German Red Cross



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Presentation and Overview

The German Red Cross (GRC)

German Red Cross



Our history

The origins of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The German Red Cross
Folie 2

German Red Cross

The father of the idea: Henry Dunant (1828 – 1910)



Swiss businessman Henry Dunant witnessed the **battle of Solferino** in **1859**. There he saw first-hand how thousands of wounded soldiers were simply left to die. He organised help for the injured and, at the request of those who were dying, wrote letters to their relatives in order to let them know about the fate of their loved ones.

His idea: Provide help to all victims regardless of the side on which they fought - this is the **foundation of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**.

Still today, the work undertaken by the Movement is based on **seven fundamental principles**: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality.

German Red Cross

Our fundamental principles:



Humanity



Impartiality



Neutrality



Independence



Voluntary Service



Unity



Universality

German Red Cross

Our fundamental principles:



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 to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

German Red Cross

Our fundamental principles:



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.

German Red Cross

Our fundamental principles:



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.

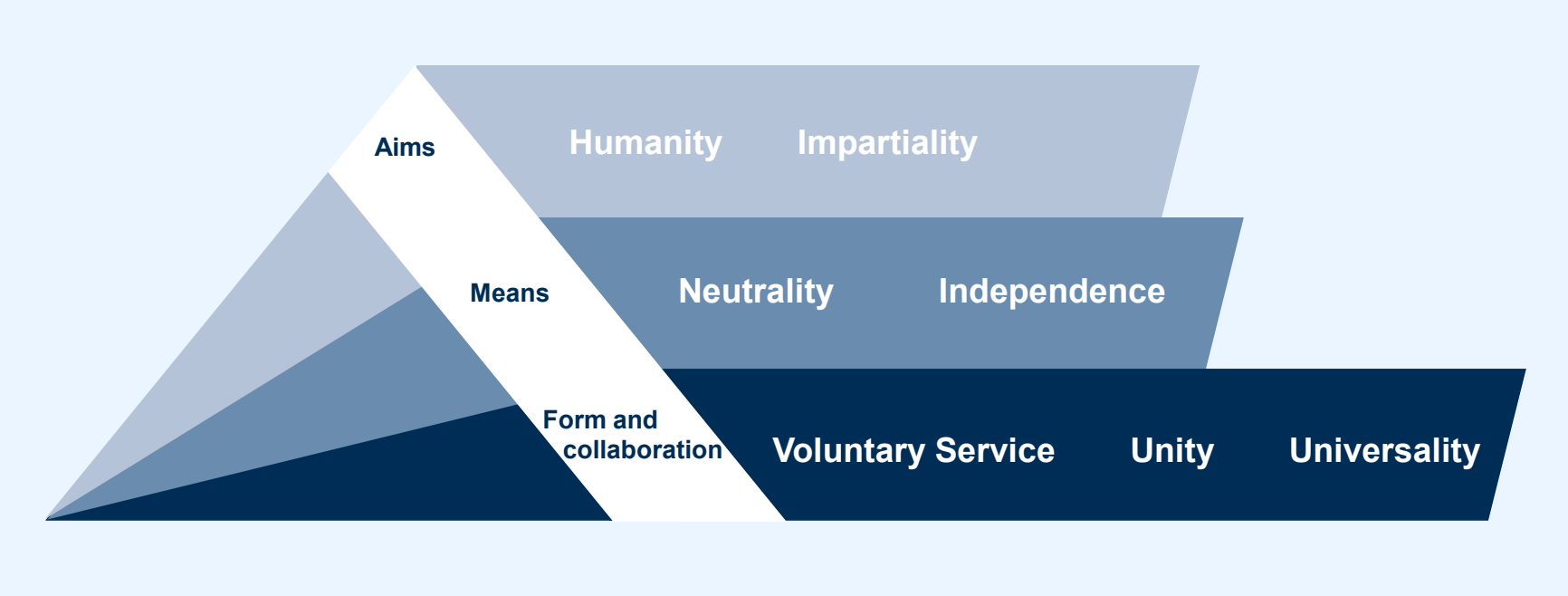


Universality

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.

German Red Cross

The hierarchy of our fundamental principles



German Red Cross

Our history:
Over 150 years of the (German) Red Cross

1859

Henry Dunant witnesses the battle of Solferino.

1862

In *A Memory of Solfino*, Dunant describes his experiences and makes several suggestions. For example, the founding of national aid societies for war wounded.

1863

The Geneva Committee of the Five is formed.

International conference in Geneva: Foundation of the Red Cross.

The first national Red Cross society is created: the *Württembergische Sanitätsverein*.

1864

Diplomatic conference in Geneva: Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field

German Red Cross

Our history:
Over 150 years of the (German) Red Cross

1901

Henry Dunant shares half of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

1919

The League of Red Cross Societies is founded (from 1991 known as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, IFRC).

1921

German welfare associations and women's associations are combined together to create the German Red Cross.

1933

Nazification of the German Red Cross as the NSDAP took power.

1945

Dissolution of the German Red Cross by the Allies.

1950

The German Red Cross is re-founded in the Federal Republic of Germany.

1952

The German Red Cross is founded in the German Democratic Republic.

German Red Cross

Our history:
Over 150 years of the (German) Red Cross

1991

Unification of the two German Red Cross societies.

2008

Implementation of the law on the German Red Cross and other voluntary aid organisations within the framework of the Geneva Red Cross Convention.

2013

150 year anniversary of the Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross.

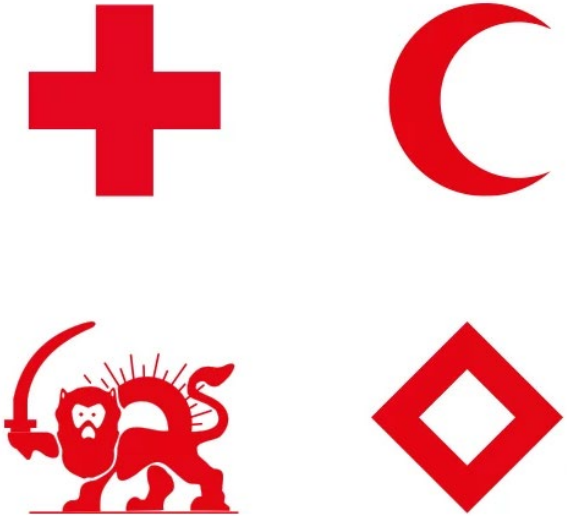
2021

100 year anniversary of the German Red Cross

German Red Cross

Our emblem: The red cross

- The “Committee of the Five” agreed with Henry Dunant at the very first Geneva Conference in 1863, in deference to the Swiss flag, to use a red cross on a white background as a symbol for signifying all voluntary helpers in a military conflict.
- The symbol – the inverse of the Swiss flag – becomes from this point forward the emblem and distinctive mark of the Red Cross as an aid organisation. Later came the red crescent, the red crystal as well the no longer used red lion before a red sun.



German Red Cross

Our emblem: The German Red Cross identifier

Like every other national society, the German Red Cross has its own logo.

Particularly when **collaborating and working together with third parties** it is essential that the originator (i.e. German Red Cross logo with regional indicator) can be identified.

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz

Compact logo

German Red Cross

International Compact logo



Circular logo



International Circular logo





Logo with regional indicator, vertical and horizontal use – only in German

German Red Cross

Our emblem – a symbol of protection

*"The **protective use** of the emblem is meant to mark medical and religious personnel and equipment which must be respected and protected in armed conflicts.*

*The **indicative use** of the emblem serves to show that persons or objects are linked to the Movement. There is only one emblem, but it can be used for two different purposes: ... ."*

(Regulations on the use of the emblem of the Red Cross or the Red Crescent by the National Societies. Vienna, 1965, Chapter I, Article 1)

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Our principles

International Humanitarian Law

German Red Cross

International Humanitarian Law

Special rules for armed conflicts

International Humanitarian Law, also known as the “rules of armed conflict”, is a set of special rules created for armed conflicts. These rules relate to the existence of an armed conflict and do not deal with the reasons or the legality of the use of violence.

Aims

- Reduce human suffering in war
- Protect persons who are not or are no longer actively participating in the conflict: Civilian population, medics, wounded, sick or captured soldiers
- The moderation of the means and methods used in war

German Red Cross

The four Geneva Conventions …

Reason	Convention
1859: Battle of Solferino	☞ **1864: First Geneva Convention** for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field
Around 1900: Sea warfare	☞ **1909: Second Geneva Convention** for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea
1914 to 1918: First World War	☞ **1929: Third Geneva Convention** relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War
1939 to 1945: Second World War	☞ **1949: Fourth Geneva Convention** relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War *Also: Revisions of First, Second and Third Geneva Conventions*

German Red Cross

… and their Additional Protocols

Reason		Convention
After 1945: Various wars	☞	**1977: First Additional Protocol** relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts
After 1945: Civil wars and liberation wars	☞	**1977: Second Additional Protocol** relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts
After 1948: Middle East conflict	☞	**2005: Third Additional Protocol** relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem

German Red Cross



Our movement

A Network of Humanity

German Red Cross

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Different components - one Movement

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the world's largest humanitarian movement, organised into a strong international network.

The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** is an independent Swiss organisation with an international role: providing help to the victims of armed conflicts around the world. The headquarters is located in Geneva. Observer status at the United Nations since 1990.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the umbrella organisation of the national societies. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation with a unique network of aid for victims of disasters and emergency situations in times of peace. Its headquarters is located in Geneva. Observer status at the United Nations since 1994.

The are current 191 **national societies**. These form a global network based on the foundational principle of universality. The national society in German is the German Red Cross.

German Red Cross

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement



German Red Cross

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Core activities of the ICRC

- coordination of international aid campaigns in armed conflicts in consultation with the local National Societies
- has the right to visit prisons of war and deliver aid packages to them
- headquarters of the central Tracing Services
- calls upon the parties involved in an armed conflict to observe applicable laws
- provides protection and aid for military and civilian victims of armed conflicts
- collaboration with the IFRC



German Red Cross

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Core activities of the IFRC

- function as central point of connection, coordination and planning between National Societies
- represent the National Societies at the international level
- support the activities of the National Societies
- provide disaster aid
- provide help for refugees and displaced people
- collaboration with the ICRC



German Red Cross

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Core activities of the National Societies

- Voluntary aid organisations in individual countries: In Germany this is the German Red Cross
- deliver a wide range of humanitarian services nationally: from disaster management to health and social welfare
- depending on capacities and abilities, provide international services such as emergency aid in conflicts and disasters, reconstruction, disaster risk reduction and development collaborations



German Red Cross

How the components work together

Mutual support following the Seville Agreement 2.0

- Activities should be coordinated in a mutually supportive manner, thereby recognising and strengthening the central role of the National Society of the country affected.
- A flexible and agile approach is taken that provides context-specific design and coordination of actions depending on the situation, needs and capacities available.
- The National Society of the affected country (organiser) and the co-organiser (ICRC for armed conflicts or IFRC for natural disasters, etc.) bring together the various components of the Movement in order to exchange information about context, needs and priorities and to assign tasks and responsibilities according to mandate, expertise and capacities-and adapt as needed to changing situations - as well as provide any support to the National Society of the affected country as requested and help them set priorities.

German Red Cross

How the components work together

Natural disaster or conflict

Local National Societies (organiser)

› National Society of the affected country is the first to provide aid
› sends out a request for assistance for larger emergencies

IFRC or ICRC (Co-organiser)

› coordinates tasks and responsibilities with the National Society according to mandate, expertise and capacities
› **IFRC** for natural disasters, aid after conflicts and population movements
› **ICRC** for armed conflicts and internal troubles

Sister Societies

› provide aid within the scope of joint aid operations as needed
› can also enter into direct bilateral cooperations with one another

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Our National Society

The German Red Cross (GRC)

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German Red Cross - Our Mission Statement



The German Red Cross is a member of the global community of the international Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, providing help without discrimination to the victims of conflicts and disasters and others in need, solely based on their level of need.
We act in the name of humanity for the lives, health, wellbeing, protection, peaceful interaction and dignity of all people.

German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our Structure



Federal Structure - never far away

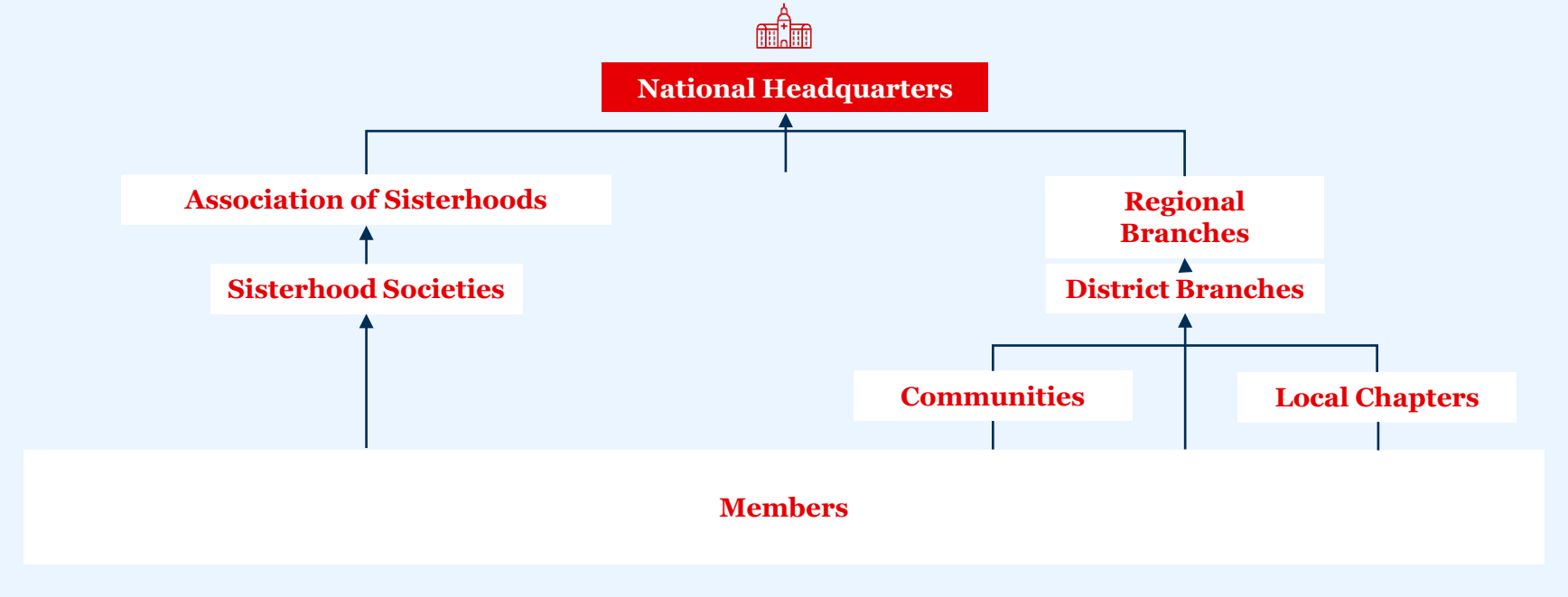
In order to be able to act as quickly as possible, the German Red Cross is present throughout the country with a federal structure.

1	GRC National Headquarters in Berlin
1	Association of Sisterhoods of the GRC
19	GRC Regional Branches
6	GRC Blood Donation Services
31	GRC Sisterhood Societies
456	GRC District Branches
3,926	GRC Local Chapters

Source: Annual of the Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V. 2023

German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our Structure



German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our Members and Staff

People working for people

The GRC is a community
of people working for people.

2.5 m supporting members

452,840 volunteers

200,541 employees

1.5 m blood donors









Source: Annual of the Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V. 2023

German Red Cross

Sisterhoods

Strong health and nursing (www.rotkreuzschwestern.de)

The Association of Sisterhoods of the GRC

- is a member association of the GRC and is a specialist organisation for professional nursing care that actively works in the interests of its members.
- is committed to the professionalisation of care professions through training and professional development and is a strong advocate for the academicization of the nursing profession.
- is an umbrella organisation representing the 31 GRC sisterhoods in Germany and around 21,000 Red Cross nurses and related professionals.
- and its sisterhoods work together with the GRC to provide help to people in need.



31 GRC Sisterhoods

21,000 Red Cross nurses and those in related professions in the GRC sisterhoods

Around 2,100 apprenticeships for nursing professions each year

59 Nursing schools in Germany

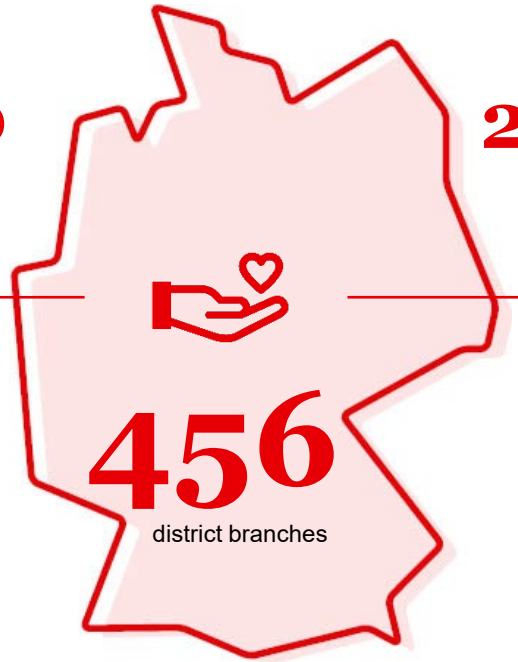
Source: Annual of the Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V. 2022

German Red Cross

The GRC – Strong local representation

452,840
volunteers in Germany

200,541
employees



19
regional branches

456
district branches

3,926
local chapters

Source: Annual of the Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V. 2023

German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our tasks

Tasks from the GRC Charter

The GRC is the national aid organisation of the Federal Republic of Germany and recognised umbrella organisation for free social welfare work. Due to its self-perception and abilities, the GRC Charter includes the following tasks:

- Provide aid to the victims of armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergency situations
- Prevent and minimise human suffering that results from illness, injury, disability or disadvantage.
- Provide support for health, wellbeing and education
- Provide support to work with children and young people
- Provide support for the development of national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Support the donation of blood and blood components for the general population
- Tracing service and family reunions
- Provide support for rescuing people where there is danger to life

German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our tasks

Expanded range of tasks

A whole host of other tasks in line with our Charter arise from International Humanitarian Law and the GRC Law:

- Raise awareness of International Humanitarian Law and the principles and ideals of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Cooperation with the medical service of the German Army including hospital ship deployments
- Duties of an official point of information
- Disseminating Red Cross news

German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our four current main areas



Civil health protection

Civil protection aims to tackle and limit the effects
of severe emergency situations such as natural disasters. The GRC Rescue Service plays a key role here.



Eldercare

Old people and their relatives receive offers from the GRC that are based on their needs in the areas of retirement provision, care and support.
The GRC is also actively provides political representation in this area.



Child care

Children up to 14 years of age and their families receive support form the GRC in the areas of upbringing, education and care. Alongside institutional offers such as nurseries, various other offers are available to families.



First aid

Alongside providing immediate first aid as part of our medical services or as first responders, we focus on strongly on first aid training. The GRC provides training to the general population so that people are in a position to help themselves and others.

German Red Cross

The German Red Cross - Further key areas



Disaster services

Care and provision of supplies to people affected by dangerous circumstances, a natural disaster or evacuation, but who are not injured.



Psychosocial care

Specially trained workers in the Crisis Intervention and Post-Emergency Care Services support and take care of those affected and field workers after events have taken place.



Medical service

Comprises all life savings tasks not directly assigned to the rescue service or complements these, providing first aid to sick and injured persons, providing medical care as well as transport.



Tracing Service

The GRC Tracing Service provides support to people who have become separated from their relatives as a result of armed conflict, natural disaster, flight, migration or displacement. In the case of conflict, the Tracing Service takes on the role of an official information service.

German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our communities

Voluntary work

Rescue, supply, care, support - voluntary work is a key pillar of the GRC's activities. It is provided in various forms, and primarily within one of the five communities.

Stand-by services

Mountain rescue

Water rescue

Welfare and social work

The Red Cross Youth

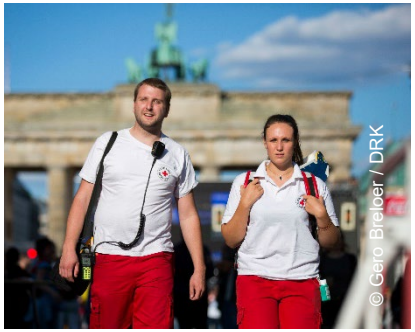
German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our communities

Stand-by services

Members of the stand-by services have a range of tasks. Their focus is on providing help to victims of accidents, natural disasters and conflict.
The basis for deployments are solid basic and specialist training that is kept up-to-date and refreshed as part of regular training exercises.

- Medical service
- Disaster services
- Task area information on persons
- Local networking









German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our communities

Mountain rescue

Fitness and stamina as well as skiing, climbing mountains and an intensive training course are key requirements of the mountain rescue service. The mountain rescuers spring into action when people get into trouble in difficult to reach terrain. Equipment used includes helicopters.

- Summer and winter rescue
- Air rescue
- Nature and environmental protection
- Disaster management



German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our communities

Water rescue

Members of the water rescue service save people from emergencies in an on the water and provide improved safety when bathing and participating in water sports. Depending on needs, rescue swimmers, divers and helicopter supported rescues are used.

- Water rescue service
- Disaster management
- Vocational training
- Nature protection



German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our communities

Welfare and social work

Help with homework, provide food and clothing to people in need, support people in their daily lives - the scope of activities is wide-ranging and the welfare and social work as old as the Red Cross itself. The focus is on people in need and the disadvantaged.

- Offers for children, young people and families
- for older people
- for people with disabilities
- for people with a migration background
- for people in difficult personal and social situations



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German Red Cross - Our communities

Red Cross Youth (www.jugendrotkreuz.de)

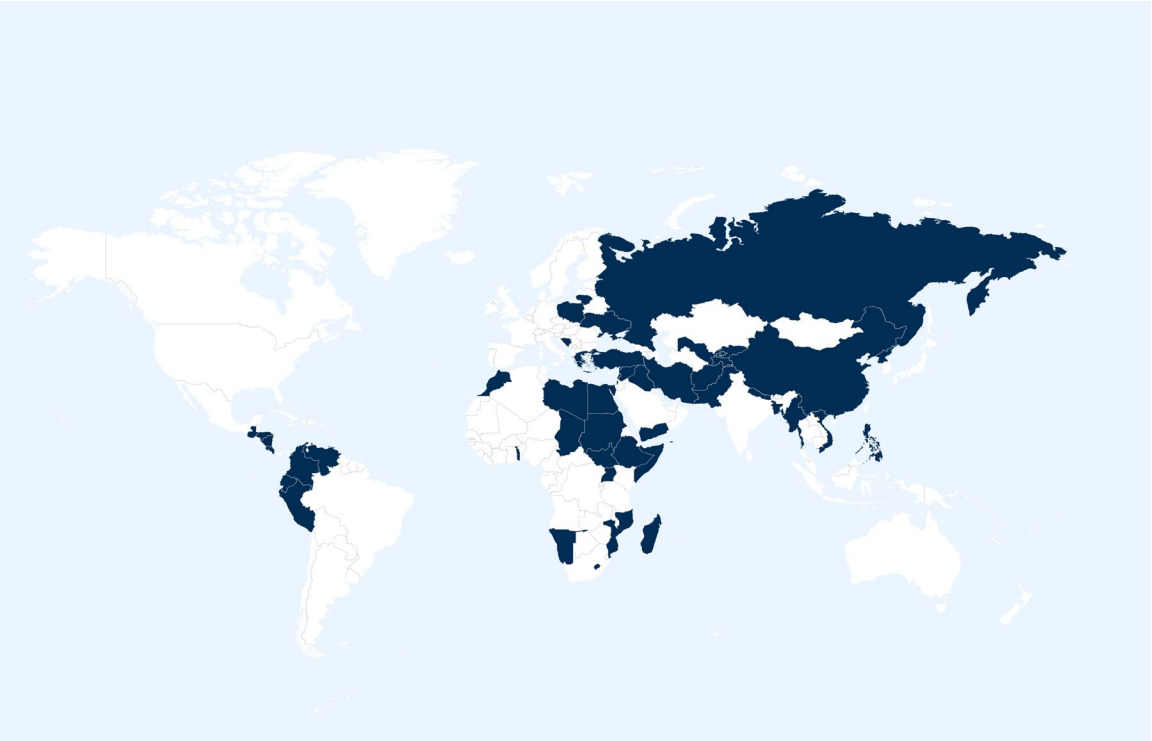
The independent Red Cross Youth of the GRC provides educational opportunities for the personal development of young people and guides them towards the ideas of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Red Cross Youth represents the interests of young people and is a recognised independent sponsor of aid for young people.

- Youth and educational work including collaborations with schools dealing with topics such as political and societal education, promotion of health, violence prevention and conflict mediation.
- Teaching of age-appropriate ideas and actions in first aid
- Leisure activities ranging from camping to the international youth movement



German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our international collaborations



Sought-after partner

The GRC is one of the largest and best performing National Societies and provides assistance worldwide in areas where there are disasters and armed conflicts.

The GRC currently works together with more than 40 sister societies.

Our international collaborations are financed through donations, state grants as well as funds from other National Societies.

German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Strengths of our international collaborations

Global humanitarian network

- the German Red Cross is part of the largest humanitarian network in the world
- always acts upon direct requests from its sister societies, the ICRC or IFRC
- has a unique mandate from the Geneva Conventions as well as recognition by the government and its foundational principles

Strong local connection

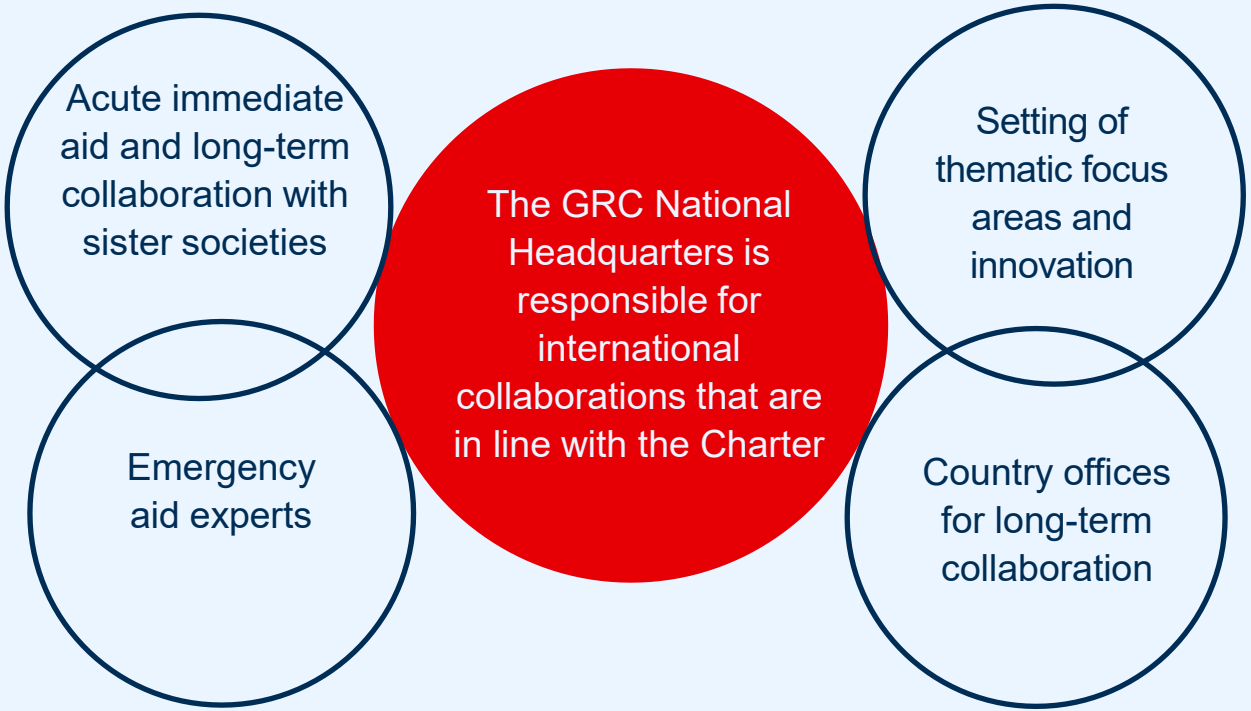
- close collaboration with the local people and local sister society who know the local area best
- provides help to sister societies where needed and requested
- relies on the expertise and assessment of its sister societies
- is committed to and invests in strengthening its sister societies

volunteers make up the heart and backbone of its humanitarian work

- is part of the largest network of volunteers in the world
- fairly delivers humanitarian aid thanks to the commitment of volunteers in various countries
- receives access to especially endangered and difficult to reach persons as its sister societies are firmly embedded in the civil population

German Red Cross

Well-positioned for international collaboration



German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our international collaborations

Comprehensive range of tasks

The GRC doesn't just provide immediate assistance, but is active **before, during and after a disaster** has taken place. In collaboration with national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies it delivers humanitarian aid wherever it is most urgently needed.

- Immediate and emergency relief in conflicts and disasters
- Disaster risk reduction & anticipatory aid
- Accommodation, health and water, sanitation and hygiene
- Life essentials and food assurance
- Resilience
- Prioritisation of cash payments over payment in kind
- Strengthening of sister societies



German Red Cross

German Red Cross - Our international collaborations

Aid before …

Disaster risk reduction & anticipatory aid: Keep the effects of crises as small as possible

- Campaigns with the local population
- Training and disaster control exercises, early warning systems

… during …

Immediate and emergency relief: Save lives and ensure survival

- Dispatch of immediate aid experts and aid goods
- Targeted support at the request of sister society
- Emergency relief units on request (e.g. portable hospital, health stations, portable drinking water supplies)

... and after a crisis

Reconstruction: Ensure life essentials and stability

- Restore infrastructure, schools, health facilities, homes and livelihoods
- Aim: better preparation for dealing with dangers and strengthening resilience

Strengthening and expanding capacity of our sister societies

German Red Cross

Outlook: German Red Cross - Our challenges

Climate change

Natural disasters, extreme weather and heat increasingly endanger human life and destroy important livelihoods.

Conflicts

Conflicts are on the increase worldwide and are putting a strain on the capacities of aid organisations.

Pandemics

Various causes contribute to the rapid spread of e.g. highly contagious illnesses, including unknown ones.

Overall economic situation

Is a source of uncertainty and social tension in many areas. People are focussing increasingly on their own situations.

Summary for the German Red Cross

- Strengthen civil protection
- Increase resilience of society
- Increase disaster risk reduction efforts
- Further develop anticipatory humanitarian aid
- Orient capacities around the new areas of threat

German Red Cross

Thank you for your attention!

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