



Irish Red Cross
Crois Dhearg na hÉireann

The Red Cross, 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.

Annual Report 2006

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Geneva Conventions

1. Amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field **2.** Amelioration of the condition of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea **3.** Treatment of prisoners of war **4.** Protection of civilian persons in time of war **Protocol 1:** the protection of the victims of International armed conflicts **Protocol 2:** the protection of the victims of Non-international armed conflicts.

Red Cross & Red Crescent Principles

Humanity The Red Cross 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. **Impartiality** The Red Cross makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious belief, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress. **Neutrality** The Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature. **Independence** The Red Cross must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with Red Cross principles. **Voluntary service** The Red Cross is a voluntary relief organisation not prompted in any manner by desire for gain. **Unity** There can be only one Red Cross Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory. **Universality** The Red Cross is a world-wide institution in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other.

Chairman's Foreword

The year 2006 has again marked a period of growth and expansion in the services provided by the Irish Red Cross both in Ireland and overseas.

Our volunteers across Ireland have served their communities and this organisation tirelessly and with great skill and dedication. Their commitment to their work as volunteers matches the highest standards of any profession and without their valuable role the achievements across all areas of the organisation would not have been possible.

We have also seen our work, supported by the HSE and by Irish Aid, as well as by the Department of Defence, yield positive results. Among the highlights of 2006 is the increasing number of people whom we have trained to provide life-saving First Aid skills in their own homes, neighbourhoods and schools.

The Irish business community – both large and small firms – have played a major role in this by providing training to their employees, with an increase of nearly a third on last year's number of people trained in Occupational First Aid.

Their investment in our courses is a vital source of revenue to our voluntary work as these funds can then be reinvested again in the equipment needed to support our services. In addition to selecting us as their First Aid provider, many firms and businesses have also chosen to back our work both in Ireland and overseas through fundraising events and by corporate donations. I would like to thank those who have done so and to assure them of our commitment to ensure that these funds are spent wisely and well.

Like our volunteers, however, many of our core activities are only possible as a result of the generosity and loyalty of private individual donors – people who give what

they can afford as their personal message of solidarity with the suffering. To these people, I offer my sincerest thanks.

More and more people have joined the Red Cross for the first time – largely as a result of the very successful Cross Out Day campaign to promote training and the supply of defibrillators around the country, pioneered by my colleague and Vice-Chairman, Tony Lawlor.

New Red Cross Branches have emerged and increases in the supply of ambulances and equipment are up by close to a third. High standards are being set by all our competition winners, notably our team from Limerick that represented us at the 2006 First Aid Convention in Europe.

However, our volunteers also provide much more than First Aid and I commend the many hundreds of Irish Red Cross members who provide care to young people and to older people in the community. Furthermore the Irish Red Cross has been listed in the Irish Government's Emergency Framework as a key component of the emergency services. This requires the Irish Red Cross services to be on call in the event of major emergencies in Ireland.

Overseas, our commitment to investing in the long-term futures of those who need our help remains steadfast. Yet, 2006 has proven to be a year of recovery and rehabilitation immediately following a succession of disasters the previous year.

It is with particular pleasure that I can report back to all our donors and members that our operations in the countries affected by the tsunami have already delivered housing, education and livelihoods in the first 18 months of the operation. I am particularly mindful of the immense trust placed in our organisation by Irish people who supported our tsunami appeal so generously and I would like to assure them that our commitment to long-term and sustainable construction work, schools and hospitals will continue in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Maldives.

In fact Irish people were called upon to respond to appeals for help for a number of unforeseen disasters in 2005, and this report outlines what we have been able to do as a result of their generosity in responding to appeals for help for Pakistan (earthquake), Niger (crop failures) and East Africa (drought and floods).

Sadly much of our work is caused by the activities of humankind – either directly as a result of war or indirectly as a result of the damage that we are inflicting on our environment. The impact of this on children cannot be underestimated; Wars, natural disasters and economic need frequently split families apart, the Irish Red Cross Tracing and Message service is part of the vital global network of Red Cross and Red Crescent Tracing and Message services, recognised in the Geneva Conventions that reunites families.

Our aim is to work to bring an end to the causes of these problems in order to build a stronger and brighter future for the people of Malawi, Niger and elsewhere in Africa and Asia for children and their parents.

Without the ongoing support of our donors, members and staff, we would not have achieved our aims to date, nor built on this to realise our vision of hope for the future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank these people and also my colleagues on the Central Council of the Irish Red Cross for their support and co-operation during the year.



David Andrews

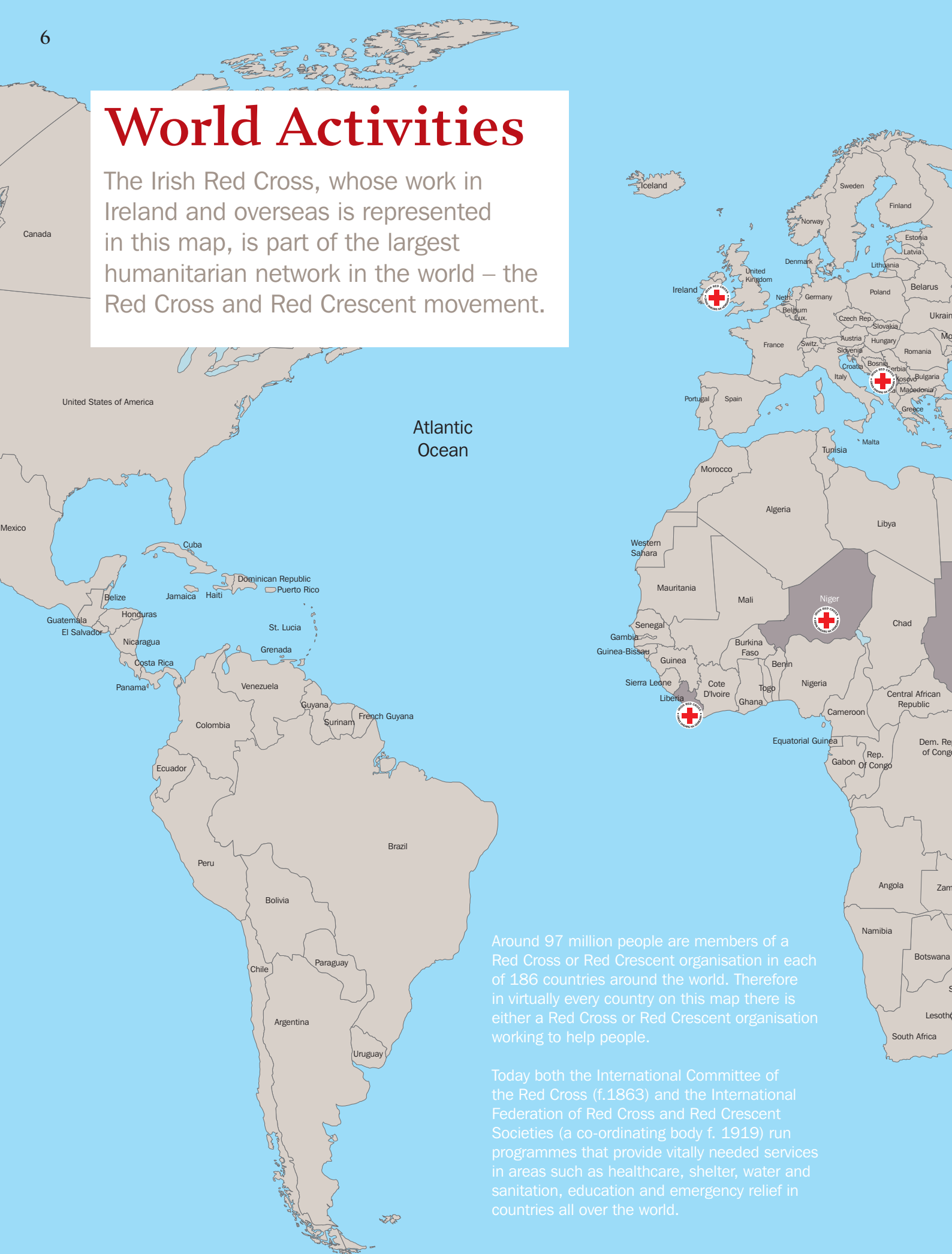
David Andrews
Chairman

Earthquake survivor, Iran.



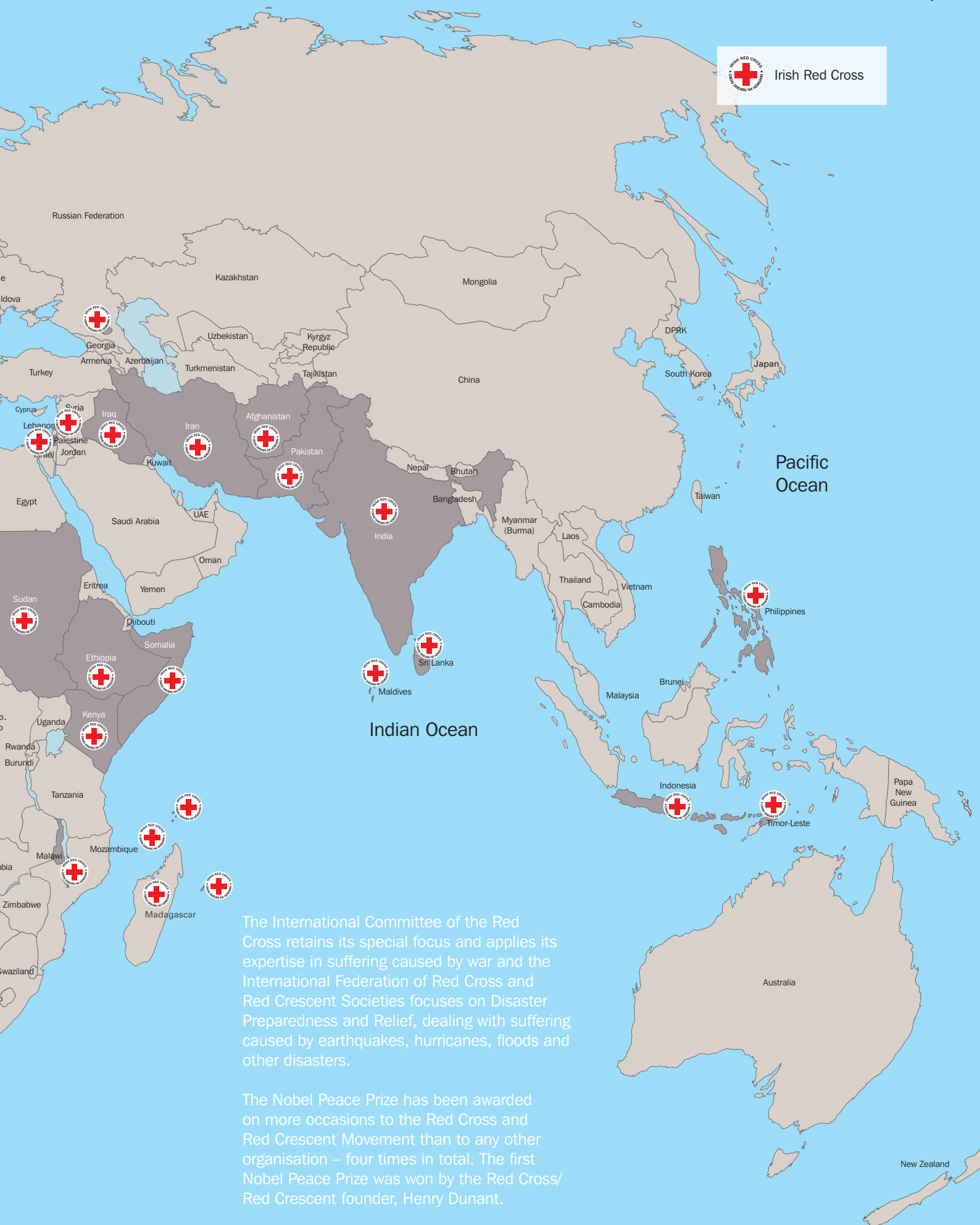
World Activities

The Irish Red Cross, whose work in Ireland and overseas is represented in this map, is part of the largest humanitarian network in the world – the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.



Around 97 million people are members of a Red Cross or Red Crescent organisation in each of 186 countries around the world. Therefore in virtually every country on this map there is either a Red Cross or Red Crescent organisation working to help people.

Today both the International Committee of the Red Cross (f.1863) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (a co-ordinating body f. 1919) run programmes that provide vitally needed services in areas such as healthcare, shelter, water and sanitation, education and emergency relief in countries all over the world.



Overseas delegates

Name	Location	Job	From
Gary Buchanan	Pakistan and Gaza	Logistics	Co. Down
Michael Buffini	India	Ortho-Prosthetist	Dublin
Mary Rose Byrne	Indonesia	Project Manager	Dublin
Sheila Callan	Sri Lanka	Country Representative	Dublin
Diane Carroll	Indonesia	Construction Engineer	Co. Kilkenny
Susanna Cunningham	Kenya and Mauritius	Head of Indian Ocean Sub Regional Office	Dublin
Owen Frazer	Colombia	Protection Delegate	Dublin
Prosper Gbetie	Niger	Capacity Building Manager	Benin
Eileen Hannon	Niger	Finance Administration	Co. Cork
Simon Harris	Sri Lanka	Country Coordinator	United Kingdom
Eve Janodet	Niger	Small Grants Project Manager	France
Brian Kelly	Sri Lanka	Construction Engineer	Roscommon
Brian Kerr	Indonesia	Finance Administration	Co. Louth
Nikhil Khanna	Sri Lanka	Construction Engineer	India
Véronique Kouame	Niger	Administration and Translation	Cote D'Ivoire
Joe Lowry	Maldives	Information	Ireland
Vivien Lusted	Sudan	Health	Co. Galway
Liam McCarton	Sri Lanka	Engineering Project Manager	Co. Kildare
Ellen McConville	Indonesia	Public Information	United States
Martin McDermott	Philippines	Detention/Armed Forces Security	Kilkenny
Seamus Meagher	Liberia	Logistics	Tipperary
Julie Anne Mulligan	Indonesia	Finance Administration	Portlaoise
Willie Norton	Pakistan	Logistics	Dublin
Anna Marie O'Carroll	Sri Lanka	Admin and Livelihoods	Co. Kerry
Daire O'Reilly	Uganda	Economic Security	Dublin
Donal O'Suilleabhain	Sudan and Ethiopia	Water and Sanitation Engineer	Co. Sligo
Tanya Pocock	Maldives	IT and Telecoms	Dublin
Daniel Prewitt	Indonesia	Country Coordinator	United States
Jackie Queally	Sri Lanka	Finance Administration	Co. Clare
Jeff Ratcliffe	Niger	Country Coordinator	United States
John Roche	Geneva	Head of Food Security for Southern Africa	Dublin
Cormac Rooney	Pakistan	Construction Coordinator	Co. Louth
John Rowland	Sudan	Senior Logistician	Dublin
Amy Tyndall	Indonesia	Project Manager	Dublin
Michael Wardick	Maldives	Construction Engineer	Dublin

Our work in Ireland

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Our work in Ireland

2006 has been a year of growth and expansion across many of our core services to people, community groups, sports groups and the business community across Ireland.

First Aid Training

Figures for the year show that demand for our Occupational First Aid courses grew by almost one third (29.8%) on the previous year, representing a significant investment by the business community in Ireland and their workforces in the high standards of Irish Red Cross training.

1/3

Demand for our Occupational First Aid courses grew by almost one third on the previous year

And the Irish Red Cross is pleased to note ongoing growth in demand from the business community for our services on their premises and sites. Clients include some of Ireland's leading companies such as the Office of Public Works, Dunnes Stores, the Commissioners of Irish Lights, Dublin Institute of Technology, Penneys, Dunboyne Castle, Great Southern Hotel Group, Corrib Gas Project and Huntstown Power project.

While the general public will benefit from our own investment in training our own volunteers in the top-level life-saving skill of Emergency Medical First Responder (EMFR). The figure for EMFR training is almost double that of 2005.

22 + %

Increase in the number of Irish Red Cross Instructors trained

Our provision of Occupational First Aid training to companies was supported by a similarly significant increase in the number of Irish Red Cross volunteers undertaking training to become instructors in this area with well over a fifth (22.4%) more than in 2005.

This internal re-skilling was further supported by the introduction of a new more comprehensive instructor's qualification that provides Irish Red Cross instructors with a 3-in-one certificate to train people in Occupational First Aid, Basic Life Support and Public Access Defibrillation.

Figures for the year also show a major increase in demand for the heart resuscitation skills necessary to deal with the high risk of death from out of hospital cardiac arrest, highlighted in our Cross Out Day initiative (see page 15). Demand from the public for training in Basic Life Support grew by more than a fifth (22%) on the previous year.

22%

increase in the Basic Life Support training provided to the public.

28%

Training figures overall are up by almost a third (28%) in the last five years.

The Defence Forces

In recognition of the exacting standards set by Red Cross training, the Defence Forces requested that the Irish Red Cross provide simulated "wounds" and "injuries" for training purposes. A seaborne operation took place involving the "rescue" of a diplomatic family who were being held captive by militants. Critical and serious injuries, requiring immediate and remote surgery were created by Dublin Borough volunteer Peter Ryan, for these exercises. Development of this kind of practical co-ordination with the Defence Forces and other state and voluntary bodies in Ireland in all areas of training is ongoing.

Emergencies in Ireland

The year 2006 saw a major increase in the capability of the Irish Red Cross to respond to emergencies at local or national level.

This was underpinned by extensive training given to our own members and by positioning the Irish Red Cross at the core of emergency preparedness and planning here in Ireland.

Major emergencies could involve anything from an outbreak of a 'flu pandemic to a chemical disaster, or a major road or rail crash.

This support to the emergency services is further strengthened by the training of more members in Major Medical Incident Management and Support work, bringing the total of Irish Red Cross volunteers trained in this vital area to 75 senior members throughout Ireland.

A Major Emergency Planning Seminar, organised by the Irish Red Cross in Portlaoise, was addressed by one of Ireland's architects of emergency

planning, Health Services Executive Emergency Planning Officer, Pat O'Riordan. He outlined to Irish Red Cross members the role they could expect to play in the context of the new overall framework for emergency management which sets in place a structure for the co-ordination of state agencies, the Red Cross, and the voluntary sector. The seminar was also addressed by a specialist in the field of co-ordinating the response of voluntary agencies to disaster, David Donegan. Mr Donegan who heads the British capital's emergency co-ordinating body, London Resilience, outlined how volunteers and professional emergency personnel worked together to assist victims of the London bombings of 7 July 2005.

Moya Heath Woods, the Red Cross EU Bureau's civil protection specialist, in her address to the audience, described how victims of other European disasters such as the Toulouse chemical explosion (2001), French heatwave (2003) and the Madrid train bombings (2004) were aided by Red Cross volunteers.

Red Cross Search and Rescue Services

2006 sadly saw an increase in the number of fatalities that were taken from the Wicklow Mountains by the Glen of Imaal Red Cross Mountain Rescue Team.



Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue Team in Glendalough, County Wicklow.

Three people lost their lives during the year, a slight increase on the previous year (two).

37 The greatest number of callouts are to help people who are missing or lost. The overall number of people needing to be rescued from the mountains was 37.

Figures from our Mountain Rescue branch show that by far the greatest number of callouts were to help people who were missing/ lost.

In line with all other years, most people who needed help had sustained lower leg injuries, such as twisted ankles etc indicating a lack of adequate footwear.

The second year of the Corrib-Mask Rescue branch of the Irish Red Cross saw a number of people saved from drowning directly as a result of the availability of this service.

All Irish Red Cross Search and Rescue Services are provided by dedicated and specially-trained people who commit to being available on a 24/7 roster 365 days a year. They are all unpaid volunteers.



Christina O'Halloran (From Tralee, Kerry) receiving First Aid from Sinead Doyle (Dublin Borough, Novice team) at The Novice and Cadet Competition in Co. Laois in October. Novice competitions are for Red Cross members who are relatively new and who may be competing for the first time.

Ireland's win in Europe

Members of the Irish Red Cross from Limerick who won two of the three competitive events at the First Aid Convention in Europe (FACE) which took place in Assisi, Italy; the team took first prize in both the Humanitarian Cup (care and consideration of patients) and in the Triage Section (management of a disaster scene). They also took second place in the main general First Aid event, which was won by Serbia, with Armenia coming third.



Back Row: Dr. Andrew Kelly (Area Director of Units & Trainer), Mary Ryan (Trainer), Ray McCloskey (Trainer)
Middle Row: Michael O'Donoghue, Elizabeth Keyes, Fintan Breen (Team Leader)
Front Row: Hilary Parkinson, Michelle Kennedy, Yvonne Dallman



Ambulance and Equipment

28%

28% increase on the number of ambulances and other vehicles.

In 2006 the total emergency vehicle fleet size amounted to 85, representing a 28% increase on the number of vehicles operated by the Irish Red Cross since the beginning of a renewal and replacement programme that got underway in 2002.

Moreover new kinds of specialist vehicles, enabling us to respond to a variety of needs, have been added to the fleet, including off-road vehicles (4X4s), minibuses, and specially built mobile command and control vehicles, equipped with the latest technology to manage major emergencies and other large-scale operations.

Young people in the Red Cross

More young people are constantly needed to help replenish the numbers of volunteers and delegates with the skills and commitment needed to carry on the work of the Red Cross in Ireland and around the world.

The lifeblood of the Irish Red Cross is its volunteers, delegates, and dedicated staff and the Red Cross warmly welcomes applications for membership from young people.

During the year the Irish Red Cross Youth Working Group organised a number of events for our young members including a National Youth Camp in the University of Limerick in August and two Regional Youth Fun Days in Muff, Co Donegal and Piltown, Co Kilkenny. The Irish Red Cross was also represented by four younger members at International Youth Camps in Austria and Switzerland during the summer months of 2006.

Child Protection

With young people being encouraged to join activity-based groups and networks, it is essential that these groups provide an environment where both the young people and the adults working with them feel safe and supported.

The Irish Red Cross is also co-operating with the new compulsory Garda vetting programme for all youth workers which came into effect in June 2006 by running a series of comprehensive training programmes.

Community Services

Quality care for vulnerable and older persons in the community continued in 2006. Local branches arranged senior citizens outings and social occasions, provided transport for people with a disability and gave ongoing assistance at Blood Transfusion local mobile clinics.

The Carers Training Courses held throughout the country continued to be popular and over the past 10 years Caring for Carers Ireland have successfully used the Irish Red Cross course to provide practical training for 3,500 Family Carers.

3,500

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During 2006 the demand for the Irish Red Cross Helping You to Care Information Pack continued and distribution of the hugely popular Handbook for Babysitters and Parents, which was launched in 2004, reached 260,000 copies.

A special Helping You to Care Handbook was further developed for launching in 2007, this is a practical fully illustrated guide for looking after someone who is ill, elderly or has a disability.

Therapeutic Hand Care

255 new volunteers joined the Irish Red Cross Therapeutic Hand Care (THC) service and following training, offer Therapeutic Hand Care to people in residential care and on home visits.

THC volunteers also provided hand massages at the Caring for Carers Annual Respite Break for 460 Family Carers and at a number of other events including Arthritis Information Days, the Reynard's and Scleroderma Awareness Conference, Pampering Day to mark International Women's Day and a fundraising event in aid of Cystic Fibrosis.

Skin Camouflage

Practitioners continue to provide the service for individuals with disfiguring skin conditions, clinics are held in Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway and Wexford. A few examples of conditions that were successfully camouflaged were scars from a burn a child had received when a coke can exploded, an artificial ear that was much whiter than the lady's skin, tattoos, port wine birthmarks, vitiligo, rosacea and the results of burst thread veins.

Branch Network Continues to Grow

Four new Irish Red Cross Branches were established in 2006.

In March the Melleray/Cappoquin Branch was formed in Co. Waterford with 25 members.

Hollyford Red Cross Branch in west Tipperary was established in April with fourteen members, who completed First Aid and Public Defibrillator courses, and subsequently acquired a defibrillator.

The Royal College of Surgeons formed its own Branch in May, having served as members of the Terenure Branch for many years. The 24 founder members of this new branch have the support of many of the students at the College.

Their activities include Fundraising, First Aid training, Therapeutic Hand Care courses and the development of their own website. The Irish Red Cross Branch was voted the best of 25 societies in the College that year.

In May people in Ferbane Co Offaly established a new Red Cross Branch in the town and members are actively involved in organising First Aid courses and have formed a First Aid Unit in the town also.

Cross Out Day

Seventy five communities across Ireland have access to a defibrillator service following the tremendous public response to the Irish Red Cross Cross-Out Day initiative; a nationwide campaign to save people in Ireland from Sudden Cardiac Death.

The campaign, organised in May 2006 to celebrate international Red Cross day, encouraged people to club together and raise funds to buy a defibrillator – with Red Cross training – for their workplace, sports club, or neighbourhood.

Over 75 groups signed up for the defibrillator package from Malin Head in Co. Donegal to Lissarda in Cork, and from Sutton in Dublin to Clifden in Galway. This is thanks to the generous support of thousands of people in sports clubs, housing estates and offices who gave up or 'crossed out' something – such as their morning snack, their night out or even an hour's wage to pay for defibrillators for their group or organisation.

The Irish Red Cross thanks Ms Roxanne Macara for the 'Cross Out Day', concept. Ms. Macara, a public relations student of the Public Relations Academy, won an award for the concept which involved creating a public relations/fundraising message that could be used regularly by the Irish Red Cross for fundraising.

Reuniting families and friends

The Irish Red Cross Tracing, Messaging and Compassionate Leave service continued to provide an essential service for tracing and communicating with separated and lost family members and for facilitating Irish members of the US Armed Services in coming home to Ireland at times of family crisis or bereavement.

The provision of Tracing and Red Cross Messages (RCMs) is one of several functions of the Red Cross which is formally recognised and protected by the Geneva Conventions. The service is essential to children as well as adults and in 2006 new systems to reinforce the confidentiality of the processes and improve internal reporting were introduced.

Tracing Service

Demand for tracing services continued to grow with 110 new tracing cases registered in 2006, bringing the total number of cases to 208.

31 cases were closed in that year. Of these over a third (12) were successful in finding the person who was sought. The remainder (18) were closed after no trace could be established of the person's whereabouts and 1 case was not applicable to our service.

Messaging Service

Demand for messaging services – which jumped by a third overall in 2005 – dropped slightly but the proportion of messages to and from children rose slightly in 2006.

26

26 Messages sent abroad were sent to: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan and Togo.

27

27 Messages delivered to people in Ireland were from: Afghanistan, Angola, Georgia, Guinea, Iraq/Jordan border termed "No Man's Land" (NML), Kenya, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

53 Messages passed through the Red Cross to loved ones in Ireland and overseas. However, six messages were sent 'back to sender' mostly because inaccurate delivery addresses were provided. Over a quarter (28%) of all messages sent involved children, a rise from 16% on the previous year.

75

Seventy five communities across Ireland have access to a defibrillator service following the tremendous public response to the Irish Red Cross Cross-Out Day initiative; a nationwide campaign to save people in Ireland from Sudden Cardiac Death.



Irish Red Cross Vice-Chairman, Tony Lawlor with Roxanne Macara, Cross-Out Day concept designer, pictured at the launch of the campaign.



Irish Red Cross members Francis Kenny (left) and Ann McDermott demonstrate how a defibrillator works as members of the public walk by on Dublin's Merrion Square.

Competitions

President's Perpetual Trophy, UL

The University of Limerick hosted the national finals of Irish Red Cross First Aid Competitions for the first time in May 2006, in preparation for the staging of the First Aid Convention in Europe the following year.

Teams from Cork, Galway, Limerick, Dublin, and Louth took part in the President's Perpetual Trophy event which was won by Dublin Borough. The President's perpetual Trophy is the leading First Aid competition hosted by the Irish Red Cross and acts as the national gateway to represent Ireland in the annual First Aid Convention in Europe.



Regional Director of Units, John Costin (Centre) presents first prize to the **Dublin Borough** (No 2 Team). From left: Karen O'Rourke, Mary McCabe, Sandra Cregan, Emma Harte, Elaine Duffy, and Patrick English.



The Louth team: Colum McEvoy, Olly Keegan, Ashlene Mackin, Olivia Hughes, Marie Lawless, Ian Martin.



The Galway team: Michael Sullivan, Maire Geary, Cormac McLiathain, Noreen Hoban, Barry Hannagen, Jackie O'Toole.



Limerick 1 team: Michelle O'Sullivan, Michelle Dempsey, Michelle Normoyle, Lisa-Marie McNamara, Karina Heffernan, Emer O'Donovan.



The Limerick 2 team: Shirley Foley, Gerarc O'Connor, Nuala Donovan, Doireann Twomey, Fiona Brosnahan, Philomena Grace.



The Dublin Borough 1 team: Sonia Howard, Heidi Somers, Caroline McGrath, Fiona Scanlon, Linda Stokes, Siobhan Short.



The Cork team: Sheila Lewis, Siobhan O'Sullivan and Rose O'Riordan.



55

Hanna Sheahan from Mallow, Cork, celebrated her 55 Years with the Red Cross Society on October the 6th when the First Aid Competition took place at Ballinakill, Co. Laois. Pictured with the Cork Team. Back: Conor Healy, John Barry, Kevin Brennan and David Finn-Orde; front: Mary Griffin (Secretary), Hanna Sheahan and David O'Brien (Instructor).

Novice, Cadet and Senior Individual Competitions, Co. Laois

The Novice and Cadet Competitions took place in Heywood Community School, Ballinakill, Abbeylax, Co. Laois in October. Cadet Competitions are for Red Cross members aged 10 to 16 years, while Novice competitions are for Red Cross members who are relatively new and who may be competing for the first time.

This year also saw the Senior Individual Cup inaugurated as the Dominic Nugent Senior Individual Cup, to honour the late Dominic Nugent (55) of Drogheda, Co. Louth, who passed away after a long illness.

Senior



Ann Marie Berth, on behalf of late Dominic Nugent presenting the 1st prize to Olly Keegan, Louth.



Ann Marie Berth, on behalf of late Dominic Nugent presenting the 2nd prize to Gerard McHale, Mayo.



Ann Marie Berth, on behalf of late Dominic Nugent presenting the 3rd prize to Jackie O'Toole, Galway.



Seniors in action: Olly Keegan, Gerard McHale and Jackie O'Toole.

Cadet



Ted Noonan (RDU Southern Region) presenting the 1st prize to the Cadet team of Cork (Orla Murphy, Derbla de Barra, Tracy Hanley and Maire Fitzgerald).



Ted Noonan (RDU Southern Region) presenting the 2nd prize to the Cadet team of Limerick (Orlaith Shinnars, Maureen Tucker, Aisling Cusack and Barbara Chaplin).



Ted Noonan (RDU Southern Region) presenting the 3rd prize to the Cadet team of Dublin Borough (Ciaran McDonagh, Paul McDonagh, Sam McGarry and Niall Crowther).



Gerry O'Sullivan (RDU South eastern Region) presenting the 1st prize to Conor Haug (Limerick, Cadet Individual).



Gerry O'Sullivan (RDU South eastern Region) presenting the 2nd prize to Alison O'Shea (Cork, Cadet Individual).



Gerry O'Sullivan (RDU South eastern Region) presenting the 3rd prize to Niamh Rogers (Louth, Cadet Individual).



DJ O'Callaghan (Tralee, Kerry) receiving First Aid from Niamh Rogers (Louth, Cadet Individual).

Novice



John Costin (RDU Midwest) presenting the 1st prize to the Novice team of Limerick (Michelle Normoyle, Doireann Twomey, Fiona Brosnahan and Eimear O'Donovan).



John Costin (RDU Midwest) presenting the 2nd prize to the Novice team of Mayo (Tony McGing, Andrew Finn, Zac Hennessy and Nuala Donovan).



John Costin (RDU Midwest) presenting the 3rd prize to the Novice team of Dublin Borough (Sinead Doyle, Leah McGarry and Laura Quinn; missing Colin Treacy).



Pat Merrick (RDU North West) presenting the 1st prize to Gerard McHale (Mayo, Novice Individual).



Pat Merrick (RDU North West) presenting the 2nd prize to Aine Mulcahy (Limerick, Novice Individual).



Pat Merrick (RDU North West) presenting the 3rd prize to Marie Lawless (Louth, Novice Individual).



Novice Gerard McHale in action.

Our work Overseas

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36	Sudan
36	Kenya
37	Ethiopia
37	Indian Ocean Islands
38	Somalia
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Our work Overseas

In 2006, the Irish Red Cross remained active in responding to disasters around the world, while targeting key countries in Africa and Asia.

Highlights

In Africa, we have continued to build-up our presence through our Irish Red Cross projects in Niger and Malawi, while at the same time reinforcing our support for the projects of our international partners, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In Asia, our main focus has been a "build back better" approach in countries struck by the tsunami on St Stephens Day 2004. This led to the completion of housing and education schemes this year in both Sri Lanka and Indonesia, as well as in the Maldives where we are playing a vital role in disease prevention through the construction of new and secure sewage and sanitation facilities.

225,000

The tsunami claimed the lives of some 225,000 people and forced over 1.5 million people to flee their homes.

A total of twelve countries, mainly in Asia but also in Africa were affected by the tsunami which claimed the lives of some 225,000 people and forced over 1.5 million people to flee their homes. The impact of several unforeseen and large-scale disasters, starting with the tsunami on the eve of 2005 and followed by disasters throughout that year in Niger (crop failures and locust invasions), the USA (Hurricane Katrina) and Pakistan (earthquake), continued to bring sorrow, loss and pain to millions of people around the world in 2006.

The Irish Red Cross has focused on helping these people to rebuild their lives and communities throughout the year, and has also addressed the needs of victims of new and ongoing disasters with the support of our donors, delegates and volunteers throughout Ireland. In addition, we have seen significant investment by major donors in many of our projects, particularly Irish Aid.



Irish Aid

Department of Foreign Affairs
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Co-operation

Also, for the first time, the Irish Red Cross in 2006 co-funded publication of the World Disasters Report, which is published each year by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Nearly 20,000 copies of the report are printed annually in four languages (French, English, Spanish and Arabic) and distributed worldwide. Each year the Report presents findings on different effects or aspects of disasters; in 2006 it was: World Disasters Report - Focus on Neglected Crises

One of the single greatest disasters in modern times was the fire at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Ukraine 20 years ago.

Sickness, bereavement and sorrow are the legacy of that disaster to the people there, especially the children. The Irish Red Cross helped to fund a special anniversary issue of the magazine The Bridge, highlighting these problems.

And the recent suffering of people as a result of the tsunami was also focused on by another special second anniversary publication, titled: Tsunami Indonesia, It Takes Time to Recover.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

The Irish Red Cross supports the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in promoting awareness of IHL, in accordance with the mandate of the ICRC, legally recognised since the first Geneva Conventions were agreed in 1863.

Promoting this to key policymakers in government, the military, the legal-academic community and the public is a major part of the work undertaken by the ICRC working in countries with local Red Cross or Red Crescent societies.

In October 2006, the Irish Red Cross jointly hosted a seminar, held as part of a worldwide series of lectures on IHL initiated by the ICRC.

Entitled: 'Contemporary Developments in Customary International Humanitarian Law' at Trinity College, Dublin (TCD); the seminar was hosted in association with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Institute of International Integration Studies, based at TCD. The seminar was attended by representatives of NGOs, universities, the Departments of Justice and Defence, the Irish Army and many members of the legal profession.

Gender Based Violence Consortium

The Irish Red Cross is a member of the Joint Consortium on Gender Based Violence, which comprises human rights, humanitarian and development agencies as well as Irish Aid and the Defence Forces. It was established in 2005 and aims to make Ireland a global leader in tackling gender based violence. www.gbv.ie

Sri Lanka

Housing and Shelter

This year has seen the completion and official opening by Irish Red Cross Chairman, David Andrews of housing projects in Kalutara, near the country's capital, Colombo and in Ampara – in conjunction with the Galway-Sri Lanka Group.

In the east of the country, however, where conflict involving locally-based Tamil Tiger rebel groups and Sri Lankan armed forces has sporadically flared, fresh outbreaks of strife slowed construction of housing and other projects. Nevertheless, 35 homes were completed in Puthoikuddirupu, near our base in Batticaloa.

Work also got underway on fresh housing/shelter projects aimed at providing homes to people over the course of the next two years.

Education

Construction got underway on a new primary school in Kalutara for 400 students and a community centre beside the school, and this is due to be completed in 2007. In addition five other schools were refurbished and supplied with schoolbooks while a specially-developed training programme in IT and computer skills for students was provided to young people in Kalutara.

Work on a new pre-school got underway in Ampara (in conjunction with the Galway-Sri Lanka Group) together with an adjacent community centre.

And building work also began on 20 temporary classrooms for a school of 3,500 students in the town of Panadura.

The Irish Red Cross supported and managed a range of programmes to refurbish schools, improve infrastructure and help people rebuild their lives and find worthwhile jobs.

3,500

Building work began on 20 temporary classrooms for a school of 3,500 students in the town of Panadura.

TSUNAMI FACTBOX

Deaths: 35,000

Injured: 21,000

Homeless/Displaced: 500,000

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Housing and Shelter
Education
Health
Livelihoods



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 65,000 sq km

Population: 20 million

Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 12

Life Expectancy: 74.3 years

Living with HIV and AIDS: >0.1%

Literacy Rate: 90.7%

Access to safe water: 79%

Health

In Batticaloa, the Irish Red Cross continued to invest in the refurbishment of the Kalar Hospital.

In response to the outbreak of strife, the Irish Red Cross provided emergency supplies (water and water equipment, latrines, clothing disinfectant and medical supplies), to people affected (mainly in the east of Sri Lanka) through the ICRC.

Back-to-work

Farmers, fisheries workers and other small business people have been given the help they needed to begin supporting themselves and their families again. Irish Red Cross investments aimed at getting people back to work, supported 260 people by investing in goods essential for commerce and agriculture including water pumps, transport and livestock.



Sri Lanka, south east coast of the island, February 2006. After several dramatic months of shock, grief and reconstruction, fishermen are back to work.



The tiny population of the Maldives, scattered across some 200 islands of the 1,000-plus island territory, suffered more homelessness in per capita terms than any other country affected by the tsunami.



The Maldives

Construction

The tiny population of the Maldives, scattered across some 200 islands of the 1,000-plus island territory, suffered more homelessness in per capita terms than any other country affected by the tsunami. Several thousand people were forced to flee their homes and giving people back homes of their own will only be possible with the construction of strong infrastructure.

Housing and Shelter

New homes for 600 families were completed under the supervision of an Irish Red Cross delegate, while several more families will also benefit when additional homes are complete and a proper new sewage network is installed for the first time.

Information Technology Systems / Communications

Apart from construction, Irish experts in these other key areas were deployed as part of the global Red Cross and Red Crescent operation in the Maldives.

TSUNAMI FACTBOX

Deaths: 82

Injured: 26

Homeless/Displaced: 29,000

€4.6 million

The Irish Red Cross pledged €4.6 million for the construction of community sewer systems which will benefit more than 8,000 people.

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Construction of sewer systems.
Management of home-building.
Management of information technology systems.
Management of communications and reporting systems.



In 2006 the Irish Red Cross pledged €4.6 million for the construction of community sewer systems on a number of the Maldivian islands, a measure that will benefit more than 8,000 people. Contaminated water had posed a serious health risk to many Maldivians and threatened the fish stocks upon which they relied for food and for their livelihood.



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 300 sq km

Population: 270,000

Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 35

Life Expectancy: 67 years

Living with HIV and AIDS: N/A

Literacy Rate: 93.6%

Access to safe water: 83%



Destroyed house, Vilufshi Island, Maldives.

Indonesia

TSUNAMI FACTBOX

Deaths: 150,000

Injured: 37,000

Homeless/Displaced: 500,000

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Education
Housing and Shelter
Water and Sanitation
Communications
Disaster Response
and Preparedness



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 1.9 million sq km

Population: 245.5 million

Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 28

Life Expectancy: 67 years

Living with HIV and AIDS: 0.10%

Literacy Rate: 90.4%

Access to safe water: 77%

Education

More than 5,000 schoolchildren will be supported in continuing their education right through secondary school by the new Secondary Education Cash Assistance Programme (SECAP) launched at the end of 2005. This year saw 733 secondary school pupils receive their first payments. Cash assistance is provided to families to help teenagers and older children stay at school; the money they get from the Red Cross helps pay for schoolbooks and equipment and reinforces the positive benefits of education against the attraction of immediate but unskilled work in the labour market.

Six pre-schools are either under construction or in the planning stage as a result of a joint partnership between the Irish Red Cross and the German Red Cross, involving an investment of €1.9 million. One school is being built in the city of Banda Aceh itself, while the remainder are being built on the nearby island of Pulo Aceh. This region was at the epicentre of the earthquake and communities here suffered major and widespread damage.

Water and Sanitation

Tens of thousands of people remain in temporary shelter and will do so for a number of years while the right lands and infrastructure are sourced for construction and while building permanent housing, using sustainable resources, is underway.

As an immediate and practical action, the Irish Red Cross, in partnership with the Indonesian Red Cross, will repair and upgrade the living conditions for these people.

Basic water and sanitation facilities were built and hygiene education and promotion programmes got underway.

Communications/Public Information

A new radio programme providing a badly-needed chance for tsunami-survivors to find out how to access aid and to voice their own opinions on services to them, was one of a number of community information projects that got underway in 2006. This entirely new initiative in the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, developed and run by the Irish Red Cross through local Indonesian journalists and other professionals, has been cited as innovative and effective, providing a role model for services in future disasters.

Disaster Response and Preparedness

Indonesia remains vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly earthquakes and in May 2006 the city of Yogyakarta in central Java was badly damaged by an earthquake which measured 6.3 on the Richter Scale. Nearly 6,000 people lost their lives while a further 38,000 were injured and 127,000 homes were destroyed. The Irish Red Cross donated more than a quarter of a million Euro (€274,000) to pay for shelter and other urgently needed supplies.

€274,000

The Irish Red Cross donated more than a quarter of a million Euro (€274,000) to pay for shelter and other urgently needed supplies.



Young Indonesian school children living on the island of Pulo Aceh, northern Indonesia, lead an Irish Red Cross delegation to the site where their new school will be built by the Irish Red Cross using funds from the Irish public. The island of Pulo Aceh was utterly devastated by the 26th December 2004 Tsunami.

Pakistan

EARTHQUAKE FACTBOX

Deaths: 73,000

Injured: 128,000

Homeless/Displaced: 3.5 million

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Housing and Shelter
Health
Water and Sanitation
Disaster Response
and Preparedness



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 796,000 sq km

Population: 157 million

Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 80

Life Expectancy: 63.4 years

Living with HIV and AIDS: 0.10%

Literacy Rate: 49.9%

Access to improved water: 91%

Housing and Shelter

The extremely elevated and isolated communities whose homes slid down the steep mountainsides of Pakistan faced very grave risks owing to the onset of harsh winter conditions, following the earthquake of 8 October 2005.

Urgent shelter needs were met by the Irish Red Cross which immediately provided 4,000 "all-weather" tents suitable for harsh winter conditions and 11,400 blankets. In 2006, the Irish Red Cross supplied 17,000 corrugated iron sheets for families to build shelters for themselves and the livestock upon which they relied for food and an income.

Health

The congregation of hundreds of thousands of people, particularly women and children in temporary and hastily-created camps posed serious risks. To offset any threat of disease or other risk, the Irish Red Cross provided hygiene kits and food immediately after the disaster. This was followed with a hygiene promotion and health education programme targeting 7,580 families.

Water and Sanitation

These families also had new water and sanitation facilities built for them by the Irish Red Cross in their homes, schools and health centres. Moreover, water supply schemes that had been damaged by the earthquake were repaired and rehabilitated.

Disaster Response and Preparedness

Experts in air-operations for the delivery of relief supplies continued to be needed in 2006, owing to the mountainous terrain and the breakdown of virtually all road connections with the many communities scattered around a wide area in very elevated mountain locations. The Irish Red Cross deployed an expert delegate to the region to supervise this vital operation.

4,000

Irish Red Cross provided 4,000 "all-weather" tents suitable for harsh winter conditions.



A villager in Chakoti, Pakistan, contacts relatives with a satellite phone provided by the ICRC.

Iran

EARTHQUAKE FACTBOX

Deaths: 26,000
Injured: 30,000
Homeless/Displaced: 75,000

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Education
Disaster Response
and Preparedness

COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 1.65 million sq km
Population: 69.5 million
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 31
Life Expectancy: 70.7 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: 0.20%
Literacy Rate: 77%
Access to safe water: 94%



Education

The formal inauguration of the Bam School Reconstruction programme in Iran took place in December, 2006, at a ceremony attended by Irish Red Cross Secretary General, Carmel Dunne, and Vice-Chairman Tony Lawlor.

The contributions of the Irish Red Cross and Irish Government meant that Ireland was one of the largest contributors to the Bam School Reconstruction Programme with Irish Red Cross the sole financial contributor to the construction of the 1,812 sq m Montazeiri School, which has 10 classrooms and a capacity for 300 children.

Irish Red Cross donations also contributed towards the construction of eight other schools in Bam including three special schools with modified design, facilities, and equipment for disabled children as well as the Arg-e-Bam complex established as a model environment for inclusive learning in remote areas of Iran.

Disaster Response and Preparedness

The completion of the final two schools in Bam now concludes the Irish Red Cross project in Iran. This three-year project was founded on immense public support from Ireland. The Irish Red Cross thanks these donors and the Iranian Red Crescent Society and the people and children of Bam whose support enabled this successful outcome.



Young Iranian girls lie on the ruins of their quake-devastated home in Baba Pashman village.

Afghanistan

WAR/INSECURITY FACTBOX

Deaths: 6,000
Injured: 8,000-20,000
Homeless/Displaced: 200,000

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Water and Sanitation
Health

COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 652,000 sq km
Population: 29 million
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 165
Life Expectancy: 46.4 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: 0.10%
Literacy Rate: 28.1%
Access to safe water: 39%

Water and sanitation

Mounting insecurity and intense conflict continued to affect Afghanistan in 2006 posing enormous challenges to humanitarian agencies.

Large population movements in particular led to the formation of new neighbourhoods on the edge of larger cities often without adequate water and sanitation infrastructure or services, and posing a serious risk to health.

The Irish Red Cross supported ICRC-backed programmes to expand water networks into the poorest communities and to improve drainage, garbage collection and human waste disposal systems.

Health

Community members received complimentary hygiene training.

Russia Beslan

INSECURITY FACTBOX

Deaths: 331

Injured: 783

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Health



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 17 million sq km

Population: 143.8 million

Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 14

Life Expectancy: 65.2 years

Living with HIV and AIDS: 1.10%

Literacy Rate: 99.4%

Access to safe water: 97%



Health

The violent loss of life in a school where a thousand children and their teachers had been taken hostage, in the small community of Beslan in 2004 resulted in acute psychological trauma for all of the townspeople.

181

181 children died when violent clashes erupted after a three-day stand-off between heavily-armed militants and Russian security forces.

The deaths resulted following clashes between armed groups and Russian security forces after a three-day stand-off. Of the 331 people who were killed, more than half – 181 – were children.

In 2006 the Irish Red Cross maintained its ongoing support to the deeply traumatized children, parents and teachers of Beslan by financing a community-based psychological training programme. This programme funds local volunteer instructors to support-train the people of Beslan, who are supporting the victims by home visits, community events and workshops.



Flowers along the wall of the gym of the ruined school in Beslan, Russia.

Iraq

WAR/INSECURITY FACTBOX

Deaths: 53,000

Injured: 3,000

Homeless/Displaced: 4 million

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Disaster Response and Preparedness



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 438,000 sq km

Population: 26.5 million

Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 102

Life Expectancy: 59.2 years

Living with HIV and AIDS: N/A

Literacy Rate: 74.10%

Access to safe water: 81%

Disaster Response and Preparedness

2006 saw the continuation of death, injury, deprivation and fear for millions of Iraqis. The damage to vital infrastructure – water and sanitation, power supplies, and hospitals – coupled with prevailing chronic insecurity has forced many Iraqis to leave their home. In 2006 clear evidence emerged of an increasing number of Iraqis seeking refuge either outside the country or moving elsewhere within Iraq.

Furthermore, natural disasters in the form of localised flooding in some areas added still more to the burden of suffering leaving millions dependent on assistance.

The Irish Red Cross supported the efforts of the Iraqi Red Crescent to address the immediate suffering and vulnerability of the Iraqi population through the provision of emergency relief, where security permitted.

Kosovo

WAR/INSECURITY FACTBOX

Missing: 2,300

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Health



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: N/A

Population: N/A

Infant Mortality (per thousand births): N/A

Life Expectancy: N/A

Living with HIV and AIDS: N/A

Literacy Rate: N/A

Access to safe water: N/A

Health

More than 2,000 people are still officially listed as "missing", long after the conflict in Kosovo has come to an end.

Families of those who cannot be found and families of those whose bodies are gradually being unearthed, rely on the psychological support funded by the Irish Red Cross in conjunction with the International committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Over 500 relatives benefited from 25 psychological support projects organised by ICRC and implemented by family associations.

Lebanon

WAR/INSECURITY FACTBOX

Deaths: 1,000+

Homeless/Displaced: 9,000

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Disaster Response and Preparedness



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 10,400 sq km

Population: 4 million

Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 27

Life Expectancy: 72.2 years

Living with HIV and AIDS: N/A

Literacy Rate: N/A

Access to safe water: 100%

Disaster Response and Preparedness

Throughout July and August of 2006, the population of Lebanon endured the most intensive hostilities since the 1975-1991 civil wars that left the country in ruins.

The Irish Red Cross responded immediately by funding emergency food parcels to families in the country's capital Beirut and in the south where thousands of people sought emergency shelter to escape the intense bombardment of their villages on the Israeli border.

Palestine

WAR/INSECURITY FACTBOX

Registered Refugees:
(Gaza Strip 1,016,964)
(West Bank 722,000)

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Health



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: N/A

Population: N/A

Infant Mortality (per thousand births): N/A

Life Expectancy: N/A

Living with HIV and AIDS: N/A

Literacy Rate: N/A

Access to safe water: N/A

Health

The provision of blood supplies and emergency ambulance services relied upon by the people and government of the Palestinian territories in the West Bank and in Gaza, were supported in 2006 by the Irish Red Cross.

This support was provided through the Palestinian Red Crescent which received official and formal recognition as a Red Cross/Red Crescent society in 2006. An international financial embargo against the elected Palestinian government forced the Palestinians to rely more heavily on external humanitarian assistance to meet emergency health and other needs.



Displaced child on Mount Lebanon, near Beirut.

Philippines

FLOODS AND TYPHOONS FACTBOX

Deaths: 1,126 (Floods only)
1,400 (Typhoon)
Total Affected: 4 million

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Disaster Response
and Preparedness



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 300,000 sq km
Population: 83 million
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 25
Life Expectancy: 70.7 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: 0.10 %
Literacy Rate: 92.6%
Access to safe water: 85%



Disaster Response and Preparedness

A school and many hundreds of homes were completely submerged and an entire village (Guinsaugon) almost wiped out, by mudslides at the start of the year. The Irish Red Cross responded immediately, funding the provision of evacuation centres, food, and sleeping bags/mattresses/blankets.

Located in the Pacific "Ring of Fire", the Philippines is prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and landslides and in the latter quarter of the year when a succession of five typhoons hit the country, causing yet more devastation, the Irish Red Cross again funded the emergency response, ensuring that food supplies were delivered to people who had lost everything.



Anthony Enso, 23, hugs his son Anthony Enso Jr. at a hospital near Saint Bernard town in central Philippines February 19, 2006, after his one-year-old son was rescued from mudslides which buried the village of Guinsaugon, near Saint Bernard town.



India

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Communications/
Public Information



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 3.1 million sq km
Population: 1.1 billion
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 56
Life Expectancy: 63.6 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: 0.90 %
Literacy Rate: 61%
Access to safe water: 86%

Communications/Public Information

In 2006, India became the 10th country in Asia to report cases of the H5N1 bird influenza virus amongst poultry, and with large domestic and international markets for poultry products, the health and livelihoods of many were exposed to the risk of further outbreaks.

To prevent the loss of human life and to safeguard the livelihoods of farmers and people who rely on rearing their own poultry, the Irish Red Cross helped to fund a public awareness campaign, run by the Indian Red Cross. The purpose of the campaign was to change behaviour so that people took care when they and their families were near poultry or handling poultry.

Timor-Leste (East Timor)

Water and Sanitation

In January, 2006, a series of storms affected Timor Leste in the aftermath of floods resulting in damage to more than 1,200 homes, severe losses to livelihoods, and damage to agricultural production.

The Irish Red Cross provided funds that were needed to clean and treat damaged wells and to build a further 12 wells, ensuring clean water for 3,000 people.

In one district, 100 metre deep wells were contaminated by floodwater rendering it unsuitable for human consumption and leading to reported effects on local health.

3,000

The Irish Red Cross ensured clean water for 3,000 people by providing funds to clean and treat damaged wells and building a further 12 wells.

FLOODS AND STORMS FACTBOX

Homeless/Displaced: 30,000

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Water and Sanitation



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 14,870 sq km
Population: 94.7 million
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 52
Life Expectancy: 56 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: N/A
Literacy Rate: N/A
Access to safe water: 58%



Unloading of relief items destined for internally displaced people, Dili airport, Timor-Leste.

Dembihara, Moyale District, Ethiopia.





Niger

POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION (DROUGHT AND FLOODS) FACTBOX

Homeless/Displaced: 15,610
(Floods only)
At Risk: 2.5 million

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Livelihood/
Back-to-work
Programme
Disaster Response
and Preparedness



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 1.27 million sq km
Population: 14 million
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 150
Life Expectancy: 44.6 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: 1.10%
Literacy Rate: 28.7%
Access to safe water: 13%

Livelihood/Back to work Programmes

In 2006, the Irish Red Cross continued its programme of investment in thousands of farmers and small businesspeople/craft workers in some of the poorest and most isolated communities in the world.

Just under 9,000 people whose lives had been destroyed and whose incomes had been wiped out by poverty and crop failures – partly attributable to global warming (desertification) – were helped get back on their feet and support their families.

Irish Aid provided close to €1 million (Euro 957,000) to fund this small grants programme which paid for camels, donkeys, goats, cereals, palm leaves or small cash awards for 8,933 people living in the Agadez region of northern Niger.

8,933

8,933 people in the Agadez region of northern Niger benefited from grants of camels, donkeys, goats, cereals, palm leaves or small cash grants.

Disaster Response and Preparedness

The money provided by Irish Aid also helped fund an Irish Red Cross programme to equip local Red Cross members with training and equipment so that communities across the Agadez region would be in a better position to deal with crises and disasters in their own areas.

Tents, blankets and food were quickly made available to the people of Bilma (pop. 4,000) when floods forced 80% of them to flee their homes in August.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies massive bednets distribution campaign. 2,030,000 Long-lasting, insecticide treated mosquito nets were distributed in an effort to protect 3.5 million children from malaria. Transporting the nets to landlocked Niger then delivering them to 3,800 distribution points was a huge logistical task for the International Federation and its partners.

Malawi

POVERTY AND HIV/AIDS FACTBOX

Affected: 700,000 orphaned due to epidemic

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Disaster Response
and Preparedness
Water and Sanitation
Health



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 118,000 sq km
Population: 12.6 million
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 110
Life Expectancy: 39.8 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: 14.1 %
Literacy Rate: N/A
Access to safe water: 61%

Disaster Response and Preparedness

Half of Malawi's children aged under five are malnourished owing to food shortages which have affected more than 4.5 million people in Malawi, reflecting wider food insecurity across much of southern Africa. HIV/AIDS is also severely affecting some families – particularly the adult breadwinners and the country has also been dogged by unpredictable rainfall, rendering crop and livestock planning extremely difficult.

37,000

In response to the growing hunger, the Irish Red Cross provided food parcels to 37,000 families.

A combination of HIV/AIDS, erratic rain patterns and weakened government capacities resulted in an increased number of chronically food-insecure households in Southern Africa in 2006. More than 4.5 million people in Malawi were recorded as being food insecure, with half of children under five malnourished. The Irish Red Cross provided €100,000 towards food distributions assisting more than 37,000 Malawian families with monthly food packs until June 2006, when the harvest was due.

Water and Sanitation

Clean water and latrines are not only a vital emergency provision, but are also a long-term investment in ensuring that girls get an education, as it is girls who are charged with fetching water from far-off wells and it is girls who for practical reasons cannot attend schools that have inadequate facilities. Yet the education of girls is essential to the long-term development of Malawi and other African countries in order to reduce early marriage and early childbirth among women.

Our programme – supported by Irish Aid – to provide clean water and latrines to 12,000 people in the Lilongwe area is a practical action that will meet immediate needs and also have this longer-term positive impact.

Health

Malaria is one of the world's biggest killers – especially of children, killing a child every 30 seconds and claiming a total of a million lives a year.

With 5,000 children cared for at the Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe, the Irish Red Cross responded to a call from Irish nuns of the Medical Missionaries of Mary for funds to pay for specially-treated mosquito nets. The nets will prevent malaria-bearing mosquitoes from infecting the children while in hospital and are also being given to their families to prevent infection at home.



Malawi Red Cross volunteers visited Stella Jeffly's home when she was pregnant. Stella, 16, received a mosquito net with information about malaria. Volunteers have also taken care that her child Mercy is properly vaccinated.

Sudan Darfur

INSECURITY FACTBOX

Deaths: 200,000

Homeless/Displaced: 2.5 million

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Water and Sanitation

Livelihoods/

Back-to-work

Logistics

COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 2.5 million sq km

Population: 36.2 million

Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 102

Life Expectancy: 56.5 years

Living with HIV and AIDS: 1.60%

Literacy Rate: 69.2%

Access to improved water: 70%



Water and Sanitation

Over 700,000 people in Darfur had water supplies provided as a result of an operation which was part-funded by the Irish Red Cross.

Livelihoods/Back-to-work

Farmers living in Darfur were supplied with seeds to enable them to remain in their communities and provide food for their families.

700,000

Over 700,000 people received water supplies as a result of an operation part-funded by the Irish Red Cross.

Logistics

Danger to both local people and to humanitarian organizations trying to reach them remains very real. Sadly one driver was killed in one of 37 separate security incidents borne by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and national teams of Red Cross/Red Crescent aid-workers

However, the Sudan/Darfur operation remained the largest operation run anywhere in the world by the ICRC for the third year in succession.

In support of this operation, the Irish Red Cross continued to fund a specialist in aid deliveries and airlifts of aid.



Hassa Hessa Camp for Internally Displaced Persons in Zalingei, Darfur, September 2005.

Kenya

DROUGHT AND FLOODS FACTBOX

Total Affected – 723,000
(Floods only)

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Livelihoods/
Back-to-work

COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 580,000 sq km

Population: 34.3 million

Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 79

Life Expectancy: 48 years

Living with HIV and AIDS: 6.10%

Literacy Rate: 73.6%

Access to safe water: 61%

Livelihoods/Back-to-work

This year both floods and drought devastated Kenya and many other countries in East/Horn of Africa region. The floods proved a cruel and devastating environmental twist, coming on the back of the previous year's drought which had already weakened people, destroyed their livestock and weakened the land's ability to absorb torrential downpours.

€50,000

The Irish Red Cross contributed €50,000 in support of the Kenyan Red Cross in assisting the most affected populations with the provision of seeds in line with our focus on livelihood recovery activities.

In July the Irish Red Cross donated a further €50,000 to the Kenyan Red Cross re-stocking of livestock programme in the worst affected northern region of the country.

Ethiopia

FLOODS FACTBOX

Deaths: 498
Homeless/Displaced: 8,000
Total Affected: 40,000

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Disaster Response and Preparedness
Livelihoods/
Back-to-work
Water and Sanitation



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 1,000,000 sq km
Population: 80.1 million
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 109
Life Expectancy: 51 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: 1.4%
Literacy Rate: 48.5%
Access to safe water: 22%

Disaster Response and Preparedness

Emergency food supplies were provided by the Irish Red Cross to Ethiopian families who lost everything in the 2006 floods disaster that devastated countries in the East/Horn of Africa.

€100,000

The Irish Red Cross provided €100,000 towards the purchase of seeds, tools and cholera prevention kits.

Livelihoods/Back-to-work/Health

The Irish Red Cross provided €100,000 towards the purchase of seeds and tools to allow for harvest recovery as well as cholera prevention kits, which were an urgent priority.

Water and Sanitation

The Irish Red Cross funded water and sanitation projects in southern Ethiopia.

The Irish Red Cross maintained its humanitarian work in Ethiopia in spite of a serious security incident when two Red Cross staff, one of whom was an Irish Red Cross delegate, were kidnapped on 18 September.

Sligo engineer, Donal O'Suilleabhain and an Ethiopian colleague (who prefers not to be named) were abducted by an armed group in eastern Ethiopia (Somali Regional State) while returning back to their base. The pair were part of a Red Cross convoy of three vehicles carrying seven Ethiopian staff and one Irish delegate. The group were engaged in water projects in Ethiopia's Somali Regional State. Both men were released unharmed after 5 days in captivity on 23rd of September 2006.



Buke Robe, 30, of Tuka, and her sick son, Chaltu, nine months. Chaltu became sick from drinking the milk of a sick cow. Most cattle are ill due to drinking contaminated water and starvation.

Indian Ocean islands

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Disaster Response and Preparedness



The Indian Ocean islands located just off the east coast of Africa, comprising Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles are prone to natural disaster including cyclones and floods. Irish Red Cross Delegate Susanna Cunningham has been appointed to develop disaster preparedness strategies to help these islands protect themselves better from disasters.

COUNTRY PROFILE: COMOROS

Area: 2,330 sq km
Population: 0.8 million
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 51
Life Expectancy: 64 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: 0.1%
Literacy Rate: 56%
Access to improved water: 86%

COUNTRY PROFILE: MAURITIUS

Area: 2,030 sq km
Population: 1.3 million
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 13
Life Expectancy: 72 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: 0.6%
Literacy Rate: 84%
Access to improved water: 53%

COUNTRY PROFILE: MADAGASCAR

Area: 581,540 sq km
Population: 19.2 million
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 72
Life Expectancy: 58 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: 0.5%
Literacy Rate: 69%
Access to safe water: 50%

COUNTRY PROFILE: SEYCHELLES

Area: 450 sq km
Population: 0.1 million
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 12
Life Expectancy: 72 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: NA
Literacy Rate: 91%
Access to safe water: 88%

Somalia

FLOODS AND INSECURITY FACTBOX

Total Affected: 500,000 (Floods only)

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Disaster Response
and Preparedness



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 637,000 sq km
Population: 82 million
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 133
Life Expectancy: 47 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: 0.90%
Literacy Rate: N/A
Access to safe water: 29%



Disaster Response and Preparedness

Thousands of people were given emergency food supplies as a result of emergency action by the Irish Red Cross to help people forced to flee their homes as a result of conflict involving Ethiopian armed forces and local armed militants towards the end of the year.

This followed the delivery of earlier emergency food supplies to people facing hunger as a result of severe floods at the start of the year.



A villager wades through the flood waters that destroyed his home along the Juba river in southern Somalia. After years of drought Somalia is suffering from the worst flooding in over 50 years leaving an estimated 120 killed and tens of thousands homeless.



Liberia

WAR/INSECURITY FACTBOX

Deaths: 250,000
Homeless/Displaced: 500,000
- 600,000

PROJECT FACTBOX

Operations: Logistics



COUNTRY PROFILE

Area: 111,000 sq km
Population: 3.3 million
Infant Mortality (per thousand births): 157
Life Expectancy: 42.4 years
Living with HIV and AIDS: N/A
Literacy Rate: 39.2%
Access to safe water: 61%

Logistics

The conclusion of serious conflict in Liberia has seen the return of thousands of people who fled to neighbouring countries during the conflict there. The Irish Red Cross continues to support the rebuilding and development of Liberia through the deployment of a specialist delegate to ensure the delivery of essential supplies to all areas.



Women receiving rice and vegetable seeds in Honeyuan, Liberia.

Communications and Fundraising

40	Media Coverage
40	Publications
40	New website
41	New Archive
41	Promoting International Humanitarian Law
41	ConnectWorld
41	Fundraising

Communications and Fundraising

Media Coverage

Media interest in the work done by the Irish Red Cross in 2006 remained high throughout much of the year, winning international, national and local audiences.

There was intense media interest arising from the kidnapping of our Ethiopia-based delegate Donal O'Suilleabhain. The Sligo engineer and his Ethiopian colleague were released after five days.

Elsewhere in Africa, the visit by our Chairman, David Andrews to Kenya played a role in raising awareness about serious food shortages in the wider region, including Ethiopia. Media coverage on television and in newspapers of the visit and the issue of food shortages was greatly helped by our colleagues from the Norwegian Red Cross who arranged for the coverage and supply of free interviews and pictures.

The valuable work done by our Chairman David Andrews in promoting humanitarian action was recognised by the government of France, at a special reception in Paris to mark the presentation of the French legion d'honneur (Legion of Honour) to the Irish Red Cross Chairman, which was covered by the media here.

There was also media coverage of crises in Lebanon, Malawi, Niger, the Philippines, tsunami-affected countries, including Indonesia which was struck again by disaster in 2006 by an earthquake affecting Yogyakarta and the surrounding region.

The media were also reminded of the very many crises which do not secure headlines, owing to their ongoing nature, with the publication of the World Disaster Report 2006: Focus on Neglected Crises. This was co-funded for the first time by the Irish Red Cross, along with Irish Aid who had previously also co-funded the Report.

At home a major public-awareness campaign to highlight the action needed to prevent sudden adult death, due to heart failures, was launched on World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day.

The campaign, entitled "Cross-Out Day" aimed to place an Automated External Defibrillator in every community in Ireland. Immediate access to defibrillators can be vital to prevent death in some cardiac failure cases. The Irish Red Cross thanks the Irish Academy of Public Relations, and student, Ms Roxanne Macara, who originated the campaign theme.

Media interest in the issue was considerable owing to the fact that the numbers of deaths from cardiac failure is higher in Ireland than in almost any other country and hundreds of new members joined the Red Cross in many towns, villages and rural areas across Ireland.

Media interest was also generated by the Major Emergency Planning Seminar, addressed by experts in the field and opened by our Vice-Chairman, Tony Lawlor.

Publications

2006 also proved a year of change and growth, following on from the activities of 2005 which saw the level of unforeseen disasters dominating the output of Communications. Consequent delays in publications were addressed in 2006, leading to extra output of annual reports and magazines.

New website

New initiatives were also brought forward with the creation of a new website, reflecting the growth in the scope and number of activities undertaken by the Irish Red Cross. www.redcross.ie



As part of its Cross Out Day campaign, The Irish Red Cross supplied a defibrillator, paid for by the Robbie Simpson Trust, to St Andrews School. Minister for Education and Science, Ms Mary Hanafin TD (centre back) school principal, Arthur Godsil and Robbie's mother, Anne Simpson. Front row; Fifth-year students. Ciara Kelly, Mark Bree and Charlotte Fenning.



www.redcross.ie



Lights, camera, action. Minister for Health and Children, Ms Mary Harney TD, gives media interviews as she launches seven new ambulances co-funded by her department.



Irish Red Cross Delegate Donal O'Suilleabháin was the object of intensive media interest following his capture by militants in Ethiopia. He and his colleague were eventually released after five days.



George Reid, Speaker of the Scottish House of Parliament, pictured on his visit to the Irish Red Cross Head Office in October.

New Archive

And for the first time in its history, the Irish Red Cross established an electronic photo archive based on the funding available to develop this as a pilot project.

It is essential that we continue to build upon our successful media operations to ensure that people who support the work of the Red Cross locally, nationally and internationally can see for themselves the value of their time and financial support for this work. And it is line with the practice of our international partners – particularly in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – to become a preferred point-of-contact for the media for all disasters.

International Humanitarian Law

A law student from Ireland again succeeded in securing a place on the special course run annually in Warsaw by the ICRC in conjunction with the Polish Red Cross. Mr Colin Smith from Rathfarnham, Dublin achieved a place on the course which is open to students of law and/or international studies from Europe and North America.

ConnectWorld

In 2006 practical measures to help Irish journalists tell the story of what Irish aid agencies like the Irish Red Cross are doing overseas, were taken with the establishment of ConnectWorld. The purpose of ConnectWorld is to streamline communications so that that people in Ireland get a clearer picture of the work being done overseas with their money by the various agencies working on their behalf. www.connect-world.net

Fundraising

An active programme of fundraising and awareness campaigns were implemented during 2006. The contributions and donations from Irish individuals, companies, organisations and communities have been used in implementing the various humanitarian and First Aid programmes at home and abroad.

Appeals for donations to campaigns for the Java earthquake, and the Lebanese humanitarian crisis were successful. A special campaign was launched to attract young people aged 18 to 35 to visit the Red Cross website and to consider making donations. A major campaign aimed at attracting sponsorship for FACE; the international First Aid competition was launched in 2006, and the event took place in Ireland in July 2007.

Summary Accounts

Revenue Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2006

	2006 €	2006 €	2005 €	2005 €
Unrestricted Funds				
Income	3,393,159		3,128,320	
Expenditure	(2,460,480)		(2,535,107)	
Surplus on unrestricted funds		932,679		593,213
Restricted Funds				
Income	5,021,546		35,875,617	
Expenditure	(10,898,248)		(9,410,646)	
(Deficit)/surplus on restricted funds		(5,876,702)		26,464,971
(Deficit)/excess of income over expenditure		(4,944,023)		27,058,184

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 2006 on which we reported, without qualification, on 17th November 2007.

BDO Simpson Xavier
Registered Auditors Dublin.

Revenue Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2006

	2006 €	2006 €	2005 €	2005 €
Unrestricted Funds income				
Government grant aided income	780,000		758,000	
Cross Out Day	118,393		0	
Branch contributions	169,543		110,745	
General receipts	1,943,610		1,996,282	
Surplus on supplies	33,895		49,011	
Projects in Ireland	270,036		203,865	
Designated funds - Joseph Kessel	77,682		10,417	
	3,393,159		3,128,320	
Expenditure				
Government grant aided expenditure				
- Payroll and staff costs	1,033,914		1,089,301	
Services in Ireland	546,457		506,373	
Projects in Ireland	150,213		119,248	
Public relations	108,604		45,019	
Fundraising	80,861		22,015	
Cross Out Day	112,625		0	
Face Project	11,005		0	
Strategic review	5,968		0	
Administration	179,131		139,807	
Premises	62,089		55,204	
Professional fees	51,970		62,608	
Affiliation fees	80,905		79,235	
General	30,000		413,115	
Designated funds - Joseph Kessel	6,738		3,182	
	2,460,480		2,535,107	
Surplus on unrestricted funds		932,679		593,213
Restricted funds				
Income on restricted funds	5,021,546		35,875,617	
Expenditure on restricted funds	(10,898,248)		(9,410,646)	
(Deficit)/surplus on restricted funds		(5,876,702)		26,464,971
(Deficit)/excess of income over expenditure		(4,944,023)		27,058,184

Picture credits

Page 4	Lensmen
Page 5	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Page 11	Top pic: Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue Team, Bottom pic: Jean-Pierre Launay
Pages 12-13	Irish Red Cross
Page 15	Maxwell Photography
Page 16	Limerick Team: Maxwell Photography. All other pics: Jean-Pierre Launay
Page 17	Jean-Pierre Launay
Page 21	Arne Hodalic/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Pages 22-23	Joe Lowry/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
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Page 27	REUTERS/Morteza Nikoubazl
Page 28	Rita Plotnikova/Russian Red Cross
Page 29	CICR/KOKIC, Marko
Page 30	REUTERS/Bobby Yip
Page 31	R. Bigler/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
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Page 36	Olav Saltbones/Norwegian Red Cross
Page 37	Daniel Cima/American Red Cross
Page 38	Somalia: REUTERS/Stephen Morrison/Pool Liberia: Boris Heger/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Page 40	Maxwell Photography
Page 41	Mary Harney: Maxwell Photography, Donal O'Suilleabhain: Lensmen, George Reid: Lensmen.

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