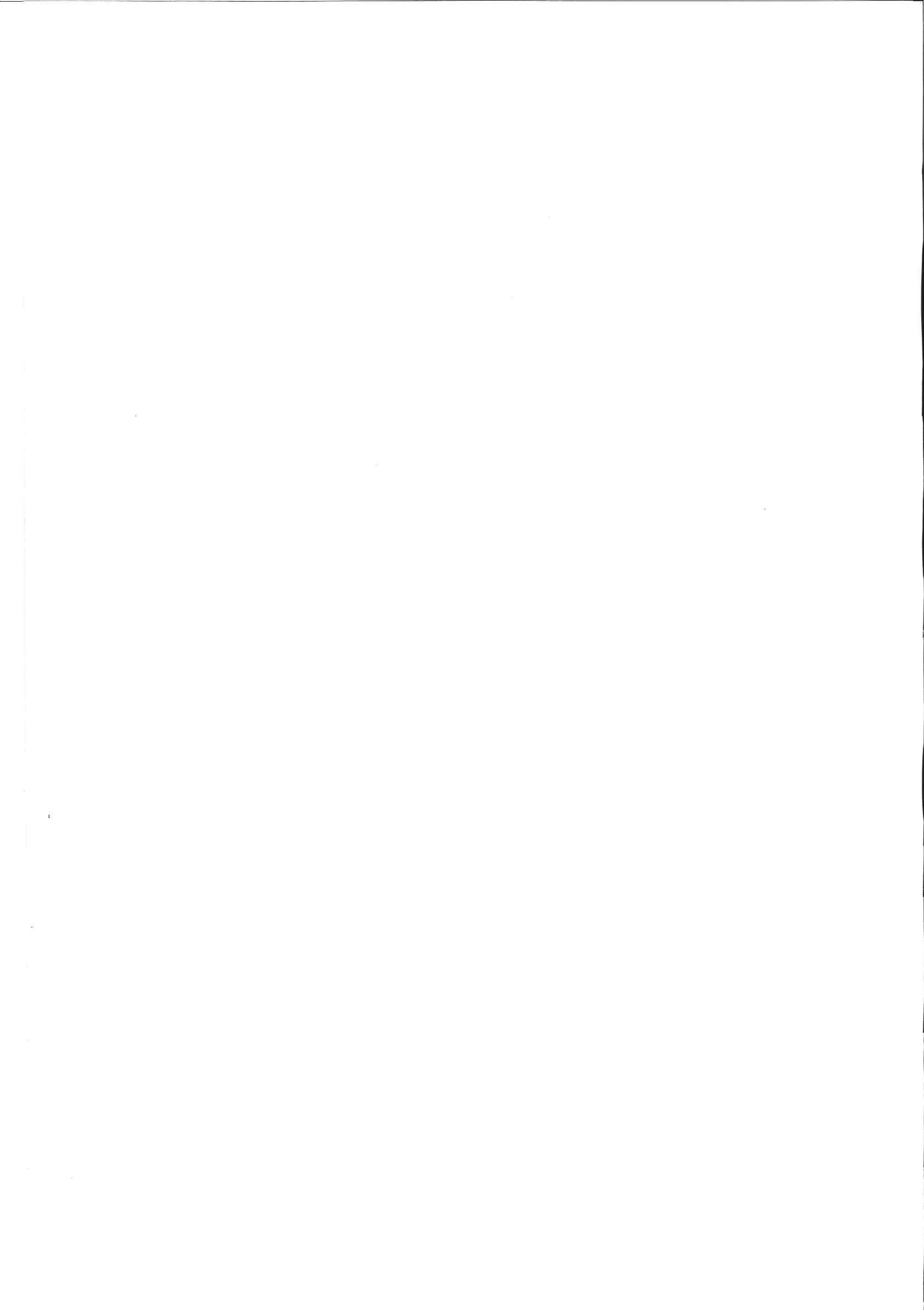




ANNUAL REPORT 2001



Irish Red Cross
Crois Dhearg na hÉireann 



FOREWORD



As Chairman of the Irish Red Cross, I am pleased to introduce this Annual Report, outlining all the activities undertaken by our very valuable members and delegates.

Now, in this International Year of the Volunteer 2001, is the opportunity to review the very wide range of services and activities undertaken by our volunteers throughout the country. The skill and commitment of the members and delegates of the Irish Red Cross is fully outlined in this Annual Report.

Here at home, our members involvement in their own local communities continues to ensure that people of all ages get the best level of care that our services can provide. Abroad, our delegates bring a unique set of skills to meet the demands of vulnerable people around the world and our aid helps to ensure the lessening of poverty and suffering.

This valuable work would not be possible were it not for the support of our donors. I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank all those who have backed our work throughout the year and pledge to ensure that our humanitarian work both at home and abroad will continue.



David Andrews SC, TD.
Chairman.



The period covered in this Annual Report outlines the achievements of the Irish Red Cross to date and sets the foundation for continuing development and expansion in the future.

Humanitarian action is at the centre of all our activities and in this period we have distributed over 7.5 million pounds in aid to people in Ireland and overseas. This is a unique achievement by an organisation that delivers on its commitments to help the most vulnerable at home as well as abroad.

Our plan for the future is to build on this success through co-operation with all our partners, including the Government, the private sector and the public all of whom recognise the value of our work.

We will therefore ensure that our services remain relevant to those in need and endeavour to extend the scope of our activities in the forthcoming period. Our goal remains the promotion and development of this vibrant organisation to meet the needs of the most vulnerable everywhere.



Paul Lynch
Secretary General.

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SECTION I

The Irish Red Cross - Working in Ireland

Irish Red Cross victory in Europe

Among our most outstanding achievements over the period was the success of our team at the European First Aid Championships in taking the top prize. This is the third time that the Irish Red Cross has won the competition, which this year saw 26 entries from fellow Red Cross organisations throughout Europe.

The team from Louth, who earlier won the national qualifier competition and the President's Perpetual Trophy were led by the Deputy Director of Units Tom Horwell and consisted of Carol O'Brien, Bernie Murtagh, Amanda O'Brien, Olly Keegan and Mary Sloane.



Reunited in success, the Louth team after their triumph in the European First Aid Championships.

Emergency Humanitarian Aid Projects in Ireland

Hundreds of families in Ireland have received assistance from the Irish Red Cross which has administered more than three million pounds in two Flood Relief Schemes.

A report has been submitted to Government, following the successful administration of IR£2.75 million in Government Aid to people who suffered flooding during November 2000. A total of 447 households in 36 separate locations around the country received aid. This major programme of assessment and administration was completed within two months of its inception.

Another Flood Relief programme was brought to a conclusion this year with the submission of a report to Government. This programme of Humanitarian Assistance was directed towards a number of homes in Limerick City that had suffered flooding earlier last year. A total of IR£263,000 was distributed during this programme.

The Irish Red Cross - Working in Ireland

First Aid Competitions

Practising First Aid in a variety of scenarios is essential for the maintenance of vital life-saving skills. Red Cross members from all over Ireland will also be putting their skills to the test at a number of competitions over coming months and other national competitions in vital life-saving First Aid skills can now go-ahead with newly revised dates.

Internal competitions are also essential for the maintenance of top class First Aid skills, Dublin Borough's team had secured their place in this years European Championships in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which have now been called off for security reasons.



Realistic incidents at competitions ensure that Red Cross volunteers maintain their life-saving skills.

First Aid Courses

Red Cross instructors around the country share their life-saving knowledge with companies, communities, social groups and individuals. Courses in Basic First Aid, Intermediate First Aid, Advanced First Aid and Occupational First Aid are available by arrangement locally. Specific areas are also dealt with, including Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation and Safe Lifting.

Caring for the seriously ill

Carers Courses are provided by the Irish Red Cross to train home Carers to deal with the challenges of dealing with those suffering long or short-term illnesses, including terminal illness. A number of night courses were held around the country in hospitals, day-care centres and branches.

The Irish Red Cross - Working in Ireland

Young At Heart

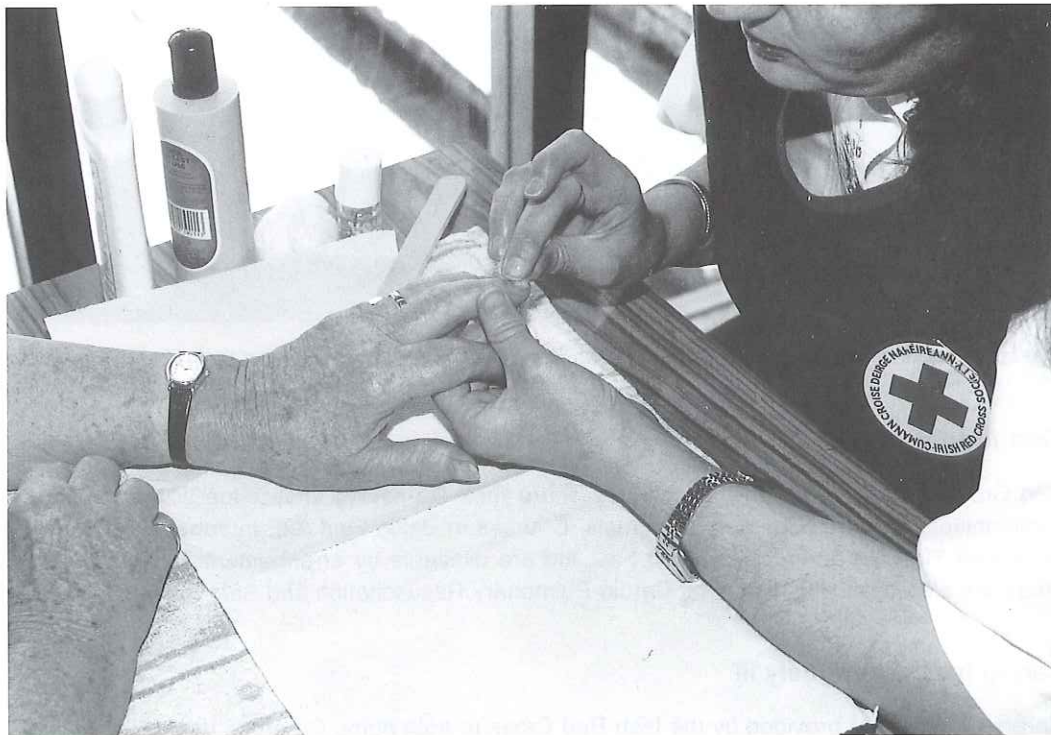
Involving young people in the Red Cross is essential for the continued growth of the organisation. The Annual Camp, held last summer was one of the action-packed events organised for young people nationally. Throughout the year, a number of branches organised Babysitting Courses for young people in their communities.

Branches

Getting people to join the Red Cross continues to be one of the most powerful expressions of support for the humanitarian work of the Red Cross. New branches were formed around the country, with people getting involved in all areas of Red Cross activities.

Therapeutic Hand Care

Therapeutic Hand Care is provided by Irish Red Cross volunteers who are trained to give a hand massage and manicure to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, day care centres and people in their own homes. This service is essential for the mobility and comfort of many elderly people around the country, many of whom also enjoy the companionship of their Red Cross volunteer. New volunteers joined their local Red Cross branches to get involved in this service following several one-day courses that were held throughout the country.



Older people rely on the Red Cross to provide specialist Therapeutic Handcare treatment.

The Irish Red Cross - Working in Ireland

Mountain Rescue Services

The Glen of Imaal Red Cross Mountain Rescue Team is a locally based voluntary 999 and 112 emergency organisation dedicated to providing an effective Mountain Rescue service to the local communities and visitors to the Wicklow Mountains and environs.

Activities in this current year have been curtailed owing to closure of public lands as part of the Foot and Mouth Prevention Strategy. However, last year, the Glen of Imaal Red Cross MRT responded to 42 calls for help. Sadly these included two fatalities, one caused by a heart attack and one caused by a fall. The previous year there were two fatalities also caused by a heart attack and by a fall.

Established in 1983, the Glen of Imaal Red Cross MRT has built-up 18 years experience in Search and Rescue techniques through extensive Mountain Rescue training programmes and world-renowned Red Cross life-saving expertise. The team has 32 members, five of which are female. They have also recently acquired a specially-trained Search and Rescue Dog.

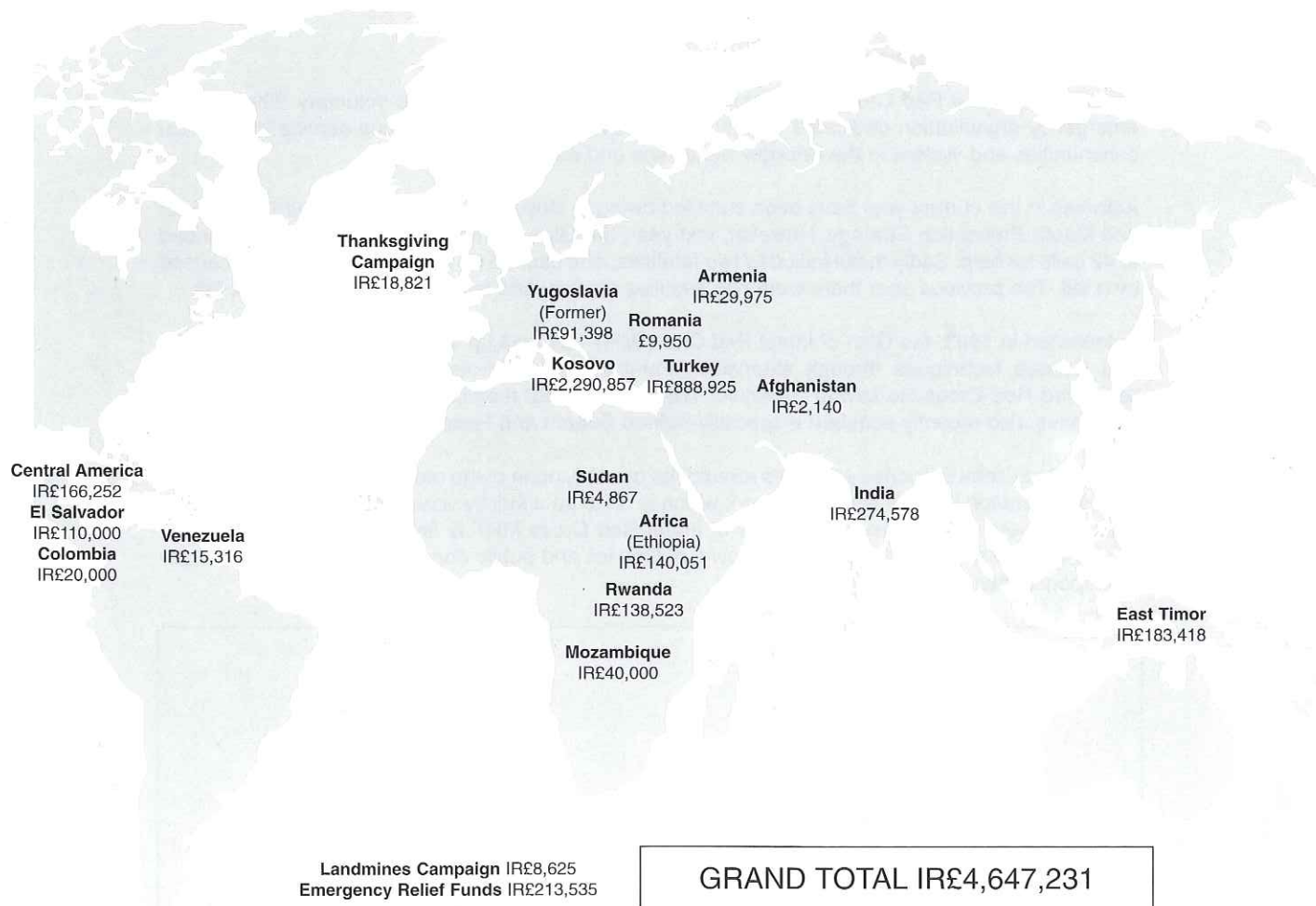
Like all Red Cross Branches and Units around the country, none of the members of the team receive any remuneration for their life-saving work which is done on a strictly voluntary basis throughout the year. The work undertaken by the Glen of Imaal Red Cross MRT is financed by the Dept of the Environment, the Irish Red Cross, Wicklow Co. Council and public donations, in addition to corporate sponsorship.



Even the most experienced mountaineers need the Red Cross when they get into difficulty.

SECTION II

The Irish Red Cross - Working with Donors



Aid Around the World

Committed to delivering donations to the most needy, the Irish Red Cross has passed on over four and a half million pounds in financial aid to bring an end to suffering across the globe.

This aid, given by Irish people, has been used in 15 different countries and has also been used on a wider basis to help two regions in need - Central America and Africa - as well as funding the campaign to end landmines.

Financial aid is the best way to deal with the increasing number of worldwide emergencies. Money means that life-saving priorities can be met immediately and in the longer term it also means that goods can be bought locally, thereby rebuilding local economies. By far the largest recipient of financial aid was Kosovo, which secured over two and a quarter million pounds in donations. A second Emergency Appeal held later in 1999 also saw a strong response from the public. This appeal for victims of the Turkish Earthquake saw nearly a million pounds distributed in direct aid together with expenditure on delegates and support operations.

Continuing appeals mean that in this current year, earthquakes in both India and El Salvador have secured positive support from the public who have donated close to half a million pounds to help the vulnerable in both countries. Moreover, as part of its Disaster Preparedness strategy a total of IR£166,252 had already been sent to Central America and was therefore ready for immediate use when the earthquake struck El Salvador earlier this year.

The Irish Red Cross - Working with Donors

Personal Giving

Personal donations to the Irish Red Cross from all over Ireland are instrumental in ensuring that we continue to deliver a high-quality service to the most vulnerable both at home and abroad. The Irish Red Cross has embarked on a new strategy of client services for ordinary people who wish to show their support for our work through regular financial support.

This is part of the newly introduced fundraising strategy for the next three years. This has been developed to provide much needed funds for developing and promoting Red Cross services in Ireland. The strategy is to concentrate on long-term funding to improve Disaster Preparedness.

Corporate Giving

The Irish Red Cross is pleased to welcome on board a number of groups from the business world who share our aims of meeting the needs of the most vulnerable and promoting humanitarianism.

Through the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) two companies have joined the Irish Red Cross, as well as other national Red Cross organisations in Europe. The Irish Red Cross is pleased to welcome on board both Lever Fabergé and Royal & SunAlliance who have both engaged with the Irish Red Cross on a range of activities.



Young and old united to raise funds for the Red Cross like the pupils of St Joseph's School, Lucan pictured here presenting a cheque to Assistant Secretary General, Carmel Dunne.

SECTION III

The Irish Red Cross - Working Overseas

The Irish Red Cross is proud of its strong presence around the world through the work of our personnel overseas. Irish Red Cross delegates fulfil a vital need in overseas missions because of their experience and long-term commitment. A major feature of our Overseas Delegate placement is the number of repeat missions undertaken by delegates with previous experience "in the field", ie previous missions. We have listed below the delegates who have most recently undertaken assignments.

Recalling Irish Red Cross delegates for further missions has been a feature of our relationship with the international Red Cross. **Susanna Cunningham (Kenya)** has been with the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) for the last ten years. Last year **Gary Buchanan (Montenegro)**, **Vincent Scully (Kosovo)** and **Seamus Meagher (Afghanistan)** completed their fifth missions, **Sheila Callan (India)** and **Maurice O'Neill (Afghanistan)** completed their fourth missions, **Paddy McManus (East Timor)** and **Damien Noble (Kosovo)** completed their third missions and **Paula Nolan (Pakistan)** completed her second mission. **Mary Brady (Tanzania)** and **Margaret Conway (Rwanda)** have just begun their second missions.

Over time many Irish Red Cross delegates have been hired on a direct contract basis by the International Red Cross. **Eileen Daly**, having completed missions in Ethiopia in 1995, Somalia 1996/1997 and Rwanda 1996/97 is now on direct contract with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as Medical Co-ordinator for Somalia.

Sean Deely who completed missions in Croatia and Bosnia ('94-'97) and Tanzania ('97), now holds the senior position in Post-Disaster Recovery with the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in their Geneva Headquarters.

Geoff Loane who had his first mission with the Irish Red Cross Society in 1985 as relief administrator in Ethiopia with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He went on to become Head of the Regional Delegation in Nairobi, Kenya before joining their Headquarters staff in Geneva as Head of the Unit for Worldwide Relief, Economic, and Security Operations.

Denis McClean whose first mission was with the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Bangladesh in 1988, is now the Head of the IFRC Media Service in their Geneva Headquarters.

John Geoghegan holds the senior position of Head of Delegation to Vietnam with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Stephen Omollo whose first Red Cross mission was with the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies IFRC in Tanzania 1995-1996 and in Uganda 1997-1999 is now with the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Harare, Zimbabwe, as a Disaster Response Delegate.

Nuala Ryan who worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Kenya 1995, Pakistan 1996 and Tajikistan 1997 is now based in the ICRC Belgrade office. She also deals with matters related to Kosovo.

Bridget O'Sullivan started her Red Cross career with the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Armenia 1995 – 1996 before moving to Kazakhstan, 1996 – 1998. She now works in the Geneva Headquarters of the IFRC as an Operations Accounting Officer.

Feena May is now based in the Geneva Headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), holding the position of Head of Co-ordination and Training after completing missions in the Balkans, 1992 – 1994.

John Roche also works for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) as a Health and Relief Co-ordinator, having completed missions in Sudan, 1990 and in Somalia, 1991 – 1992.

Paul Conneally is now an Information Delegate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Eritrea, having worked with both the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in the past five years.

The Irish Red Cross - Working Overseas



Geneva IFRC

Paul Murray
Sean Deely
Denis McClean
Briget O'Sullivan

Yugoslavia (FRY)

Jean Gormley
Nuala Ryan
John Roche

Geneva ICRC

Geoff Loane
Feena May

Montenegro

Gary Buchanan

Kosovo

Vincent Scully
Damian Noble

Afghanistan

Brendan Mac Quillan
Detention / Relief

Maurice O'Neill
Logistics

Séamus Meagher
(formerly FRY)
Logistics

Pakistan

Paula Nolan

India

Sheila Callan

Somalia

Eileen Daly
Medical Co-ordinator

Rwanda

Margaret Conway
Nurse
(formerly East Timor)

Kenya

Susanna Cunningham
Institutional Development Delegate
Michael McElroy - Air Operations

Tanzania

Mary Brady

East Timor

Liam Browne
Medical Doctor.

Paddy Mc Manus
Convoyer / Warehouse Manager

Zimbabwe

Stephen Omollo
Disaster Response

Namibia

Mary Brady
Finance Administrator

SECTION IV

The Irish Red Cross - Bringing People Together

Safety First: New Public Awareness Campaigns

Widespread attention for the work of the Red Cross in promoting safety and providing First Aid, was secured during the major concert period and recently in the New Year.

Young people and others attending the large music gigs at Slane, Fairyhouse and Mosney, benefited greatly from the highly committed First Aid units in attendance. Prompt and careful treatment was given to a number of casualties ranging from those with minor complaints such as headaches to others suffering from more serious disorders.

Many of those who attended had heeded media warnings based on an innovative "Safety Tips" campaign and therefore were able to enjoy the music and fun without any discomfort whatsoever. Red Cross volunteers were on hand at all times to assist anyone in pain or in danger. Earlier this year a new campaign for casual walkers who may be unfamiliar with the necessary precautions for hill-walking, was also initiated.

New Quarterly Magazine

The first quarterly magazine - the Irish Red Cross Review - was introduced to give regular updates on all aspects of the work done by the Red Cross at home and abroad.

Circulation is increasing constantly since its inception with the number of members receiving the Review showing particularly strong growth and now in excess of two thousand. Delegates and regular donors are also sent the Review to keep them up to date with the wide-ranging work underway throughout the Red Cross.

Externally, members of the media, policy-makers and fellow organisations within the humanitarian sector are also circulated with the Review to ensure that all aspects of the Red Cross reach as wide an audience as possible. The Irish Red Cross has also been fortunate to secure articles for the Review from several eminent writers who have shared their expertise in the areas of health & hygiene, international law, overseas service and the history of Red Cross work in TB prevention.

New website

The new website of the Irish Red Cross www.redcross.ie has proven a useful addition to the news and dissemination needs of both members and the general public.

Containing up to 10,000 words, the website is designed to provide general information to the casual browser, both in Ireland and overseas, on the current and past activities of the Irish Red Cross. Through the website, it is hoped that all those who share our humanitarian goals will get to know the Red Cross better, including potential members, delegates and donors.

Since its inception, the Irish Red Cross has scored a total of 71,417 hits, averaging roughly 72 hits per day. Our website can also be used as an access point for the websites of our international sister organisations; the International Committee of the Red Cross www.icrc.org and the International Federation of the Red Cross www.ifrc.org

The Irish Red Cross - Bringing People Together



Balkan war victims such as these Bosnians are among the many families who rely on the Red Cross Tracing and Messaging services to locate their loved ones in times of strife and disaster.

Tracing and Messaging services

Wars and natural disasters cause disappearances as well as death and sickness. To help alleviate the suffering caused by losing loved ones, the Irish Red Cross provides both Tracing and Messaging services in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

During this period the Irish Red Cross has dealt with 65 requests to trace people both in Ireland and abroad. To date five of the cases were solved with the discovery of the whereabouts of the sought individual by the Red Cross, five cases were concluded on the basis of evidence that the sought person could not be found, while an additional 19 cases were closed. The Irish Red Cross continues to investigate 41 tracing enquiries.

The Red Cross Messaging service is available to people who wish to assure relatives and friends that they are alive. Prisoners of War and other individuals who are prevented from disclosing their whereabouts can advise their families that they are at least alive by sending a Red Cross Message.

During the past eighteen months, the Irish Red Cross has processed 42 Red Cross messages to and from areas such as Sierra Leone, East Timor and the former Yugoslavia. Of these, 16 were delivered to foreign nationals residing in Ireland with 26 delivered overseas.

Compassionate Leave

The Compassionate Leave service ensures that Irish nationals serving with the U.S. armed forces can get home without delay if a family member falls seriously ill. Almost 90 individuals have availed of the service since 1992.

SECTION V
Extracts from Financial Statements

REVENUE ACCOUNTS
Year ended 31 December 2000

	2000 IR£	2000 IR£	1999 IR£	1999 IR£
Unrestricted Funds				
Income	1,025,700		1,622,492	
Expenditure	<u>(1,025,648)</u>		<u>(870,203)</u>	
Surplus on unrestricted funds		52		752,289
Restricted Funds				
Income	1,393,291		191,544	
Expenditure	<u>(391,201)</u>		<u>(207,334)</u>	
Surplus/(deficit) on restricted funds		1,002,090		(15,790)
Overseas appeal funds				
Income	519,617		3,683,751	
Expenditure	<u>(814,944)</u>		<u>(3,462,287)</u>	
(Deficit/surplus on overseas appeal funds)		(295,327)		221,464
Excess of income over expenditure		<u>706,815</u>		<u>957,963</u>

AUDITORS' REPORT : To the members of Irish Red Cross Society

The Income and Expenditure Account above has been properly extracted from the Head Office Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2000 on which we reported, without qualification, on 31st May 2001.

BDO SIMPSON XAVIER
REGISTERED AUDITORS Dublin.

Extracts from Financial Statements

DETAILED REVENUE ACCOUNT
Year ended 31 December 2000

	2000 IR£	2000 IR£	1999 IR£	1999 IR£
Unrestricted funds income				
Government grant aided income	490,000		475,000	
Community employment scheme	132,744		82,936	
Branch contributions	68,969		65,714	
General receipts	297,709		128,242	
Surplus on supplies	36,278		51,864	
Sale of property 50 Merrion Road	-		818,736	
	<u>1,025,700</u>		<u>1,622,492</u>	
Expenditure				
Government grant aided expenditure				
- Payroll and staff costs	495,604		339,733	
- Refugee home maintenance	76		66,518	
Community employment scheme	125,866		85,354	
First Aid services	49,114		44,632	
Red Cross Youth	3,760		3,310	
Community services	29,099		32,892	
Public relations	22,717		12,570	
Administration	179,414		136,612	
Premises	26,217		45,129	
Professional fees	47,974		43,736	
Affiliation fees	32,394		32,284	
General	13,413		27,433	
	<u>1,025,648</u>		<u>870,203</u>	
Surplus on unrestricted funds		52		752,289
Restricted funds				
Income on restricted funds	1,393,291		191,544	
Expenditure on restricted funds	<u>(391,201)</u>		<u>(207,334)</u>	
Surplus/(deficit) on restricted funds		1,002,090		(15,790)
Overseas appeal funds				
Income on specific appeals	519,617		3,683,751	
Expenditure on specific appeal	<u>(814,944)</u>		<u>(3,462,287)</u>	
(Deficit)/surplus on overseas appeal funds		<u>(295,327)</u>		<u>221,464</u>
Excess of income over expenditure		<u>706,815</u>		<u>957,963</u>

NOTES





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