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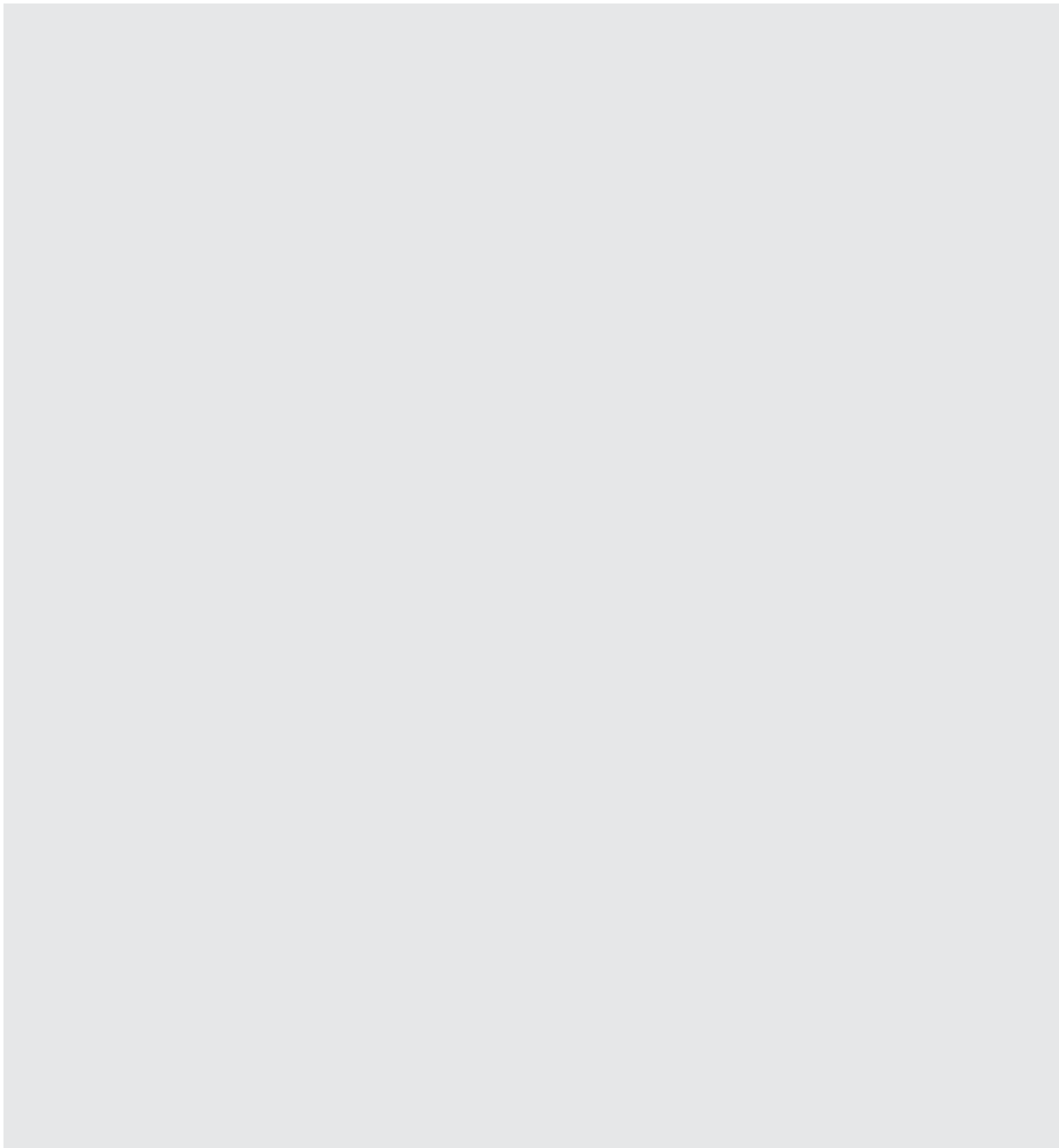
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The Irish Red Cross
Annual Report
2004





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Foreword



We will continue to
work with the
Government, the
private sector and all
of the individuals who
help us deliver this
important service

Chairman

The Irish Red Cross's valuable contribution towards delivering humanitarian aid to those in need at home and abroad was highlighted, more than ever before, through the response of the members, donors, delegates and staff who rose to the occasion after the tsunami which affected up to a dozen countries in Asia and Africa on St Stephen's Day 2004.

Staff, members, delegates and indeed donors responded immediately on that day and worked long hours over that Christmas period and into the New Year.

Meanwhile, here in Ireland, our work in providing First Aid has increased over the past twelve months. We have trained and developed more enthusiastic volunteers to carry out this life saving work and we have volunteers available to work in countries devastated by natural disasters or war.

This has been possible, thanks to the support of the Irish Government and the financial donations from thousands of Irish people who continue to answer our call for funds with overwhelming generosity.

Over €4.8 million was donated to the Irish Red Cross by individuals and the corporate sector and this has made a real difference to people at home and abroad.

We will continue to work with the Government, the corporate sector and all of the individuals who help us deliver this important service.

On behalf of the Irish Red Cross Council and Executive, I thank all the members, delegates and staff who have helped bring the Irish Red Cross successfully through a busy and difficult time. Their dedication and hard work has ensured that millions of people have been helped in the past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Andrews'.

David Andrews
Chairman

Photo: David Andrews, Lensmen

Millions have benefited from Irish donations and the tireless work of Irish Red Cross personnel

Secretary General

Thanks to the support of corporate donors, the Government and the thousands of Irish people who continued to give generously to the Irish Red Cross, we were able to achieve more in 2004.

The Irish Red Cross trained more than ten and a half thousand people in a range of life saving skills including First Aid and Caring. This training programme included ongoing training for our own volunteer members to ensure that their skills are updated and that they are therefore ready to respond to appeals for help in the event of major disasters.

Our members continue to be on hand at many of the major events in Ireland, helping thousands of people who require immediate aid and assistance. They also provide care and therapeutic treatment for older people at home, in hospices and nursing homes throughout the country.

The upgrading of the Irish Red Cross Ambulance fleet continued in 2004. This ensures that we will have a more efficient and cost effective fleet of ambulances to handle the increased demand over the coming years.

Our search and rescue services also expanded, with the launch of a new specialist rescue boat on Loughs Corrib and Mask in the west of Ireland, while our existing mountain rescue service in the Glen of Imaal saved many lives in the Wicklow mountains and elsewhere through their network of mountain rescue volunteers. Overseas, the year began with the aftermath of the disastrous



earthquake in Bam, Iran which claimed the lives of 26,000 people when it struck on 26 December 2003. In a horrific coincidence, the year closed with another earthquake, generating the tsunami off the coast of Indonesia which struck on the very same day one year later killing eight times as many people.

This demanded more from the Irish Red Cross than ever before. The tsunami that devastated Indonesia and Sri Lanka as well as several other countries required an immediate and sustained effort by everyone in the worldwide Red Cross/Red Crescent movement. It brought out the best in Irish society as the majority of Irish people dug deep and donated millions to the Irish Red Cross.

Moreover, our work in the tsunami did not deflect our attention from the needs that were evident elsewhere. We continued to work to help millions of people in Pakistan, Sudan, Jordan, Kosovo, and Angola through the deployment of delegates and the transfer of funds.

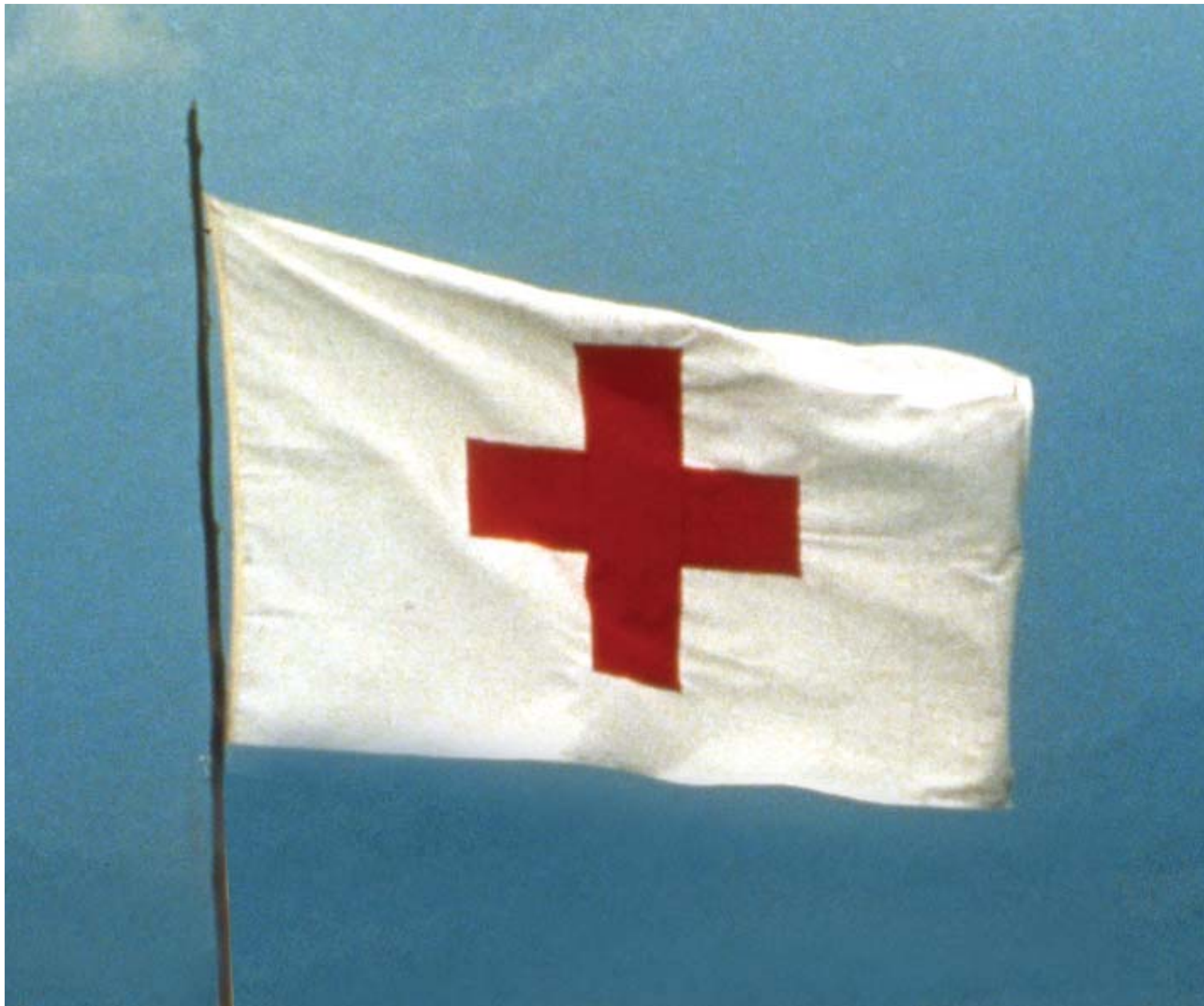
I thank all those who have supported the Irish Red Cross during the year under review. It has been an honour for me and for the dedicated members and staff to be of service to those who are in need.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmel Dunne".

Carmel Dunne
Secretary General

Photo: Carmel Dunne, Lensmen

New Red Cross Branches

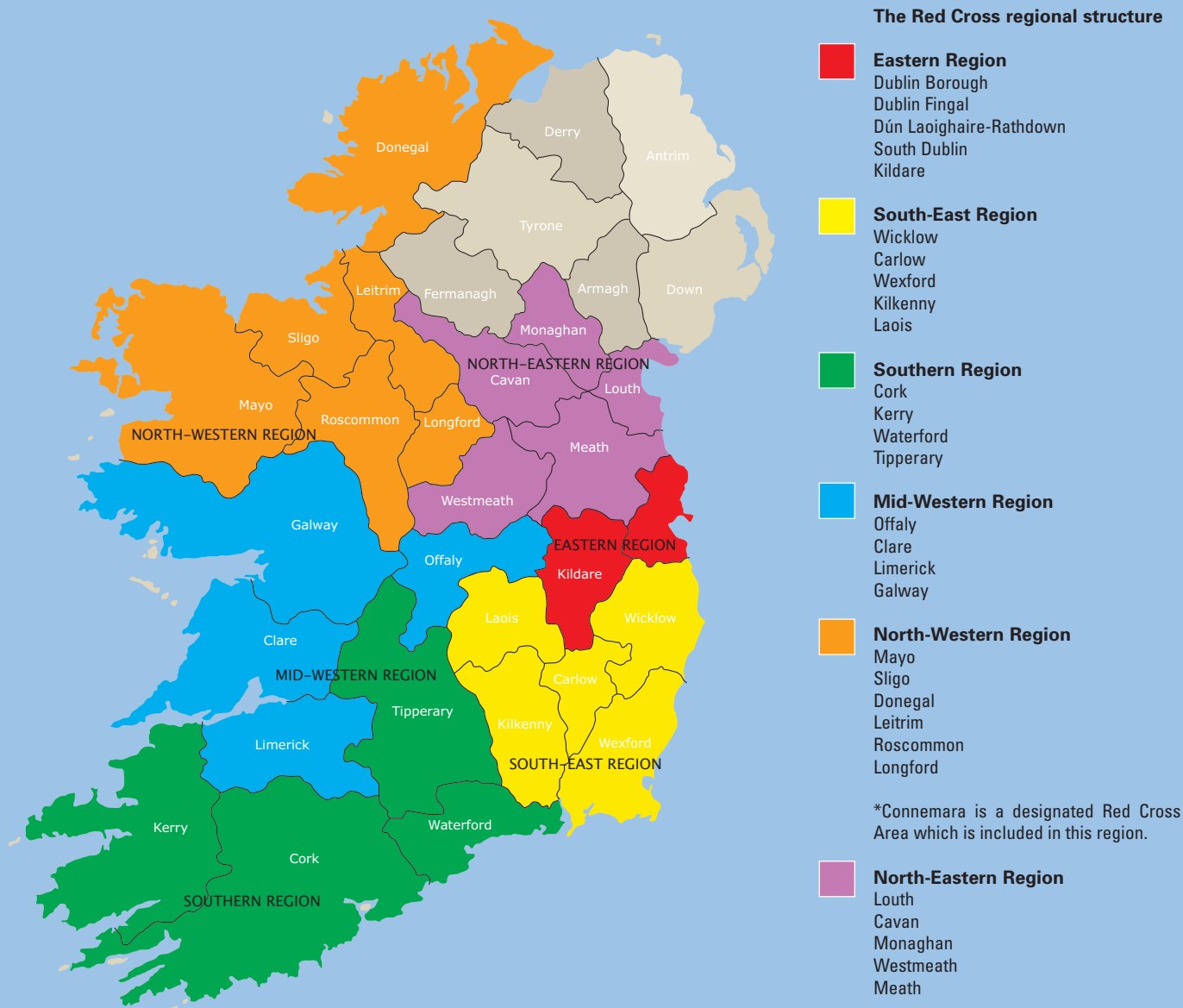


Two new Irish Red Cross branches were established in 2004. In County Tipperary, a new branch was formed to provide a First Aid Unit and Community Services for the people of Carrick-on-Suir and the surrounding area.

In June a new branch was formed in Laytown, Co Meath. It has a First Aid Unit and members are also trained in Therapeutic Hand Care. Youth members in Laytown also got involved in an Irish Red Cross Fun Day. Extra volunteers were recruited to help with a door knock that raised funds for Irish Red Cross Overseas Appeals in Sudan and the Beslan School disaster.

Photo: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

New Structure



A major re-structuring programme of the national volunteer network got under way in 2004 with the creation of six new regions, headed by volunteer Regional Directors of Units.

The purpose of this new regional structure is to streamline access to Irish Red Cross services and to ensure the delivery of a top-quality service that adheres to the same high standard throughout Ireland. This means that existing units of local and county administration (Branches and Areas) will be supported by a regional network.

Training

Over 10,500 people were trained by the Irish Red Cross, representing a year-on-year increase in demand for our services in our core areas of general First Aid training and specialist training in First Aid related skills.

Basic First Aid (BFA), the entry-level standard most widely used by the public, remains by far the most popular course, with over 7000 people qualifying in BFA in 2004, representing an increase of 1000 people in two years.

Both Intermediate First Aid and Occupational First Aid, saw increases in the numbers of people undertaking courses and this was also reflected in the Basic Life Support courses. However, the most important step forward was in the area of supporting the emergency services through the provision of Emergency Medical First Responder Training.

Emergency Medical First Responder Training Programme 2004

Improving the level of First Aid care available to "Emergency Medical First Responder" level, was outlined in the newly developed Irish Red Cross Emergency Medical First Responder syllabus.

"Emergency Medical First Responder" is the most comprehensive level of care available from a volunteer First Aid service, and replaces the old "Advanced First Aid" level. Two courses on the new Emergency Medical First Responder syllabus were held in 2004, providing training for 26 Irish Red Cross volunteer First Aid instructors.

This brings to over 80, the number of Emergency Medical First Responder volunteers and to 37 the number of Emergency Medical First Responder Instructors who are now available nationwide as a result of the training effort undertaken in 2004. Courses took place in the south east region and also in Dublin, Dundalk, Drogheda, Limerick City, Kilbehenney, Co. Limerick and Claremorris, Co. Mayo. The courses ranged from assessments of existing First Aid qualifications to additional training for people seeking to retrain from the Advanced First Aid level to the new Emergency Medical First Responder level.

Training the Trainers

The Irish Red Cross continued to develop and expand its capacity to provide excellent First Aid training to members of the public and to employers.

In 2004 three separate courses were provided to train 26 new First Aid instructors and 18 existing Red Cross instructors who were re-certified on two separate courses. A First Aid Instructors seminar was attended by 120 instructors.

The extension of life-saving cardio-vascular equipment - Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) - into the community presents new demands for top-quality training for communities and workplaces. A total of 17 new AED instructors were trained and eight existing AED instructors got refresher training.

Specialist Basic Life Support (BLS) refresher training also saw seven instructors re-certified.

Additional Specialization Training

First Aid and Emergency Medical First Responder skills are supported by additional areas of specialization which were provided to members throughout 2004 as part of their in-service development. Courses took place in Dublin, Claremorris and Kilbehenney, Co. Limerick.

A total of 133 Irish Red Cross ambulance drivers have now received formal training in emergency "blue light" driving, having completed the Ambulance Driver Familiarisation courses held during 2004. The participants were trained on the ambulance driver's roles and responsibilities. A further 21 members became qualified Irish Red Cross radio operators following special courses held in the National Red Cross Training Centre, Kilbehenney.

Realistic enactments of accidents and emergencies are a core part of Red Cross First Aid training. In 2004, 8 Irish Red Cross members qualified in "Casualty Simulation", which means they are now trained to prepare people to act the part of an injured or sick person during exercises and competitions. A further 21 members qualified in Manual-Handling/Patient Safe-Lifting Course.

Dealing with real traumas, however, presents its own challenges as Red Cross members may face difficult and distressing situations. As part of its commitment to the well-being of its own members, the Irish Red Cross has developed a Critical Incident Stress Management system whereby Peer Supporters provide support to colleagues after incidents. Nineteen Irish Red Cross Peer Supporters qualified have completed a two-part Peer Support Councillor training course.

Disaster Management Training

Preparation for a role in a major disaster is an integral part of the role of the Irish Red Cross. During 2004, 3 Irish Red Cross representatives attended training courses in Major Medical Incident Management & Support (MMIMS) conducted by the National Ambulance Training School in Castlebar, Co. Mayo. The 3 were Diarmuid Scully, Services & Training Officer, Niamh O'Leary of the Irish Red Cross Major Emergency Planning Sub Group and Tony Lawlor, the Irish Red Cross Vice-Chairman.

Photographs this page, from top to bottom -

1 - 'Deirdre Brosnan, Eileen Murphy and Sarah Vaughan in Cork for the Presidents Perpetual Trophy competition' 2 - 'Christina O'Hallaghan and DJ O'Callaghan' 3 - 'Red Cross members prepare 'casualties' for competitions' 4 - 'Emma Ward and Stephen O'Donoghue demonstrate casualty simulation' Photos: Jean Pierre Launay

Over ten and a half
thousand people have
been trained by the
Irish Red Cross



Competitions

National First Aid Competitions

The Irish Red Cross was honoured to host the President of Ireland and President of the Irish Red Cross, Mrs Mary McAleese at its head office in Dublin. President McAleese presented the President's trophy to the Dublin Borough team for their win in the First Aid competitions in 2003..

The 2004 Senior Irish Red Cross First Aid competitions were held in Ballyfin College, Portlaoise on 8 May. Dublin Borough won the Presidents trophy with Limerick in second place and Galway in third.

In the Ambulance Team competition, Limerick took first place and Louth second. The winner of the Individual and Red Cross Area competition was Laura Hogan of Limerick, Michael McCormack of Louth was second and John Kavanagh of Wexford was third.

The 2004 Cadet & Novice First Aid Competitions were held in Heywood Community College, Ballinakill, Co.Laois, on 9 October 2004, with eight areas competing in various competitions. The Cadet Individual competition was won by Orla Murphy of Cork, followed by Michelle O'Shea of Wexford in second place with Megan Maguire of Louth and Karina Heffernan of Limerick tying for third place. In the Cadet Team competitions, the Limerick team came first, the Louth team took second place and the Dublin Borough team, third place.

The Novice Individual competition was won by Hilary Parkinson of Limerick, with second place taken by Deirdre Hourihan of Cork and third place taken by Ashlene Mackin of Louth. The Novice Team competition was won by the Limerick team, the Louth team took second place and the Cork team took third place.

First Aid Convention in Europe (FACE)

The Irish Red Cross has won the competitions that are held at the Convention four times since they were first held in 1987. The 2004 FACE was held near the Austrian town of Salzburg in Bad Hofgastein with Red Cross societies from twenty-six different countries competing.

The Irish Red Cross, represented by Dublin Borough took fourth place with the Armenian Red Cross winning the competition for the first time ever. The Belgian Red Cross came second and the German Red Cross was third.

Photographs this page:

Left - 'Mother and daughter Betty Brosnan and Deirdre Brosnan in Cork for the Presidents Perpetual Trophy Competition' Photo: Jean Pierre Launay. Right - 'Members of Dublin borough on their way to take part in the FACE competitions' Photo: Unknown



Equipped for Excellence

The Irish Red Cross is committed to supporting its voluntary members in their provision of services to the public with the best available equipment and the highest standard of training possible.

Over the course of the last four years, the Irish Red Cross has invested €2 million in vehicles and equipment. This investment underpins the new regional structure and supports the strategic capacity of the Irish Red Cross to provide an effective auxiliary service to support the emergency services, through the standardization of ambulances, livery and equipment.

In 2004, the Irish Red Cross continued this programme of investment in three key areas.

Emergency Medical First Responder

To support the development of Emergency Medical First Responder services, forty-five Red Cross ambulances were provided with Automated External Defibrillator (AED) units and essential materials as part of the Emergency Medical First Responder Equipment backpack.

This is the first step in a scheme to equip all seventy Irish Red Cross road ambulances with this equipment so that all Red Cross Areas will have the equipment necessary to provide a realistic First Response service to the public. A new Irish Red Cross Emergency Medical First Responder uniform badge was also developed in 2004.

Ambulances

A total of nineteen new ambulances were purchased by the Irish Red Cross in 2004. These consisted of ten ambulances, two mini-buses and seven off-road vehicles. The new ambulances were launched by the former Minister for Health & Children, Mr Michéal Martin at ceremonies that took place in Cork.

Search & Rescue Boat

A new service was introduced by the Irish Red Cross in June 2004 with the launch of a new search and rescue boat to serve users of Lough Corrib and Lough Mask in Connacht. Developed by the recently-formed Clonbur Branch, the new boat and its crew is on hand 24 hours a day for call-out by Gardaí or the Irish Coastguard. The boat is fitted with satellite navigation and searchlight equipment, as well as VHF radio, the boat is able to rescue up to 10 people at any one time.

Photographs this page:

Left - 'New ambulances boost Red Cross life-saving capacities. Pictured with Minister Micheál Martin are Tony Lawler, Vice Chairman of the Red Cross, Carmel Dunne, Secretary General of the Irish Red Cross, Brian Madden, Pat Howley and Fintan Hough from the Galway/Portumna Red Cross and the Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr. Sean Martin. Right - 'Ambulances on display at official launch ceremony in Cork'. Photos: John Sheehan Photography



Search & Rescue Services

Existing services in this area were expanded with the foundation of the new Search & Rescue lifeboat service on Loughs Corrib and Mask, by the Clonbur Branch.

This new inland water based service is in addition to ongoing demand for assistance from the Glen of Imaal Red Cross Mountain Rescue Team which saw the same number of callouts in 2004 - 40 - as in the preceding year. This represents a stabilization of call-outs in the Wicklow mountains, which had hitherto been much higher.

2004 was also the year that the team celebrated its twenty-one years of service to hillwalkers and mountaineers in Wicklow and Dublin and a special celebration day was held to mark the event. The Vice-Chairman of the Irish Red Cross, Tony Lawlor hosted the special day which was attended by representatives from the Irish Mountain Rescue Association, the Irish Coast Guard, the Defence Forces, the Mountaineering Council of Ireland, neighbouring Mountain Rescue Teams, the Wicklow Mountains National Parks and other agencies.

The Red Cross Team participated, along with its sister mountain rescue teams from the Irish Mountain Rescue Association (IMRA), in the 2004 National Mountain Rescue exercise in the Comeragh mountains Co. Waterford. This event was supported by the Irish Red Cross South East & Southern Regions who deployed over nine ambulances and over 40 Irish Red Cross members at the event. Under the direction of the Gardai, the teams were involved in over twenty simulated mountain casualties from rough terrain road-heads high in the Comeraghs, when weather conditions prevented helicopter evacuation.

The Red Cross Team also provided a mountain rescue party to support the Mayo Mountain Rescue Team during the traditional Croagh Patrick, Reek Sunday celebrations in Co. Mayo. Over 20 casualties were evacuated, some with serious head wounds, abrasions, broken bones & hypothermia. Concern was expressed at the large crowds of people, many of whom were poorly equipped, ascending and descending the mountain in atrocious weather conditions, some of whom were accompanied by young children.

Photographs this page:

Left - 'A scene from the clonmel floods' Photo: Unknown. Right - 'Tim Clesham in Red Cross Rescue Boat on Lough Corrib'. Photo: Joe O'Shaughnessy



Emergency Flood Aid

Emergency Flood Aid in Ireland

There were over 340 applications to the Irish Red Cross Flood Relief Scheme for 2004. The scheme was announced at the start of November, following widespread flooding during October, by the Minister for State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Tom Parlon TD.

A budget of €3 million was set aside to fund the scheme which was subsequently extended into 2005. This was the fourth year running that the Irish Red Cross ran a Flood Relief Scheme to assist people who suffered extreme hardship as a result of severe flooding.

A website and telephone helpline number were set-up and an assessment team was brought together ensuring the fair and effective delivery of aid to people who needed it here in Ireland.

Photographs this page:

'The devastating effects of the October floods pictured here in Clonmel'. Photo: John Kelly

There were over 340 applications to the Irish Red Cross Flood Relief Scheme for 2004



Caring in the Community

The Irish Red Cross provides a range of vital services both directly through its own volunteers and indirectly through people it trains.

Carers Course

Attendance at Irish Red Cross Carers courses grew by 30% on the previous year, with 459 people attending Carers courses this year. These courses are run by volunteers in Irish Red Cross branches around the country. Many are held in association with the Health Services Executive and Caring for Carers. Participants learn practical skills for looking after people with long and short-term illness, including the terminally ill.

Caring at Home

Almost 149,000 people provide full-time care for older, sick or disabled people in Ireland, according to the Central Statistics Office. Private research shows that over two thirds of all people who care for others do it on a twenty-four hour basis, every day of the year.

To help people who are caring at home cope, a new Stress Awareness Programme for Family Carers has been developed in partnership with Mental Health Ireland, the Health Services Executive in the Midlands and the Irish Red Cross. The four hour course comes with a resource pack of back up information.

To ensure effective delivery, the Red Cross and Mental Health Ireland partnership has also developed a course to train facilitators to deliver the programme to carers.

The first course for 9 facilitators took place in November and December 2004 and consisted of two training sessions and one practical session at a course for family carers.

Helping to Heal the Scars - the new Skin Camouflage Service

Founded to help people cope with scarred or severely disfigured skin, the Skin Camouflage Service had 12 qualified practitioners by the end of 2004. They are now available to provide the service through referrals from local GPs or dermatologists. Skin Camouflage is designed to help people cope with scarred or severely disfigured skin and to improve their quality of life.

Survivors of the Omagh bomb, for example, attended Red Cross skin camouflage clinics in the months following the 1998 atrocity in the north of Ireland. They were shown how to use creams to conceal their injuries, both for everyday use and special occasions - one of which was the postponed wedding of Donna Marie and Gary McGillion.

4 Irish Red Cross members completed the four-day Skin Camouflage Training Course provided by the British Red Cross in Glasgow during September 2004, and this followed previous attendance at skin camouflage clinics and a full pre-course study day.

Therapeutic Hand Care

Specialised techniques of hand care and hand massage are essential to many older people and others who are hospitalised or confined to their homes with long-term conditions such as arthritis.

The Irish Red Cross Therapeutic Hand Care (THC) programme provides training to people to provide this service to people at home, in hospitals and nursing homes.

In 2004, the Irish Red Cross trained 169 people in Therapeutic Hand Care. Training is provided on a one-day training courses where they learn the specialised techniques of hand massage and manicure.

Following the course, the volunteers then provide the free service to patients in hospitals, nursing homes and to people in their own home. A very important aspect of the service is the time spent with the patient and the communication of care through touch.

During the year volunteers were requested to provide hand massages at the Caring for Carers Respite Break, for over 400 Carers, an Open Day in Leopardstown Hospital Dublin, Arthritis Ireland Information & Awareness Days, Age Action Stress Busting Seminar and the Raynauds & Scleroderma Society Annual Conference.

The Irish Red Cross wishes to thank Unilever and Johnson Brothers who support the Therapeutic Hand Care service for their donations of hand lotion and nail varnishes.

The Irish Red Cross and Domestos Helping You to Care Programme

The evidence of a growing demand for caring skills in private homes, outlined in previous sections is further supported by the huge response to the publication of the Irish Red Cross Handbook for Babysitters and Parents.

Well over two hundred thousand copies were distributed during the year 2004, with a number of specialist organisations seeking copies for distribution.

Launched in the New Year, the Handbook completes the caring circle for the Irish Red Cross, which can now demonstrate that it is the leading provider of specialist know-how to ordinary people to meet their needs to provide care to loved ones of all ages in their own homes.

Of the 219,245 copies that were distributed, several were sent in bulk orders to specialist agencies as well as state bodies, such as health boards and child care specialists. Sixteen websites also carried information about the handbook including the eGovernment website www.Oasis.gov.ie and the Dublin City Development Board www.Dublin.ie.

The Handbook for Babysitters and Parents was funded by Unilever, under its Domestos brand, and follows the publication of two publications in previous years as part of the same partnership project; They are: Health & Hygiene in the Home (2001) and Helping You to Care (2002).

The Irish Red Cross **Handbook for Babysitters and Parents** and the Helping You to Care pack are available free from the Irish Red Cross and the Helping You to Care Careline on 1850 650 651, Monday - Friday 9 - 5pm.

Photographs this page:

Top - 'Therapeutic hand Care volunteers Sadie Meade and Joan Merrigan providing the THC Service in Orwell Nursing Home' Photo: Ann Marie O'Halloran. Third down from top - Photo: Lensmen



Red Cross Youth

International Meetings/Events

For the first time, young people from the Irish Red Cross joined other groups from thirteen other countries at a special Western European Red Cross Youth Network Meeting in Geneva in February.

Ms. Beatrijs Vahnove, International Committee of the Red Cross gave a presentation on the workings of Exploring Humanitarian Law. The Danish, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross presented some of their projects in relation to Youth and Migration.

Ms. Gillian Hollingsworth and Ms. Fiona O Driscoll, both from Rathfarnham Branch represented the Irish Red Cross Youth at the sixth International Summer Camp, "Across", in Switzerland.

Young participants, Anne Marie Meaney and Karen Fahey from the Clonmel Branch and 2 members from the Tallaght Branch, David English and Luke O' Gorman attend the 49th International Study and Friendship Camp 2004 in Langenlois in Austria.

57 young participants from twenty-one countries took part in this camp which covered problem solving, mediation, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS. There were also a number of presentations on international humanitarian law and anger management.

Projects/Camps

"Children in Conflict", the Face-to-Face photography project involving 30 young people from some of the areas affected by conflict situations in the border areas of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland took place in October. It focused on young people who have been affected by the 'troubles'.

National Youth Summer Camp 2004

48 young people aged between twelve and eighteen from many branches throughout the country, took part in the National Youth Summer Camp, which took place in Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre in July. It included canoeing and kayaking in Lough Gur, hill walking in the Ballyhoura region, indoor wall climbing and soccer. A number of workshops took place on subjects such as HIV/AIDS, the Geneva Conventions, leadership and communications.

Photographs this page:

Left - 'Young member of the Dundalk Teddy Bear's at a youth camp being held in the Tain Adventure centre' Photo: Pat Sheridan. Middle - 'Young members from Kilkenny (l-r) Clina Fennelly, Alice Taylor, Emma McGrath & Sarah Jacob' Photo: Jean Pierre Launay. Right - 'Young member of the Dundalk Teddy Bear's at a youth camp being held in the Tain Adventure centre'. Photo: Pat Sheridan





The Irish Red Cross Working Overseas



The Irish Red Cross proudly continues its strong presence around the world through the work of Irish personnel overseas. During 2004, 10 Irish delegates worked overseas.

- 1 Willie Norton** served as an Air Operations Manager in Pakistan, Sudan and Jordan.
- 2 Daire O'Reilly** served as an Economic Security Delegate in Kosovo and then on 31 December, four days after the tsunami, he went to work in Indonesia.
- 3 Gary Buchanan** worked for two periods as a Convoyer and Logistician in Liberia.
- 4 Donal O'Suilleabhain** also worked in Liberia on rebuilding water and other facilities.
- 5 Susanna Cunningham** also served as Regional Development Delegate for East Africa in Kenya.
- 6 Séamus Meagher** helped the people in Chechnya from his nearby base in Nalchik.
- 7 Denis Kaiser** is an engineer who has been assigned to Kabul, Afghanistan.
- 8 Joe Lowry** served as a representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in the Ukraine.
- 9 Vivienne Lusted** is a health and detention delegate who is working in Myanmar.
- 10 John Rowland** is a senior logistician and has worked in Angola and Indonesia.

Photos: All photos except No. 5, Lensmen. Photo 5: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tracing & Red Cross Messages Service

The Irish Red Cross provides both Tracing and Red Cross Message services mainly, but not exclusively, to refugees, asylum-seekers and other immigrants. These services provide a vital link between people here in Ireland and their loved ones overseas. They are provided in accordance with the mandate of the Red Cross internationally under the Geneva Conventions.

Tracing

There were seventy-three new cases opened in 2004 which included 32 who were unaccompanied minors. There were sixty-one cases closed, with thirty of them relating to unaccompanied minors.

Red Cross Messages

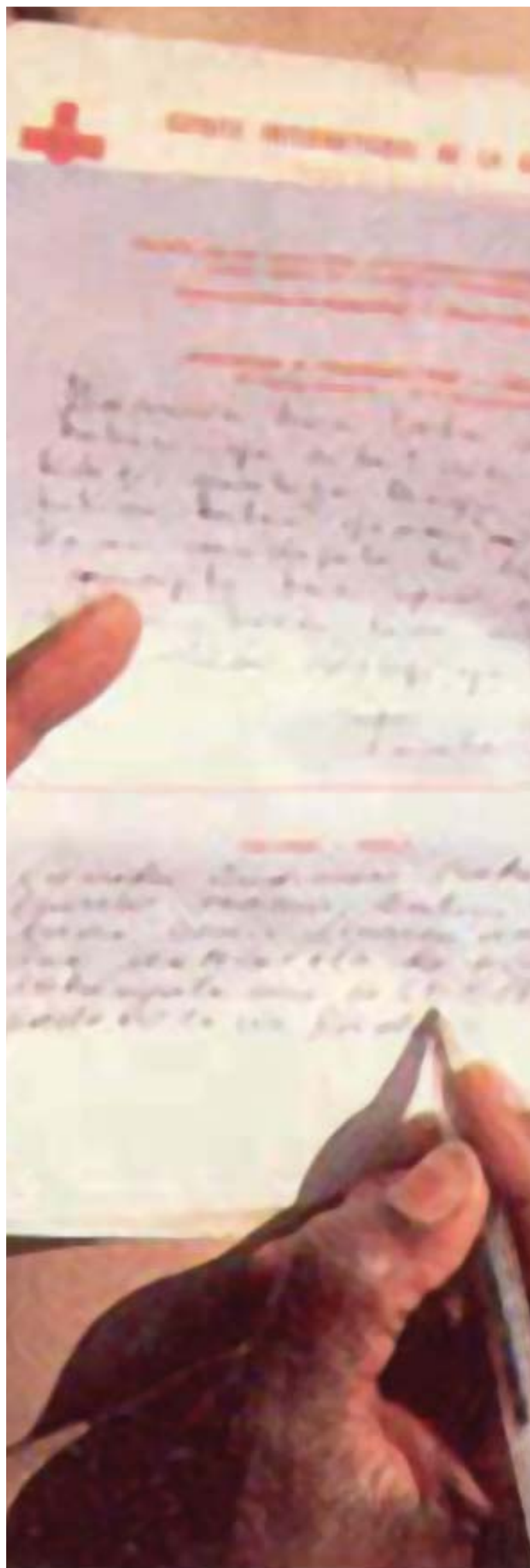
The Irish Red Cross also provides a Message Service to enable families to keep in touch in time of war or natural disasters. The service is often the only means for families to contact relatives who have been taken prisoner of war or moved to refugee camps or shelters.

This service is mainly being used by unaccompanied minors who are in the care of the Health Boards. Some of them have fled their own countries in fear of their lives and are anxious for news of their parents/siblings.

There were sixty-four Red Cross messages distributed during 2004. Forty messages were delivered to persons outside the State and twenty-four were delivered to persons residing in Ireland.

Compassionate Leave

A Compassionate Leave Service is also provided to Irish people who are members of the US Armed Services and who need testimony from the Red Cross in order to return home suddenly in the event of an illness in their families. Just one person sought our assistance in 2004, representing a drop in demand.



Funding & Financial Support

The Irish Red Cross relies on the generosity of ordinary people, companies, staff associations, and the Irish Government to maintain its service to people here in Ireland and overseas.

Corporate Giving

The support of corporations, business and professional groups to the Irish Red Cross is greatly welcomed. The value of their contribution is not only in terms of direct financial aid that funds our work in Ireland and abroad, but also their expertise and facilities, which has significantly enhanced the capacities of the Irish Red Cross to extend services and activities.

Corporate partnerships can take the form of long-term support for a product or service provided by the Irish Red Cross, one-off events, or simple direct fundraising for the activities of the Irish Red Cross

The relationship is based on a partnership, with the Irish Red Cross supporting initiatives for both staff and consumers undertaken by the organisation in question. Apart from the positive publicity that accrues to businesses in this context, there is also a general sense of well-being derived through both organisations working together. Business groups who support the Irish Red Cross can secure:

- Positive publicity
- Goodwill from their employees, customers and associates
- Team-building and leadership skills among their staff.
- Tax benefits

The partnership with Unilever, through its Domestos brand, has gone from strength to strength and is now in its fourth year. This long-term corporate partnership has already delivered important services to families in the home, through a hygiene and health awareness campaign and to Carers through a practical information pack.

This year Royal & Sun Alliance again supported the production of the quarterly Irish Red Cross Review. Royal & Sun Alliance also provided computer training (European Computer Driving Licence) to staff from the Irish Red Cross, helping to build up the capacity through skills within the organisation.

The partnership with Toyota Ireland, introduced through the European Union Red Cross Office supported the highly successful European Road Safety campaign in 2004.

Overseas Appeals

Iran

In 2004 the year commenced with many people fundraising for the victims of the Bam Earthquake in Iran which occurred on 26 December 2003. The Irish Red Cross immediately sent 6,020 blankets, and cash to buy 1,500 Tarpaulins, 1,000 Kitchen Sets and 7,000 Hygiene Parcels. The Irish Red Cross also funded the rebuilding of a secondary school following the destruction of 119 schools in the area. This school caters for 315 pupils.

Sudan

The Irish Red Cross launched an appeal for the people affected by the continuing conflict in Darfur. The Chairman, David Andrews led a team from the Irish Red Cross to assess how the Irish Red Cross could provide assistance in the area. Over €500,000 was raised for the appeal.

Russia

In September the tragedy of the school siege in Beslan unfolded. Many schools and school children around the country fundraised to help the victims of the siege and over €160,000 was raised by the Irish Red Cross. Surviving parents and children continue to be provided with psycho-social counselling by Red Cross personnel.

*Photographs this page:
With night-time temperatures plummeting to just two degrees Celsius survivors of the earthquake struggle to keep warm. Photo: Farooq Burney/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies*



Funding & Financial Support

Tsunami (Asia & Africa)

On 26 December 2004, the biggest earthquake for forty years struck off the Indian Ocean floor west of Indonesia. This triggered tidal waves or tsunamis, up to thirty feet high, which travelled at speeds of up to five hundred miles per hour, crashing into coastal areas of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Myanmar, Maldives, Malaysia, Bangladesh and the Seychelles.

- It is now estimated that at least 226,000 people were killed in the disaster. Some 1.7 million people were displaced, and hundreds of thousands of people were made homeless.
- Six countries were severely affected - Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, India, and the Maldives. Other countries affected include Bangladesh, Kenya, Myanmar, the Seychelles, Somalia and Madagascar.
- Thousands of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers who were living in the communities affected responded immediately, in line with their specialist disaster training. They provided first aid, performed search and rescue missions, traced lost relatives, evacuated people and distributed emergency relief items including food, fresh water, blankets, and medicine.
- These in situ members were supported by the worldwide movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies - 183 National Societies totalling some 100 million voluntary members - including the Irish Red Cross.
- The International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross, together with separate National Red Cross Societies worldwide, launched appeals.
- Between them the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and its National Societies have raised €1.8 billion (CHF - Swiss Francs - 2.87 billion) and have allocated €1.4 billion (CHF 2.3 billion) to fund emergency and rehabilitation plans for the next five years.
- Some 1.7 million people in ten countries have received Red Cross and Red Crescent assistance. 18,000 tonnes of humanitarian aid has been delivered, 30,000 locally-based Red Cross & Red Crescent volunteers have worked on the tsunami and they have been supported by staff from more than forty different Red Cross & Red Crescent societies.
- The Irish Red Cross launched an emergency appeal for victims of the disaster on 27 December, which has raised €31 million thanks to the enormous generosity of many individuals, groups, schools, companies and their employees. This is the largest amount ever raised by the Irish Red Cross for a single appeal. €1.6m of this was raised in the final days of December 2004.
- Of the €31 million raised, the Irish Red Cross provided €3 million in immediate aid at the time of the disaster to pay for emergency relief supplies for the affected countries such as shelter, food, medical supplies, water purification tablets and family kitchen kits.
- The Irish Red Cross also deployed delegates to Indonesia days after the tsunami to co-ordinate the relief operation in terms of food distribution, health and logistics in the Aceh province and subsequently deployed personnel to Sri Lanka.
- Now that the recovery and rehabilitation phase has begun, the Irish Red Cross will ensure that steady progress is made on investing the balance of the monies raised - €28 million in long-term and sustainable projects. A five-year plan of action is being implemented; Areas targeted will include hospital reconstruction, house building, water and sanitation projects and financial assistance to local industry.



Photographs this page:

Top: Sri Lanka Red Cross volunteers administer first aid to a tsunami victim in a camp for displaced people in Galle. Bottom: Galle, Sri Lanka: The European Union humanitarian office, ECHO, is one of the biggest donors to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies appeal. Photos: Till Mayer/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Funding & Financial Support



Additional Appeals

Funds were also raised during the year for floods in Bangladesh, the victims of the train explosion in North Korea, as well as victims of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Malawi

(Development Co-operation Ireland/Irish Red Cross)

The Irish Government through Development Co-operation Ireland provided funding of €100,100 to the Irish Red Cross for water and sanitation projects in Malawi in December 2004. This was used to fund projects, already supported by the Irish Red Cross, benefiting approximately 10,000 people in Territorial Area (T/A) Masula in Lilongwe District. The project period is from January 1 2005 to December 31 2005. The Irish Red Cross looks forward to strengthening its relations with D.C.I. through future funding opportunities.

Photographs this page:

Left - "Support your local Red Cross" says the sticker attached to the dress of this woman, who happily takes on the burden of the 50 kilos of maize she received from Malawi Red Cross in Mphamanta of Nkhoto district 15 July. Photo: Bo Mathisen, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Right - Photo: Yoshi Shimizu, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Irish Government
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International Visitors

International Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement Leaders Visit the Irish Red Cross

The Irish Red Cross was particularly honoured to welcome the 2 leaders of our international partner organisations during 2004.

The year got underway with a visit from the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Jakob Kellenberger, to the Irish Red Cross Head Office, where he was welcomed by the Irish Red Cross Chairman, David Andrews and Secretary General, Carmel Dunne.

Mr Kellenberger outlined the work of the Red Cross and the role of the ICRC in particular, in an interview with the Development Correspondent of The Irish Times, Paul Cullen.

He thanked the Irish Red Cross for their ongoing support for ICRC operations worldwide, particularly in Iraq, but also in Afghanistan and elsewhere and he pressed the need for the enforcement of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in both international and non-international armed conflicts worldwide.

Mr Kellenberger was also welcomed to Áras an Uachtaráin by President Mary McAleese. He also attended meetings with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Brian Cowen TD, the Minister for Defence, Mr Michael Smith TD and the Minister for State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr Tom Kitt TD.

The Irish Red Cross was also pleased to host the Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Mr Markku Niskala, later the same year.

Mr Niskala was welcomed to the Head Office of the Irish Red Cross by the Secretary General, Carmel Dunne, where he met with staff to discuss ongoing operational matters and the development of the Irish Red Cross.

Photographs this page:

Left - Pictured L - R, Chairman David Andrews, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies Markku Niskala and Secretary General Carmel Dunne. Photo: Lensmen. Right - Pictured L - R, Vice Chairman Tony Lawlor, Chairman David Andrews, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross Dr Jakob Kellenberger, Rory McCabe, Sheila Callan and Secretary General Carmel Dunne. Photo: Lensmen.



Irish Red Cross Crois Dhearg na hÉireann



The Irish Red Cross Society (IRCS) was established by an Act of the Oireachtas on 1 August 1939. Just over a month later, on the eve of World War II the inaugural meeting of the IRCS governing body, the Central Council, was held in Dublin on 5 September. Prior to this the Red Cross had been established throughout most of Ireland as an autonomous entity within the British Red Cross Society during the War of Independence in 1920, although records show that the Red Cross had branches in Dublin four years previously when volunteers took care of the sick and wounded during the 1916 Easter Rising.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' programmes are grouped into four main core areas: promoting humanitarian principles and values; disaster response; disaster preparedness; and health and care in the community.



The International Committee of the Red Cross is an independent, neutral organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of war and armed violence, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

Photo: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



Financial Statements

REVENUE ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 December 2004

	2004 €	2004 €	2003 €	2003 €
Unrestricted Funds				
Income	2,228,609		2,240,467	
Expenditure	<u>(2,268,828)</u>		<u>(1,913,066)</u>	
(Deficit)/surplus on unrestricted funds		(40,219)		327,401
Restricted Funds				
Income	3,178,146		599,201	
Expenditure	<u>(2,107,439)</u>		<u>(5,166,684)</u>	
Surplus/(deficit) on restricted funds		1,070,707		(4,567,483)
Overseas appeal funds				
Income	3,552,888		966,355	
Expenditure	<u>(1,946,116)</u>		<u>(720,158)</u>	
Surplus on overseas appeal funds		1,606,772		246,197
Excess of (income over expenditure)/ (expenditure over income)		<u>2,637,260</u>		<u>(3,993,885)</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 2004 on which we reported, without qualification, on 26th May 2005.

BDO SIMPSON XAVIER
REGISTERED AUDITORS Dublin.

DETAILED REVENUE ACCOUNT
Year ended 31 December 2004

	2004 €	2004 €	2003 €	2003 €
Unrestricted funds income				
Government grant aided income	736,000		691,000	
Community employment scheme	56,581		161,360	
Branch contributions	89,777		80,964	
General receipts	1,314,135		1,272,129	
Surplus on supplies	32,116		35,014	
	<u>2,228,609</u>		<u>2,240,467</u>	
Expenditure				
Government grant aided expenditure				
- Payroll and staff costs	982,400		838,437	
- Kilbehenney home maintenance	24,978		24,339	
Community employment scheme	50,418		175,800	
Services in Ireland	353,901		355,647	
Public relations	49,728		61,153	
Fundraising	397,700		174,018	
Administration	159,193		141,533	
Premises	56,196		42,506	
Professional fees	46,331		30,411	
Affiliation fees	67,202		62,074	
General	<u>80,781</u>		<u>7,148</u>	
	2,268,828		1,913,066	
(Deficit)/surplus on unrestricted funds		(40,219)		327,401
Restricted funds				
Income on restricted funds	3,178,146		599,201	
Expenditure on restricted funds	<u>(2,107,439)</u>		<u>(5,166,684)</u>	
Surplus/(deficit) on restricted funds		1,070,707		(4,567,483)
Overseas appeal funds				
Income on specific appeals	3,552,888		966,355	
Expenditure on specific appeal	<u>(1,946,116)</u>		<u>(720,158)</u>	
Surplus on overseas appeal funds		1,606,772		246,197
Excess of (income over expenditure)/ (expenditure over income)		<u>2,637,260</u>		<u>(3,993,885)</u>

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