



Humanity
Impartiality
Neutrality
Independence
Voluntary Service
Unity
Universality

04—25

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Our Vision

The vision of the Irish Red Cross is to be a leading humanitarian organisation, providing impartial services and support to vulnerable people and communities both at home and abroad.

Our Mission

Our mission is to identify and deliver humanitarian assistance, both at home and abroad, to those who are most in need. In achieving this we will be guided by the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and promote these principles to inspire policy and attitudinal change.

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2018 was a difficult year for the Irish Red Cross, but those difficulties did not put a halt to the superb work of our volunteers all over the country, who in 2018 went above and beyond the call of duty.

In 2018 Irish Red Cross volunteers executed rescues across a variety of very difficult contexts which included life-saving incidents on the water, cardiac arrests, and last but not least Beast from the East and Storm Emma. During these snow storms, Irish Red Cross volunteers completed a staggering 272 call-outs. Our volunteers should be very proud of all they achieved in 2018; Ireland is a safer place thanks to their voluntary effort.

—— The work of the Society's members with older people and carers was another stand-out feature of 2018 which showed the commitment of our health and social care volunteers to provide much-needed services and supports to vulnerable people.

—— The continued development of our youth infrastructure in 2018 is also to be celebrated. There were understandable concerns given the lack of financial resources available centrally to support our youth programmes and this presented a challenge for the youth programme leaders. But they responded, ensuring more curtailed programmes took place. The Irish Red Cross' youth programmes give younger members a strong sense of their role in Irish society as humanitarians and give us as a Society hope for the future, that the organisation will be in capable hands. This was seen especially in the specific youth led and focused workshops on the development of the new Irish Red Cross strategy.

—— The welcome merging of the commercial department with the national training department took place in 2018. This has enabled the Society to retain and grow its position as the leading provider of first aid training in Ireland and will give additional support to members in ensuring that the new and very high standards set by the regulator Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) will continue to be met. First aid training is not without its challenges in Ireland given the

mission of the Society to build the knowledge of first aid and the level of expertise in all our communities. This mission is under pressure from commercial providers whose intentions, while practical, are less altruistic. We believe we are up to this challenge with our new combined national and commercial training platform supported by an enhanced IT infrastructure.

—— The provision of accommodation and integration supports to migrants was also a key focus in 2018. The fact that so many families and individuals welcomed refugees into their homes and communities is a mark of the open society Ireland has developed into. Advocacy in this regard was a new feature of Irish Red Cross activity in 2018, specifically around issues of income support and ensuring the availability of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

—— The health and nonviolence programme in Irish prisons continued to develop in 2018. A new aspect of the programme was the agreement by the dormant accounts fund to support the development of the programme led by ex-prisoners into their communities of origin. The programme itself has expanded beyond the physical health, first aid and nonviolence to encompass supports around mental health in Irish prisons.

—— When we look at the monies raised and projects supported in Yemen, Syria, Indonesia and now once again in Nepal, we understand the value the Red Cross brings to communities around the world. The presence of Irish delegates in combat zones and disaster areas on behalf of the ICRC and IFRC are strong reminders to Irish society of the value the Red Cross brings to some of the most dangerous conflict and disaster areas worldwide. The United Nations and Red Cross theme of "Leave No One Behind" is being fulfilled by so many Irish people.

—— Within Ireland, the Irish Red Cross continued with its specific mandate to raise awareness in the area of international humanitarian law. This involved bringing to the fore issues such as the bombing of hospitals, schools and food convoys. One very practical way the Irish Red Cross raised awareness around international humanitarian law (IHL) in 2018 was via the Corn Adomnáin. This competition sets challenges for university students which involve real-life dilemmas faced in war zones every day. The students are asked to use their legal knowledge to find a solution.

—— In 2018 we also welcomed new developments in our member services IT systems, enabling members to join and renew their membership in a more efficient manner. These new developments also give members

access to an effective Irish Red Cross email system and an online Garda vetting system. A new eFáilte training system for new members was developed together with the member database portal to assist volunteer leaders more effectively manage local duty rotas. These interventions have also allowed the Society use IT systems to ensure communications engaged in by membership are compliant with new GDPR provisions introduced this year.

—— 2018 was a challenging period for the Society. The harsh reality recognised by the Board a few months into the year was that the Irish Red Cross core services can be provided only when the human and financial resources are in place to deliver them. The central services required by Irish Red Cross membership and the shortfall in resources available to provide such became very clear when the Society engaged with members nationwide in the development of a new strategy. The development of this strategy was independently facilitated, and involved member and staff consultative workshops, extensive surveys and stakeholder engagement. By mid 2018, a clear picture had emerged; Irish Red Cross membership wanted additional support from head office for first aid training, event cover, community transport services and services for vulnerable people in local communities.

—— It also became evident during these consultations that apart from our youth membership which has blossomed, the number of Irish Red Cross members has decreased. At the consultation meetings, members voiced concerns that while the need for their services had grown and the standards required to deliver the services had expanded, the number of members had decreased and the financial resources required to deliver the services had increased significantly.

Unfortunately these concerns became apparent at a time when the Society centrally experienced a serious cash flow problem. However it provided an opportunity for the Society to tackle both issues at once by realigning our finances to meet the needs and concerns of the membership.

—— A reorganisation of the Society began, with the aim of realigning the central services team. The intention of this restructuring was to stabilise the Society and initially resulted in a 15% reduction in staffing and programme support. The impact of this restructuring and the cost savings involved have given a sense of realism to the Society as to what a leading humanitarian organisation in Ireland can deliver, but at the same time our values and principles mean we believe we must retain our ambition. The new strategy launched in July 2019 reflects this ambition tempered with realism. The strategy will initially lead to stabilisation and later growth in the recruitment of new members and in the development of the core work of the Irish Red Cross in Ireland. We are looking forward to working through this process and guiding the Society to a positive, stable future.

—— Throughout this period and following discussions with our lead Government Department the Department of Defence, the auxiliary role of, and service provided by the Irish Red Cross was recognised, and the Minister for Defence sanctioned an increase in the core grant to the Society. This was deeply appreciated by the Board and membership of the Irish Red Cross. During this consultation and reflection period, the Society was subject to interest and comment in the media. The significant reduction in our central international support services and our lack of clarity around how the organisation managed restricted funding left us open to criticism. The loss of some of our international

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colleagues and the closure of our programme in Niger in West Africa were significant disappointments but were based on the reality that our funding was in short supply. Our management of restricted funds lacked a consistent approach but was shown following an independent review to be appropriate, with all monies spent correctly and accounted for. The negative press affected our capacity to fundraise during this period.

—————2018 saw a significant and positive change in the governance structure of our organisation. Five new independent people were nominated to the General Assembly of the Society together with a further seven new members from within the organisation. The General Assembly elected a new Board of Directors which now includes six independent people with specific expertise and knowledge. This unprecedented and welcome move has brought additional insight and oversight to the governance of our organisation. New task-related committees of the Board have also been set up with a refreshed membership to advise and support the work of the Board and staff of the organisation.

—————One of the highlights of 2018 was the Irish Red Cross Humanitarian Awards Ball in November. This event was supported by many of our corporate colleagues and friends of the Society, raising an income of €140,000 for our programmes in Ireland, Yemen, Indonesia and Syria. The inaugural Humanitarian Awards were a profound and moving event recognising and celebrating the humanitarian work of our defence forces, human rights campaigners, media and business colleagues and young people.

—————In April the organisation celebrated our National Volunteer Awards in Croke Park. This wonderful event which was attended by 250 members re-emphasised the extraordinary work engaged in by our volunteers throughout Ireland.

—————Finally I wish to thank the Board members, the various committees of the Board and the staff in Merrion Square for whom 2018 was a challenging year.

———Ráiteas réamheolais leis an gCathaoirleach agus Ard-Rúnaí

Ba bhliain dheacair í 2018 do Chumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann, ach níor chuir na ndeacrachtaí sin stad ar obair iontach ár n-oibrithe deonacha ar fud na tíre agus i 2018 rinne siad i bhfad níos mó obair ná mar a bhí de dhualgas orthu a dhéanamh.

I 2018 rinne oibrithe deonacha Chumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann tarrthálacha thar réimse éagsúl de chomhthéacsanna fíor-dheacair. Ina measc bhí eachtraí tarthála ar an uisce, i gcás stadanna cairdiacha, agus gan dearmad a dhéanamh ar an ‘Torathar ón Oirthear’ agus ar Stoirm Emma. Le linn na stoirmeacha sneachta sin, ghlac oibrithe deonacha Chumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann le líon dochreidte de 272 ghlao amach, agus cuirtear gach uile cheann i gcríoch. Ba cheart dár n-oibrithe deonacha a bheith thar a bheith bródúil as an méid a bhain siad amach in 2018; is áit níos sábháilte í Éireann de bharr na n-iarrachtaí deonacha.

—————Is ábhar súntasach i 2018 í obair bhaill an Chumainn le daoine seanaois agus le cúramóirí. Léiríodh an obair seo tiomantas ár n-oibrithe deonacha, sa réimse sláinte agus cúraim shóisialta, chun seirbhísí agus tacaí a chur ar fáil do dhaoine leochaileacha.

—————Is ábhar ceiliúrtha freisin an fhorbairt a tharla ar ár mbonneagar don óige i 2018. Bhí imní laistigh den chumainn mar gheall ar easpa acmhainní airgeadais ag teacht ón phríomhoifig chun tacú lenar gcláir don óige agus chruthaigh sé sin dúshlán do cheannairí na gclár don óige. Ach rinne siad obair gaisciúl chun a cinntiú go raibh cláir níos srianta ar siúl. Trí chláir Chumainn Croise Deirge na hÉireann don óige tugtar mothú láidir do na baill níos óige faoina ról i sochaí na hÉireann mar dhaonnúlaigh agus is cúis dóchais don Chumann iad don todhchaí, go mbeidh an eagraíocht i lámha cumasach. Chonacthas sin go speisialta sna ceardlanna faoi cheannas na hóige, a bhí dírithe ar an óige, maidir le straitéis nua Chumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann a fhorbairt.

—————D’fháiltigh an chumann leis an comhcheangail den roinn tráchtála agus an roinn oiliúna náisiúnta i 2018. Chuir sé seo le chumas an Chumainn a stádas

a choimead, agus a fhás, mar an phríomhsholáthraí de oiliúnt garchabhrach in Éirinn agus tabharfar sé seo tacaíocht bhreise do bhaill chun a chinntiú go leanfar leis na gcaighdeán nua agus an-arda a leag an rialtóir (PHECC—an Chomhairle um Chúram Éigeandála Réamhospidéil). Baineann roinnt dúshlán le hoiliúint gharchabhrach in Éirinn freisin. Ós rud é gur é ceann de bunchuspóir an Chumainn eolas ar gharchabhair agus leibhéal an tsaineolais inár bpobail a fhorbairt, tá sé faoi bhrú ó sholáthraithe tráchtála nach bhfuil a gcuspóirí, cé go bhfuil siad praiticiúil, chomh soilíosach. Creidimid go bhfuilimid in ann don dúshlán seo trínár oiliúna náisiúnta agus tráchtála comhcheangailte nua atá tacaíthe ag bonneagar teicneolaíochta faisnéise (TF) nua.

—————Ba phríomhfhócas é i 2018 freisin ná an soláthar de tacaíocht lóistín agus imeascadh d’imircigh. Is comhartha den tsochaí oscailte atá againn anois in Éirinn an fhiric gur chuir an oiread sin teaghlach agus daoine aonair fáilte roimh imircigh isteach ina mbailte agus ina bpobail. Bhí abhcóideacht maidir leis seo ina gné nua de ghníomhaíocht Chumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann in 2018, go speisialta le gceisteanna a bhaineann le tacaíocht ioncaim agus infhaighteacht HAP (Íocaíocht Cúnaimh Tithíochta) a chinntiú.

—————Leanadh leis an bhforbairt ar an gcláir sláinte agus neamhfhoréigin i bpríosúin in Éirinn i 2018. Ba ghné nua den chlár ná an comhaontú a rinne Ciste na gCuntas Díomhaoin chun tacú le forbairt an chláir faoi cheannas iar-phríosúnaithe isteach ina bpobail dúchasach. Leathnaíodh an clár é féin lasmuigh de shláinte fhisiceach, de gharchabhair agus de neamhfhoréigean chun tacaí do cláranna mheabhairshláinte i bpríosúin in Éirinn a chuimsiú.

—————Nuair a breathnaímid ar an airgead a thiomsaíodh agus ar na tionscadail ar tugadh tacaíocht dóibh in Éimin, sa tSiria, san Indinéis agus arís anois i Neipeal, tuigimid an luach a thugann Cumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann chuig pobail ar fud an domhain. Is meabhrú láidir í láithreacha thoscairí na hÉireann i gcriosanna comhraic agus i láithreacha tubaiste ar son ICRC (Coiste Idirnáisiúnta na Croise Deirge) agus IFRC (Cónaidhm Idirnáisiúnta Chumainn na Croise Deirge agus an Chorráin Dheirg) do sochaí na hÉireann den luach a thugann obair an Chumainn chuig na láithreacha coibhleachta agus tubaiste is contúirtí ar domhan. Tá téama na Náisiún Aontaithe agus Chumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann, “Duine ar Bith a Fhág inár nDiaidh”, á chomhlíonadh ag go leor Éireannach.

————— In Éirinn, lean Cumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann lena sainordú chun feasacht a mhúscailt i réimse an dlí dhaonnúil idirnáisiúnta. Is é a bhí i gceist leis sin ná súntais a tharraingt chun ceisteanna maidir le buamáil ospidéal, scoileanna agus conbhuanann bia. Ba é bealach praiticiúil amháin trína ndearna Cumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann feasacht a mhúscailt maidir le dlí daonnúil idirnáisiúnta (IHL) in 2018 ná comórtas Chorn Adomnáin. Le linn an chomórtas leagtar amach dúshlán do mhic léinn ollscoile ina bhfuil ceisteanna ón bhfíorshaol a bhíonn os comhair daoine i láithreacha cogaidh gach lá. Iarrtar ar na mic léinn a gcuid eolais ar an dlí a úsáid chun réiteach a aimsiú.

————— I 2018 chuireamar fáilte freisin roimh fhorbairtí nua inár gcórais TF do sheirbhísí don bhallraíocht, cumasaítear é seo do ár mbaill a bhallraíocht a ghlacadh nó a athnuachan ar bhealach níos éifeachtaí. Leis na forbairtí nua sin tugtar rochtain do bhaill ar chóras ríomhphoist éifeachtach de chuid Chumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann agus ar chóras grinnfhiosrúcháin ar líne an Gharda Síochána. Forbraíodh córas oiliúna ‘eFáilte’ nua do bhaill nua in éineacht leis an tairseach bunachar sonraí do bhaill chun cuidiú le ceannairí na n-oibrithe deonacha uainchláir dualgas áitiúla a bhainistiú i bhfad níos éifeachtaí. Trí na ionchur sin ligeadh don Chumann an córais TF a úsáid chun a chinntiú go bhfuil an cumarsáid ina bhfuil an bhallraíocht páirteach comhlíontach leis na forálacha GDPR (an Rialachán Ginearálta maidir le Cosaint Sonraí) a dtugadh isteach i mbliana.

————— Ba bhliain dhúshlánach í 2018 don Chumann. D’aithin an Bord roinnt míonna isteach sa bhliain nach féidir príomhsheirbhísí Chumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann a sholáthar ach amháin nuair a bhíonn na hacmhainní daonna agus airgeadais ar fáil chun iad a sheachad. D’éirigh sé soiléir go raibh easnamh sna

hacmhainní a bhí ar fáil chun na seirbhísí lárnacha a theastaíonn ó bhallraíocht an Chumann nuair a rinne an Cumann teagmháil le baill ar fud na tíre chun straitéis nua a fhorbairt. Éascaíoch an fhorbairt ar an straitéis sin go neamhspleách, is é a bhí i gceist leis seo ná ceardlanna comhairliúcháin leis an mballraíocht agus leis an bhfoireann, suirbhéanna fairsinge agus rannpháirtíocht leis na páirtithe leasmhara. Faoi lár na mbliana i 2018, bhí íomhá shoiléir tar éis tar amach; bhí tacaíocht bhreise de dhíth ó bhallraíocht Chumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann ón gceannoifig maidir le hoiliúint gharchabhrach, clúdach le haghaidh imeachtaí, seirbhísí iompair san phobail agus seirbhísí do dhaoine leochaileacha i bpobail áitiúla.

————— Anuas ar sin, d’éirigh sé soiléir le linn na gcomhairliúcháin sin go raibh laghdú tagtha ar líon na mball de Chumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann, seachas ár mballraíocht óige a bhí méadaithe go mór. Ag na cruinnithe comhairliúcháin chur na baill in iúl go raibh imní orthu, cé go raibh an t-éileamh ar a seirbhísí méadaithe agus gur leathnaíodh an caighdeán a theastaítear chun na seirbhísí sin a sholáthar, tháinig laghdú súntasach ar líon na mball agus ar mhéid na n-acmhainní airgeadais a bheadh de dhíth chun na seirbhísí sin a sholáthar. Ar an droch-uair, d’éirigh na buarthaí sin soiléir le linn tréimhse nuair a bhí fadhb thromchúiseach ag an gCumann maidir le sreabhadh airgid. Áfach, soláthraíodh na deachrachaí seo deis don Chumann chun dul i ngleic leis an dá cheist ag an am céanna trínár gcúrsaí airgid a leasú chun riachtanais agus buarthaí na ballraíochta a chomhlíonadh.

————— Cuireadh tús le hatheagrú an Chumainn, leis an aidhm le foireann na seirbhísí lárnacha a athailíniú. Ba é cuspóir na leasaithe seo ná an Chumann a chobhsú agus mar thoradh de seo bhí laghdú de 15% ar líon na foirne agus ar thacaíocht do chláir. Iarmhairt a tháinig amach as an athstruchtúraithe agus trí na coigilteas costas a bhí i

Ba cheart dár n-oibrithe deonacha a bheith thar a bheith bródúil as an méid a bhain siad amach in 2018; is áit níos sábháilte í Éireann de bharr na n-iarrachtaí deonacha.

gceist leis ná cruthaíodh meon réadúlacht sa Chumann maidir leis an méid ar féidir le eagraíocht dhaonnúil a shroicheadh amach, ach ag an am céanna de thairbhe ár luachanna agus ár bprionsabal creidimid nach mór dúinn ár mian a choimead. Léiríonn an straitéis nua a sheoltar in Mí Iúil 2019 an mian seo, áfach beidh sé maolaithe le réadúlacht. Mar thoradh ar an straitéis, ar dtús beidh cobhsaíocht agus ina dhiaidh sin fás in earcaíocht baill nua agus i bhforbairt phríomhobair an Chumann in Éirinn. Táimid ag tnúth le hoibriú ar an bpróiseas sin agus leis an gCumann a threorú chuig todhchaí dearfach, chobhsaí.

————— Ar feadh na tréimhse sin agus tar éis plé le Roinn Rialtais threorach dár gcuid, an Roinn Cosanta, tugadh aitheantas do ról cúntach Chumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann agus don tseirbhís atá á soláthar aige, agus cheadaigh an tAire Cosanta méadú ar an bpríomhdheontas don Chumann. Bhí an Bord agus ballraíocht Chumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann thar a bheith buíoch as sin. Le linn na tréimhse sin de chomhairliúcháin agus de mhachnamh, bhí an Cumann ina ábhar spéise agus tráchtanna sna meáin. Mar gheall ar an laghdú suntasach ar ár seirbhísí tacaíochta idirnáisiúnta lárnach agus mar gheall ar ár n-easpa soiléireacht maidir leis an slí a ndearna an eagraíocht maoiniú srianta a bhainistiú bhíomar oscailte mar eagraíocht do cháineadh. B’ábhair díomá dúinn cailliúint roinnt dár gcomhghleacaithe idirnáisiúnta agus dúnadh ár gcláir sa Nigir san Afraic Thiar, áfach bhí an dá chinneadh bunaithe ar an fhírinne go raibh ganntanas maoiniú againn. Bhí easpa comhsheasmhacht inár bainistíocht de maoiniú srianta ach tar éis athbhreithniú neamhspleách taispeántar go raibh sé oiriúnach, agus caitheadh an t-airgead uile go ceart agus tugadh míniú ar. Bhí tionchar diúltach ar an gclúdach sna meáin ar ár gcumas chun airgead a thiomsú le linn na tréimhse sin.

————— Rinneadh athrú suntasach agus dearfach ar struchtúr rialachais ár n-eagraíochta i 2018. Ainmníodh cúigear daoine nua mar chomhaltaí neamhspleácha do Chomhthionól Ginearálta an Chumainn mar aon le seachtar breise mar chomhaltaí nua ó laistigh den eagraíocht. Thogh an Comhthionól Ginearálta Bord Stiúrthóirí nua ina bhfuil seisear atá neamhspleách agus a bhfuil eolas saineiúil acu. Chuireamar fáilte chuig an bhforbairt gan fásach seo a thóg léargas eile agus maoirseacht bhreise ar rialachas ár n-eagraíochta. Bunaíodh coistí nua den bhorad le ballraíocht athnuaithe iontu chun comhairle agus tacaíocht a thabhairt maidir le hobair an Bhord agus fhoireann na heagraíochta.

————— Ba cheann de na buaicphointí 2018 ná Bál na nGradam Daonnúil de chuid Chumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann. Thacaigh go leor dár gcomhghleacaithe corparáideacha agus cairde an Chumainn leis an imeacht sin, agus thiomsaíodh €140,000 do ár gcláir in Éirinn, san Éimin, san Indinéis agus sa tSiria. Ba ócáid coscrach iad na chéad Gradaim Dhaonnúla a chomóir agus a thug aitheantas ar obair dhaonnúil ár bhfórsaí cosanta, ár bhfeachtasóirí ar son chearta an duine, ár gcomhghleacaithe sna meáin agus sa ghnó agus ar daoine óga.

————— I mí Aibreáin rinne an eagraíocht ár nGradaim Náisiúnta d’Oibrithe Deonacha a cheiliúradh i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. D’fhreastail 250 ball ar an imeacht iontach sin agus cuireadh béim ar an obair dhochreidte ina bhfuil ár n-oibrithe deonacha páirteach de ar fud na hÉireann.

————— Mar fhocal scoir, ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil le baill an Bhoird, le coistí an Bhoird agus leis an bhfoireann i gCearnóg Mhuirfean ina raibh 2018 ina bliain dúshlánach dóibh.

LEGAL STATUS

The Irish Red Cross was formally established in 1939 under the terms of the Red Cross Act 1938, Statutory Instrument 206/139. The Society's constitution was initially based on this statutory instrument and includes amendments for the Geneva Conventions of 1949, their additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005 (the Geneva Conventions) to which Ireland is a party, together with Acts of the Oireachtas and relevant provisions of the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies. The Society's constitution was further amended in 2012 by internally-ratified changes. The legal objectives of the Society are to furnish volunteer aid to the sick, wounded and shipwrecked at sea or armed forces in time of war; to furnish relief to prisoners of war and to such civilians as are protected persons; in time of peace or war to carry on and assist in work for the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world; to act in case of armed conflict, and in peacetime to prepare to act, in all the fields covered by the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols of 1977 and 2005 and on behalf of all war victims, both civilian and military. Such legal frameworks underline the importance of the Irish Red Cross Society as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, be it in situations of armed conflict or natural or man-made disasters. The Society is registered as a charity in Ireland and as such, is answerable to the Charities Regulatory Authority and subject to the requirements of the Charities Act 2009. The Irish Red Cross operates in its own right, but also as part of the wider International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement which is the world's largest humanitarian network.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the highest deliberative authority of the Irish Red Cross. It elects the majority of the members to the Board of Directors. Under our Constitution enacted in April 2012, more than 75 percent of the members of the General Assembly are elected as representatives of areas by the local membership of the Society.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is the body governing the Irish Red Cross between sessions of the General Assembly. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary of the General Assembly are automatically elected to the Board. It has a maximum of 14 members. Two are nominated by the Chairperson to add specific expertise and a maximum of four representatives are appointed by Government. Directors can serve up to two terms of three years after which they are obliged to step down for a minimum of three years. A skills matrix has been developed to assist with recruitment of Directors with specific expertise.

MANAGEMENT AND DECISION MAKING

The Board of Directors is vested with all the necessary powers to carry out the aims of the Irish Red Cross. The focus of the Board is more particularly on matters of policy and oversight. It works closely with the Secretary General, senior management staff and the Chairpersons of the various working and advisory groups who together are tasked with the implementation of policy. Strong emphasis is now placed on the induction, training and development of our Board members, and various presentations, updates and training opportunities are provided to ensure they are appropriately prepared for their roles.

BEST PRACTICE IN GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors is committed to implementing best practice in governance throughout the Society and endeavours to comply at all times with the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland (the Governance Code). It recognises that this is an ongoing, continuous improvement process and monitors the Society's adherence to the Governance Code by means of an implementation tool developed by the Irish Governance Code Working Group (See www.governancecode.ie for more information). The Board is aware of the new Governance Code introduced in 2018 by the Charities Regulatory Authority and will comply with same by the end of 2019.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Irish Red Cross risk management system is managed by the Secretary General and overseen on behalf of the Board by the Audit and Risk Committee. A Risk Register identifies the key risks the Society is subject to and specifies the risk appetite for each item on the register. The Society also assesses relevant internal controls and puts in place risk action plans to mitigate identified risks within Board-approved tolerances. The key risks currently identified for the Irish Red Cross are:

- Loss of life of an Irish Red Cross delegate in dangerous situations.
- A humanitarian emergency of a scale beyond our immediate current resources.
- Insufficiently diversified income streams or loss of a major donor.
- Major scandal, in Ireland or internationally, which further damages reputation of the sector or the Society.
- Material breach of employee-related, health and safety legislative/regulatory requirements.
- Significant information technology failure or a cyber security incident.

————— Identified risks and internal controls are subject to a schedule of periodical reviews. These are carried out by management, internal auditors and by external parties such as major funders or PHECC. Risk is further mitigated by appropriate insurance. The Society has appointed an insurance specialist to advise on the level and extent of insurance cover necessary for our various operating activities. Every three years, an independent broker reassesses insurance cover. The Irish Red Cross is committed to high levels of transparency. To this end, the Constitution, Strategic Plan, financial reports, and major policy documents are all published on the Society's website (www.redcross.ie).

————— The financial accounts are prepared according to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2015 Accounting and Reporting by Charities, issued by the Charity Commissioners in the UK and are audited by BDO, a major Irish firm of Chartered Accountants. The

Irish Red Cross' major policy statements cover areas such as delegated authorities; financial management and internal controls; risk management; whistleblowing; complaints; respect and dignity; safeguarding; Garda vetting; and data protection. The Society is subject to Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) Recognised Institution Quality Standards. The Society has also implemented the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising and the Dóchas Code of Conduct for Images and Messaging which represent best practice in these areas.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Every member of the Board of Directors signs a Code of Conduct and is asked to identify general business interests and associations of importance. If a matter comes before the Board which may cause a conflict of interest the Director in question is asked to exclude themselves from the meeting.

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Decisions of the Board are taken on a consensus basis following discussion. All decisions have a proposer and seconder unless it is evident that there is full agreement. If there is a decision which requires a vote, an open vote will be taken and the majority view will be the decision. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson has the casting vote.

— Induction for the Board of Trustees

All Board Trustees participate in induction training in the areas of governance. This training is delivered by an outside specialist with the intention of ensuring that all Board members are aware of their responsibilities.

An induction pack is prepared for all Board Directors which includes:

1. Past Annual Reports.
2. Statement of Directors' Roles.
3. Code of Conduct.
4. Respect & Dignity Policy.
5. Disclosure of Directors' Interest.
6. List of Red Cross Policy Documents.
7. Irish Red Cross Constitution.
8. Irish Red Cross Operating Rules.
9. Governance Code.
10. Compliance at November 2018 with Governance Code.
11. IFRC—National Society Guidelines.
12. Risk Matrix at November 2018.
13. Contact Details for Board.
14. Staff Structure Organogram.
15. Volunteer Handbook.
16. IRC Structures.
17. Working Groups/Standing Committees.
18. Terms of Reference for Working Groups/Standing Committees.
19. Our Strategy.

— New trustees to the Board also participate in an induction session with each of the senior management team to ensure they are appraised as to the key operations of the Society.

— All Trustees sign a Code of Conduct, Respect and Dignity Policy and a Disclosure of Relevant Directors' Interests.



— In 2018, the Irish Red Cross migration programme supported 149 refugees.

In July 2019 the Irish Red Cross launched its strategy for the next five years. A consultation process with members, staff and stakeholders took place to ensure the strategy reflects the needs of the Society.

THE FIRST OF THE CORE STRATEGIC AIMS OUTLINED IN THE NEW STRATEGY IS TO GROW MEMBERSHIP.

A number of measures have already been taken to fulfil this aim and there are more plans in place. The Central Services Office was restructured in 2018 to focus on member supports and to reduce expenditure. This has left the Society in a stronger position to fulfil its strategic goals.

———— During 2018 a new membership pathway was introduced which makes it easier to join and renew membership. This was enhanced by changes to the membership IT systems. The IT support infrastructure was improved by giving the Area Director of Units (ADUs) and officers access to all of the relevant member information online. 2018 also saw the expansion of the new Red Cross 365 email system to all Area and Branch Officers. Plans for 2019 include the further expansion of the system using the 365 platform to include 365 teams to assist in the engagement of joint meetings over the phone, tablet or computer instead of requiring members to travel.

———— In 2018 the new e-fáilte course was launched to enable new members to access their induction course more efficiently. The plan for 2019 is to further develop this model by introducing an e-safeguarding course. The integration of the Irish Red Cross training and membership database is planned for 2019 which will ensure all member information including qualifications will be available online.

THE NEXT AIM OF THE NEW STRATEGY IS TO IMPROVE SUPPORT TO OUR FRONTLINE VOLUNTEERS

Key areas of service provision for the Society include the delivery of first aid event cover and training, community transport and home care services. In addition the Society runs both a migration programme and a prison health programme.

———— Non-clinical transport in communities across Ireland increased substantially in 2018 which is a great way to make the most of our qualified membership and their specialized expertise, equipment and vehicles.

———— The prison programme continued in all 14 prisons in Ireland and in 2019 the project is expanding into communities of origin. The Irish Red Cross was awarded the status of “pole of expertise” by the IFRC and ICRC in 2018. As a result of this, a major international conference and workshop was held in Ireland in 2019 to examine the best ways to introduce the Irish Red Cross prison programme in other countries. As this programme is introduced in more countries going forward the Irish Red Cross will remain a reference point for lessons learned.

———— The Irish Red Cross migration programme is a significant body of work undertaken by the Society. 51 refugees were placed in accommodation in 2018 which brings the total of refugees placed by the Irish Red Cross to 142. Given the uncertainty in the housing marketing during 2018 this is an excellent result. As well as accommodation, the Irish Red Cross staff and volunteers provided integration supports to enable the refugees (largely from Syria) to settle in Ireland.

———— The plans in 2019 are to continue this level of activity together with supporting the activation of the new community sponsorship scheme. This programme is currently rolling out a pilot phase where eight to ten refugee families will be supported by community sponsorship groups across the country. The results of this pilot will determine the parameters of this programme going forward.

ADVOCATING ON KEY POLICY ISSUES

The Society’s migration activities also provide the Irish Red Cross with the opportunity to implement another key strategic aim—that of advocating on key policy issues.

———— The Society is passionately advocating for the rights of refugees as we see first-hand the obstacles they encounter in integrating into Irish life. In 2018, advocacy in this regard focused on issues of income support and ensuring the availability of the homeless HAP. The Irish Red Cross identified that the younger, single refugees under the age of 25 were unable to survive independently on the reduced under 25 social welfare payment. This payment was reduced for all under 25s living in Ireland on the basis that they were supported at home but of course refugees in Ireland don’t have such a support network.

———— The Department of Justice, with Dublin City Council, agreed to make homeless HAP available to single refugees under the age of 25. Simultaneously, the Department of Social Protection, in consultation with the Department of Justice, agreed to increase the state’s support payment to refugees alone in Ireland under 25. In 2019 the Irish Red Cross plans to further support the integration of refugees, particularly in the area of employment.

———— The Irish Red Cross also continues to raise awareness about international humanitarian law issues and the destructive impacts of gender-based violence.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE SOCIETY

The restructuring in 2018 has given the Society a secure financial base from which we can move forward.

———— Throughout 2019, the fundraising department is putting in place new organisational processes while improved initiatives are being developed and new opportunities for income generation are being explored.

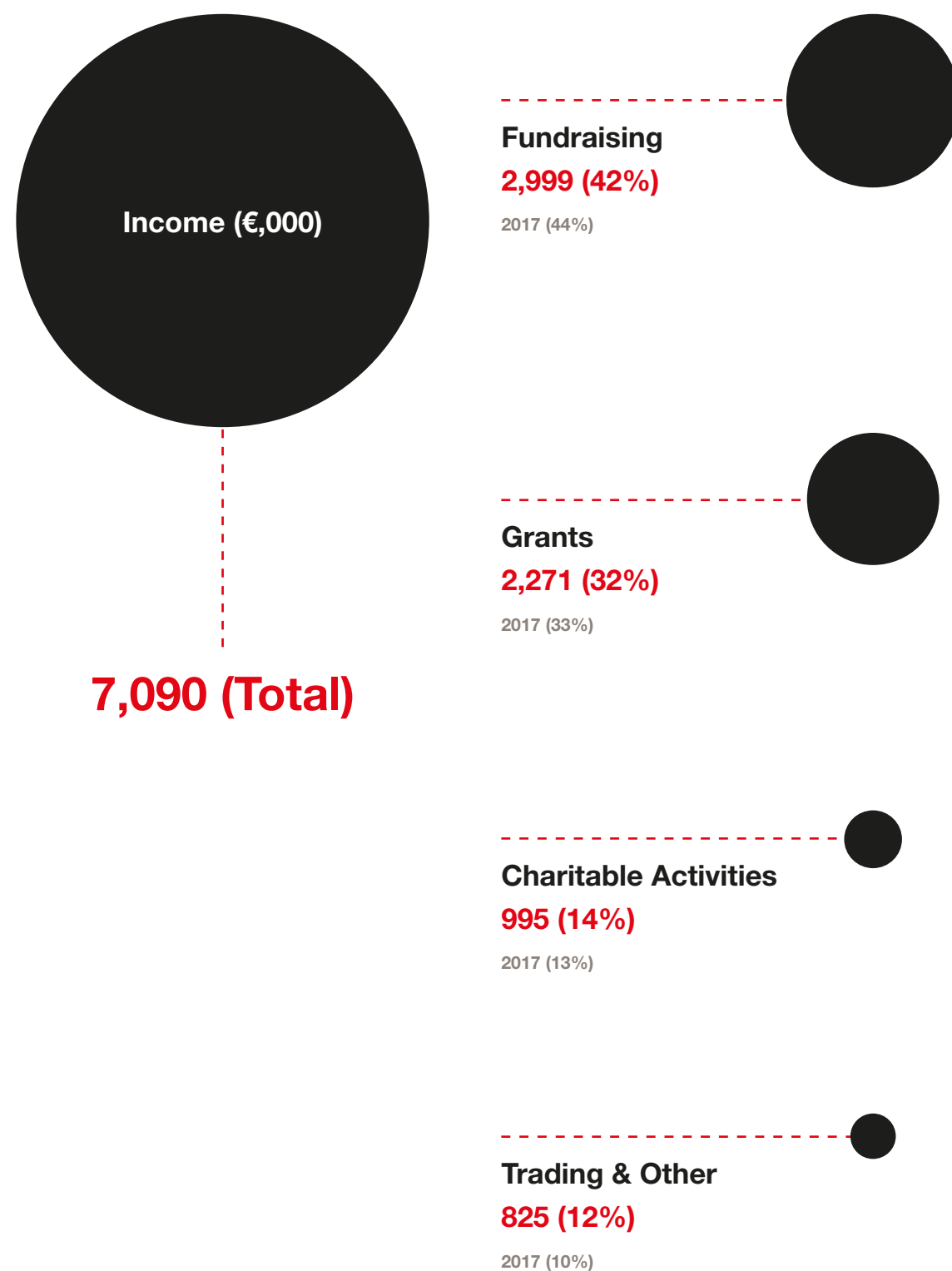
THE FINAL STRATEGIC AIM FOR THE SOCIETY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS IS DEVELOPING OUR INTERNATIONAL WORK WITHIN KEY AREAS.

The restructure in 2018 had a significant negative impact on both technical and financial resources within the International Department. A key focus for the Irish Red Cross in 2019 is to look at strengthening our internal capacities in order to support our ongoing international activities in an efficient and effective manner. We will do this by diversifying approaches to develop and implement a structure aimed at securing a steady income to support and develop our ongoing and future related international initiatives.

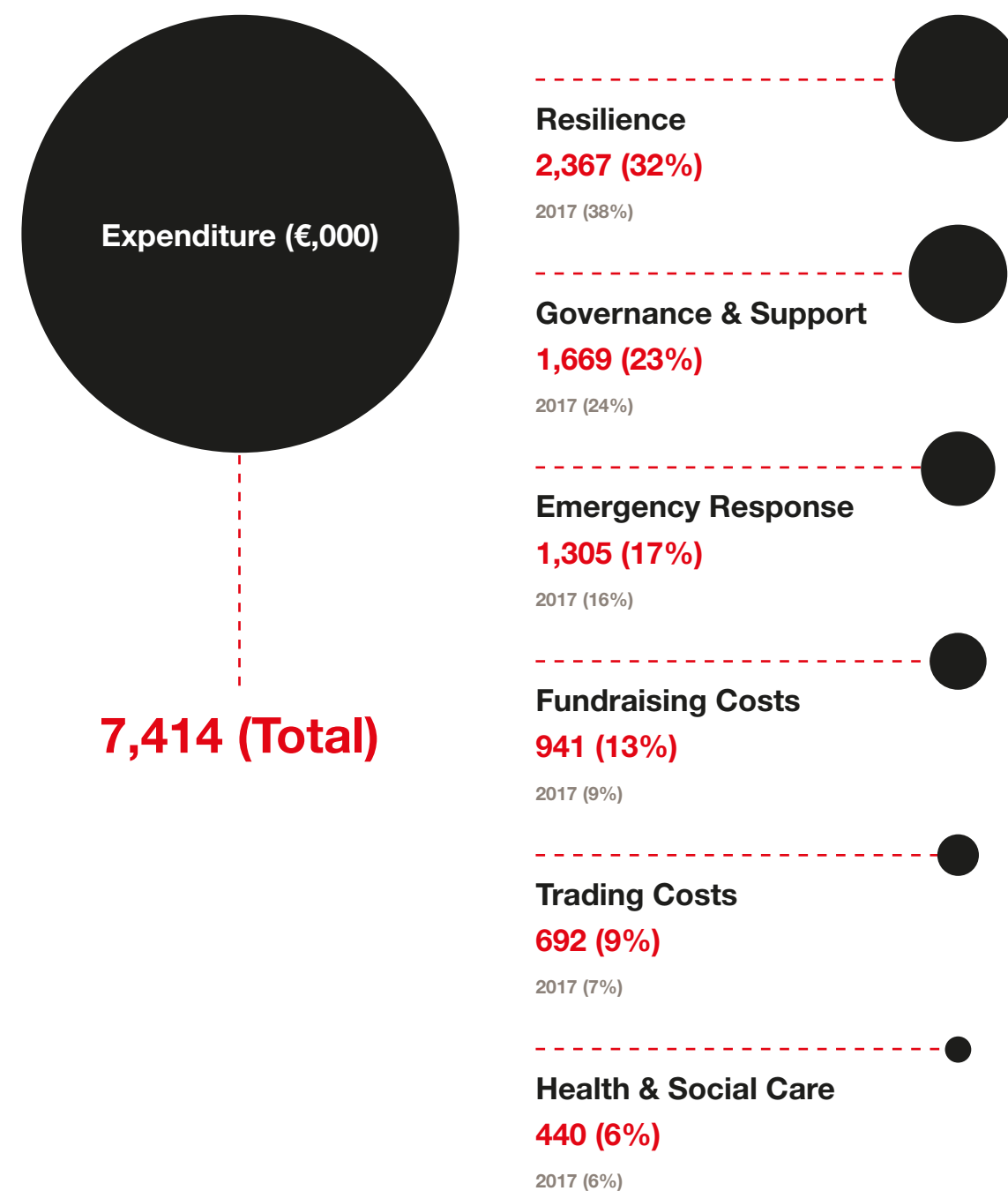
———— Efforts will also be made to increase and enhance partnerships within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and other external organisations, so as to provide increased resource mobilisation opportunities. We will also continue to run fundraising campaigns in response to particular emergencies. Our work on meeting the humanitarian needs of affected populations in protracted crises will continue, with a particular focus on the crises in Yemen and Syria.

———— Prevention and early intervention remains strategically important for us and our ongoing programmes will continue to focus on building resilience within the communities we serve. In particular, this will remain the focus for our ongoing work within our priority countries, namely; Indonesia, Nepal, India and Gaza.

———— Finally, in terms of Restoring Family Links, the Irish Red Cross will continue to maintain our level of services in providing an effective response to the needs of migrants. These services include tracing, messaging and family reunification.



7,090 (Total)



7,414 (Total)

Financial Performance

INCOME

Total income has decreased from €7,351k to €7,090k due to reduced grant income as a result of the closure of the Niger programme and lower public appeals income (no major flood emergency in 2018).

EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure has reduced from €8,102k to €7,414k as a result of our reorganisation and reduction in the number of major international emergencies requiring support.

———The cost of raising voluntary income is up as we continue to invest in this area.

———Details of staff numbers and costs are included in note 6 of the financial statements.

RESERVES

To ensure there is funding for working capital, unexpected expenditure or income shortfalls our minimum level of reserves is three to six months of total expenditure.

———Our available reserves at year-end were €2m (2017: €2.1m). This represents 3.5 months' of total expenditure from general funds (2017: 3.5) and is at the low end of the range set by the Board (3 to 6 months). As a result of our reorganisation during 2018 this figure will improve in 2019.

CASH FLOW

Our net cash inflow from operating activities in 2018 was €185k (2017 was an outflow of €31k). Continued focus on our cash flow will see further improvements in 2019.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

Each of the persons who are Directors at the time of approving the Directors' Report has confirmed that:

- (a) so far as that Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Society's auditors are unaware and
- (b) they have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as a Director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Society's auditors are aware of that information.

ACCOUNTING RECORDS

The measures taken by the Directors to ensure compliance with the requirements, with regard to the keeping of accounting records, are the employment of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of computerised accounting systems. The Society's accounting records are maintained at the Society head office in Merrion Square. In the preparation of the consolidated accounts for 2018, the Directors conducted a review of all Area and Branch funds which were classified as restricted. The review was conducted in line with SORP funds classification standards. The outcomes of the review was that €126k of these funds (pre 2018) was reclassified as designated.

TAXATION STATUS

Irish Red Cross Society has been granted charitable status under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

AUDITORS

BDO is eligible and has expressed a willingness to continue as Auditors of the Society.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 27th July 2019.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Pat Carey
Chairperson

Sheila Callan
Treasurer

The Board of Directors of the Irish Red Cross Society operates through the delegated authority of the Society's General Assembly (formerly Central Council). Its role is to direct and supervise the affairs of the Society on a day-to-day basis, to ensure that it delivers on its goals and objectives, and to uphold the values and principles of the Red Cross Movement in every aspect of its activities.

The Board of Directors of the Irish Red Cross Society operates through the delegated authority of the Society's General Assembly (formerly Central Council). Its role is to direct and supervise the affairs of the Society on a day-to-day basis, to ensure that it delivers on its goals and objectives, and to uphold the values and principles of the Red Cross Movement in every aspect of its activities.

———The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and the incoming resources and application of funds, including the net income or expenditure of the Society for the year. In preparing these financial statements the Board of Directors is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in operation.

The Board of Directors is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Society and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with relevant legislation. The Board of Directors is responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 27th July 2019.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Pat Carey
Chairperson

Sheila Callan
Treasurer

Report on the audit of the financial statements

OPINION

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Irish Red Cross Society for the year ended 31 December 2018, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

—In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Society as at 31 December 2018 and of its net outgoing resources for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standards issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

—We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Society's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

OTHER INFORMATION

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

—In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

—We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

—In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

NON-STATUTORY AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

NON-STATUTORY AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf. The description forms part of our auditors' report.

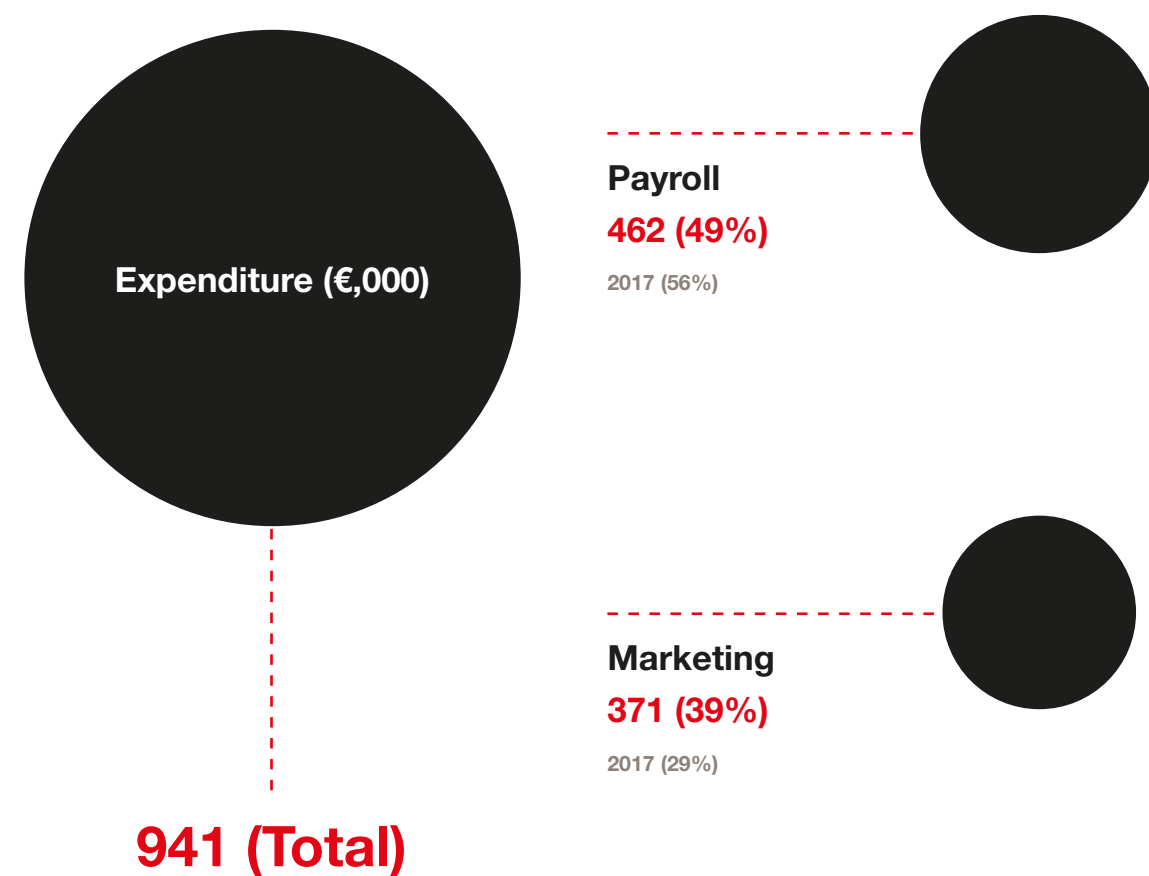
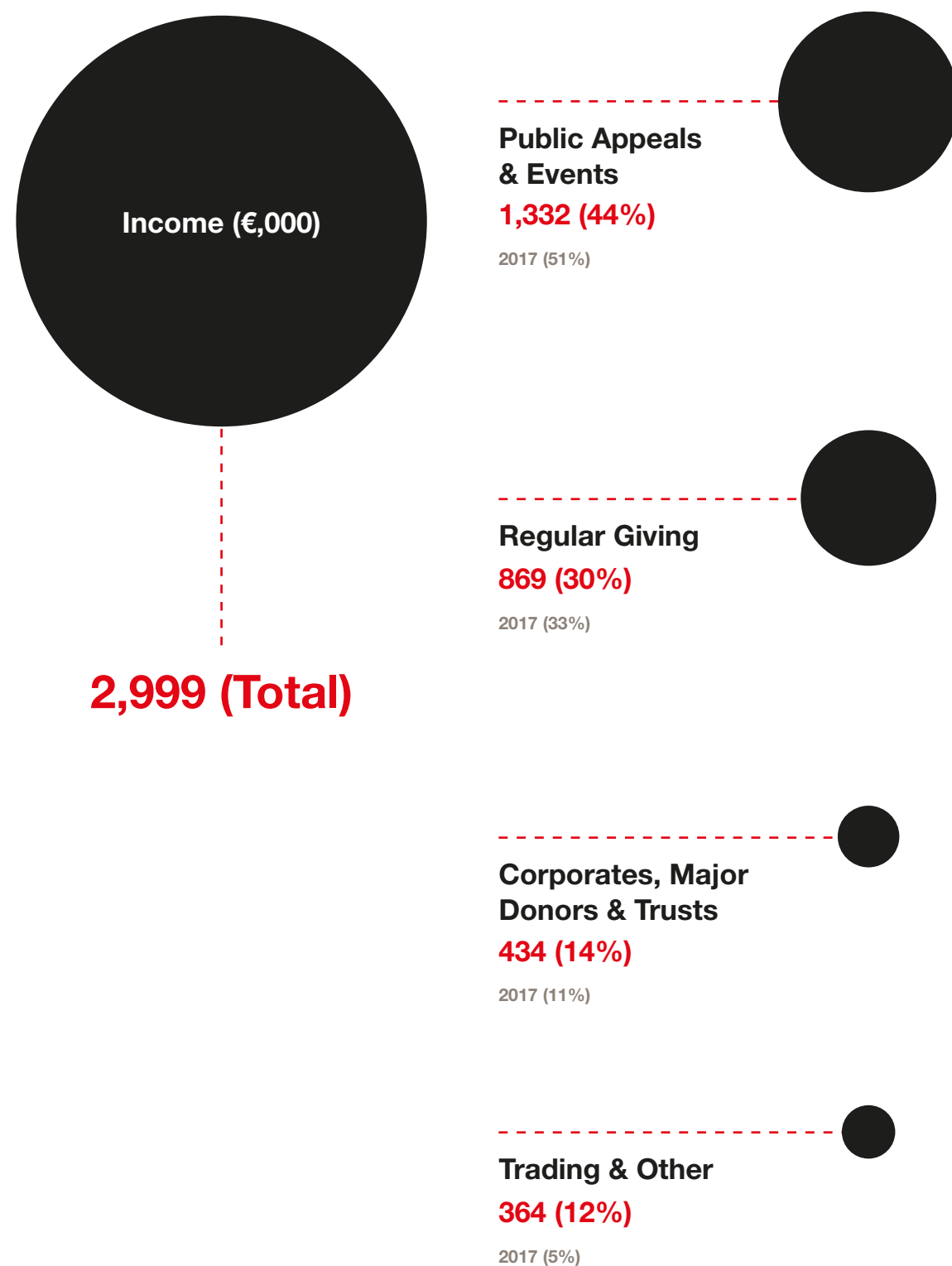
THE PURPOSE OF OUR AUDIT WORK AND TO WHOM WE OWE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

This report is made solely to the General Assembly and Board of the Irish Red Cross Society. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the General Assembly those matters we are required to state to them in an independent auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the General Assembly of the Irish Red Cross Society as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed on 27th July 2019.

BDO.

BDO
Dublin
Statutory Audit Firm



Every year Irish Red Cross volunteers deliver humanitarian assistance to those who are most in need, and 2018 was a busy year. The work of Irish Red Cross volunteers was most obvious during Storm Emma and Beast from the East.

At the request of National Emergency Operations Centre, via the Joint Voluntary Control Centre, the Irish Red Cross was deployed to provide assistance during this severe weather event.

In total, the Irish Red Cross completed a staggering 272 call-outs during the snow storms between 26 February and 2 March. The Irish Red Cross' fleet of 4x4 ambulances proved invaluable in assisting with patient transfers in rural and secluded areas. The fleet also allowed the Irish Red Cross to transport National Ambulance Service medical staff and personnel to and from work during this period.

Another highlight in 2018 was the World Festival of Families when almost 250 Irish Red Cross volunteers and their officers took part in event cover for the Papal visit

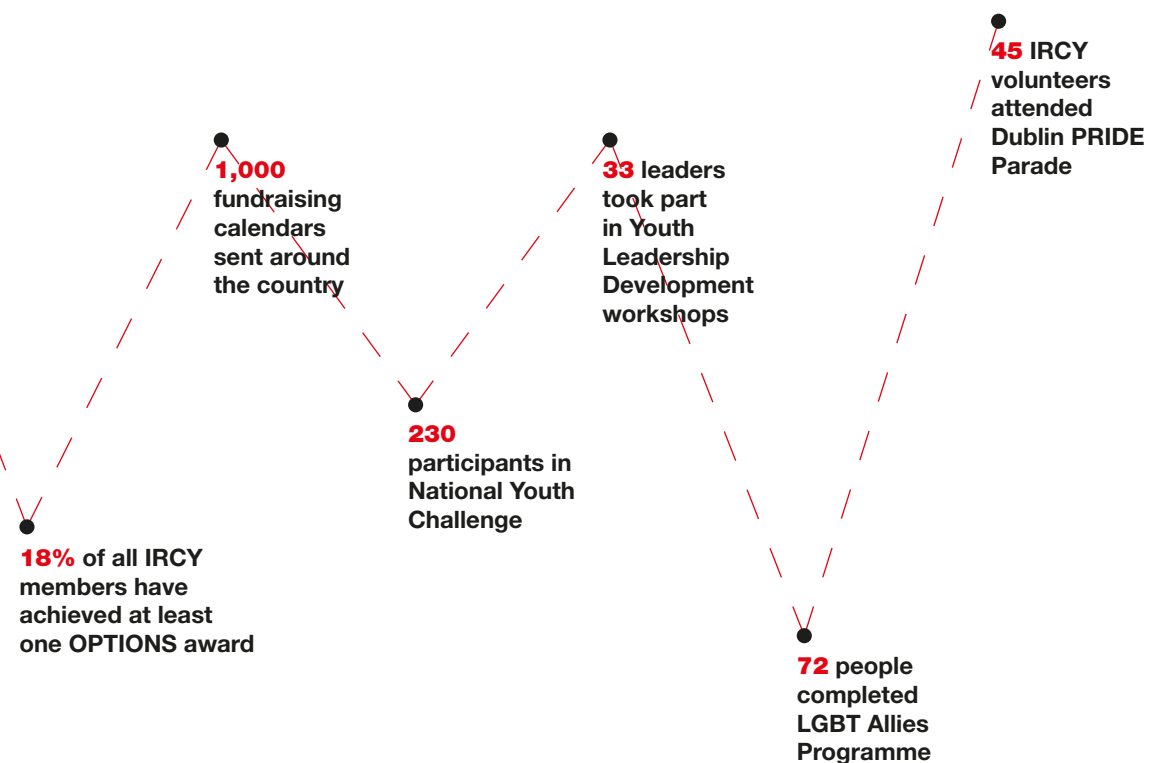
which was co-ordinated by the HSE. The Irish Red Cross volunteers were on duty at the Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park, the Cavalcade in Dublin City Centre and at Knock Basilica. Two months of planning ensured the cover for this event ran seamlessly.

State funding was secured to purchase two new ambulances in Donegal to replace two that were put out of commission as a direct result of the August 2017 floods in Inishowen. The Society was also successful in securing partial funding under the CLÁR Measure 3 Funding Scheme 2018 for an additional three

© Patrick Browne



Youth Statistics



ambulances in each of Claremorris, Co Mayo, Raheen, Co Laois, and the Tipperary Area while a rescue boat was also purchased for the search and rescue team in Clonbur, Co Galway. Funding was also sought and approved via Mountain Rescue Ireland for vehicle refurbishment for the Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue Team in Wicklow.

— In early 2018, the Irish Red Cross also secured funding from Lottoland to purchase hardware (tablet devices) to be used by units around the country. These tablets will, in 2019, replace traditional paper-based administration, saving Irish Red Cross volunteers hours of tedious work, and improving reporting capacity.

— The National Volunteer Awards provide a platform to celebrate the work of Irish Red Cross volunteers and the 2018 awards took place on 28 April. Cork man Padraig O'Reilly was named Irish Red Cross

Volunteer of the Year 2018 while 12-year-old Donegal native Sarah McConnellogue received Irish Red Cross Young Volunteer of the Year Award. Padraig O'Reilly has been a volunteer with the Irish Red Cross for 20 years while he is also a retained firefighter. Padraig holds no less than three positions in the Irish Red Cross; Branch Secretary, Branch Youth Officer and a training officer in the unit structure. Under his leadership Clonakilty Red Cross opened their new branch premises in 2016.

— Sarah McConnellogue has led the charge in recruiting youth members in her local branch in Muff, Co Donegal and she has an impeccable attendance record at the branch.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE VOLUNTARY ACTIVITY

In terms of Health and Social Care activity, the Irish Red Cross Skin Camouflage Service expanded in 2018 due to the founding of a relationship with the Irish Skin Foundation, while the Dublin Skin Camouflage clinic was re-established in Crumlin. The skin camouflage service helps boost the everyday confidence of those with obvious skin blemishes and marks, thus aiding social inclusion. In 2018 Irish Red Cross skin camouflage practitioners also continued to run clinics in Donegal, Louth and Cork.

— Therapeutic Care volunteers supported Arthritis Ireland's national forum for the first time in 2018 while these volunteers also continued to offer a therapeutic care service in hospitals, nursing homes, day care centres, private residences and at various events throughout the year. This provided

support to local community groups and individuals living in isolation. During 2018, therapeutic neck and shoulder massage training was introduced for therapeutic care instructors and in 2019 this training will be rolled out to practitioners across the country.

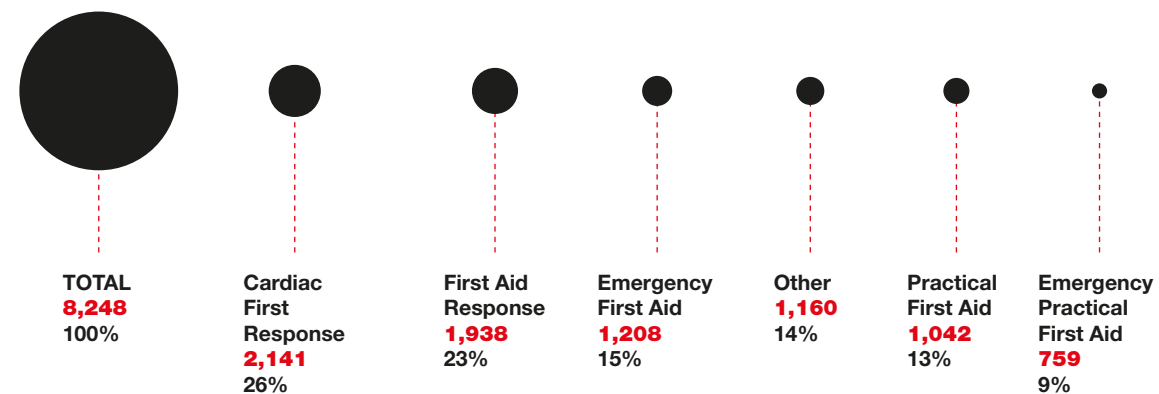
— Health and Social Care volunteers also facilitated an increasing number of community transports in 2018. Using their minibuses, volunteers drove older people and wheelchair users to day outings, routine appointments and social gatherings. At Christmas,

local branches organised and hosted parties and themed social events for vulnerable people.

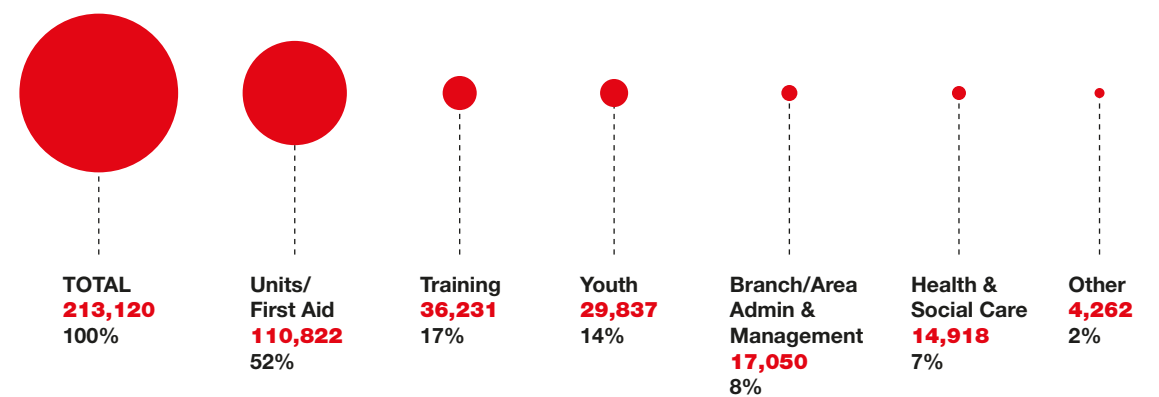
— The Health and Social Care management team and area directors team continued to work closely with the migration programme in 2018 to support the Irish Red Cross' response to the migration crisis. Focus has been placed on Dublin areas, with community support teams establishing befriending services and local community orientation. Transport requests for the migration programme were also regularly facilitated throughout the year.

— Last but not least, the Carers Awards national judging panel chose Eileen Cunniffe from Athlone, Co. Westmeath the deserving winner of the Carer of the Year title for 2018. (Read more about this award on page 42.)

People Trained



Volunteer Hours



When Dundalk native Siobhán Jordan signed up for the Rock’n’Roll Marathon little did she know she would be fighting for her life by the end of the race. Luckily for her however, the Irish Red Cross was on standby.

“Looking at her, she was incredibly pale, like a milk bottle white”—Irish Red Cross volunteer Ciarán McDonnell, EMT, is talking about the moment he arrived on the scene of a 27-year-old in cardiac arrest.

—The 27-year-old was Siobhán Jordan and she had collapsed during a 21km, half-marathon in Dublin city.

—The day started like any other for Ciarán who as an Irish Red Cross volunteer provides voluntary medical cover at events like this almost every weekend and on this occasion, the Irish Red Cross was providing cover in conjunction with Code Blue which provides medical services at events. There had been a briefing, and positions for first aid patrols had been assigned; a team of Irish Red Cross volunteers were put on standby at the finish line, and 100m and 200m out.

—Ciarán was kept busy with the usual issues during the race—a steady stream of people came over the line, fatigued, cramped and in need of assistance. But then he received a call that was different.

—It was a request for Advanced Life Support (ALS) for someone having a seizure.

—Ciarán grabbed a defibrillator and resuscitation equipment which had been placed with all the first aid patrols as “part and planning” for the event, and he ran to where Siobhán was lying on her side, in “what looked like the recovery position.” Another Irish Red Cross volunteer Gary Ward and a Code Blue Emergency Medical Technician Paul Kennedy were trying to rouse Siobhán by shaking her, trying to wake her up.

—At the same time, Irish Red Cross volunteer Karl O’Connor took charge of crowd management. He formed a human chain of race volunteers and people who finished the race to keep the area safe from runners who

may have trampled on the crew treating Siobhán, or who may have become injured if they came in contact with the AED.

—“We rolled her on to her back and we determined that she was in cardiac arrest because we couldn’t feel a pulse and she wasn’t breathing,” explains Ciarán. “I took up position at the head, Paul took up position on my left and Gary on my right. That’s called the BLS triangle—the Basic Life Support triangle. We’re trained for that, and every person in the triangle has a job. My job was airway management so breathing for her and maintaining a clear airway while Paul and Gary each switched between doing chest compressions or managing the AED.

—Ciarán recalls that while all of this was going on, Siobhán’s eyes were open. “Looking down at someone’s eyes which are looking up at you—in my mind it was almost like she was pleading for me to save her. Now I know that sounds silly, but it was like she was willing you to help,” says Ciarán.

—The trio persevered and Ciarán used a bag valve mask, blowing air into the airway in conjunction with high flow oxygen while Gary continued with chest compressions until the defibrillator was set up by Paul and they were ready to deliver the first shock of the AED.

—They then continued giving chest compressions for another two minutes. “I was using the bag,” explains Ciarán “and in between that I was on the radio trying to co-ordinate getting an ambulance to the finish line.” At this point the volunteers administered a second shock.

—“When the second shock happened I could feel her breathing against the bag,” explains Ciarán. “So every time I’d squeeze the bag she would exhale and as she exhaled it would fill up inside of the bag and I would feel pressure. It’s a really good sign.”

My family were
prepared for the
worst. It was
recommended that
my brother fly home
from New Zealand.
Which he did.



—At that point a doctor from the medical centre arrived. “By the time he arrived, her pulse had returned, her colour had come back and she was now breathing against the bag,” says Ciarán. “The machine did the job in the end, the two shocks.”

—By coincidence, this defibrillator was on loan to the Dublin volunteers from the Irish Red Cross branch in Dundalk – Siobhán’s home town, and where she still lives.

—Ciarán handed care of Siobhan over to one of the doctors and went to the finish line to direct the Code Blue ambulance crew. Siobhán was then transferred to St James’ Hospital.

—It’s an event that will stay with the Irish Red Cross volunteers forever, but Siobhán remembers little, if anything.

—“The actual race is mostly a blank,” she explains. “I remember the buzz leading up to the start, the craic on the bus with my clubmates, and the rush for the bag drop. But after that my memory is sketchy. Cathriona, who I was running with, said that I didn’t feel great so I stopped and walked and then she stopped and walked with me—something I don’t remember—but I was so lucky she did.

—“The race was on a Sunday and I was put into an induced coma until the Monday. I don’t remember anything really, probably until Thursday. I remember bits—I kept waking up and asking where I was and what had happened. My parents had to keep retelling me what had happened. Initially I wasn’t afraid, I was pretty unaware what was happening around me. Once I was more alert, the reality of my situation did hit me hard at times. Particularly being told that as a cause hadn’t been found for my cardiac arrest, I would have to have an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) surgically placed as a precautionary measure in case

of a reoccurrence. I was scared, naturally, but I tried to focus on the other side of the situation—that despite the enormity of what had happened, I was really very lucky,” says Siobhán.

—“We go for runs up mountains. I go running on my own. It could have happened anywhere. I was in the right place at the right time. And thank God the Irish Red Cross volunteers were there because if they hadn’t been, I don’t think I’d be in the position I am today.

—“I honestly don’t know how you can thank someone who saved your life but all I know is that everybody said to me that the Red Cross team were there straight away, as soon as I went down. I think it was 16 seconds it took them to start CPR. I know myself from reading up and talking to different people across the world who have had similar experiences, that every second is so vital. The doctors weren’t sure, when they were taking me out of the coma, they honestly weren’t sure if I would have brain damage or memory loss or physical complications. My family were prepared for the worst. It was recommended that my brother fly home from New Zealand. Which he did. Thank God, physically and mentally I am fine. That’s down to those guys getting to me so quickly and of course the amazing follow-up care I received from the medics and the staff in St James’. I don’t even know how you thank somebody for saving your life, but I thank them with everything I have.”

The Irish Red Cross completed a staggering 272 call-outs over the course of the Beast from the East and Storm Emma which hit Ireland simultaneously from 28 February to 5 March 2018, resulting in extremely heavy snowfall.

Two days before the snow arrived, the Irish Red Cross started making preparations. 120 vehicles were put on standby across the country and included road ambulances, stretcher-bearing off-road ambulances and 4x4 vehicles with passenger accommodation. The exact location of these vehicles, on a county-by-county basis, was reported to the HSE. Support vehicles such as the Fire and Emergency Support Vehicle and an Operational Support Unit—all equipped with generators—were also put on standby.

—The Irish Red Cross' fleet of 4 x 4 ambulances proved invaluable in assisting with patient transfers in rural and secluded areas. They allowed the Irish Red Cross to transport key healthcare workers to and from work during this period and transfer dialysis patients to hospital. Tetra radio equipment also proved invaluable during this time, as it allowed for interoperability between agencies

—Health and social care volunteers also assisted in response to Beast from the East and Storm Emma. The Middleton Branch provided a number of welfare checks to older people in the community and provided basic supplies as required. Volunteers in the Louth Area provided a welfare check on a local family who lost heating during the storm and worked with emergency services to move the family to a safe location. The Dublin Fingal Area provided volunteers to Merchants Quay Ireland in order to maintain services until the storm had passed. This kind of activity was replicated in many other parts of the country during this extreme weather event.

—Commendations were received from both the Taoiseach and the Director General of the HSE in appreciation of all of the work carried out by Irish Red Cross volunteers across the country during the snow storms.

WE WENT PLACES YOU CAN'T GET WITH A TRACTOR

On Friday 2 March, Irish Red Cross volunteers attended a recording-breaking 60 call outs in the southern region. The Irish Red Cross had never dealt with this volume of calls nationally—let alone regionally—in one day before. And in Wexford there was a real hero; Paddy Redmond and his trusty Landrover Defender.

—As the Enniscorthy Guardian so aptly put it, “the rugged Landrover Defender of Enniscorthy Red Cross could be seen smashing through the snow and braving treacherous conditions to help those in need. Manned with a crew, carrying shovels in case they had to dig themselves out of the snow, the jeep was on the road from early morning.”

—Bruce Lett, Tom Shortt, Catriona Whelan and Sally Flynn worked alongside Paddy (who is Area Director of Units for Wexford) and they attended no less than 24 call outs over the course of two days. The volunteer crew were involved in a cardiac chest pain and a seizure and both patients were taken to Wexford General Hospital. A patient with a fracture was transported to Waterford University Hospital and there were numerous transports of patients and staff to dialysis units in Wexford and Waterford. There were also four transports of healthcare staff to various locations across Co Wexford while Paddy and the crew also assisted with a cardiac arrest case in Waterford. Paddy and his volunteer crew also rescued people from their homes where they had been snowed in with no power, water or heat.

—“We’re down here doing the best we can,” said Paddy on Sunday 4 March. “The four-wheel-drive ambulance has been all over the place. It’s the star of the show. We went places you can’t get with a tractor.

—“It’s an old army Defender and people laughed at me when we bought it,” continued Paddy. “We pumped a lot of money into doing it out to our own specifications and now there’s nowhere it won’t go. We passed all types of vehicles on the road.

—“Over two and a half days we’ve put in €300 of petrol,” noted Paddy. “We finished at a quarter to 11 last night (Saturday) having started at 7.30am. On Friday we

started at 6.30am. We had great support from the Gardaí and people locally. Anytime we were having trouble, a call would be made and we’d have someone out with a tractor or a digger to help us out. The amount of co-operating and help was amazing,” concludes Paddy.

120 vehicles were
put on standby
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and included
road ambulances,
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off-road ambulances
and 4x4 vehicles



—Against All Odds:
Three Men Rescued from
Sunken Boat

At 9.45am on Sunday 7 October 2018, the Irish Red Cross Corrib Mask Search and Rescue responded to a ‘call out’ from the Irish Coast Guard in relation to a boat in distress on Lough Corrib in Co. Galway. The boat’s engine had failed, causing it to drift onto nearby rocks where it quickly became punctured. Three fishermen were left stranded in the sunken boat, forced to sit in the cold water that flooded in around them.

The fishermen had contacted the Irish Coast Guard who in turn requested the support of the Irish Red Cross Corrib Mask Search and Rescue unit. However, the hazardous weather conditions and rough waters meant the Irish Red Cross lifeboat delayed deployment so Valentia Coast Guard tasked a rescue helicopter, ambulance and fire brigade to the scene instead. Faced with extreme gale-force winds however, the helicopter was unable to execute a rescue and the Coast Guard reverted back to the Irish Red Cross for assistance. This left skipper and Area Director of Units for the Connemara Area Niall O’Meachair with the difficult decision about whether to launch a rescue boat, despite a ‘small craft warning’ being in place. Niall decided to proceed and briefed the rescue team. With the victims exposed to freezing conditions, time was of the essence. Drowning wasn’t the skipper’s biggest concern—it was hypothermia, particularly given there was an older man on the boat.

—“Having established communication with the boat, my concern was the age of this person,” explains Niall. “He was complaining of cold and he said he felt he was getting hypothermic. That worried me because when you get into the cycle with hypothermia, it’s hard to get out of it. You curl up, become emotional, feel sorry for yourself, and let go. Your body then reacts by pulling all the blood from your extremities to maintain the core temperature and your peripherals start going blue. Then you’re into low oxygen levels and the associated medical implications.”

—Niall was able to keep in contact with the rescue team thanks to the tetra radios which were provided by the Irish Red Cross. Without these special radios the operational area is considered a communication ‘black spot’ because there is no very high frequency (VHF)

communications in that particular area. “The tetra radio proved absolutely invaluable,” explains Niall. “It allowed me to maintain contact with the rescue boat as it made its way to the stricken craft and also allowed Valentia Coast Guard radio to monitor the progress of the rescue. It’s just a fabulous piece of equipment. Since its introduction it has become the preferred method of communication within the Unit.”

—Niall had also requested assistance from other Clonbur Branch volunteers (the Corrib Mask Search and Rescue Unit is part of this branch) and when the victims were recovered and brought to Cor na Móna pier, the Clonbur branch volunteers were waiting for them, with their fully-equipped ambulances to hand. The volunteers had also brought the Search and Rescue Unit’s D-Class boat as back up. Crews from the National Ambulance Service also arrived at the pier, prepared with towels and blankets.

—Corrib Mask Search and Rescue provided insulated ‘woolly bears’ for the rescued men, before they were taken to University Hospital Galway for medical observation. “Woolly bears are an undergarment that are worn underneath the dry-suit,” says Niall. “It’s a full bodysuit that goes from your toes right up to your neck and it helps the victims to recover and maintain a stable body temperature. We dry the victim out completely and get them into the woolly bear straight away. These suits are a vital safeguarding tool, particularly for treating individuals at risk of hypothermia.”

—Niall is very proud of this particular rescue, noting “we are a very experienced unit and I know we saved lives that day.” He commended the rescue as a “brilliant example of interagency teamwork,” thanking everyone who helped secure and treat the victims; Costelloe Bay and Cleggan units of the Irish Coast

The Corrib Mask
Search and Rescue
unit deservedly
won the Irish Red
Cross Branch of
the Year 2017
for its remarkable
work responding to
distress calls in the
local area.

© Pat Ryan



Guard, Shannon Helicopter, Ballinrobe Fire Unit and the NAS/HSE. Lydons Lodge of Cong kindly fed the crew afterwards.

—In 2019, the Irish Red Cross conferred a Medal of Merit on the Corrib Mask Search and Rescue unit in recognition of this particular success. Unit members involved in this rescue were; Niall O’Meachair, Alan Daly, Maeve McAleenan, Aidan McAleenan, Robert Wilkes, Pat Egan, Shane Rogan, Noel Collins and Michael Gibbons.

—The Corrib Mask Search and Rescue unit deservedly won the Irish Red Cross Branch of the Year 2017 for its remarkable work responding to distress calls in the local area.

—The unit continues to provide a 24/7 rescue service, as tasked by the Irish Coast Guard and emergency services. At the time of writing, the unit had just concluded a three-week search for a missing fisherman on Lough Mask, Co. Mayo. The body of the missing angler was recovered on Saturday 30 March 2019.

New Training Unit and Ambulance Centre Launched in Ennis, Co. Clare

In October 2018 the Clare Area of the Irish Red Cross opened their state-of-the-art new training unit and ambulance centre in Ennis. The launch of this new facility, which is 4,100 ft² in size was a proud milestone for Irish Red Cross volunteers in the area whose €338,980-project secured a permanent property in the Tracklands Business Park for the centre.

The new centre securely stores equipment and enables members to organise and deliver training more flexibly. The centre is home to three ambulances and a community support vehicle. These vehicles provide community supports and emergency services to facilitate the people of Clare in travelling to medical and hospital appointments all over the county and throughout Ireland.

——— In the run up to the launch, the Tour of Clare Fundraiser saw weekly collections take place outside almost 47 local businesses across the county.

——— At the opening of the centre, treasurer of the Irish Red Cross Clare Area James Lafferty said he was unveiling “a super building” which was “an investment in the future of the Irish Red Cross in Clare for its members, and for its future members”.

——— Mr Lafferty also thanked all those who made the new training unit possible, particularly local business people Seamus and Ann Durack who facilitated the opening of the new centre by handing over the keys of their property to the Irish Red Cross in Clare.

——— Irish Red Cross Chairman Pat Carey noted at the launch that; “the dedication and loyalty of the volunteers, sponsors and donors who are involved will greatly enhance the provision of services to vulnerable people in the community.”

——— The final step taken to officially open the centre was the cutting of the ribbon which, quite aptly, was done by chairperson of the Ennis branch and Clare Area John Kerin, alongside Pat Carey and James Lafferty. Nobody could have known at the time that this would be one of John Kerin’s final acts for the Red Cross as he sadly passed away less than a month later.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN KERIN

BY JAMES LAFFERTY, IRC CLARE AREA TREASURER

In the two and a half years leading up to the opening of the centre, John Kerin was involved in every fundraiser for the facility. He collected counter-top boxes, organised and manned church gate collections, and of course was very heavily involved in the Tour of Clare Fundraiser.

——— John’s involvement in the Irish Red Cross in Clare goes back to the mid 1980s when he joined the Society after spending some time with the Irish army and the Clare Civil Defence.

——— John loved to drive our ambulances. He excelled at training where casualty simulation was part of the training and was roped in for local, national and international first aid competitions and training events. If there were academy awards for his role play, his house would be full of Oscars. He was a special volunteer and friend.

——— John served as chairperson of the Irish Red Cross Ennis Branch and the Clare Area, and stepped down in 1984. He returned to the Irish Red Cross in May 2016 as a fundraiser and we worked well together and became good friends. We travelled all over Co. Clare, fundraising first for our new multi-purpose community support vehicle and then for our big one, our new training unit and ambulance centre. John never complained, even though some days we were out fundraising from 7.45am (pick up) to 11pm (when money had to be counted and sorted). John was our chairperson of the Irish Red Cross Clare Area and Ennis Branch. It gave all our members a lift to see John cutting the ribbon to our new training unit and ambulance centre in October. This was his final act.

——— John you are missed and you will never be replaced. You were a one-of-a-kind volunteer. Rest in Peace.

The dedication and loyalty of the volunteers, sponsors and donors who are involved will greatly enhance the provision of services to vulnerable people in the community.



© Eamon Ward

TOUR OF CLARE FUNDRAISER

The Tour of Clare Fundraiser collections take place with the good will and support of businesses all over Clare from Mid-February to November each year. It started its eighth tour in February 2019 to assist in further fundraising for the centre. The members in Clare hope to develop the centre by adding an additional floor which will be used as a conference centre for the general public and other organisations. With the support of the Clare businesses and the Clare public, the plan is to clear the debt over the next six years. The current debt on the building stands at €254,545.24.



Creating a Close-Knit Community for Humanitarian Relief

On 26 August 2018, a Co. Clare woman broke the Guinness World Record for the Largest Hand-Knitted Blanket. Valery Larkin from Inagh crafted a blanket large enough to cover an Olympic-size swimming pool (with room to spare!) with the finished product measuring almost 21,471 ft² (1,994 m²).

The previous record of 1,780 m² was made by the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2016. Valery's blanket officially secured the record title on 19 September 2018, upon receiving written approval from Guinness World Records.

Valery's blanket was displayed in Ennis Showgrounds before being divided into 692 individual blankets for donation to local charities including St. Vincent De Paul.

A self-confessed "wool addict", the idea to create the world's largest blanket struck Valery while lying in bed at 2am one night as she pondered about how to spend her free time post retirement. Not wasting a second, Valery immediately registered with the Guinness Book of Records and began spreading the word to knitting communities worldwide via social media, asking fellow knitters to knit squares for her blanket. To Valery's surprise and delight, an overwhelming number of knitted squares and completed blankets poured in from almost 1,000 dedicated knitters and 'stitcher-uppers' in Ireland and all over the world. Knitted squares landed at Valery's doorstep from as far away as Iceland, Canada, The Falklands, Japan, Australia, Nigeria, Afghanistan, India and South Africa. Squares were also knitted by female inmates in the Dóchas Centre prison in Dublin. Once a week, between 12–14 women came together in a knitting group to help Valery meet her target.

When Valery had enough squares, her next task was to stitch them together into one full blanket. The Irish Red Cross provided some rooms in their new ambulance and training centre in Ennis, thanks to permission from James Lafferty, Treasurer of the Irish Red Cross Clare Area for teams of 'stitcher-uppers' to come together three mornings a week to sew Valery's masterpiece.

Valery commended the support of the Irish Red Cross in helping her to store, display and distribute the blanket, remarking "the Red Cross is everywhere, it is there for every catastrophe. It's a no-borders organisation and this blanket turned into an international, no-borders blanket."

Secretary General of the Irish Red Cross, Liam O'Dwyer, said the Irish Red Cross was thrilled to receive official confirmation of Valery's success from the Guinness Book of Records. "It was wonderful to be involved in such an ambitious project, which brought communities together in a creative and rewarding way to help those in need." Valery received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Irish Red Cross for her remarkable achievement and in thanks for her generosity to communities in need.

There's no doubt the 'no-borders blanket' gave Valery's retirement a new sense of fulfilment, and this was a trend she noticed among fellow knitters.

"A huge number of people contacted me, from both at home and abroad, saying it gave them purpose, that it was like having a job to go to," says Valery. She admits that the appeal became a huge undertaking, but embraced the experience as a reminder that there are "so many nice people out there" who, irrespective of different backgrounds, came together to make a positive difference.

The Red Cross is
everywhere, it is there
for every catastrophe.
It's a no-borders
organisation and this
blanket turned into
an international, no-
borders blanket



Ireland was the first country in the world to adapt the Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) programme to a prison context and during the five-year period between 2009 and 2014 it was introduced to all 14 prisons across the country in which it continues to operate.

This was made possible through a partnership between the Irish Red Cross, the Irish Prison Service and the Education and Training Boards Ireland.

Over 1,000 Irish Red Cross volunteer inmates have been recruited to the CBHFA programme since 2009 and roughly half of these completed the full course and graduated. The programme benefits the prisoner community, their families and prison staff.

The CBHFA programme sees the Irish Red Cross promote a number of projects within the prison which have been successful in making significant changes to the daily lives of prisoners. The projects aim to improve the overall health, wellbeing and safety of prisoners within their community.

In 2018, volunteers completed mental health and wellbeing campaigns, as well as raising awareness amongst prisoners about healthy lifestyles and non-communicable diseases.

Stopping the spread of infection within prisons is crucial and Irish Red Cross inmate volunteers provided instructions on good hand-washing techniques, contributing to cleanliness and the prevention of infection.

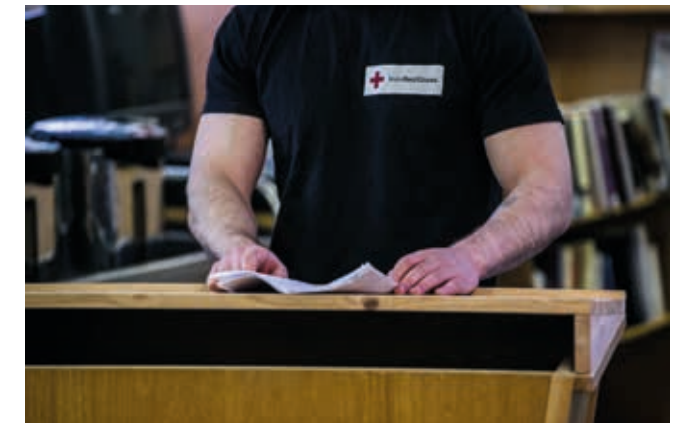
All of the new volunteers completed an accredited first aid course and carried out practical demonstrations of CPR and use of a defibrillator around the prisons.

Following HSE training, volunteers also facilitated smoking cessation courses and helped the Irish Prison Service implement a prison-wide smoking ban through awareness raising.

Preventing violence in prisons is vital to the safety of prisoners and in 2018, Irish Red Cross volunteer inmates trained as facilitators in violence-prevention workshops, and in turn provided the course to other inmates.

Continuing on from the success of campaigns run previously, awareness and anti-stigma campaigns were carried out on Hepatitis C, HIV and AIDS. In addition, overdose prevention programmes (in association with Merchants Quay Ireland) were facilitated, which raised awareness about dangers in using drugs.

In 2018 the programme began its move from prison to the community, facilitated by experienced ex offenders.



© James Forde

——Athlone woman
named Irish Red Cross
Carer of the Year 2018

“They just don’t make them like her anymore” says Colleen Cuniffe about her mother Eileen who was named Irish Red Cross Carer of the Year.

Irish Red Cross Carer of the Year Eileen Cuniffe is a full-time carer for not just one, but two people. Eileen’s husband Liam had a stroke eight years ago while Eileen’s mother Colleen Curley came to live with her six years ago, as she was diagnosed with Lewy body dementia.

——Eileen’s daughters nominated their mother for the award with Emma explaining; “although Dad is independent in a lot of ways, brain injury has affected his coordination, and his personality is altered a lot. With Granny, her short-term memory isn’t great, and some nights she’d be up five or six times, so Mam doesn’t really get to sleep much at night. She has two people with mental health issues which is a lot to take on when you’ve your own family and grandkids as well.”

——Eileen’s week is a “whirlwind of constant appointments” —both in hospital and with the doctor, while Eileen also ensures Liam and Colleen take all of their medication. But she takes her role as a carer in her stride. “She’s the kind of person who would put everybody before herself,” says Eileen’s daughter Colleen. “She’s always been that way inclined, it’s in her nature.

——“Obviously there are days where it would be quite stressful and it is exhausting but she just gets on with it, even if there are days where she’s sick herself. They just don’t make them like her anymore!”

——Eileen has also become involved in an Alzheimer’s Association Memory Café which was set up by Fiona Carmody and Aoife Tynan and meets once a month. “Mam volunteers there because she knows what other families are going through and she bakes for that,” says Emma. “She goes down and chats with those who need to talk. It’s an outlet for other families who are struggling with a family member being diagnosed. With all that she’s doing—she’s trying to give a bit back to

the community as well. She’s great, she’s very much a selfless person and I would say definitely a person who’s full of empathy. She’s always able to feel what other people are going through.”

——Colleen and Emma are delighted to see their mother being recognised by the Irish Red Cross for all her hard work and care; “it’s nice for her, just to say thank you, and for her to be acknowledged for the work she does in the background,” explains Emma. “A lot of people probably won’t even know what goes on behind closed doors or what people have to go through on a daily basis—there is a lot to be dealt with. Even at night time, most people are able to lay their heads down and get a good night’s sleep whereas Mam still has a full-time job throughout the night, making sure that granny is ok and to comfort her.”



© Jeff Harvey



With all that she's
doing—she's trying
to give a bit back
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as well.

Irish Red Cross Youth (IRCY) helps young people develop their understanding of the world and the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people and communities. IRCY members are aged between four and twenty five years old and make up 29% of the Society's volunteer network in Ireland.

IRCY members are a crucial part of the world's largest humanitarian network and they are vital to securing the future of the Irish Red Cross. During their regular meetings IRCY members learn skills such as first aid, plan how they can help their families and communities, build friendships, and discuss issues of importance to them.

— In 2018, Irish Red Cross Youth continued their commitment to diversity and inclusion by supporting the LGBT community. The LGBT Allies Programme was successfully awarded €2,000 in funding from the LGBTI+ fund of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to roll out training for leaders in this new and innovative anti-discrimination programme. In all, 72 staff and volunteers completed the programme and are ready to deliver it to youth members in 2019. In 2018 Irish Red Cross Youth also took part in the Dublin Pride parade for the seventh year in a row, with 45 IRCY volunteers attending the celebrations.

— In April, 230 participants and leaders from all over the country descended on Gormanston for the National Youth Challenge. The theme of the day was 'We Are One' and participants focused on the relationships

we have in the Irish Red Cross with the other Red Cross and Crescent national societies worldwide. Participants also engaged in physical and mental challenges to build teamwork and learn more about the Society.

— In late November, 11 IRCY members who are currently in third-level education travelled to London to attend the first of a series of Erasmus+ events that IRCY will be participating in over the next two years. Here they met their counterparts from Belgium, Netherlands and the UK. IRCY members took part in workshops on the important elements required to create successful and vibrant college societies for the Red Cross. IRCY members gave presentations on the HIV Awareness and Positive Mental Health programmes and students from each country took materials home to adapt and use within their own groups.

— Petersburg in Galway was the location for 2018's National Youth Camp, which was a resounding success. The IRCY members themselves chose the theme of 'youthquake', which was based around the important issues of climate change and conservation. Some participants camped while others stayed in dorms and a special effort was made to ensure that IRCY members who are wheelchair users were able to take part in a wide range of activities.

— The annual Zeminar schools' event took place in the RDS in November so IRCY youth volunteers returned to man the stand which drew a huge amount of interest. There were hundreds of visitors and plenty of follow-up contact from schools who were particularly eager for information on the Anti-Bullying, Positive Images and Positive Mental Health programmes.



© IRCY Media Team



Irish Red Cross Youth doesn't just pay lip service to the idea of inclusivity, every day it works towards making the organisation a more welcoming place for its members, a safe haven for every single young person who wants to take part.

Thirteen-year-old Tiernan Dineen who is an avid soccer fan and Liverpool supporter has been a member of Irish Red Cross Youth (IRCY) for over two years. Although Tiernan's Dad is also a member, as was his Grandad (RIP), he says he mostly just joined to see what all the fuss was about.

———"I had heard all about it and I thought, 'you know what? I might as well go for it'. I thought it would be all about learning when I started but it's actually about having fun, learning new skills and meeting new friends."

———Tiernan, who is from Mallow in Co. Cork, has spina bifida and hydrocephalus and has been in a wheelchair all his life. While he happily took part in IRCY's other events, he hadn't been able to take part in the annual National Youth Camp as they didn't have the facilities to accommodate him for an overnight stay.

———However in 2018, the National Youth Working Group decided to introduce a camping element and this meant Tiernan would be able to attend. Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre in Galway, where the camp had been held previously, can facilitate camping and was again chosen as the location. Bernie Rutherford, the Irish Red Cross National Director of Youth, says they were delighted to be able to include Tiernan in the camp, as well as the roster of activities they had planned.

———"We were so happy to be able to include him, it was fantastic. I had heard loads about him because he's a really gregarious young guy. I had told the staff at Petersburg that he would be there so they ensured the activities would suit Tiernan and put him in a specific group with an extra staff member.

———"He was able to camp out with all his friends and his whole branch from Mallow camped with him, which I thought was lovely. His friends see Tiernan, they don't see the wheelchair, and that was probably one of the biggest learning curves for us—to look at what he can do as opposed to what he can't."

———And Tiernan himself certainly wasn't going to be held back from giving everything a go; he took part in both kayaking and rock climbing, and fulfilled all of his duties back at camp.

———"I wasn't worried about the activities at all, I was just keen to give everything a shot really," says Tiernan. "I think kayaking was probably my favourite, it was good craic. I did the rock climbing and I got to the top—there was a great view up there."

———For the leaders it was an emotional moment and Bernie hopes that other people with disabilities will be encouraged by Tiernan's story and join their local Irish Red Cross branch.

———"It still brings a tear to my eye when I think of the smile on Tiernan's face when he got to the top of that wall, it was just something else. I think it's probably something he thought he would never be able to do. And I think every leader there was close to tears.

———"We really want to focus on ability and not disability, and hopefully Tiernan's story will encourage other young people and other parents. We're an inclusive organisation but there's very few disabled members so we'd love for people to see this and know they are really welcome."

———Tiernan echoes her sentiment and says that the best part of his experience has been all the friends he has made during his time with the IRCY.

———"I'd definitely encourage anyone else who is considering joining to just go and do it. For me the best part has been making new friends and just meeting people I didn't know before."

It still brings a tear
to my eye when I
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© IRCY Media Team



**Armed conflicts, natural disasters
and higher risks of climate change
considerably increase the need for
humanitarian aid and continue to
seriously impact millions of people
each year.**

**2018 was no different
with the sheer scale
of humanitarian need
around the world
continuing to grow and
more people affected
as a consequence.**

In times when more people are becoming more vulnerable, the Red Cross has a more important role to play than ever. We act locally and globally to prevent and alleviate distress.

——Throughout 2018, disasters struck all corners of the globe, with weather events such as Hurricane Michael which affected the US, Central America and the Caribbean, Typhoon Mankhut in the Philippines and the immense floods in the Indian state of Kerala. These weather events all had major humanitarian consequences which affected millions. Through it all, the

Red Cross was there to meet the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people, delivering life-saving aid and assistance.

——In September one of the worst double disasters to ever strike the Asia-Pacific hit the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia. An earthquake and tsunami saw the island devastated, with survivors losing loved ones, homes and livelihoods. It will take years to recover from this tragedy which literally wiped entire villages off the map. Red Cross teams who were on the ground since day one provided psychosocial support to survivors. They also



Thanks to all our donors and supporters who throughout **2018** helped us to:

Reach more than **8,000** people with disaster preparedness activities

Install two **20,000**-litre water tanks which now supply safe drinking water to **830** homes in Indonesia

Enable more than **3,000** women avail of maternal and health services in Niger

Reach more than **1,300** people through our prevention of management of TB programme in India

Train **40** Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers in preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence while nearly **3,000** children and more than **7,000** adults directly benefited from our different violence-prevention activities in the Gaza strip.

Improve income generation for more than **800** conflict-affected people in Syria

The Irish Red Cross sent **€30,000** to Yemen in 2018 to support the work of the Red Crescent there. During 2018 the Red Cross provided food and aid to around **660,000** Yemenis. Over **2m** people were given access to clean water and better sanitation while primary healthcare centres treated over **200,000** patients.

helped with search and rescue, medical care and the distribution of emergency relief items such as tarpaulins, hygiene kits and blankets.

———Fragile and conflict-affected contexts continue to represent around 80 per cent of the world's humanitarian caseload, forcing people to leave their homes, decreasing their access to food and basic services and causing loss of income. For the Irish Red Cross, the suffering of the civilian population in both Syria and Yemen remained two of the most preoccupying conflict-related humanitarian crises in 2018.

———In addition to disaster initiatives, the Irish Red Cross also focused on its long-term international efforts in 2018, with five local Red Cross and Red Crescent partners across the globe. The purpose of this intensified collaboration is to invest in building stronger communities to withstand the natural disasters and crises they will face. The Irish Red Cross also actively contributes

to building strong, well-functioning sister national societies which can act effectively in times of crisis and conflict.

———Unfortunately, due to funding constraints, and after more than ten years of partnership with the Niger Red Cross, the Irish Red Cross closed its programme in Niger. The Society is continuing to maintain a small presence through our ongoing partnership with both the Belgian and Niger Red Cross.

———Throughout the year, advocating for humanitarian policy and action remained a cornerstone of Irish Red Cross work. In times of conflict and disaster, the Red Cross works actively on reducing sexual and gender-related violence and supporting its victims. National societies work in local communities to change attitudes and in 2018 training was given to 40 staff and volunteers from 15 different sister national societies to help them prevent and respond to sexual and

gender-based violence. This training was funded by the Irish Red Cross.

———2018 also saw the Irish Red Cross continue its commitment to raising awareness of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by running the Corn Adomnán Competition which gives college students a unique insight into this important area of Red Cross work.

———The Irish Red Cross is dedicated to working alongside the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to deliver critical assistance to vulnerable communities across the world.

NEPAL

In late 2018, the Irish Red Cross signed a preliminary agreement with the Nepal Red Cross Society which will see the Irish Red Cross implement a two-year livelihoods programme. Overall the programme will contribute to increasing the resilience of up to 4,000 individuals through livelihood support across three communities in the Myagdi district.

INDONESIA

Our ongoing partnership with the Indonesian Red Cross Society sees us implement a Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction programme in the Malang region in East Java which is a disaster-prone area that suffers earthquakes, flooding and landslides.

———The project aims to help local people better prepare for disasters. The project also empowers community members in planning, managing and eventually coping with small-scale disasters locally on their own. This year has seen the Irish Red Cross ensure that more than 8,000 people are now well prepared and organised to face the challenges of future natural hazard events.

———In India, the prevention and management of tuberculosis (TB) programme continued throughout 2018. With nearly 2 million people contracting the disease annually, it continues to be a pressing problem in the country and the Red Cross is committed to focusing on the vulnerable people affected and supporting them as they adhere to their treatment.

SYRIA

The conflict in Syria entered its eighth year in 2018 and the situation deteriorated in many parts of the country. The humanitarian needs of the Syrian population continue to increase with some 13.1 million people in need of assistance, due

to vulnerabilities resulting from exposure to hostilities, limited access to goods and services, as well as mass displacement. In addition, years of hostilities have had a significant impact on the Syrian economy with over 50 per cent of Syrians currently unemployed.

———Along with our ongoing humanitarian response, the Irish Red Cross is providing livelihood support with its partner the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. In 2018 the Irish Red Cross helped enhance the livelihoods of over 800 people by improving their skills through vocational training and strengthening their activities for income generation. The Irish Red Cross also distributed seed and fertiliser packages to up to 1,000 homes, allowing families to restart their kitchen gardens, which gives them a source of food security and nutrition.

YEMEN

Yemen has been embroiled in a civil war since 2015 and there are currently 24 million people there in need of humanitarian assistance. The United Nations warned the country risks facing a "massive famine" and it's estimated that 63,500 Yemenis are experiencing catastrophic levels of food insecurity.

———During 2018 the Red Cross provided food and aid to around 660,000 Yemenis. Over 2 million people were given access to clean water and better sanitation while primary healthcare centres treated over 200,000 patients. The Irish Red Cross ran an appeal for Yemen in 2018, raising and sending €30,000 to support the work of the Red Crescent in Yemen.

GAZA STRIP

In the Gaza Strip, years of blockage and recurrent outbreaks of hostilities have eroded basic infrastructure, service delivery, livelihoods and coping mechanisms.

———In 2018, the Irish Red Cross initiated a new project with the Palestine Red Crescent Society which aimed to build community resilience in violence prevention. The project aims to support vulnerable communities and help them reach self-reliance and independence by changing attitudes and behaviours related to interpersonal violence.

———Project activities, which included campaigns covering violence against women, children, older persons and people with disabilities, have so far reached 10,160 people across five communities in Gaza. As a result, they are now better informed about the factors contributing to gender-based violence and violence prevention.

OUR INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL

Our international personnel, in close cooperation and partnership with our trusted local staff represent the front line in the planning and delivery of the Irish Red Cross response to humanitarian crises across the globe.

———During 2018, the Irish Red Cross had a total of six technical experts deployed in various locations, including South Sudan, Somalia, Niger, Burundi and Jordan.

In 2018 over 2 million people were given access to clean water and better sanitation in Yemen.

After ten years supporting vulnerable people in Niger in West Africa, the Irish Red Cross completed its work in 2018.

Although the Irish Red Cross is satisfied with the good work that has been done in Niger's communities, we also leave with a heavy heart as there's still much more that needs to be done.

———— The projects which the Irish Red Cross initiated will now be managed by the Niger Red Cross in partnership with the Belgian Red Cross.

———— When the programme started, its objectives were to build community resilience by enhancing family and community-based coping mechanisms, as well as strengthening livelihoods and improving agricultural production.

———— While there are countless examples of the life-changing work of the Irish Red Cross in Niger's communities, it's especially evident in Oubandawaki, an extremely isolated community where the Irish Red Cross supported activities from 2008.

———— With the Irish Red Cross' help, the community gradually became a hub with a health centre, a school, a cereal bank and finally, a water bank. However, due to its isolation, the people in Oubandawaki still had difficulty accessing basic goods within the village and they had to send for the things they needed from town, which was almost 30km away.

———— After a request by the community, the Irish Red Cross submitted a proposal to support the construction of a local store to be managed by the women of Oubandawaki. The proposal was approved for funding by a private Irish donor.

———— The people of the village helped with local labour during the building of the store and provided meals for the workers. The construction was completed in July 2017 and basic stock including rice, sugar, soap and insect repellent was provided to the community. Villagers then added to this with some local food items.

———— A group of women who had worked on other Irish-Red-Cross-supported projects in the past were then selected by the community and trained in store management.

———— The store has been a real success story and the customer numbers are continuing to increase thanks to the construction of a mini water system, which draws people to the area. People coming to fetch water are now able to buy goods in Oubandawaki instead of continuing their journey to Belbédji or further.

———— The store sells around 20,000 FCFA (€30) worth of goods every day. This allowed the women to diversify the stock available and they doubled their capital within two months.

———— It's impossible to overstate the positive impact this one project has had on the community of Oubandawaki. On an everyday level, people are now able to purchase basic items that they previously would have had to travel to buy



© Victor Lacken



———— The women involved in the store are occupied and happy to work together, which reinforces ties and generates income, helping improve their autonomy and status within their families.

———— Thanks to the store, Oubandawaki is gradually becoming a small town and the council and local authorities are ready to provide more basic amenities to this community. There have also been more exchanges with neighbouring communities which is, in turn, helping the development of small partnerships and diversification of local businesses.

———— Aminata, a member of the Women's Group in Oubandawaki, is positive about the continued growth of the store.

———— "We have no doubt about the future of our store. With the growing number of visitors in our community thanks to this water point, the number of our customers and our store is becoming very popular in the area," she says.

———— Taking a look at the other projects undertaken in Niger reveals similar success stories. The building of three water wells, funded by Land Rover, in the communities of Tanout and Belbedji in the Zinder region had a significant impact. The wells benefited 6,250 people by the end of March 2018 and 10,812 between April and October 2018.

———— This access to potable water was the most important issue affecting children and families in the Zinder area. The water wells and mini water systems have clearly demonstrated that the local people can improve their economic situation when they can access water nearby. This has been especially important for the women in the communities, who are now freer to take on income-generating roles because they no longer have to walk many kilometres every day for water.

———— In 2018 the Irish and Niger Red Cross staff made use of funds from Electric Aid and the Irish Courts to construct a new classroom in the Garin Manga area of the Zinder region. This meant that all four communities targeted by the Irish Red Cross project had schools with equipped classrooms, latrines and washing facilities. The impressive outcome of this was a 19% increase in school attendance which will have a positive knock-on effect for the children and their families.

- 63,000 saplings planted to protect arable land from desertification
- 10,812 people benefited from three water wells
- 19% increase in school attendance
- 100% beneficiaries of animal husbandry were women

Along with its ongoing humanitarian response, the Irish Red Cross is providing livelihood support with its partner the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. In 2018 the Irish Red Cross helped enhance the livelihoods of over 800 people by improving their skills through vocational training and strengthening their activities for income generation.

SUPPORTING CONFLICT-AFFECTED FAMILIES IN SYRIA STRENGTHEN THEIR INCOME-GENERATION ACTIVITIES

Khaled Hussein is from Quneitran village in south-east rural Aleppo. Khaled is 44 years old, a father of six and works as a school teacher. In late 2016, due to the conflict in the area, Khaled and his family had to flee their village to the city of Aleppo. The displacement was very difficult for Khaled and his family. He had to sell some of the few belongings they had brought with them, and borrow money to buy basic items.

———— Khaled and his family were finally able to return home to Quneitran in March 2017 and Khaled returned to his job as a teacher. However, the financial burdens remained high. Khaled's eldest son was diagnosed with diabetes at the age of three. The cost of medicine for his son, as well as the cost of living for his family of eight, and his accumulating debts meant Khaled had to sell a piece of agricultural land. During a visit by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) livelihoods team, Khaled said, "as I have a limited income, I wasn't able to meet all the basic needs of my family so we had to cope by reducing how much food we ate, and we had to limit ourselves to only one meal a day."

———— As his income isn't sufficient, Khaled has had to learn how to cope with very little money. He prioritises buying medicine. In return, he restricts the amount of food and meals his family eats; they only occasionally consume meat. When possible, Khaled also depends on food aid to help feed his family, but that assistance is becoming less regular.

———— In 2018, through support from the Irish Red Cross, Khaled and families like his benefited from a project which helps restore livelihoods in rural Aleppo.

Through this project, 150 families received two pregnant sheep, as well as feed and veterinary care to help subsidise the cost of raising the sheep.

———— During the assessments carried out by the SARC livelihoods teams from Aleppo, Khaled was asked if he had thought of finding other means to support his family. Khaled responded "I wanted to buy some sheep to help provide the family with food without requiring me to buy it from the market. But I can't afford the cost to buy the sheep and the increased cost of their needs, nor am I able to borrow more money as I still haven't paid back my debts."

———— Khaled now says "after the visit of SARC, I was registered to benefit from the sheep project. I felt such joy and relief, especially since SARC also provided feed and veterinary care. Without that support, I wouldn't have been able to bear the costs of raising these two sheep and their lambs.

———— "One of our new sheep has now given birth to a lamb. My family and I are so excited and are waiting for the second lamb to be born. My eldest son is helping me by taking care of and brushing the sheep daily. And now we can use the milk and milk products to help feed the family and will be able to sell it later in the market."

I started repairing the clothes and that became a good source of income for me and for the family. Also, I gained more self-confidence and new friends from the region.

TAILORING VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN GHIZLANIYA COMMUNITY CENTRE

Ezza Al Essa, 33, is from Hititat Al Turkman village. She lost her husband as a result of the events in Syria and at the beginning of the crisis she moved to Ghizlania with her four children.

———— Ezza's 12-year-old son was forced to leave school to support his family. When she heard about the opening of the Ghizlania Centre of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, she applied for the vocational training project—sewing training—which had been announced by the livelihood team. After assessing whether Ezza met the established criteria, she completed the three-month training period and was given a sewing machine and a sewing tool kit which included threads, scissors, rulers etc.

———— Ezza was thrilled to complete the training and excited about the prospects such training will bring, noting; "I was very excited to end the training period and start my private sewing job through my gained experience.

———— "Actually, when I received the machine, I began to advertise my work through the relatives, neighbours and the family itself, then I started repairing the clothes and that became a good source of income for me and for the family. Also, I gained more self-confidence and new friends from the region. Now I am trying to settle in one place after the many moves from one house to another because of the difficulty of affording the rent of the house, and my son will return to school at the beginning of next year."

My role has changed from dependant to supporter of my family

MUHAMMAD SAEED JABA JEH

Muhammad Saeed Jaba Jeh is 23 years old—he was forced to leave his city, Harasta in rural Damascus, due to the conflict and he moved to Al Tal. His dream is to start building his future by improving his skills in mobile phone maintenance.

———— "Each of us has a cornerstone on which to base his life." This is something Muhammad heard in one of the sessions in the community centre which supports vulnerable people by helping them improve their professional skills. Muhammad says: "this sentence changed my professional life and motivated myself to think seriously about my future."

———— Muhammad is living with his four other family members in a rented house for 35,000 SYP (equivalent to €60). Between his father's job and the food parcels from the Red Crescent, their daily needs are met.

———— Muhammad's income was 5,000 SYP (equivalent to almost €9) per week but after gaining technical skills in mobile maintenance training provided by Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), it has increased to 10,000-12,000 SYP (equivalent to €17-€21) per week. Along with helping to support his family, Muhammad is also saving some money for his own project—opening a mobile phone shop.

———— Muhammad said, "I am able to share the cost of the rent of the house with my father because my income is increasing, as well my role has changed from dependant to supporter of my family. We are starting to repay loans that we needed to ask for to cover our basic needs."

© Syrian Arab Red Crescent



For people with disabilities, life in Gaza under prolonged occupation and economic sanctions presents additional challenges which exacerbate the difficulties they face in their day-to-day lives.

Since January 2018, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has been working to prevent violence in homes and communities through a project made possible with support from the Irish Red Cross. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Social Development, over 49,000 individuals in the Gaza Strip have some type of disability, and one third of them are children. Children with disabilities are among the most vulnerable group due to stigma, discrimination and lack of support. They are also more likely to experience violence. This is why a component of the Irish Red Cross programme focuses on engaging with caregivers and bringing about greater inclusion of children with disabilities within Palestinian society.

While conducting community outreach activities in al-Zaitoun, a suburb of Gaza City, PRCS volunteers heard about seven-year-old Maryam, who has an intellectual disability. While Maryam was being cared for by her family, they chose to isolate and hide her and didn't allow her to leave the house to participate in social gatherings. Due to a range of factors which include physical and attitudinal barriers, social exclusion continues to have a negative impact on the lives of people with disability.

Upon visiting Maryam's home, the PRCS volunteers started to talk with her parents about improving Maryam's independence and increasing her participation in community activities. One of the volunteers asked to play with Maryam but Maryam was afraid and refused to play, with her mother explaining; "she is afraid of anyone who tries to talk to her, because we hide her so that we do not feel shame from the society."

The volunteer requested that Maryam's family attend PRCS awareness sessions which offer guidance and support for parents of children with disabilities. Throughout Gaza, there remains a lack of knowledge and awareness among parents on how to cope with children with disabilities and ensure a dignified life. The session also addressed issues such as increasing understanding of disability, behavioural issues and how to support people with disabilities appropriately. Maryam's mother recognised she needed to change how she dealt with Maryam, so she asked for help from the PRCS programme.

Using colouring, drawing and games, Maryam slowly started to befriend members of the community-based action group and PRCS volunteers. Activities such as these are geared towards assisting children like Maryam who have intellectual disabilities, and helping them strengthen their social relationships and improve their emotional wellbeing. Maryam's mother says "the training and support provided by PRCS has helped me on a personal level to understand Maryam's disability and to take better care of her." The family are now more aware of Maryam's rights and needs and have more of a positive attitude towards her.

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© Hedinn Halldorsson / IFRC

Children with disabilities are among the most vulnerable group due to stigma, discrimination and lack of support.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is a critical area of law that can often go under the radar for many studying law at university. While time is spent worrying over law of torts, contract law and company law, the wider world is dealing with issues of IHL on a daily basis as so many cities and towns become war zones over time.

While studying for my LLB at University College Cork (UCC), a lecturer of mine, Dr Dug Cubie, propositioned our Evidence class to take part in a competition called the Corn Adomnáin. Having never really heard of IHL previously, I assumed it was all just about human rights. I quickly learned however that it is more nuanced than this—it is the law of war.

———Dr Cubie eventually managed to convince a group of us to take part in the Corn Adomnáin. I have to admit that once I heard about a potential hostage scenario we would have to role play in, I was sold. It sounded like an exciting break from the stuffiness of the classroom.

———The Corn Adomnáin is an IHL competition which encourages students to use their knowledge of this body of law, primarily the Rome Statue and the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and apply it to real life scenarios as they are happening. You are forced to think on the spot, improvise, and negotiate.

———The name of the Corn Adomnáin is also important. The name ‘Adomnáin’ stems from as far back as 697 AD, when an Irish Abbot produced one of the first ever laws for the protection of non-combatants in war—the Geneva Conventions of its day—and was promulgated right here in Ireland, in Birr Co. Offaly. As such, it is only fitting that the IHL competition draws its title from such a forward-thinking piece of Irish humanitarian law.

———As a newbie to the law of war, I had to meet with my teammates to conduct a crash course in IHL and over a few short weeks we were (somewhat) well versed in it and confident enough to take part.

———Taking part in the competition, which was hosted by Queen’s University Belfast in 2018, my eyes were opened to the issues faced by people in war zones,

even if it was just through role playing and simulations. I became familiar with the work of the Irish Red Cross and the ICRC more generally, and my idea of what the law is and how it worked began to develop. It also highlighted to me just how important the competition is for promoting the work of the Red Cross, as it really engages students to critically consider life in a war zone, and how the consequences of one’s actions can change the lives of others in a split second. While UCC didn’t win the competition in 2018, two of my teammates were awarded prizes for best speakers at the moot competition which was by no means an easy feat.

———What really stood out for me during the competition was the location—Queen’s University in Belfast. It felt like a poignant reminder that although we can often feel very far removed from the war zones described to us in Syria, Libya and elsewhere, Ireland was also once a place of large-scale conflict and terror for people in the North, and importantly, this wasn’t very long ago. It was the realisation that we are all vulnerable to the whims of those in powerful positions.

———Maebh Butler, UCC student who participated in the 2018 IHL Competition.

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Working as a Field Delegate in Burundi

Julia Murphy is a field delegate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Burundi. Having grown up in Belgium, Julia is half French and half Irish—her father’s family is from Cork city and Julia studied for a PhD in Belfast. Julia’s work in French-speaking Burundi is varied, challenging and rewarding.

Day-to-day life in Burundi is calm. “Bujumbura is a small capital which still has hippos and crocodiles in the lake,” says Julia. “Sometimes traffic jams are caused by hippos just deciding to cross the road.” This is a stark contrast to a period of about a decade from the mid ‘90s when there was civil war in Burundi. Colleagues never forget the fact that three international ICRC staff were killed there in 1996.

Although Burundi is not experiencing conflict at the moment, the impact of past violence is still widely felt. “It’s on such a scale that nearly everyone has been affected by the previous hostilities in one way or another,” says Julia.

One might assume these emotional scars would be palpable in daily life in Burundi but instead Julia says “there is a willingness to live your life fully.”

The ICRC’s work in Burundi today involves repairing water and sanitation systems, and reconnecting families. The team also carries out visits to places of detention to assess conditions and ensure detainees are treated according to internationally-recognized standards. Staff also give training in international humanitarian law, also known as the laws of war, to the armed forces.

Julia’s area of focus includes the capital and surrounding area, which includes the country’s biggest prison. Before a visit begins, Julia will meet the director of the prison to agree the terms of reference, which includes being able to meet detainees. Any concerns are raised directly with the authorities in a confidential report. Julia will insist on being able to access all areas, including facilities such as the cells, kitchen area, toilet, showers and communal and exercise areas.

For Julia, one of the most important aspects of any prison visit is the interview with those being detained.

“Any detainee can come and talk to us and it’s completely confidential which means there are no witnesses to the interview, no prison guards, no prison authorities, it’s just us and that person,” explains Julia. “He or she is free to talk about anything. It is a unique opportunity to air their concerns.

“These interviews help us to identify certain patterns or themes. If we find that several detainees have been talking about the same problem or concern, then we will raise it with the director of the prison at the end of the visit.”

The ICRC visits people regardless of who they are or why they are in prison. These visits are really appreciated by the detainees with one telling Julia; “thank you for coming, we’re always really happy to see you when you come in the prison, it shows us that somebody cares about us.”

Aside from prison work, Julia’s role involves engaging with local authorities and decision makers. She’s responsible for creating and maintaining channels of communication with the regional Governor, local authorities and the police, for example. This work is integral to securing local understanding and acceptance of the ICRC and its work. Julia is also involved in some of the ICRC’s livelihoods projects, which aim to improve day-to-day life for people. For example, a local cash-for-work project in the area hires individuals to undertake work which will benefit the whole community such as helping to build or reset a road, or other local community activities for which people can be easily trained. Julia supports the team in charge of this initiative and introduces the project to the local authorities.



Julia’s role also involves distributing Red Cross Messages, which are messages passed through the Red Cross between family members who for a number of reasons would not otherwise be able to communicate, and often shares messages which put people back in touch with their loved ones. Julia cites this as a particularly fulfilling part of her work, “because you have a direct effect”. Julia once gave a message to a family who hadn’t heard from their relative in over four years. “They thought the person was dead,” says Julia. “Going to that family and giving them a letter and seeing the realisation on their faces that actually, this person is not dead—that’s always the best part of the job. You are reconnecting families and giving them hope.”

Julia’s work presents challenges too of course. “I have met some detainees who just start crying, bursting into tears, because they are worried about their future or their family. But despite those tough times, I know we can really make a difference. And it is that knowledge which helps me in my work every day and makes me proud to be part of the Red Cross Movement.”

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In September 2015 the Irish Government decided to establish the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) and a month later a programme office for the IRPP was opened to carry out the aims of this Government decision.

The IRPP was founded to enable the Irish Government help alleviate the pressures being experienced by EU member states due to the migration crisis that had developed in southern Europe.

This arose due to an influx of migrants from areas of conflict in the Middle East and Africa, particularly Syria. Under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme, the Irish Government pledged to accept a total of 4,000 persons into the State: by end of 2018, 2,177 people had arrived in the Irish state which included 1,022 from the EU Greek Relocation Programme.

**THE IRISH RED CROSS
MIGRATION PROGRAMME**

In 2018, the Irish Red Cross supported the Irish Government in fulfilling its commitment by

facilitating the resettlement and integration of some migrants who came into Ireland under the EU Greek Relocation Programme. The Irish Red Cross was requested to support 85 young single people (between the ages of 18-35) who travelled alone across the migration trail and sought refugee status in Ireland. It was specifically requested that the Irish Red Cross provide such support by utilising the goodwill of Irish people who had made pledges of accommodation, goods and services for refugees.

© Mirva Helenius / Finnish Red Cross



In 2018, the Irish Red Cross migration programme supported **149** refugees.

121 people have been provided with housing support since 2017 across **11** counties in **69** properties.

Housing kits have been provided to support all **121** initial moves for families and individuals. Housing kits are funded by the FEAD grant (Funding for European Aid to the most Deprived).

By summer 2019, **65** people were availing of pledged properties.

78 baby kits have been provided since April 2017.

810 personal hygiene kits have been provided to support individuals and families arriving into Ireland at Dublin Airport since 2017.

Since 2017 **17** Irish Red Cross ambulances were utilised with **36** volunteers providing support at Dublin Airport while Irish Red Cross Volunteer Co-ordinators accompanied and transported **57** service users to meetings, and officially befriended **46** refugees.

The Irish Red Cross supported **23** flights from Greece since early 2017 and over the last two years transported **782** people from the airport to EROCs.

———— The Irish Red Cross migration programme became fully operational in 2017 as refugees began arriving at the start of that year. The Irish Red Cross engaged with pledgers who had made offers of accommodation while the Society also began working with each refugee or refugee family to decide on where they wanted to live in Ireland, and develop a plan of integration supports. The Irish Red Cross then started matching refugees with pledged accommodations offers.

———— Since June 2017, the Irish Red Cross has worked predominately with refugees residing in Abbeyfield Emergency Reception and Orientation Centre (EROC) in Ballaghaderreen and Mosney Accommodation Centre. In 2018, the Irish Red Cross also worked closely with people who are residing in Clonea Strand and the Hazel Hotel in Monasterevin.

———— This is the end of the second year of implementation of the Irish Red Cross migration programme and there is evidence of significant progress. The Irish Red Cross has facilitated the placement of 17 families and 59 singles into a variety of housing and each person has had significant integration

supports offered to link families and singles into education, employment, health and local communities. Of the 121 Syrian migrants supported with housing, 49% are single people and 51% are part of family units. The Irish Red Cross has housed 33 singles under the age of 25 with 22 single people successfully gaining employment.

HOW THE MATCHING PROCESS WORKS FOR PLEDGED ACCOMMODATION

While migrants are living in EROCs the Irish Red Cross commences a programme of engagement by carrying out a direct consultation with each individual refugee to identify their needs, aspirations and practical considerations with regard to their housing, health, education and employment needs.

———— The Irish Red Cross then works to find suitable accommodation which caters to the self-identified needs of refugees.

———— Once a match is found, the placement of refugees into accommodation is fully supported by a migration caseworker who works directly with the refugee to provide essential wraparound supports such as securing access to education, health, employment and

social protection in the new location. These supports are provided for a period of 12 months post placement. Community-based activities are supported by Irish Red Cross volunteers at local level.

———— In 2018, the Irish Red Cross experienced a shortage in housing in suitable urban locations. In May of the same year, the Irish Red Cross launched an “Empty Space” advertising campaign, which called on the Irish public to put empty space to better use by offering spare rooms or vacant properties such as apartments or holiday homes for Syrian refugees. This campaign directed those interested in pledging accommodation to the Irish Red Cross Register of Pledges website and can be accessed at <https://registerofpledges.redcross.ie> Over the course of the year, the Irish Red Cross received 193 pledges, totalling 355 bedrooms. These included 47 vacant properties with 126 bedrooms and 146 shared properties (with 249 bedrooms). With support from Cooperative Housing Ireland, the Irish Red Cross then assessed each property.

OTHER HOUSING SUPPORT

Housing remains the central crux of the work of the Irish Red Cross migration programme and is the starting point for good integration into the community. In 2018, there were significant challenges in the supply and cost of housing across Ireland. This lack of adequate and affordable housing has proved challenging for the Irish Red Cross migration programme in its work. ——— As well as matching pledged accommodation, the Irish Red Cross sources and secures private rented properties for refugees in collaboration with the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive and local authorities across Ireland. The Irish Red Cross supports young Syrian people to utilise social housing supports such as Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) to help with rental costs.

———— Sourcing rental properties within an affordable price range has been challenging as rental costs continue to increase.

———— 35% of housing allocations organised by the Irish Red Cross for refugees since 2017 have been through the private rental market, using HAP, while 53% of housing utilised by the Irish Red Cross for refugees has been offered by the

Irish public through the register of pledges. There are two types of accommodation offered by pledgers; a vacant property or living with a host family.

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP – IRISH RED CROSS ROLE

In 2018, a new community sponsorship programme was developed by the Government of Ireland, in collaboration with civil society organisations and partners, and supported by the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative. This programme will become a new strand of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme. This new initiative will see Community Sponsorship Groups (CSG) (which is a group comprised of a minimum core group of five people, all of whom must be over 18) undertake to sponsor a refugee family. Sponsors may be drawn from faith-based organisations, trade unions, sporting associations and any and all manner of community groups. Sponsorship Groups commit to providing financial, social, emotional, and resettlement support to help newly-arrived refugees integrate into life in Ireland. Prior to sponsorship, CSGs will be required to align with an approved Regional Support Organisation (RSO) to

receive training and guidance in developing and preparing for the sponsorship. The Irish Red Cross has been involved at government level in the design of this programme and currently sits on a high-level steering committee.

———— The programme is currently rolling out a pilot phase where eight to ten refugee families will be supported by community sponsorship groups across the country.

— Migration Advertising Campaign

The Irish Red Cross ran a very unique advertising campaign in 2018 which was a first for the Society. This campaign was run to assist in the work of Irish Red Cross migration department and was very successful in achieving the desired result.

The Irish Red Cross began working in the area of migration when the Department of Justice and Equality asked the Society to manage a register of pledges for accommodation, goods, and services offered by the Irish public on a charitable basis. These pledges saw Irish people offer practical assistance to refugees in the wake of the migration crisis in Europe and the Middle East.

— The Irish Red Cross focused firstly on accommodation pledges and engaged in a process of matching refugees with vacant properties and rooms in homes. While this worked well, the Irish Red Cross soon experienced a shortage of housing in urban locations suitable for refugees so it was decided to run an advertising campaign calling on the Irish public for more accommodation pledges.

— In May 2018, the Irish Red Cross launched the ‘Empty Space’ campaign, which was developed by advertising agency Havas. This called on people to “put empty space to better use” by pledging “a room or vacant property for a Syrian refugee today.”

— The concept behind the campaign was that many people have space they could be using better, such as a holiday home or a room which has become vacant because a child has moved out.

— This idea was brought to life in the ad design which purposefully focused on the poor use of empty space within the advertisement to highlight space in homes or properties all over Ireland which could be put to better use.

— This campaign directed those interested in pledging accommodation to the Irish Red Cross Register of Pledges website to officially express their interest. This website was renovated in 2018, before the campaign launch, and can be accessed at <https://registerofpledges.redcross.ie/#/>

— The campaign was omnipresent. A ten-day radio campaign was taken out on Newstalk and RTÉ Radio 1, while quarter-page ads were placed in The Irish Times and the Irish Independent.

— In terms of outdoor advertising, there were placements on the Luas and Dublin Bus shelters, in DART stations and on billboards.

— There were also online ads placed on thejournal.ie, irishtimes.com and rte.ie.

— The ads were very striking by their nature and drew attention from journalists who gave the campaign editorial coverage too.

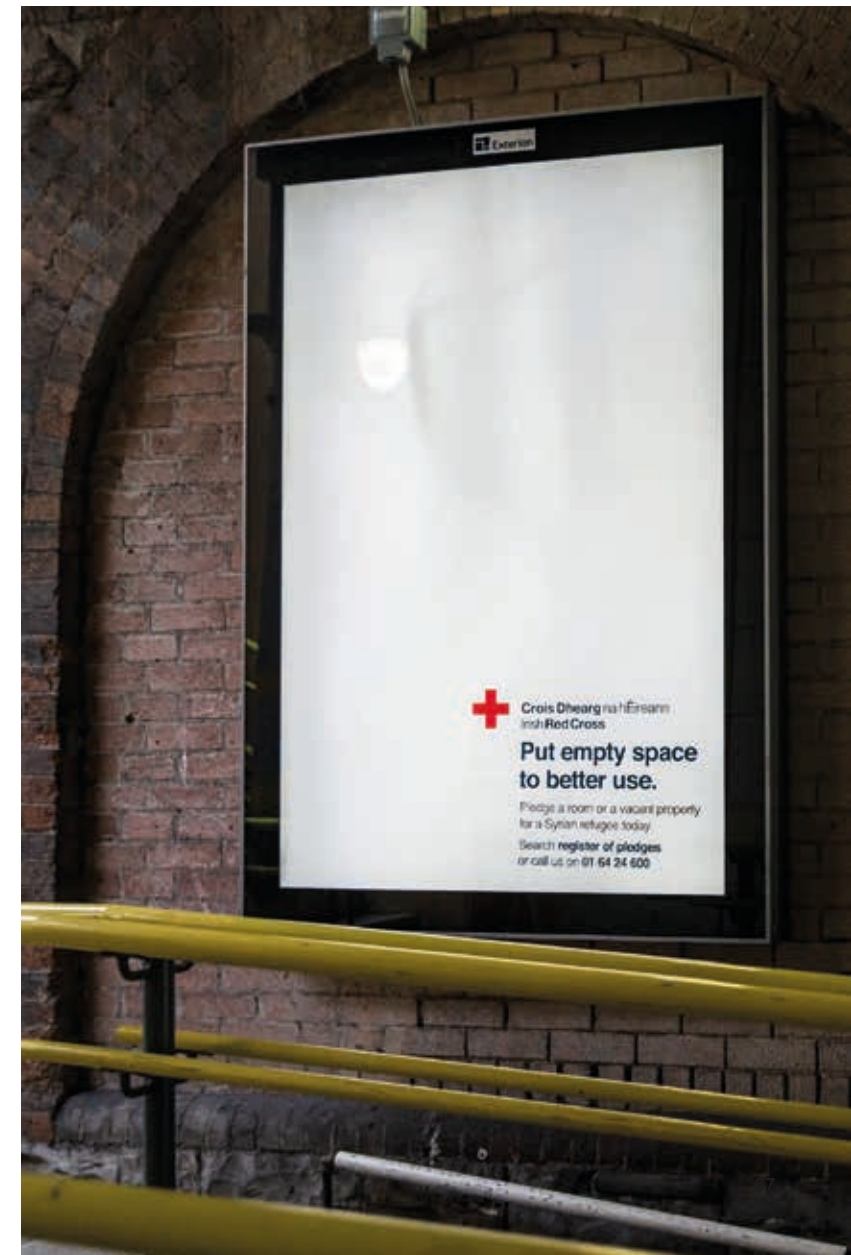
— In terms of results, the Irish Red Cross received 193 pledges, totalling 355 bedrooms over the course of 2018. These included 47 vacant properties with 126 bedrooms and 146 shared properties with 249 bedrooms. With support from Cooperative Housing Ireland, the Irish Red Cross then assessed each property prior to allocation, if suitable.

— The ‘Empty Space’ advertisement was highlighted as ‘Best Print Ad’ by bestadsontv.com.



© Havas Dublin

The Irish Red Cross
received 193
pledges, totalling
355 bedrooms over
the course of 2018.



Irish Red Cross Humanitarian Awards Ball

On 24 November 2018, the Irish Red Cross held its first ever Humanitarian Awards Ball. The black-tie fundraiser took place in the Clayton Hotel, Burlington Road, and brought together 400 humanitarians, diplomats, business leaders and Government officials.

The event kicked off with a welcome reception and Lisa Cannon was introduced as MC for the night. Entertainment was provided by Syrian musical prodigy Alma Harrek on piano, The Line-Up Choir and The Long Island Jazz Band while the evening closed with dancing into the small hours to music by The Firm. There was an auction which boasted a range of luxury items including artworks by renowned Irish artists Robert Ballagh and Jim Fitzpatrick, while there was also a silent raffle. Income of €140,000 was raised to support Irish Red Cross work in Ireland, Yemen, Syria and Indonesia.

The Humanitarian Awards were the highlight of the night. These awards were founded to recognise those who have given a voice to humanitarian issues and have had a humanitarian impact on the lives of others. The title award of the night was presented to Alice Leahy who was named Irish Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year. Alice Leahy is director and co-founder of the Alice Leahy Trust, a befriending, social and health service for people who are homeless. Upon presenting Alice with her award, Pat Carey, chairman of the Irish Red Cross, said; “Alice Leahy has dedicated a lifetime to helping society’s most disadvantaged people. She has developed an unrivalled understanding of the needs of those on the margins of society and during every day of her working life she has implemented practical measures to help combat social exclusion.”

A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Pat Hume and a Special Honour was bestowed upon the Irish Defence Forces to recognise that Ireland holds the longest unbroken record of UN peacekeeping service of any nation in the world. Óglaigh na hÉireann personnel were first deployed to Lebanon on UN peacekeeping

operations in 1958 and over the last 60 years they have completed almost 70,000 individual tours of duty in Lebanon, with 87 members paying the ultimate price in the cause of peace.

In the all-female shortlist for the Journalism Excellence Award, Maggie O’Kane was named winner, staving off competition from Katie Hannon, Political Correspondent with RTÉ’s Current Affairs Department and Emmy-nominated journalist and filmmaker Shaunagh Connaire, who has worked with the BBC and Channel 4.

Maggie O’Kane worked as a foreign correspondent with The Guardian newspaper for 20 years and was named British Journalist of the Year for her work in Bosnia, and Amnesty International Journalist of the Year for her work on sanctions. Maggie was also awarded an Emmy for her documentary film Baghdad: A Doctor’s Story. Maggie also created, implemented and sustained The Guardian’s Global Media Campaign against Female Genital Mutilation and she has now formalised the entity as an independent charity, charged with the abandonment of the practice worldwide by 2030.

Students in Tullamore College won the Student Initiative Award for campaigning, on human rights grounds, to revoke the deportation order of their friend 14-year-old Nigerian student Nonso Moujeke. The students conducted a social media campaign which was carried by all local and national media outlets and they also secured over 22,000 signatures on a petition. Not only did the school galvanize the local community, but their voice was heard on an international stage as they received messages of support from all over the world. On 10 October 2018, the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) of the Department of Justice and Equality confirmed that the Moujeke family had been granted permission to remain in the State.

© Conor Healy



€140,000 was raised to support Irish Red Cross work in Ireland, Yemen, Syria and Indonesia.

FoodCloud was named winner of the Innovation for Change Award. One in eight people in Ireland experience food poverty yet one million tonnes of food are thrown out by Irish consumers and businesses every year. FoodCloud addresses this issue by bringing retailers and suppliers with surplus food together with local charities and community groups who assist with food supply and distribution. This diverts food from landfill and ensures good food goes to those who need it. By mid-October 2018, FoodCloud had redistributed over 18,200 tonnes of food—the equivalent of over 40 million meals—to charities and community groups in the UK in partnership with FareShare, and in Ireland through FoodCloud’s platform and network.

Aviva was named winner in the Corporate Impact Category. Aviva employees chose Pieta House as Aviva Ireland’s charity partner from 2016 to March 2018



and in 2017 alone, Aviva raised just over €111,245 for Pieta House. In 2017, 721 Aviva employees volunteered a total of 3,871.5 hours.

The esteemed adjudication panel for the Irish Red Cross Humanitarian Awards were Peter O’Halloran, Brigadier General with the Irish Defence Forces, Julie Sinnamon, CEO of Enterprise Ireland, Mary Rose Burke, CEO Dublin Chamber, Dr Niall Holohan, Chairman of the Arab Irish Chamber of Commerce, Liam O’Brien, Director of Strategy & External Affairs Vodafone, Derry Gray, Partner in BDO and Professor Hannah McGee, Dean & Chief Academic Officer at RCSI.

Lifetime Achievement Award Pat Hume

Pat Hume was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Irish Red Cross Humanitarian Awards Ball in recognition of her decades of support and commitment to the people of Derry. Former SDLP leader Mark Durkan who for many years worked very closely with the Humes, gave a very emotional tribute to Pat at the ball before presenting her with the award.

There are many reasons why Pat Hume was chosen for this award. Pat worked alongside her husband John from the beginning of the civil rights movement in the 1960s, continuing during the Troubles, right through to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. Pat ran operations on the ground, manning John's constituency office in Derry. She met many young people caught up in the Troubles and dealt with issues presented to her by thousands who were encountering housing problems, social security issues and health and education concerns.

Pat sacrificed her first career as a teacher to undertake this work and didn't just run one political office; the Hume family home was a thoroughfare of journalists, political visitors and diplomats and Pat ran proceedings here too, while also taking care of a young family.

John travelled for much of his political work and Pat was his eyes and ears on the ground, keeping him briefed on all political matters. This was all against a backdrop where the Hume family was often under threat; the car was tampered with and the family home was firebombed and vandalized. These were threats Pat often dealt with alone while John was working away. Given 2018 marked the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, it is very fitting that as the year drew to a close, the Irish Red Cross recognised the role Pat Hume played in Derry and her wider contribution to the politics which ultimately provided the basis for the Good Friday Agreement.

Pat is now a primary carer for John who has been suffering with dementia for many years.

Upon accepting her award at the ball, Pat said; "I am overwhelmed and humbled to be recognized with this award by the Irish Red Cross. My initial response was to be somewhat shocked. I knew immediately that there

are many others who more clearly deserve this honour, but with reflection I have gradually come to recognize that I am here to represent many people—people who have struggled to sustain fundamental human values amidst the brutal tragedy of social conflict, and also, all those who struggle with the smaller daily challenges of living alongside long-term illness.

"Both groups have many reasons to be profoundly grateful for the existence of Red Cross and Red Crescent. Both locally and internationally, the Red Cross and Red Crescent have been at the forefront of sustaining essential humanity amid times of crisis and change for many years. In the clinical setting, those who work in international emergency care tell me that they cope in difficult and overwhelming environments by adhering closely to very basic core principles of clinical assessment. These core principles remain simple and clear, however devastating and difficult the environment. Their framework creates a coherent response to situations of overwhelming chaos.

"John was often criticized for his repetition of simple truths. Among his most well-used phrases, you might remember "spill our sweat and not our blood" and "you can't eat a flag". He too understood the need for simple, inviolate, core principles applied again and again in situations which seem overwhelming. His core principles were his life's anchor and they sustained him in times of great pain and uncertainty. If he were here he would be expressing heartfelt gratitude to Red Cross and Red Crescent for your steadfast maintenance of core, life-sustaining values. On behalf of both of us, and of all those I am here to represent, I do the same."



Spill our sweat and
not our blood



© Photocall Ireland/Sasko Lazarov

The Irish Red Cross Restoring Family Links (RFL) programme is part of the International Committee of the Red Cross RFL network which traces those who have been separated from their relatives, restores contact and reunites families. This is a free service provided all over the world by Red Cross national societies including the Irish Red Cross.

The RFL global network works together worldwide to successfully trace hundreds of thousands of people who have left their country of origin, sought asylum abroad, disappeared or are in prisons, hospitals, refugee camps and shelters. This service seeks to provide clarification on the fate of persons who remain missing.

—In 2018, the Irish Red Cross Restoring Family Links department received numerous requests for its services from TUSLA's team for Separated Children Seeking Asylum. This saw an increase in minors approaching the Restoring Family Links team for two services in particular; tracing and travel assistance. These minors are generally young men aged between 15 and 18 who have fled to Europe from their country of origin for safety. Successful tracing cases often evolve to become travel assistance cases.

—In 2018 the Restoring Family Links unit created case files for 220 persons, 105 of which were enquirers while 115 were beneficiaries. Of the 115 beneficiaries created in 2018, 47 of them remain active in the 2019 caseload.

TRACING

44 tracing cases were opened in 2018. Three of these were received from other Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies or ICRC delegations and 41 were initiated by Irish Red Cross.

—31 tracing cases were closed in 2018. This involved four incoming cases from other Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies or ICRC delegations. Three of these were located while one was not.

—There were 25 outgoing cases initiated by Irish Red Cross with other Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies or ICRC delegations; 18 of these were located while two were not. One was deceased, one enquirer was contacted and three cases had to be cancelled.

RED CROSS MESSAGES

The Irish Red Cross RFL team handled 24 Red Cross Messages in 2018. The team received 14 incoming messages and sent 10 outgoing message replies. Typically, Red Cross Messages are used when other means of communication are not possible e.g. when people are deprived of their freedom or where telecommunications no longer work.

ATTESTATION OF DETENTION (AOD) & TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (TD)

The RFL unit handled 19 AOD & TD requests in 2018.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

The top five nationalities of those initiating travel assistance cases were Syria (15 cases), Afghanistan (8 cases), Zimbabwe (7 cases), Democratic Republic of the Congo (5 cases) and Somalia (4 cases). The RFL unit opened 67 cases in 2018 involving 200 beneficiaries. 21 of these were completed and saw families arrive to Ireland, two cases were cancelled and 24 were self-paid. The remaining 20 cases remained open and transferred to the 2019 caseload.

—The Irish Red Cross contributed €17,309 to facilitate the travel of beneficiaries to rejoin their families in 2018.



© Mari Aftret Mortvedt/ICRC



© Nic Dunlop/ICRC



© Rosine Solange Samou Kam/ICRC



© Paulin Bashengezi/ICRC

In 2018, the Irish Red Cross, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Ireland, helped to reunite Gugulethu Sonke Mpofu, who is from Zimbabwe, with her four children.

The Irish Red Cross is part of an international network which traces separated relatives, restores contact and reunites families. This free service, known as Restoring Family Links (RFL), is co-ordinated by the International Committee of the Red Cross and was vital in ensuring that Gugulethu and her children were finally reunited after three years apart. As part of this service, the Irish Red Cross runs a Travel Assistance Programme in partnership with IOM Ireland and UNHCR Ireland.

—Gugulethu was living in rural Zimbabwe with her partner and children in 2013 when the relationship broke down. She decided to go live with her mother, Senzi before eventually moving into her own house in the same village. However, she never imagined that political tensions would force her to flee her country and leave her beloved children behind, not knowing if she would ever see them again.

—In 2015 tensions were rife between opposing political parties in Gugulethu's area. While helping her cousin in his campaign to be elected local mayor, she was accused of removing the election posters of another candidate, and promptly arrested. When her home was then destroyed by fire, Gugulethu realised her life may be in danger and she would have to leave the country. This left her with the devastating decision to leave her children, Noxolo, Sibusio, Vuyelwa and C'yabonga in the care of her mother.

—In November of that year she moved to Johannesburg in South Africa. While she stayed in contact with her mother and children, she also constantly worried about them and it soon became clear that her mother was struggling to cope with the pressure of trying to raise four young children.

—At eleven, Noxolo was the eldest daughter and many responsibilities fell to her as she tried to act as a surrogate mum to her siblings. Heartbreakingly, Gugulethu's youngest children were only two and three years old when she was forced to leave and on the phone they would question her about when they could all be together.

—Gugulethu's contacts managed to organise travel documents for her and she reached Ireland in November 2015 and immediately sought asylum at Dublin Airport. It would be almost three years before she received official refugee status in March 2018 and even then she couldn't reassure her children that they would be reunited, because she was unsure if she would ever get permission from the Irish authorities for them to come to Ireland.

—In June 2018 Gugulethu made her application for family reunification and was delighted when it was granted in September of the same year. She had started to save some money and contacted the International Organization of Migration to see if they could help her with the travel and transit arrangements. However, her excitement was short-lived when she received the quote for the cost of travel and knew she couldn't afford it.

—On the advice of IOM Ireland, Gugulethu contacted the Irish Red Cross Restoring Family Links department in November 2018 and, as she met the criteria for the Travel Assistance Programme, they immediately started work on getting her children to Ireland.

—Gugulethu was over the moon knowing that she would get to see her children again but in the back of her mind she was also worried. Gugulethu's two youngest children, Vuyelwa and C'yabonga, were now six and five years old, and hadn't seen her since they were toddlers. She was anxious that they might not even recognise her.

—On 28 December, surrounded by the lights and Christmas decorations of the arrivals hall in Dublin Airport, Gugulethu got the best present of all when her children ran into her arms. She says that she will never forget the Irish Red Cross and everything they did to help her.

—"If it wasn't for the Irish Red Cross Travel Assistance Programme I really don't know how I would have managed to bring my children to Ireland. Financially, I just would not have been able to do it. I am extremely grateful."

—Since arriving to Ireland, the children are settling in well and enjoying their new life to the fullest, and Gugulethu couldn't be happier to have them here with her. Their grandmother Senzi misses them a lot, but is relieved they are safe and with their mother and is excited for all the opportunities open to them in Ireland.

—The Irish Red Cross Travel Assistance Programme, which, in partnership with IOM Ireland and UNHCR Ireland, helps people who have refugee or subsidiary protection status and are on a low income or social welfare, to fund the costs of travel for their family members who have family reunification permission.

—On the Travel Assistance Programme, UNHCR Ireland and the Irish Red Cross pay the costs of travel on a 50:50 split and the Irish Red Cross administers the scheme. IOM Ireland organises the travel, transit and pre-departure medicals, when required, for family members.

Surrounded by the
lights and Christmas
decorations of the arrivals
hall in Dublin Airport,
Gugulethu got the best
present of all when her
children ran into her arms.

—— Jason Black Ambassadorship

Jason Black came on board as an Irish Red Cross Ambassador in May 2018. Just three months later, he summited K2, the second highest but most dangerous mountain in the world, becoming the first person from the Republic of Ireland to survive this savage mountain. The first Irish person to conquer K2 was Ger McDonnell in 2008 but he died on his descent after stopping to help three stricken climbers.

It was a very proud moment for Irish Red Cross volunteers all over the country to see their flag held aloft atop the world's most treacherous mountain by Jason, who also had an Irish Red Cross logo stitched onto his climbing suit.

—— Jason has brought a lot of positive attention to the Irish Red Cross since he was named an ambassador. He commanded a huge amount of media attention for his phenomenal feat and he mentioned his ambassadorship of the Irish Red Cross in all of his interviews. Furthermore, when Jason got to the top of K2 he recorded a very emotional two and a half minute voice note live from the mountain's summit where he paid tribute to a number of people, including the Irish Red Cross. This voice note was played by many radio and television broadcasters. The impact of Jason talking about his Irish Red Cross ambassadorship in the media has seen the profile of the Society raised and this will have positive benefits for many years to come.

—— Jason also did a lot of work promoting the Irish Red Cross Sunrise Summit fundraising challenge which took place on Mount Errigal (and other peaks across Ireland) on 25 May 2018. He completed print and radio interviews promoting the challenge and he also rallied people from his local community to take part, raising funds for the Society. Jason and a team then summited Mount Errigal on the night of the challenge.

—— Many accolades have been bestowed upon Jason since conquering K2 and being named Donegal Person of the Year 2018 is just one. Jason uses all of these occasions to promote the work of the Irish Red Cross and he has built a very large social media following since returning from K2, which he also uses to promote the Irish Red Cross.

© Jason Black



It was a very proud moment for Irish Red Cross volunteers all over the country to see their flag held aloft atop the world's most treacherous mountain

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name: Pat Carey

Role: Chairman

Term: Ends 2021 (2nd Term)

2018 attendance: 13/14 (c)

Name: Tom Horwell

Role: Vice Chairperson

Term: Resigned in October 2018

(end of his 2nd term)

2018 attendance: 7/14

Name: Sheila Callan

Role: Treasurer

Term: Ends 2021 (2nd Term)

2018 attendance: 14/14 (c)

Name: Barry O'Donovan

Role: Secretary

Term: Ends 2019 (3rd Term)

2018 attendance: 11/14 (c)

Name: Colin Wilson

Role: Board Member

Term: Ends 2018 (1st Term)

2018 attendance: 4/14

Name: Cepta Dowling

Role: Board Member

Term: Ends 2021 (2nd Term)

2018 attendance: 12/14 (c)

Name: Darren Ryan

Role: Board Member

Term: Resigned in May 2018
(2nd Term)

2018 attendance: 5/14

Name: Sean Mason

Role: Board Member

Term: Ends 2018 (1st Term)

2018 attendance: 6/14

Name: Maura Lowry

Role: Board Member

Term: Ends 2018 (1st Term)

2018 attendance: 4/14

Name: Kieran Meehan

Role: Board Member

Term: Ends 2019 (2nd Term)

2018 attendance: 10/14

Name: Brian Byrne

Role: Board Member

Term: Ends 2022 (2nd Term)

2018 attendance: 13/14 (c)

Name: Julie O'Brien

Role: Board Member

Term: Ends 2022 (2nd Term)

2018 attendance: 11/14 (c)

Name: Ted Noonan

Role: Board Member

Term: Ends 2020 (1st Term)

2018 attendance: 12/14 (c)

Name: Mareike Eccleston

Role: Board Member

Term: Ends 2020 (1st Term)

2018 attendance: 9/14 (c)

Name: Olivia Mitchell

Role: Vice Chairperson

Term: Ends 2021 (1st Term)

2018 attendance: 3/14 (term

began October '18) (c)

Name: Dr Muirís O'Ceidigh

Role: Board Member

Term: Ends 2021 (1st Term)

2018 attendance: 3/14 (term

began October '18) (c)

Name: Conor Molloy

Role: Board Member

Term: Resigned April 2019

(1st Term)

2018 attendance: 4/14 (term

began October '18)

Name: Claire Rushe

Role: Board Member

Term: Ends 2021 (1st Term)

2018 attendance: 2/14 (term

began October '18) (c)

Rosemarie Hayden was appointed
to the Board of the Irish Red Cross
in January 2019. (c)

(c) = Current Board members at
July 2019.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Liam O'Dwyer

Secretary General

John Roche

Head of International
Relations & Co-operation

(left in September 2018)

Danny Curran

Head of Fundraising

& Commercial

(left in October 2018. Jocelino Jorge

was appointed to the position of

Head of Fundraising in January

2019.)

Sandra Stanley

Head of National Volunteer

Network Services & Development

Rory O'Sullivan

Head of Finance

SOLICITORS

Mullaney Walsh Maxwells

19 Herbert Place, Dublin 2

Byrne Wallace

87–88 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2

AUDITORS

BDO

Registered Auditors

Beaux Lane House

Mercer Street Lower

Dublin

PRINCIPLE BANKERS

Bank of Ireland

2 College Green

Dublin

Allied Irish Bank

1–4 Baggot St. Lower

Dublin

ABOUT US

The Irish Red Cross Society is
registered in Ireland as a charity.

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

The Irish Red Cross Society was
established in Ireland in 1939 and is
governed under the terms of the Red
Cross Act 1938, (SI) 206/139.

Charity Number: CHY3950

Charity Regulatory Authority

Number: 20005184

National Office: 16 Merrion Square,

Dublin 2

The Irish Red Cross continues to collaborate with like-minded groups to promote community resilience and well-being.

Likewise, to ensure that the Irish Red Cross meets the highest standards of governance, transparency, accounting, fundraising and messaging, the charity follows a number of set guidelines and codes of conduct. ——— The Irish Red Cross would like to extend its thanks to the following groups and organisations for their support and guidance in 2018:

- Amnesty International Ireland
- AVAIL (Amplifying the Voices of Refugees & Asylum Seekers for Integration & Life Skills)
- Belgian Red Cross
- British Red Cross
- Build-A-Bear
- Canon
- Care Alliance Ireland
- Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais (CLÁR)
- Charities Institute of Ireland
- City and County Management Association
- Clúid Housing
- Co-operative Housing Ireland
- Department of Defence
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Justice and Equality
- Department of Social Protection— Supplementary Welfare Allowance Policy Unit
- Dóchas
- Dublin City Council
- Dublin LGBTQ PRIDE
- Dublin Regional Homeless Executive
- e-Frontiers
- Electric Aid
- Facebook
- FEAD Ireland (The European Fund for Aid to the Most Deprived)
- Fleming Medical
- Foróige
- Gaisce
- Health Service Executive (HSE)
- HIV Ireland
- India Red Cross
- Indonesia Red Cross
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC)
- International Organisation for Migration
- Irish Aid
- Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence
- Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
- Irish Prison Service
- Irish Refugee Council
- Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP)
- Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service
- La Cooperation Belge Au Development
- Lottoland
- Merchants Quay Ireland
- Nasc Ireland
- National Lottery
- National Vetting Bureau
- National Youth Council of Ireland
- Nepal Red Cross
- Netherlands Red Cross
- Niger Red Cross
- Palestine Red Crescent Society
- PERCO—Peace IV—Promotion of Reconciliation & Integration Through Safe Mediation
- Pobal
- Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC)
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)
- Queen’s University Belfast
- Reception and Integration Agency (RIA)
- Road Safety Authority (RSA)
- St Stephens Green Trust— Travellers in Prison Initiative
- The Charities Regulator
- The Probation Service
- The Wheel
- Tusla—Child and Family Agency
- UNHCR—The UN Refugee Agency
- United Nations Youth Delegates
- University College Cork (UCC)
- Your English Language School

The Irish Red Cross is a society of The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Movement is made up of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the National Societies.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusive humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence. ——— The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world’s largest volunteer-based humanitarian network, reaching 150 million people each year through its 190 member National Societies and 14 million volunteers. Together, the IFRC acts before, during and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people. It does so with impartiality as to nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class and political

opinions. Guided by Strategy 2020—a collective plan of action to tackle the major humanitarian and development challenges of this decade—the IFRC is committed to ‘saving lives and changing minds’. There will be a new strategy (Strategy 2030) adopted at the end of the year during the IFRC General Assembly.

——— National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies embody the work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in more than 190 countries. National Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own countries in the humanitarian field and provide a range of services including disaster relief, health and social programmes. During wartime, National Societies assist the affected civilian population and support the army medical services where appropriate.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is guided by seven Fundamental Principles; humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

All Red Cross and Red Crescent activities have one central purpose: to help without discriminations those who suffer and thus contribute to peace in the world.

Statement of Financial Activities

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

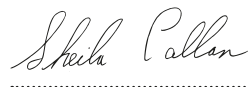
	Notes	Restricted Funds 2018 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2018 €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total as Restated 2017 €'000
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations & legacies	3 (a)	1,721	3,549	5,270	5,683
Charitable Activities	3 (b)	26	969	995	937
Other trading Activities	3 (c)	–	684	684	610
Investments	3 (d)	–	14	14	18
Other	3 (e)	–	127	127	103
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS	3	1,747	5,343	7,090	7,351
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	4	11	2,096	2,107	1,757
Charitable Activities	5	1,971	3,336	5,307	6,345
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		1,982	5,432	7,414	8,102
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	15	(235)	(89)	(324)	(751)
Transfer between funds	14	(96)	96	–	–
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(331)	7	(324)	(751)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	14	1,360	7,564	8,924	9,675
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,029	7,571	8,600	8,924

- All the activities relate to continuing activities.
- There are no recognised gains and losses other than as stated above.
- The financial statements were reviewed by the Board of Directors and approved on 27th July 2019.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Pat Carey
Chairperson



Sheila Callan
Treasurer

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

	Notes	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	7	5,529	5,417
		5,529	5,417
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	8	129	175
Receivables	9	374	609
Cash and cash equivalents	10	3,413	3,720
		3,916	4,504
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	11	(617)	(910)
		3,299	3,594
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		8,828	9,011
Total Assets less current liabilities			
Payables: (Amounts falling due in more than one year)	12	(228)	(87)
		8,600	8,924
TOTAL NET ASSETS			
Funds:			
Represented by			
Restricted funds	14	1,029	1,360
Unrestricted funds	14	5,378	5,892
Designated funds	14	2,193	1,672
		8,600	8,924
TOTAL FUNDS			

- The financial statements were reviewed by the Board of Directors and approved on 27th July 2019.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Pat Carey
Chairperson



Sheila Callan
Treasurer

Cash Flow Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	Notes	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		185	(31)
Return on investments:			
Deposit interest income	3 (d)	1	2
Capital expenditure and related grants:			
Payment to acquire fixed assets	7	(932)	(788)
Receipts from sale of fixed assets		266	48
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities		173	18
Loans received/(repaid) in year			
		173	18
DECREASE IN CASH		(307)	(751)
RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW			
Decrease in cash		(307)	(751)
Bank balances at beginning of year		3,720	4,471
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	10	3,413	3,720

RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES TO CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Notes	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		(324)	(751)
Depreciation	7	576	703
Deposit interest income	3 (d)	(1)	(2)
Decrease in stocks		46	12
Decrease/(Increase) in receivables		235	(219)
(Decrease)/Increase in payables		(325)	105
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of fixed assets		(22)	121
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		185	(31)

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies of the Irish Red Cross Society, which are outlined below, have been applied consistently throughout the current and prior year:

1 (a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis with reference to the recommendations of the revised Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice, applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgment in applying the society's accounting policies as outlined below.

The Irish Red Cross is a public benefit entity. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. Following the Boards review of the Irish Red Cross Society's financial results for the 2018 financial reporting period, the Board's review of the current financial position of the Society and the Board approved forecasts and budgets, the Board unanimously believe that the Society has sufficient resources to fulfil its operational objectives for the foreseeable future. The Board believe there are sufficient resources to manage anticipated operational and financial obligations and any potential commitments.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

1 (b) Incoming Resources and Endowments

Income is analysed as restricted, unrestricted or designated.

Restricted funds represent income recognised in the financial statements which is subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors or grant making institutions.

Unrestricted funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the Society, in furtherance of the objectives of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance working capital or capital expenditure.

Designated funds are set aside for specific purposes. They include funds for use by the Areas and Branches at the sole discretion of the Board.

Income from legacies

Income from legacies is accounted for when receipt is probable, and is recognised in full in the financial statements in the period in which probate is granted and where the amount can be reliably ascertained.

Subscriptions/Donations

In general subscriptions and donations are recognised on a cash receipts basis when the money is lodged in the bank.

Royalties

Income from royalties is recognised when its receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Royalties from the exploitation of intellectual property rights are accrued in accordance with the substance of the relevant agreement.

Bank Interest

Bank interest receivable is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grant Income

Grant income is recognised in full once entitlement, certainty and measurement are met.

Commercial Training

Income from Commercial Training activities is recognised as earned i.e. as the related training services are provided.

Donated Goods, Facilities & Services

Income from donated goods, facilities and services is included at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this value reliably.

Deferred Income

Deferred income represents receipts in the current year for services to be provided in the future.

Tax Efficient Giving

Income tax rebates on donations received is recognised on notification from Revenue Commissioners of the confirmation of the amount and when there is certainty of receipt.

1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

1 (c) Resources Expended &

Basis of Allocation of Cost

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred and is recorded as part of the expenditure to which it relates. The cost of raising funds comprised the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes including the charity's shops. Expenditure on charitable activities are those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them. Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity. They include the costs of subscriptions related to membership of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as the costs of trustee meetings and internal and external audits.

Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated based on the proportion of direct costs incurred.

Expenditure on overseas programmes is recognised as charitable expenditure in the month it is incurred in Ireland.

There is a 7% administration charge applied on all restricted funds received over €5,000. This relates only to the funds received by the central support office. The 7% administration charge is not applicable to restricted funds raised by Areas and Branches due to the voluntary management of these funds.

1 (d) Tangible Fixed Assets

All tangible fixed assets are initially recorded at historic cost. Capital Expenditure in excess of €1,000 is capitalised and depreciated over its useful economic life. Expenditure less than this amount is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Properties are stated at original cost where purchased. Donations or Gifts of properties are valued at open market value at the date of donation.

Properties donated for use by, and now owned by, the Society are currently recognised in the Society's financial statements as income and the equivalent amount capitalised on the balance sheet. This is in line with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015).

The carrying value of tangible fixed assets is reviewed annually for impairment if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets with the exception of land, so as to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful economic life on the basis below at the following annual rates:

Freehold and Leasehold premises—2% Straight Line
Ambulance, sea rescue & equipment—6% Straight Balance
Fixtures, fittings & equipment—10% Straight Balance
Computer equipment—20% Straight Balance

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1 (e) Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date.

1 (f) Receivables

Short term receivables are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

1 (g) Operating Leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term, even if the payments are not made on such a basis.

1 (h) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Provision is made for obsolete, slow-moving or defective stock where appropriate.

1 (i) Payables

Short term payables are measured at the transaction price.

1 (j) Foreign currencies

Foreign currency transactions are translated at the rates ruling at the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets and liabilities arising in foreign currencies have been retranslated at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date.

Exchange differences have been included in the statement of financial activity for the year.

1 (k) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

1 (l) Deferred Income

Deferred Income relates to course sales made in the year that relate to courses due to take place in 2019.

1 (m) Financial Instruments

The Society only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable. Basic financial instruments are recorded at transaction price.

1 (n) Holiday Pay Accrual

A liability is recognised to the extent of any unused holiday pay entitlement which is accrued at the Balance Sheet date and carried forward to future periods. This is measured at the undiscounted salary cost of the future holiday entitlement so accrued at the Balance Sheet date.

1 (o) Pensions

The Irish Red Cross Society operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the company has no further payment obligations.

The contributions are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Balance Sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Irish Red Cross Society in independently administered funds.

1 (p) Taxation

No charge to current or deferred tax arises as the Irish Red Cross Society has been granted charitable status.

1 (q) Value Added Tax

Irrecoverable value added tax is allocated to the category of expenditure to which it relates.

1 (r) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Irish Red Cross Society has a legal or constructive financial obligation, that can be reliably estimated and for which there is an expectation that payment will be made.

1 (s) Funds held as Agent

Where the Society agrees to administer funds of another entity, the Society will act in line with the instruction of the entity that acts as a principal. Where the Society has control of the funds at the year end, it will recognise it as an asset with a corresponding liability recognised. The receipt of funds as an agent is not recognised as income nor its distribution as the agent's expenditure. Any receivable by the Society for acting as an agent will be recorded as income in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1 (t) Reserves Policy

The reserves policy aims to ensure our work is protected from the risk of disruption at short notice due to the lack of funds, whilst at the same time ensuring we do not retain income for longer than required. The policy is reviewed periodically to ensure that the reserve level reflects changes in the risk environment. The Board of Directors agreed the minimum reserves level should be three to six months of total expenditure.

2 Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The directors do not consider there to be any critical accounting estimates and judgements.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

3 Income and Endowments from

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2018 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2018 €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Donations & legacies	3 (a)	1,721	3,549	5,270	5,683
Charitable Activities	3 (b)	26	969	995	937
Other trading Activities	3 (c)	–	684	684	610
Investments	3 (d)	–	14	14	18
All other sources of income	3 (e)	–	127	127	103
Total		1,747	5,343	7,090	7,351

3 (a) Donations and Legacies

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2018 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2018 €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Regular Giving		3	866	869	892
Public Appeals and Events		255	1,077	1,332	1,663
Tax Efficient Giving		–	128	128	168
Legacies		–	186	186	123
Donations in Kind		–	50	50	50
Corporates, Major Donors and Trusts		52	382	434	342
Grant Income	3 (a) (i)	1,411	860	2,271	2,445
Total		1,721	3,549	5,270	5,683

3 (a) (i) Grant Income

Unrestricted Grant Income		Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Granting Authority			
Department of Defence	Contribution to the Admin costs of Head Office	839	739
Health Service Executive	Various Projects	6	10
Various County Councils	Various Projects	11	5
Education and Training Boards	Various Projects	4	3
National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)	One World Week	–	1
Total unrestricted grant income		860	758

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

3 (a) (i) Grant Income (Continued)

Restricted Grant Income	Granting Authority	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Department of Foreign Affairs	Grant via Irish Aid for Niger programme.	–	400
Department of Defence	Grant for ICRC Funding.	130	130
Department of Justice & Equality	Administration of the IRPP.	1,012	640
Department of Environment	Community Based Health and First Aid Programme Development and Maintenance in the Irish Prison Services.	200	200
County Council	Annual Youth Service Grants.	2	6
	Towards the provision of search and rescue services	–	5
	To provide winter mountain rescue training.	5	–
	Provide Training on SAGE system.	1	–
Education and Training Board	Equipment Grant.	2	1
	Youth Grant.	3	–
Health and Social Care	Various Projects.	1	–
Health Service Executive	Community Grants—care for the aged.	2	4
	Resilience Process and Operational Duty Taskings.	–	11
	Chiropody Grant.	1	–
	Storm Grants.	5	–
Department of Health National Lottery	To support senior citizens activities.	4	–
	Radio Grant.	–	80
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	Coastal Inshore Mountain and Cave Grant.	20	20
Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaelteacht	First responder Supports—IRC Glen of Imaal.	–	48
SSE Airticity	Insulation for the Building in Doon Co. Limerick.	–	2
	8 Life Jackets and 4 GPS Systems.	5	–
Glaxo Smithkline “Making a difference scheme”	Volunteering.	–	1
Knockgriffin community enterprise	Health and Social Care.	–	2
Department of Rural & Community Development	Funding for two replacement ambulances.	–	137
	Mountain Rescue.	13	–
	Funding for Shelter/Emergency Tent.	5	–
		1,411	1,687
Total Grant Funding		2,271	2,445

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

3 (b) Charitable Activities

Charitable activities	Restricted Funds 2018 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2018 €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Training	–	112	112	101
Membership fees	–	20	20	24
Ambulance duties	–	783	783	773
Community support services	3	36	39	30
Sundry	23	18	41	9
Total	26	969	995	937

– Restricted sundry income relates to money received from the British Red Cross.

3 (c) Other Trading Activities

	Restricted Funds 2018 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2018 €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Products and Manuals	–	2	2	6
Medical and First Aid Services	–	98	98	98
Retail	–	66	66	70
Training	–	518	518	436
Total	–	684	684	610

– All income from trading activities relates to third party activities. Income from retail relates to the shop in Newbridge.

3 (d) Investments

	Restricted Funds 2018 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2018 €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Bank Interest	–	1	1	2
Rental Income	–	13	13	16
Total	–	14	14	18

– Income included in investment income comprises bank interest received and receivable together with rental income received and receivable. Rental income relates to the letting of properties on an informal basis.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

3 (e) All Other Sources of Income

All other sources of income	Restricted Funds 2018 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2018 €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Royalties income	–	105	105	103
Profit on Disposal	–	22	22	–
Total	–	127	127	103

– Royalties comprise income earned from the works of French writer Joseph Kessel who bequeathed the royalty rights of his books to the Irish Red Cross Society.

4 Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Direct Costs 2018 €'000	Support Costs 2018 €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Voluntary income	941	273	1,214	986
Trading activities	692	201	893	771
Total	1,633	474	2,107	1,757

5 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Notes	Direct Costs 2018 €'000	Support Costs 2018 €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Emergency Response and Recovery	5 (a)	1,305	379	1,684	1,716
Resilience	5 (b)	2,367	688	3,055	3,832
Health and Social Care		440	128	568	676
Other—Loss on Disposal		–	–	–	121
Total		4,112	1,195	5,307	6,345

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

5 (a) Emergency Response and Recovery

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total	Total
	2018	2018	2018	2017
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Ireland: Floods	100	29	129	194
Refugee Resettlement	1,026	298	1,324	781
International Project Expenditure	179	52	231	741
Total	1,305	379	1,684	1,716

5 (b) Resilience

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total	Total
	2018	2018	2018	2017
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Ireland				
Training	420	122	542	648
Membership & volunteer development	162	47	209	299
Youth programmes	98	29	127	219
Unit management	415	121	536	622
Branch operational costs	1,099	319	1,418	1,122
International				
Niger	173	50	223	922
Total	2,367	688	3,055	3,832

5 (c) Governance Costs

	Total	Total
	2018	2017
	€'000	€'000
External audit	74	74
Internal audit	42	9
Subscriptions to IFRC & ICRC	130	285
Staff	208	166
Other governance costs	126	149
Total	580	683

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

6 Employees and Staff Costs

Number of employees	2018	2017
	No.	No.
Fundraising	7	9
Finance	10	8
Services & Commercial	33	33
International services	2	5
Governance	2	2
Utilities	1	2
Communications	2	2
International delegates	2	9
Committed giver	2	–
Newbridge shop	2	2
Migration department	11	9
Fundraising door to door (casual)	6	4
Total	80	85

6 (a) Total staff costs	2018	2017
	€'000	€'000
Wages & salaries	2,620	2,569
Redundancy	24	–
Social welfare costs	256	242
Pension costs	105	101
Total	3,005	2,912

– The redundancy cost of €24k was as a result of a restructure during the financial year ended 31 December 2018 and was paid during the year.

6 (b) Senior staff remuneration	2018	2017
	No.	No.
The number of staff earning salaries over €70,000 is:		
Band: €70,000–€79,999	4	4
Band: €90,000–€99,999	1	1
Total	5	5

– The Board of Directors approve salary scales for all staff.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

6 Employees and Staff Costs (Continued)

6 (c) Key Management Remuneration

Key management personnel include senior management and received remuneration of €382,000 (2017: €395,000) in the year. The cost of employer pension contributions for key management in 2018 was €32,000 (2017: €35,000).

6 (d) Staff Emoluments and Directors' Expenses

	2018 No.	2017 No.
<hr/>		
The average number of volunteers working for the Irish Red Cross Society during the year was as follows:		
National Services	3,200	3,800
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,200	3,800
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
<hr/>		
Directors expenses:		
Expenses incurred by directors and reimbursed by the Irish Red Cross Society	6	23
Expenses incurred by the Irish Red Cross Society on behalf of directors	10	21
Directors' indemnity insurance cover cost	2	2
Total	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 46
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2018 No.	2017 No.
<hr/>		
Number of directors receiving expenses	9	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>

- The Irish Red Cross Society relies substantially on voluntary services provided by its members across the country. It is not possible to quantify, in monetary terms, the value of these services to the Irish Red Cross Society.
- Directors' expenses are for travel, meetings and accommodation costs incurred.
- None of the directors received any remuneration during the year (2017: € NIL).

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

7 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold/ Leasehold Premises & Land €'000	Ambulance Sea Rescue & Equipment €'000	Fixtures Fittings & Equipment €'000	Computer Equipment €'000	Total €'000
<hr/>					
Cost					
At 1 January 2018	3,195	6,875	647	726	11,443
Additions	346	563	18	5	932
Disposals and write-offs	(223)	(163)	(3)	(2)	(391)
At 31 December 2018	<hr/> 3,318	<hr/> 7,275	<hr/> 662	<hr/> 729	<hr/> 11,984
<hr/>					
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2018	720	4,253	491	562	6,026
Charge for the year	64	400	42	70	576
On disposals	(31)	(113)	(2)	(1)	(147)
At 31 December 2018	<hr/> 753	<hr/> 4,540	<hr/> 531	<hr/> 631	<hr/> 6,455
<hr/>					
Net Book Value					
At 31 December 2018	<hr/> 2,565	<hr/> 2,735	<hr/> 131	<hr/> 98	<hr/> 5,529
At 31 December 2017	<hr/> 2,475	<hr/> 2,622	<hr/> 156	<hr/> 164	<hr/> 5,417
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

- The Society's properties are included at historical cost. A property was bequeathed to the Society on condition that ownership is retained for 25 years. This condition will be fulfilled in seven years time.
- The Society's properties include national, regional and training centre offices.
- Included in freehold/leasehold premises and land above are parts of properties which are sublet. As the fair value of that portion of the properties cannot be measured reliably without undue cost or effort, the entire properties have been included within tangible assets above.

8 Stocks

	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
<hr/>		
Uniforms	75	90
Manuals	39	69
Other	15	16
Total	<hr/> 129	<hr/> 175
	<hr/>	<hr/>

- There are no material differences between the replacement cost of stock and balance sheet amounts.
- It is not considered practical to value stock of donated goods at year end.

9 Receivables: (Amounts falling due within one year)

	Notes	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Trade receivables		118	189
Amounts owed by related party	18	22	–
Accrued income		42	63
Prepayments		192	357
Total		374	609

10 Cash & Cash Equivalents

	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Cash at bank and on hand	3,411	3,718
Prize bonds	2	2
Total	3,413	3,720

– Prize bonds have a maturity of less than 90 days.

11 Payables: (Amounts falling due within one year)

	Notes	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Trade payables		191	190
Accruals		274	292
Other payables		72	83
Deferred Income	11 (i)	17	78
Bank loans	13	63	31
Flood Relief Fund (Funds held as an Agent)		–	236
Total		617	910

11 (i) Deferred Income

	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Opening balance	78	124
Amounts received	441	585
Amounts released	(502)	(631)
Total	17	78

- Included within other payables is an amount for PAYE/PRSI of €61,000 (2017: €68,000).
- All deferred income as at 31 December 2018 relates to amounts received in advance of entitlement in respect of training courses.
- Agent funds represent funds received from the Department of Defence to distribute to small businesses and community, voluntary and sporting bodies that were unable to secure flood insurance and had been flooded by exceptionally heavy rainfall events.

12 Payables: (Amounts falling due in more than one year)

	Notes	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Bank Loans	13	224	83
Other Payables		4	4
Total		228	87

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

13 Bank Loans

	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Current		
Bank Loans	63	31
Total	63	31
Non-current		
Bank Loans	224	83
Total	224	83

- Bank facilities are secured with a first legal mortgage / charge over the leasehold interest in the property at Unit 3, Ashbourne Business Park, Limerick, registered in the name of Irish Red Cross, which are carried in the Balance Sheet at €293,000 (2017: €264,000) at the financial year end date.
- It carries a fixed interest rate of 3.23% (2017: 3.23%). It is repayable by instalments over the next year and will be repaid in full by the 30th November 2019.
- There is a loan secured over a first legal mortgage/charge over the leasehold interest in the property at Unit 4, Killerisk Business Park, Tralee, Co Kerry registered in the name of the Irish Red Cross which is carried in the Balance Sheet at €132,000 (2017:€134,000) at the financial year end date.
- The current APR applying to this loan is 5.65% and the term is 10 years to be repaid by the 28th June 2027.
- There is a loan secured over a first legal mortgage/charge over the leasehold interest in the property at Unit 11, Tracklands Business Park, Ennis, Co Clare registered in the name of the Irish Red Cross which is carried in the Balance Sheet at €295,000 at the financial year end date.
- The current interest rate applying to this loan is 4.81% and the term is 12 years. This loan will be repaid by the 19th April 2030.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

14 Movement in Funds

	At start of year 2018 €'000	Incoming Resource 2018 €'000	Outgoing Resource 2018 €'000	Transfers between funds €'000	At end of year 2018 €'000
Restricted Funds	1,360	1,747	(1,982)	(96)	1,029
Unrestricted Funds	5,892	3,466	(3,950)	(30)	5,378
Designated Funds	1,672	1,877	(1,482)	126	2,193
Total	8,924	7,090	(7,414)	–	8,600

- Last year the Board decided that unrestricted funds in Area and Branch bank accounts should be designated for use in the Areas and Branches.
- Designated funds are set aside for specific purposes. They are for use in Areas and Branches at the sole direction of the Board.
- The Society carried out a detailed review of all Area and Branch restricted funds during 2018. Strict criteria was applied in line with SORP 2.8 to ensure that all restricted balances were categorised correctly. Some funds, which did not meet the required criteria, were recommended to be reclassified from restricted to designated.

14 (a) Analysis of Net Assets

	Restricted Funds 2018 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2018 €'000	Designated Funds 2018 €'000	At end of year 2018 €'000	At end of year 2017 €'000
Tangible Fixed Assets	–	5,529	–	5,529	5,417
Current Assets	1,060	663	2,193	3,916	4,504
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(31)	(586)	–	(617)	(910)
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year	–	(228)	–	(228)	(87)
Total	1,029	5,378	2,193	8,600	8,924

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

14 (b) Analysis of Restricted Funds

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2018 €'000	Restricted Funds 2017 €'000
Appeal—Tsunami	(i)	28	47
Bangladesh		3	3
Gaza		5	3
India		1	–
Indonesia Emergency		91	–
International Response Fund		–	71
Iran		–	1
Italy		–	11
Migration Crisis		37	32
Myanmar		11	10
Nepal	(ii)	272	276
Pakistan		3	3
Philippines		33	44
Sierra Leone		2	2
Somalia		4	4
Southern Africa		4	2
Sudan		4	3
Syria		21	113
Yemen		79	31
Ambulance Fund		–	22
Canon H&SC Fund		70	75
Carers Courses & Alarms for the Aged		8	9
Floods Fund		35	103
IRC—Irish Refugee Protection		50	29
National Humanitarian Fund		3	18
Restricted Funds in Areas & Branches	(iii)	265	448
Total		1,029	1,360

(i) The funds remaining in this fund are all fully allocated towards the implementation of a three-year Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction programme, in Indonesia. This programme is due to be completed during 2019.

(ii) The roll out and implementation of recovery programming in Nepal has been considerably delayed, due to in-country factors. We anticipate that recovery and long term programming in Nepal will continue into the year 2019 and beyond. It is expected that remaining funds in this account will be allocated primarily in the programme area of livelihoods.

(iii) These are projects of a capital and operational nature in our branches.

Split of Projects	€'000
Ambulance/Motor Vehicles	70
Ambulance Equipment	52
Health & Social Care	31
Buildings	60
Training	30
Youth	22
	265

(iv) A detailed review of Area and Branches restricted funds was undertaken during 2018. Strict criteria was applied to ensure restricted balances were categorised correctly. The review required the reclassification of some funds from restricted to designated.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

15 Net (Outgoing)/Incoming resources for the year

	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	576	703
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(22)	121
Auditors' remuneration	74	74

– As explained in Note 6, members of the board of directors do not receive remuneration for their services as directors.

– While the Society is a charity and does not incur corporation tax, it does remit significant payroll taxes and incurs a significant cost in irrecoverable VAT.

16 Taxation

The Society, charity number CHY3950, is exempt from taxation on Income under Section 207 Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

17 Commitments

(a) Capital Commitments

At 31 December 2018, the Society had not entered into contracts for the construction or purchase of properties (2017: €Nil).

(b) Operating Lease Commitments

At 31 December 2018 annual commitments under operating leases were as follows:

The amount payable within the next 12 months on leases expiring:	Property €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Within one year	93	93	88
In two to five years	74	74	249
After five years	11	11	72
Total	178	178	409

– The Irish Red Cross Society has a number of properties which it sub-leases, where there is no formal lease agreement in place. Therefore the above analysis is an estimate of such leases.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

18 Related Party Transactions

The nature of the Irish Red Cross Society's activities means that it has connections to a number of organisations. However, none of these relationships have the ability to exercise influence or control over the activities of the Irish Red Cross Society.

During the period, the Irish Red Cross Society provided income received from the Department of Defence to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) of €130,000 (2017: €130,000). The ICRC, together with the National Societies and the International Federation of the Red Cross, make up the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The ICRC reimbursed salaries totalling €120,633 to the Society during the year (2017: €173,660) for delegates in the field. There is an amount due to the Society at year-end of €22,000 (2017: €Nil).

During the year, the Irish Red Cross Society reimbursed expenses to Directors amounting to €6,018 (2017: €23,310).

19 Post Balance Sheet events

No significant events have occurred since the balance sheet date which would require adjustments to the amounts as disclosed in the financial statements.

20 Contingent Liabilities

At 31 December 2018, the Society did not have any contingent liabilities (2017: €Nil).

21 Financial Instruments

	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Financial Assets		
Financial assets that are measured at amortised cost	3,553	3,909
Total	3,553	3,909
Financial Liabilities		
Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost	554	627
Total	554	627

— Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise cash at bank and in hand, trade debtors repayable within one year and amounts due from related parties.

— Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise of trade creditors, other payables, bank loans and flood relief funds

22 Approval of signing of the Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved for signing and authorised for issue by the Board on 27th July 2019.

Humanity
Impartiality
Neutrality
Independence
Voluntary Service
Unity
Universality

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