

# GRC

## International Cooperation





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# International Cooperation

## The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

### The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the largest humanitarian network in the world. Its mission is to alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, and uphold human dignity especially during armed conflicts and other emergencies. It is present in nearly every country of the world and supported by millions of volunteers. It is composed of 186 recognized individual National Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation). Each has its own legal identity and role, but they are all united by seven Fundamental Principles: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality. Each component of the Movement is committed to respect and uphold them.

### The National Societies

Today, 186 recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies embody the work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement all over the world. National Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field and provide a range of services including disaster relief, health and social programmes. During wartime, National Societies assist the vulnerable civilian population and support the army medical services where appropriate. Every new National Society must first meet a set of conditions to be recognized by the ICRC, which is the guardian of international humanitarian law, and may subsequently become a member of the International Federation, which is the National Societies' umbrella organization.

### The ICRC

Established in 1863, by Henry Dunant and four other Swiss citizens, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflict or situations of internal strife.



The ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent Swiss organization whose humanitarian mission is to ensure protection and assistance to victims of armed conflict or situations of internal strife. It safeguards the operation of the Central Tracing Agency as provided by the Geneva Conventions and carries out visits to prisoners of war and other detainees. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening international humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. The ICRC headquarters is situated in Geneva. [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)



ICRC Headquarters in Geneva

# International Cooperation

## The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

### The International Federation

The International Federation was founded in 1919 in Paris in the aftermath of World War I. Starting with five founding member societies from Britain, France, Italy, Japan and the United States, the International Federation grew fast and today has 186 member National Societies in almost every country of the world.



The International Federation works in the spirit of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to inspire facilitate and promote all humanitarian activities carried out by its member National Societies to improve the situation of the most vulnerable people. The International Federation coordinates international assistance of the Movement to victims of natural and technological disasters, to refugees and in health emergencies in times of peace. It acts as the official representative of its member societies in the international field. It promotes cooperation between National Societies and works to strengthen their capacity to carry out effective disaster preparedness, health and social programmes. Furthermore, the International Federation develops guidelines, policies and strategies for the humanitarian work of its member societies. The International Federation has its headquarters in Geneva. [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### The Emblems of the Movement

The first emblem came into being in 1864. The governments attending the diplomatic conference, which adopted the First Geneva Convention in 1864, decided

that a clear neutral sign was needed on the battlefield to protect medical staff and facilities. They opted for a red cross on a white background, the exact reverse of the flag of neutral Switzerland.

But just over a decade later, during the Russian-Turkish war, the Ottoman Empire adopted the red crescent as its protective sign, while still recognizing and respecting the red cross. Persia, too, adopted its own sign – the red lion and sun - and in 1929 all three signs were recognized by international humanitarian law. 1980 Iran dropped the old Persian sign in favour of the red crescent, but still could go back to the former sign.

Amid growing concern about respect for the neutrality of the Red Cross or Red Crescent in certain situations of armed conflict, in 1992, the then president of the ICRC publicly called for the creation of an additional emblem devoid of any national, political or religious connotation. In 2005, the red crystal was adopted as an additional protective sign with the Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions. Each of the emblems has two main uses: a „protective use“ and an „indicative use“.



First and foremost, the emblems are a visible sign of the protection given mainly to the medical services, equipment and buildings of the armed forces under international humanitarian law – the „protective use“. In addition, the components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are authorised to make „indicative use“ of the emblems to identify themselves. The emblems are protected by law against misuse.



# International Cooperation

## The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

### Governance of the Movement

The bodies that govern the Movement are the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Council of Delegates and the Standing Commission.



The International Conference

**The International Conference** is one of the most important humanitarian forums in the world to debate major humanitarian challenges. It is the supreme deliberative body of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It brings together all the components of the Movement and the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions. In addition, there are observers from other humanitarian organizations or the UN system and National Societies in formation or awaiting recognition. It normally meets once every four years.

**The Council of Delegates** is the only occasion when all the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have an opportunity to debate among themselves and decide on global strategic issues. It provides a forum to discuss global humanitarian issues facing the international community.

The Council usually meets immediately after the biennial meetings of the Federation's General Assembly. In years when an International Conference is held, the Council follows the General Assembly and precedes the International Conference.

**The Standing Commission** acts as the trustee of the International Conference between meetings and makes arrangements for the International Conference and the Council of Delegates, assisted by the ICRC and the International Federation.

### Cooperation in the Movement

Within the Movement, National Societies cooperate either bilaterally, or multilaterally where more than two National Societies implement activities in one country. Sometimes, so-called Operational Alliances are formed by several National Societies with the aim to support one National Society in the implementation of projects and programmes including organisational development and capacity building.

To respond with speed, flexibility and creativity to the needs of all those calling for impartial humanitarian protection and assistance in emergency situations, the components must join forces and strive for synergetic cooperation, coupled with a clear division of labour.

The Seville Agreement and the supplementary measures define a "lead role" and a "lead agency" within the Movement for two different scenarios:

- Interventions after a natural or technological disaster and in other emergencies in peacetime – here the International Federation has the lead role for all of the Movement's activities.
- Interventions in times of armed conflict or situations of internal strife, which does not necessarily imply armed action, but serious acts of violence over a prolonged period or a latent situation of violence – here the ICRC has the lead role for all activities undertaken by the Movement.

# International Cooperation

## The German Red Cross



GRC Headquarters, Berlin

### The German Red Cross

In Germany, the core activities of the German Red Cross (GRC) focus on welfare and social work, health programmes, which include the provision of first aid and ambulance services, national level disaster preparedness, youth work and public advocacy on humanitarian issues. The GRC is a member of the Federal Working Group of Voluntary Welfare Organisations (BAGFW)\*1. This group comprises six of the largest German welfare organisations, representing more than 90,000 social and welfare services, with more than 1.3 million employees.

The German Red Cross has a federal structure that includes:

- 19 regional branches 491 district branches
- 4,618 local branches
- 34 nurses' associations + 1 federation of nurses' associations
- more than 10,000 community committees and technical committees
- 7 blood transfusion centres

Various GRC activities are implemented by approximately 400,000 volunteers and more than 100,000 full-time staff. More than 3,5m GRC members support their organisation financially or in non-material ways.

The GRC's governing bodies are the Federal Assembly and the Presidential Committee. The General Secretariat

in Berlin is home to the GRC president, vice-president and the executive management, headed by two CEOs. The General Secretariat represents the German Red Cross in all its activities on national and international levels.

### International activities

GRC headquarters in Berlin are responsible for all of the National Society's activities abroad. Regional or local GRC branches may also run activities in other countries but must coordinate these with national headquarters in Berlin and the partner National Society.

In emergency, rehabilitation or development cooperation, the GRC coordinates with other components of the Movement. In the majority of cases, the GRC cooperates with a Red Cross or Red Crescent partner National Society on a bilateral basis. Red Cross consortia of several National Societies and multilateral cooperation even with organisations outside the Movement also occur, but less frequently.

Every GRC intervention abroad presupposes a request of the National Society in the country concerned. GRC activities are always based on the strategic planning of this partner and pursue two aims:

- Support the most vulnerable people in the partner countries in order to improve their living conditions and contribute to sustainable local development.
- Support the partner National Societies in their organisational development and capacity building with regard to their services for the vulnerable. This contributes to the strengthening of the civil society.

The GRC works in more than 50 countries worldwide. The main focus of activities is on:

- Emergency response and disaster management
- Rehabilitation and reconstruction
- Development of key sectors: Disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change; health; water and sanitation and livelihood programmes.

\*1 Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der freien Wohlfahrtspflege (non-statutory welfare services)

# International Cooperation

## The German Red Cross

The concept of **Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD)** including disaster preparedness plays a vital role in international GRC cooperation. Early planning of rehabilitation and development programmes, done together with our partner National Societies well before relief activities come to an end, is therefore key at the GRC.

### Emergency response

As a precondition for receiving international Red Cross or Red Crescent support in an emergency, a National Society must request assistance and conduct a thorough needs assessment to gain a clear picture of the nature and extent of an existing emergency including the needs of the local community. To facilitate such assessments, the International Federation has developed the so-called Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) for regional deployment and the Field Assessment and Co-ordination Team (FACT) for global deployment. GRC delegates sometimes participate in joint RDRT and FACT missions. Based on assessment reports, an international relief appeal may be launched, with the International Federation coordinating the Movement's response. One important response tool is the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) system of the International Federation that GRC co-founded in the early nineties. The GRC and other National Societies contribute to a given appeal either by providing cash, human resources or, equipment or by deploying a complete ERU.

### GRC Disaster Relief Units

As experience showed in the early nineties that the existing ERU system of the International Federation could be optimized in order to respond more efficiently to different disaster situations, the GRC developed smaller, more flexible disaster relief units, which can be adapted better to varying local requirements. The units can supplement existing structures or operate on a stand-alone basis. They can be ready for dispatch within 36 to 72 hours. The GRC has six ERUs on standby including supplies and supply replacement necessary after initial deployment.

Red Cross volunteers with suitable professional backgrounds are trained by the GRC in special ERU courses. These delegates are available for deployment on very short notice. The main focus of the GRC's emergency response is on health, water and sanitation, and shelter.



Loading of relief items / Schönefeld airport

Equipment for emergency response units is stored at the GRC's logistic center at Berlin Schönefeld airport as follows:

#### a) Basic Health Care Unit (BHCU)

The BHCU is a mobile tented facility designed to provide basic curative, preventive and community-oriented health services for up to 30,000 people in disaster situations. Its purpose is to support and relieve local health facilities that are damaged or overstretched. The BHCU includes a doctor, nurses, a midwife, a lab technician and a technician, all experienced in field work.

#### b) Referral Hospital

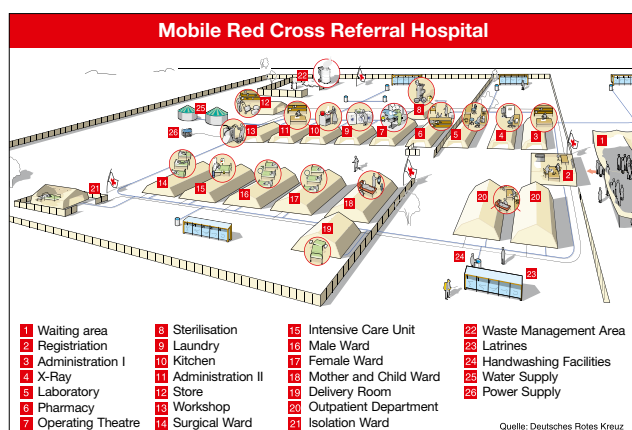
This unit consists of a hospital with 75 to 150 beds and is designed to provide multi-disciplinary care at referral level for up to 250,000 people in an emergency situation. The referral hospital covers the medical fields of surgery, traumatology (limited), anaesthesia, internal medicine, gynaecology, obstetrics and paediatrics. It includes an outpatient department and an emergency room to provide emergency care for casualties as a referral facility. The unit also comprises 20 to 30 delegates (doctors, nurses, midwives, x-ray technicians,



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technicians as well as an administrator). The general approach for the referral hospital and the BHCU is to have national health professionals and support staff complement the GRC team.



Referral Hospital structure

### c) Water and Sanitation Module 15 (WatSan M15)

The WatSan M15 ERU facilitates three activities vital in emergency situations: water purification, sanitation and hygiene promotion.

The water treatment component can purify up to 225,000 litres of drinking water for up to 15,000 beneficiaries per day. Six comparatively small and flexible filtration units can be set up in six different locations to meet the needs of scattered populations or hospitals and health care centres.

The main tasks of these units are to produce, store and distribute purified water to a vulnerable population. Quality management is ensured through continuous water monitoring and analysis in the ERU's own field laboratory. The sanitation component is equipped to build emergency latrines. This is accompanied by hygiene promotion campaigns to raise awareness for the importance of safe water use and storage, sanitation and personal hygiene to keep – or become healthy.

### d) Water and Sanitation Module 40 (WatSan M40)

The WatSan M40 ERU is designed to meet the demand for water and sanitation of up to 40,000 people. The

water purification plant has a maximum daily output of 600,000 litres of potable water meeting WHO standards. The unit can be split up to operate in two different locations.

This unit is mainly used in the context of large-scale IDP or refugee movements and camps. As with the WatSan M15 ERU, the combination of the three components water, sanitation and hygiene promotion enhances effective care for the beneficiaries.

Both Water and Sanitation Units are run by a team of 5 to 6 WatSan delegates of the GRC, supported by local staff from the partner National Society. During the three or four months of an ERU intervention, the local technicians are given comprehensive on the job training that covers all of the necessary skills. Where appropriate, the GRC only deploys key expatriate delegates and gradually shifts responsibility to the partner National Society concerned. Several of the WatSan ERUs deployed and left in disaster-stricken countries in the past have later been re-used over there by fully skilled local staff of the respective National Societies.

### e) Mass Sanitation Module 20 (MSM 20)

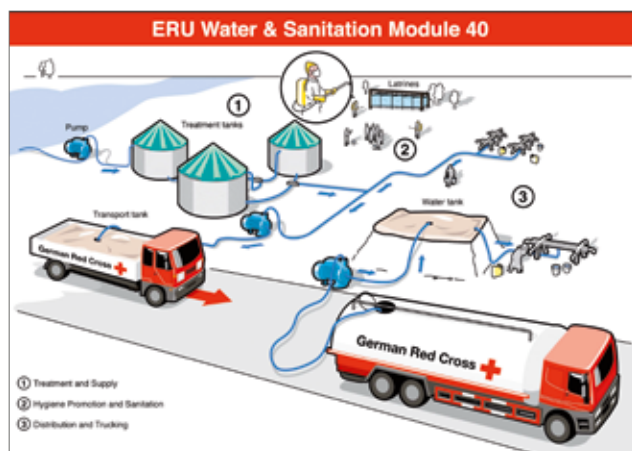
In contrast to the previous units, the MSM 20 ERU is used for sanitation, hygiene promotion, household water treatment, vector control and waste management. This unit can provide for up to 20,000 people in an emergency situation.

Key elements of the hardware component are the installation of latrines and washing facilities, waste management and drainage and the distribution of household water treatment equipment. These activities are flanked by hygiene promotion and health education.

The team normally consists of a team leader and four delegates skilled in the main fields of intervention mentioned above, who are supported by local staff in comparatively large numbers for the required intense contact with vulnerable communities. Like all other ERUs, the MSM 20 can operate on a stand-alone basis for the duration of an emergency intervention.

# International Cooperation

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Water and Sanitation Module M 40

### f) Base Camp

The base camp module provides accommodation for up to 150 delegates or volunteers and office space for up to 30 staff.

The availability of office space equipped with adequate means of communication is crucial for coordination in complex disaster situations.

Modular in fashion, the base camp can easily be adjusted in size to groups of 15 to 150 people.

In addition to living quarters and office space, the base camp module includes all necessary equipment to install sanitation facilities and showers, a laundry and a fully operational kitchen. In addition to the smaller sleeping and office tents, large tent halls provide space for dining and meetings.

### g) Emergency Relief Items (ERIs)

The GRC keeps a stock of basic emergency relief items such as blankets, tents, mosquito nets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, tarpaulins and shelter tool kits. In addition, household water treatment equipment such as buckets, jerry cans and PUR-sachets (small sachets to purify drinking water on household level) is stored in the GRC's logistic centre at Berlin-Schönefeld and in the

International Federation warehouse in Kuala Lumpur. This stock allows for rapid distribution of basic items, to respond to the needs of disaster victims.

### Examples:

- **Basic Health Care Unit** have been deployed continuously since the mid 1990s. Recent examples include: Sudan in 2004, Kenya in 2006, Pakistan in 2007, and Haiti in 2008 and 2010
- **Referral hospitals** were deployed after two recent earthquakes: China (2008) and Haiti (2010).
- **Water/Sanitation** Units deployed since the mid 1990s include, in recent times: Sudan in 2006, Zimbabwe and Myanmar in 2008, Haiti and Pakistan in 2010.

More information on disaster response at the GRC can be found at:

<http://www.drk.de/weltweit/katastrophenhilfe.htm>



Base camp, Haiti

# International Cooperation

The German Red Cross

## Rehabilitation and reconstruction

Once an acute emergency situation is over, the GRC often takes part in rehabilitation projects which help to rebuild infrastructure such as destroyed houses, medical facilities and schools. Community participation is the norm when such projects are implemented. This ensures that the assistance delivered to beneficiaries will correspond to their needs, which is an important precondition for sustainability. Whenever possible, these projects include activities designed to strengthen the disaster management and risk reduction capacities of the population and the partner National Society on site. Based on local risk analysis,



Flood adapted housing, Indonesia

disaster risk reduction cuts across all reconstruction and rehabilitation projects funded by the GRC. This is reflected for instance in the construction of houses resistant to flooding, earthquakes or storms; first aid training for volunteers; awareness campaigns to sensitize people to local hazards, and evacuation training to improve disaster preparedness in communities and schools.

### Example:

The so far most significant GRC- financed rehabilitation and reconstruction programme was implemented with the Sri Lanka Red Cross, the Indonesian Red Cross and the Government of the Maldives after the 2004 Tsunami. In total:

- 3,091 private homes
- 36 schools
- 7 hospitals and
- 61 health facilities were built, and
- 3,370 wells were cleaned.

## Development

Partner National Societies have been supported by the GRC during the past decades. Implementation of longer term development cooperation focus on the sustainable improvement of a populations living conditions and strengthening (capacity building) of the RCRC partner National Societies – who play an important role as part of the civil society in their respective countries.

All development activities are linked to the strategic planning of the partner National Society. This society implements all GRC projects. The GRC primarily works as a bilateral partner and in some cases as a consortium with other National Societies. With development cooperation activities, the GRC and subsequently the whole Movement contributes to the achievement of the MDGs. GRC competences and focused long term development cooperation activities lie in the following sectors:

### Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation projects focus on community based risk assessments and the development of community capacities to mitigate disaster risks. They also address on the risks that climate change may pose to communities in terms of future disasters. The second focus lies with capacity building for our partner National Societies; to strengthen competencies for risk reduction with aim to reduce future needs of emergency intervention.



Rescue team training, Philippines



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### Health

Health is one of the Movement's core sectors, with programmes and projects run all over the world. Most are community based primary health care activities implemented by National Societies in their respective home country and in close cooperation with their national Ministry of Health. In addition to primary health care and First Aid, the GRC has extensive experience in supporting community-based activities for people living with HIV, AIDS orphans and other people who are seriously affected by the HIV pandemic. In addition, the recruitment of voluntary non-remunerated blood donors and support to blood banks are specific GRC niche activities in the health sector.

### Water/Sanitation and Hygiene

Water/Sanitation and Hygiene projects contribute to the "Global Water and Sanitation Initiative" (GWSI) of the International Federation. They follow the same integrated movement approach focused on community participation, sensitization and hygiene education to secure the sustainability of all water and hygiene related infrastructure they deliver.



Water Facility, Togo

### Livelihood

Livelihood projects mainly address agricultural activities, contributing to food security and improved incomes, particularly through horticulture, methods to enhance crop cultivation and conservation, and by improving

the access to agricultural inputs and to sales markets. In addition, the GRC supports various individual projects aimed at generating incomes (IG projects) that target specific groups like women, people living with HIV/AIDS, families hit by disasters, and landmine victims. To improve opportunities for youth, the GRC has projects which support social and educational activities.



Livelihood project, Lesotho

### Examples of recent and ongoing GRC assistance

- **Disaster Risk Reduction** projects in: India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Tajikistan, Iran, Tanzania, Togo Mozambique, Peru and Haiti.
- **HIV/Aids** projects in: Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, Kenya, Ethiopia and India.
- **Basic Health Care** projects in: Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- **Water/Sanitation and Hygiene** projects in: Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, Ghana, Togo, Vietnam, Haiti.
- **Livelihood** projects and social work in: Lesotho, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Sudan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Armenia, Ukraine and Belarus.

For more information on GRC projects world wide see: <http://www.drk.de/weltweit.html>

# International Cooperation

The German Red Cross

## Work with us

The GRC often assigns delegates to projects such as those described above. The main focus of our recruitment policy is to bring the best possible service to the beneficiaries in need of assistance and to support and train staff and volunteers of partner National Societies.



Delegates in Haiti

## Professionals in demand

- General practitioners, surgeons, anaesthetists, paediatricians, preferably specialized in tropical medicine/ public health and able to work with limited equipment and supplies
- Head nurses, ward nurses, OT nurses, paediatric nurses and midwives, preferably with prior experience in developing countries
- Hospital administrators
- Relief and logistic experts
- Agronomists, 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;
- Managers with expertise in project management related to development co-operation, organisational development, volunteer management and disaster risk reduction

## Basic requirements for all personnel

- 2 to 3 years of relevant work experience after completion of your professional training
- Knowledge of and willingness to adhere to Red Cross principles and standards
- Project management skills (PCM)
- 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

## Job applications

People interested in working with the German Red Cross may apply directly for open positions posted on [www.drk.de](http://www.drk.de).

A detailed description of the standard application process can be found at <http://www.drk.de/ueber-uns/stellenboerse>.

Applications can also be sent via other relevant recruitment sites.



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# DRK.de

## The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent:

### 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, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

### Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours only to relieve 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 Red Cross 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 one 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.



## Support us with your donation

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