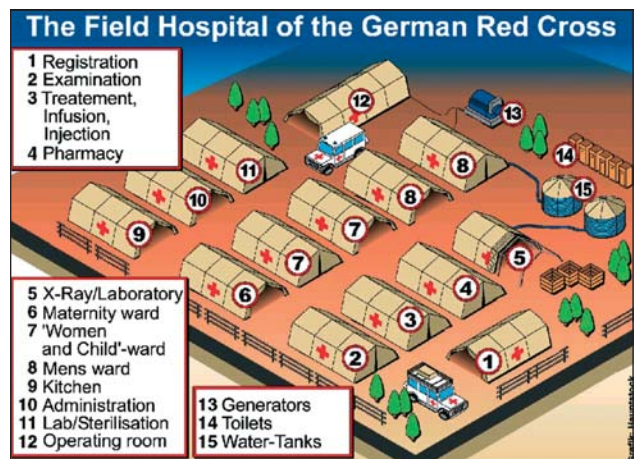
a) Basic Health Care Unit (BHCU)

A tent-based basic health care centre for around 20 000 people plus trained medical and technical personnel to manage it.



b) Referral Hospital

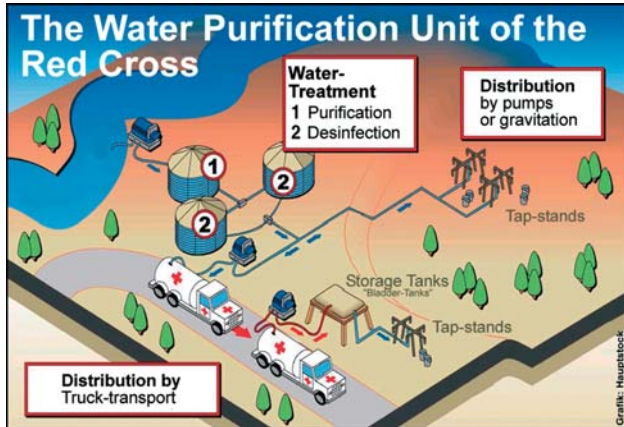
A full field hospital in tents including pharmacy, lab, a surgical facility, wards, etc. plus trained medical and technical personnel to manage it.



c) Water + Sanitation Unit

Consisting of 4 modules

- Treatment + Supply
- Water Distribution + Trucking
- Mass Sanitation
- Specialised Water



2. Rehabilitation and Development Co-operation

Once the acute emergency triggered by a disaster or an armed conflict is over, the GRC participates in rehabilitation projects helping to rebuild infrastructure such as destroyed houses, medical facilities and schools. As a rule, the local community is involved in such projects in order to ensure that the assistance delivered to the people is in accordance with their needs and that the aid is sustainable. Whenever possible, projects are combined with activities designed to strengthen the disaster preparedness and disaster management capacities of the population and the National Red Cross/ Red Crescent Society on site.

Disaster Preparedness can be achieved for example by building houses that will resist flooding, earthquakes or windstorms, by training volunteers in first aid, by starting a program for life-saving and teaching people how to swim, etc.

The Movement has adopted a set of international standards for a *well-functioning National Society* to guide institutional development assistance among sister Societies. On the basis of a capacity assessment with the partners, the GRC may send organisational development consultants who will support sister Societies in developing or improving their statutes, organisation, volunteer management, blood programs, fundraising, medical transport management, first aid programs, social services and other elements of Red Cross/ Red Crescent work.

3. GRC Projects Examples

Health

To provide basic health care after emergencies and to develop medical services where necessary is one of the major fields of activity of the GRC. All projects in this sphere start with an assessment in order to tailor the assistance to the needs of the beneficiaries. Interventions can consist in deploying an ERU Referral Hospital or Basic Health Care Units (BHCUs), for instance, or in rebuilding hospitals or other health facilities, in planning and conducting HIV/ AIDS, malaria or other epidemics control programs, or further in supporting First Aid training, developing blood banks or mobile medical emergency services. Most projects will involve training of local personnel.



Abu Shok 2004/2005

Abu Shok is a camp for displaced people (IDPs) in the region of Darfur, where people forced to leave their villages have taken refuge. The camp had 89 000 inhabitants at the end of April 2005. The GRC ran a basic health care unit in this camp in which 55 000 beneficiaries were treated since 2004. The GRC delegates in the BHCUs work together with local personnel including doctors, interpreters, technicians of the Sudanese Red Crescent.



Water and Sanitation

Providing water and sanitation services is another major priority of the GRC. Based on needs assessments, the GRC deploys water and sanitation emergency modules, participates in cleaning and rehabilitating wells and water pipes, in building latrines and conducting training activities for *Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation Programs* (PHAST).

Earthquake in Indonesia, 27.05.2006

After the earthquake in Yogyakarta on Java Island, the GRC was among those who supported the Indonesian Red Cross in providing fast assistance to 200 000 people affected by the disaster. Within just a few days, the GRC moved a water purification plant from Sumatra Island to 2000 km distant Java. The plant came from a tsunami relief project of the GRC which had been finalised only a month earlier. The GRC also deployed personnel from Germany, sent disposable medical supplies such as medication, bandages, minor surgery kits and syringes, supported the distribution of such medical items and provided the affected population with basic clean up sets.

Floods in Thailand, 2006

After heavy flooding in Thailand, the GRC and the Thai Red Cross jointly provided over 120 000 affected people with clean water. Putting to use a water purification plant donated to the Thailand Red Cross Society after the Tsunami in 2004, the GRC had trained Thai Red Cross personnel in water purification techniques to assist the sister Society in scaling up its disaster preparedness. Flooding and earth movements caused the death of 48 people in May 2006.

Reconstruction, Habitat

After earthquakes and floods, the GRC provides fast help in the form of emergency shelters and participates in community-based reconstruction programs for houses and community buildings.



Community planning / Sabang Island, 2005-2006

A community in Sabang Island/Indonesia has been called upon to plan the layout of their new village. Community Action Planning Workshops were held with the affected population to ensure ownership of the process.

Economic Security/ Livelihood

In crises caused by natural disasters, conflicts or wars, the GRC aims to contribute towards protecting the victims' lives as well as their vital means of production, so that they can maintain and regain their productive capacity and economic self-sufficiency.



Disaster Preparedness and Organisational Development

The GRC participates in disaster preparedness programs and organisational development. On the basis of a capacity assessment, GRC delegates work with sister Societies on improving their disaster preparedness or carry out consultancies in the fields of volunteer organisation, funding, marketing, statutes, youth programs, etc.

Disaster Preparedness in Pakistan, 2006

In response to the earthquake of October 2005, the GRC immediately sent a Basic Health Care Unit and a Specialised Water ERU to Pakistan, along with other relief goods such as winterised tents, tarpaulins, sleeping bags, blankets, kitchen sets, etc. Both ERUs have been handed over to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) whose personnel will be trained so that the ERUs can be deployed for future disasters. Further on, the GRC will support the PRCS in opening new branches in earthquake affected areas, training volunteers and conducting first aid training, in order to improve their response to future disasters.

Professionals working for the GRC's international co-operation

The GRC assigns delegates to the above mentioned missions and is constantly searching for qualified personnel. The main focus of our recruitment policy is to bring the best possible service to the vulnerable people.

Profiles in demand

- General practitioners, surgeons, anaesthetists, paediatricians, preferably with a specialisation in tropical medicine/ public health and ability to work with limited material and equipment
- Head, ward, OT, paediatric nurses and midwives, preferably with prior experience in developing countries
- Relief and logistic experts
- Hospital administrators
- Agronomists, veterinarians, nutritionists, economists and livelihood specialists with expertise in micro- and meso-project management
- Architects and building engineers, preferably with experience in community involvement
- Water and sanitation specialists and experts in hygiene promotion
- Finance and administration experts
- Telecommunication experts
- Managers of institutions with a strong volunteer base with expertise in the management of development projects, organisational development and disaster preparedness

Basic requirements for all personnel

- knowledge of and willingness to adhere to Red Cross principles and standards
- 2-3 years of professional experience after conclusion of professional training
- preferably prior experience in developing countries
- very good English skills and preferably other relevant language skills
- certified ability to work under tropical conditions
- intercultural sensitivity
- ability to train local staff
- project management skills

Application and staffing process



People interested in going on mission with the German Red Cross can apply for open positions published on www.drk.de or send a tentative application. They will be contacted for a first telephone interview, possibly followed by a personal interview. After that they can be invited to a BASIC TRAINING COURSE for delegates, the First Aid in the Field / Security Training (FAF) and specialised trainings for delegates. These courses are also an opportunity for a final assessment of candidates. Those who pass this procedure are entered into the pool of available GRC delegates and may be asked to go on mission when suitable job openings come up.

If this appeals to you, we will welcome your application to German Red Cross Headquarters, Dept. 21-International Co-operation, Field Personnel, Carstennstr. 58, 12205 Berlin.

Donations

If you would like to contribute otherwise to GRC projects worldwide, your donation will be equally welcome.

Our bank address for donations is: account number 41 41 41, Bank für Sozialwirtschaft, BLZ 370 205 00. You can also donate online at <http://DRK.de/Spenden>

or send your money order to
Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
Carstennstrasse 58
D- 12205 Berlin

Thank you in advance! We shall maximise the value of your contribution for the benefit of people in need. You can always find further information about our current relief and rehabilitation projects at www.DRK.de

