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GOVERNANCE

Our Vision | 06
Chairperson & Secretary General Statement | 08
Ráiteas Réamheolais | 12
Our Mission | 16
Structure, Governance & Management | 18
Induction for the Board of Trustees | 20
Future Plans | 22
Financial Highlights | 24
Report of the Directors | 26
Statement of Directors' Responsibilities | 27
Independent Auditor's Report | 28
Fundraising Report | 30
Fundraising Highlights | 34

NATIONAL

National Overview | 42
Building a Network of Support | 44
Psychological First Aid | 45
Care Home Evacuation | 46
Humanitarian Awards Ball | 47
CBHFA Overview | 52
COVID-19 in Irish Prisons | 54
Tandem Bike Fundraiser | 55
Irish Red Cross Youth Overview | 56
Volunteer & Training Statistics | 58

INTERNATIONAL

International Overview | 66
Suman's Story | 69
Yemen Health Clinic | 70
Naryama's Story | 71
Delegate in Afghanistan | 72
Migration Overview | 78
Community Sponsorship in a Time of Covid | 82
Quarantine Hotel Programme | 83
Restoring Family Links Overview | 84
Ahmad's Story | 87
International Statistics | 88

FINANCIALS

Administrative Information | 92
Partners | 94
The Movement | 95
Consolidated Financial Statements | 98

G O V E R N A N C E



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.



CHAIRPERSON & SECRETARY GENERAL STATEMENT



Trevor Holmes
Secretary General



Pat Carey
Chairperson

The year 2020 is one of those watershed moments, unlikely to be forgotten by those who have lived through it. While life has continued apace, it is different. However, the resilience and ability of humankind to adapt to the most difficult and extreme situations has seldom been as well demonstrated as during this global COVID-19 pandemic. "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" is an adage that could well apply to the ongoing operations of the National Society and the changes it encountered during 2020. Much was altered and yet much continued also, although often modified or adapted to fit these unfamiliar times.

In such times, it's important that we commend the people who give so willingly of themselves, their time and their energy. We wish to recognise with gratitude the many members who serve on a wide range of committees and working groups to ensure the smooth functioning of the National Society. We wish to gratefully acknowledge all our volunteers on the front line who work within their communities across the length and breadth of the country—their excellence in care provision has ensured the ongoing outreach of the Society. We thank the members of the General Assembly and the Board for their dedicated personal commitment to continuing advancement in proper governance and excellence. Especially this year, we acknowledge our dedicated and ardent staff, who, despite the difficulties of remote working, continued to give extraordinarily of themselves and their expertise in advancing the humanitarian cause of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at home and abroad.

Voluntary societies are only as strong as those willing to dedicate themselves to the humanitarian ideals which are the foundations of the International Movement and National Society. In every generation a particular volunteer earns a deserved reputation for greatness in the manner in which they undertake their volunteering, their ability to lead and influence, how they shape the current and the future direction of the organisation and how they mentor those coming behind them. During this particular year we said goodbye to one such individual in the passing of former General Assembly member and long term Cork Area volunteer, Mrs. Hannah (Ma) Sheehan. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

The single most difficult change this year was the imposition of the necessary public health restrictions with their unintended, but nonetheless serious, impacts on the very livelihood of the National Society. As sports, cultural and public events were cancelled and postponed, the First Aid support duties that the majority of our Area and Branches depend upon to fund their operations, also ceased. As restrictions on education and indoor meetings were implemented it resulted in the cancellation of our annual fundraiser, the Humanitarian Ball. Training activities, required to maintain the qualifications needed to ensure the quality and safety of care provided by our members, but also an important income stream from those clients who depend on the Irish Red Cross for their first-aid and other safety training, also ceased.

The enduring nature of the public health restrictions meant large scale celebratory occasions were eliminated from our schedules. Through the munificence of the CLÁR programme, operated by the Department of Community and Rural Affairs, a number of new vehicles were added to the fleet, albeit without the obligatory photo-op and celebration. However, plans for National Conventions, Youth Camps, National Awards, First Aid competitions and our third level International Humanitarian Law (IHL) event, Corn Adomnáin, all succumbed during the year, as the pandemic lingered longer than originally anticipated.

One useful change which was accelerated by the pandemic was the speedy introduction of digital platforms on which meetings, training and the various activities of the organisation could continue in a virtual environment. Training, staff meetings, national volunteer meetings and Board meetings all moved and successfully operated online. The Irish Red Cross Youth showed particular creativity in holding their annual Youth Camp online, with members taking part in virtual events over several days.

The organisation demonstrated its creativity and innovative ability during this year. Service offerings were modified, new services began and unexpected offerings and changes necessitated by the pandemic all brought into effect.

- Psychological First Aid Training—67 volunteers trained virtually in PFA
- Hardship Fund—In collaboration with Age Action established a fund to provide support to older people experiencing COVID-19 related hardships
- Community Support—Community Support members proved vital for local communities in delivering prescriptions and food to people isolating and for older people cocooning
- Patient Transfers—IRC vehicles brought people to medical appointments and undertook inter-facility transfers for patients following a suspected COVID-19 outbreak
- Hotel Quarantine—Migration services established an activity and integration schedule at short notice for refugees arriving from Lebanon who had to quarantine due to COVID-19
- Translation of COVID-19 materials—IRC translated COVID-19 information into eight different languages for non-English speakers
- Carers' Emergency Care—in conjunction with other voluntary organisations established an emergency care scheme for Family Carers' Ireland cohort of carers
- Mountain Rescue—travel restrictions increased the numbers of people walking locally in the mountains and an increase in rescues for our Glen of Imaal Mountain rescue team.

Internationally, the Irish Red Cross also played a critical role in the global response to COVID-19. Together with our partners we supported communities with their COVID-19 response and prevention activities—primarily in the Philippines and India, but also in other locations.



While the pandemic dominated global headlines, the humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts and other disasters unfortunately continued to exacerbate human suffering and affect millions of people. Some garnered attention, others were largely ignored. For the Irish Red Cross, reaching the most vulnerable people affected by ongoing conflicts, such as in Yemen and Syria, remained one of our key priorities. Following the Beirut port explosion in the Lebanon, we responded immediately with much needed emergency supplies. Throughout the year our important work on strengthening livelihoods in countries such as Nepal and Indonesia continued unabated.

Mid-year, saw a major change with the retirement of former Secretary General Liam O'Dwyer after five years in post. On behalf of the National Society and the wider Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, we thank Liam for all he has achieved in developing new services for migrants, in working to stabilise the financial sustainability of the organisation and in commencing a new ambitious Strategic Plan. We wish him well in his retirement and future. The new Secretary General, Trevor Holmes, joined the National Society from Dublin City University and took over the leadership at that time.

The Irish Prison Service issued a report to the World Health Organisation on how it successfully managed to maintain a thirteen site, 3,500 inmate population, COVID-19 free for most of the year. The genesis of this very welcome outcome was multifaceted, much of the success was attributed to the inmate Irish Red Cross volunteer engagement active within the prisons, with their health awareness measures, peer encouragement and good practice. There was wide international interest in the Irish Prison experience of keeping detained populations COVID-19 free.

This year ended with a particularly uplifting Humanitarian Awards event, which was hosted online by broadcaster Sybil Mulcahy. All those selected in the many categories were inspirational, proving that the humanitarian and volunteer spirit and ethos remains alive and well. Particular noteworthy contributions were made by John Lonergan in his keynote address and Naoise Ryan in receiving a posthumous award on behalf of her late husband Michael Ryan, who died tragically in an airline crash in Ethiopia. Dr Michael Ryan, Executive Director of the World Health Organisation's Health Emergencies Programme, leading the team responsible for the international containment and treatment of COVID-19, was the worthy recipient of the Irish Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year Award 2020 and spoke movingly about the humanitarian impact on vulnerable global communities.

Even in a global pandemic, good governance and compliance are watch-words of the Charitable sector. Acknowledging issues with respect to convening the General Assembly during this period, the Board took a particularly prescient decision, in retrospect, to extend the term of office of officeholders by an additional year to maintain appropriate governance and controls. The compliance agenda of our regulator, the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC), continued with the Irish Red Cross undertaking its inaugural audits for its Governance Validation Framework (GVF). Two site audits were followed by a day long engagement review, conducted virtually by external experts appointed by the regulator.

Attention has previously been drawn to the impact and additional resources required to meet and comply with the ever increasing burden of regulation and this continues. While acknowledging the critically important outcomes of enhanced patient safety, quality of care and improved outcomes, we, like many other Charitable organisations, continue our plea to Government to find mechanisms to financially support the alleviation of the

additional expenditures necessary to meet these standards. As the welcome ongoing professionalisation of regulators continues, the number of entities with which voluntary organisations are required to engage with requires ongoing and careful scrutiny including the appropriate and timely consolidation of regulatory bodies, particularly on the search and rescue aspects of our activities.

Last year's Annual Report recognised that the National Society was operating with reduced staff resources to ensure our income and expenditure remain balanced and that scrutiny and resolve has remained in force again throughout this year. Irish Red Cross has continued to turn the corner and take the difficult but necessary decisions to maintain adequate financing of the organisation. We are extremely grateful for additional government funding, enhanced fundraising incomes and generous legacies, all of which have helped to build a better financial foundation on which future operations can be established. A key objective, agreed with our auditors, of ensuring adequate operational reserves was greatly improved upon during this year.

As we look to the future, we are proud that as a National Society we played our part in ensuring the requisite number of ratifications were in place by the October deadline to ensure the Treaty on the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons came into force in Q1 2021. The use of nuclear weapons would be catastrophic for humanity. With the Treaty of the Prohibition on Nuclear Weapons in place, we are a step closer to ensuring that one sinister humanitarian catastrophe never happens. The Irish Red Cross was one of a number of National Societies who supported a pledge at the last International Conference of taking action on climate change, which will become an increasing focus of our future attention. Therefore, we supported the launch of the World Disasters Report and its sobering research findings on the humanitarian impacts of climate change.

As society at large prepares for the post COVID-19 reality, we, alongside many others, will pause to take time to reflect on our *raison d'être* and to commence a meaningful conversation with all interested parties to ascertain how we might best serve the humanitarian needs of vulnerable communities both at home and abroad into the future.

In conclusion, we remain deeply indebted to the Irish Government for its continued, unwavering support of the National Society and its mission. We were delighted to receive generous support from the Stability Fund. We also greatly appreciate the professional relationships which we have jointly developed with the Departments who fund the activities and services we provide on their behalf and at their behest—Department of Defence; Department of Justice; Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and Department of Enterprise, Business and Innovation. This is also the final annual report of our current Secretary General, who has chosen to respond to a personal calling in which we wish him well and thank him for his short, but nonetheless professional and calm leadership through this challenging period.

After a difficult and challenging year, we exit stronger for having come through 2020. Our eyes are now lifted to newer horizons and our thoughts turn to how best our mission can meet the emerging challenges ahead as we progress into the future. |

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Bliain chinníúnach a bhí 2020, nach ndéanfaidh aon duine a tháinig slán as dearmad air. Cé gur lean an saol ar aghaidh go tapa, tá sé difriúil. Mar sin féin, is annamh a léiríodh acmhainneacht agus cumas an chine daonna dul in oiriúint do na cásanna is deacra agus is troime le linn na paindéime domhanda COVID-19. D'fhéadfadh úsáid a bhaint as an nath, 'Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose' nuair a labhraítear faoi oibríochtaí leanúnacha an Chumainn Náisiúnta agus na hathruithe a tháinig air le linn 2020. Athraíodh go leor agus leanadh ar aghaidh le go leor freisin, cé gur athraítear iad go minic chun teacht leis na hamanna neamhchoitianta seo.

Le linn tréimhse dá leithéid seo, tá sé tábhachtach go molaimid na daoine a thugtar iad féin, a gcuid ama agus a gcuid fuinnimh dá ndeoin féin. Is mian linn aitheantas a thabhairt le buíochas ar na mball go leor a fhreastalaíonn ar raon leathan coistí agus grúpaí oibre chun feidhmiú furasta an Chumainn Náisiúnta a chinntiú. Is mian linn aitheantas a thabhairt go buíochas dár saorálaithe go léir ar an líne thosaigh a oibríonn laistigh dá bpobail ar fud na tíre - chinntigh a soláthar chúraim thar cionn an for-rochtain leanúnach den Chumainn. Gabhaimid buíochas le baill an Chomhthionóil Ghinearálta agus leis an mBord as a dtiomantas agus dúthracht pearsanta do dhul chun cinn leanúnach i rialachas ceart agus cuí. Go háirithe i mbliana, bronnaíomar aitheantas ar ár bhfoireann díograiseach agus dúthrachtach, cé, in ainneoin na ndeacrachtaí a bhaineann le teileoibríú, a leanadh ar aghaidh leo ag tabhairt go heisceachtúil dóibh féin agus dá saineolas maidir le cúis dhaonnúil Ghluaiseacht Idirnáisiúnta na Croise Deirge agus an Chorráin Dheirge a chur chun cinn sa bhaile agus thar lear.

Níl aon cumainn dheonacha ach chomh láidir leo siúd atá toilteanach iad féin a thiomnú do na hidéil dhaonnúla atá mar bunchloch leis an nGluaiseacht Idirnáisiúnta agus leis an gCumainn Náisiúnta. I ngach glúin, tuilleann oibrí deonach áirithe cáil as an gcaoi a dtugann siad faoina n-obair dheonach, as a gcumas ceannaireacht agus a thionchar, an chaoi a múnlaíonn siad treo reatha agus treo na heagraíochta sa todhchaí agus an chaoi a ndéanann siad meantóireacht orthu siúd a thagann ina ndiaidh. Le linn na bliana áirithe seo d'fhágamar slán le duine amháin den sórt sin nuair a cailleadh iar-bhall den Chomhthionól Ginearálta agus oibrí deonach fadtéarmach i gCorcaigh, Hannah (Ma) Sheehan. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

Ba é an t-athrú ba dheacra i mbliana ná na srianta sláinte phoiblí a cuireadh i bhfeidhm lena dtionchar neamhbheartaithe, ach fós mar sin féin tromchúiseach, ar shlí bheatha an Chumainn Náisiúnta. De réir mar a cuireadh imeachtaí spóirt, cultúrtha agus poiblí ar ceal nó ar an méar fhada, tháinig deireadh freisin leis na dualgais tacaíochta garchabhrach ina mbraitheann formhór dár gCeantar agus ár mBrainsí chun a gcuid oibríochtaí a mhaoiniú. De réir mar a cuireadh srianta i bhfeidhm ar oideachas agus ar cruinnithe faoi dhion, cealaíodh ár ócáid tiomsaithe bliantúil, an Bál Daonnúil. Cuireadh deireadh freisin le gníomhaíochtaí oiliúna, a bhfuil gá leo chun na cáilíochtaí a theastaíonn chun sábháilteacht an chúraim a sholáthraíonn ár mbaill a chinntiú, ach freisin, is sruth ioncaim tábhachtach é ó na cliaint sin a mbraitheann ar Chrois Dhearg na hÉireann i gcóir a chuid oiliúint garchabhrach agus sábháilteachta.

Mar gheall ar leanúint na srianta sláinte phoiblí, cuireadh as an áireamh ócáidí ceiliúrtha ar scála mór as ár gclár. Trí flaitiúlacht an chláir CLÁR, reachtáilithe ag an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail agus Tuaithe, cuireadh roinnt feithiclí nua leis an scuaine, cé nach raibh aon ceiliúradh nó ócáid ghrianghrafadóireachta éigeantach ann. Áfach, i rith na bliana cuireadh deireadh le pleannanna do Chomhdháil Náisiúnta, Campaí Óige, Gradam Náisiúnta, Comórtais Garchabhracha agus ár n-imeacht tríú leibhéal den Dlí Daonnúil Idirnáisiúnta (IHL), Corn Adomnáin, de réir mar a lean an paindéim ar aghaidh níos faide ná mar a bhíomar ag súil leis ar dtús.

Athrú úsáideach amháin a luathaigh an paindéim ná tabhairt isteach ardáin dhigiteacha ar a bhféadfadh cruinnithe, oiliúint agus gníomhaíochtaí éagsúla na heagraíochta leanúint ar aghaidh i dtimpeallacht fhíorúil. Bogadh oiliúint, cruinnithe foirne, cruinnithe náisiúnta oibrithe deonacha agus cruinnithe Boird ar líne agus d'oibrigh siad go rathúil. Léiríodh Óige Chrois Dhearg na hÉireann cruthaitheacht ar leith maidir lena gCampa Óige bliantúil a réachtáil leathair ar líne, le baill ag glacadh páirt in imeachtaí fíorúla thar roinnt laethanta.

Léirigh an eagraíocht a cruthaitheacht agus a gcumas nuálach i rith na bliana seo. Mionathraíodh tairiscintí seirbhíse, cuireadh tús le seirbhísí nua agus de bharr tairiscintí agus athruithe nach rabhamar ag súil leis ach a éilítear de bharr an paindéim, cuireadh i bhfeidhm:

- Oiliúint Garchabhrach Síceolaíochta—Oileadh 67 saorálaí go fíorúil i PFA
- Ciste Cruatain—I gcomhar le Age Action, bunaíodh ciste chun tacaíocht a sholáthar do dhaoine scothaosta a fhulaing cruatan bainteach le COVID-19
- Tacaíocht Pobail—Bhí baill Tacaíochta Pobail ríthábhachtach do phobail áitiúla maidir le hoidis agus bia a sheachadadh do dhaoine a bhí ina aonar agus do dhaoine scothaosta a bhí ag clutharú
- Aistriú Othar—Thóg feithiclí IRC daoine chuig coinní leighis agus rinne siad aistriú idir-saoráid d'othair tar éis ráig amhrasta COVID-19
- Coraintín Óstáin—Bhunaigh na seirbhísí imirce clár gníomhaíochtaí agus imeascadh ar ghearrfhógra do dhéanaithe a tháinig ón Liobáin a raibh orthu coraintín a dhéanamh mar gheall ar COVID-19
- Aistriúcháin ar ábhair COVID-19—D'aistrigh an IRC faisnéis COVID-19 go hocht dteanga dhifriúla do dhaoine nach labhraíonn Béarla
- Cúram Éigeandála Cúramóirí—I gcomhar le heagraíochtaí deonacha eile bunaíodh scéim chúraim éigeandála do cúramóirí Teaghlaigh na hÉireann
- Tarrtháil Sléibhe—Mhéadaigh srianta taistil líon na ndaoine a bhí ag siúl go háitiúil sna sléibhte ach fresin mhéadaigh siad tharthálacha don fhoireann tarrthála Sléibhte Ghleann Uí Mháil.

Go hidirnáisiúnta, bhí páirt ríthábhachtach ag Cros Dhearg na hÉireann sa fhreagairt dhomhanda ar COVID-19. In éineacht lenár gcomhpháirtithe thacaíomar le pobail lena chuid gníomhaíochtaí freagartha agus coiscitheacha in aghaidh COVID-19—go háirithe sna hOileáin Philipíneacha agus san Ind, ach in áiteanna eile freisin.

Cé go raibh an paindéim i réim ar cheannlínte domhanda, ar an drochuair, lean iarmhairtí daonnúla de coimhlínt armtha agus tubaistí eile ag cur le fulaingt agus ag dul i bhfeidhm ar na milliúin de dhaoine. Tugadh aird ar daoine áirithe, ach tugadh neamhaird ar roinnt eile. Maidir le Cros Dhearg na hÉireann, tugadh tosaíocht chun dul i ngleic leis na daoine is leochailí a dtéann coimhlíntí leanúnacha i bhfeidhm orthu, mar atá san Éimin agus sa tSiria. Tar éis pléascadh calafoirt Béiriút sa Liobáin, thugamar freagra láithreach le soláthairtí éigeandála a raibh géarghá leo. I rith an bhliain, lean ár gcuid oibre tábhachtach ar shlí bheatha a neartú i dtíortha mar Neipeal agus an Indinéis gan laghdú.

I lár na bliana, tháinig athrú mór le scor an iar-Ard-Rúnaí Liam O'Dwyer tar éis cúig bhliain sa phost. Thar ceann an Chumann Náisiúnta agus an Gluaiseacht Chorrán Dhearg agus Cros Dhearg níos leithne, gabhaimid buíochas le Liam as uile rud a bhfuil bainte amach aige maidir le seirbhísí nua a fhorbairt d'imirce, as obair chun inbhuanaitheacht airgeadais na heagraíochta a chobhsú agus chun Plean Straitéiseach uailmhianach nua a thosú. Guímid gach rath air agus é ar scor agus sa todhchaí. Tháinig an tArd-Rúnaí nua, Trevor Holmes, isteach sa Chumann Náisiúnta ó Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath agus ghlac sé an ceannaireacht ag an am sin.



→ D'eisigh Seirbhís Phríosúin na hÉireann tuarascáil don Eagraíocht Dhomhanda Sláinte ar an gcaoi ar éirigh leo a suíomhanna de trí déag príosún agus a daonra de 3,500 príosúnach, a choinneáil saor ó COVID don chuid is mó den bhliain. Bhí bunús ilghnéitheach don toradh seo a raibh fáilte mhór roimhe, cuireadh cuid mhaith den rath ar rannpháirtíocht na oibríthe deonacha príosúnach Chrois Dhearg na hÉireann atá gníomhach sna príosúin, lena mbearta feasachta sláinte, spreagadh piaraí agus dea-chleachtas. Bhí go leor spéis idirnáisiúnta in eispéireas Phríosúin na hÉireann a daonra phríosúnach a choimead saor ó COVID-19.

Cuireadh deireadh leis an mbliain le ócáid Gradam Daonnúla spreagúil, a bhí á óstáil ar líne ag an gcraoltóir Sybil Mulcahy. Bhí gach duine a roghnaíodh sna mórán aicme inspioráideach, ag cruthú go bhfuil spiorad agus meon na daonnúlach agus saorálaí beo agus folláin. Bhí ionchur suntasach tugtha ag John Lonergan ina phríomhóráid agus Naoise Ryan chomh maith a ghlac gradam iarbháis in ainm a fir chéile Michaél Ryan, a fuair bás go tragóideach i dtimpiste aerlíne san Aetóip. Fuair an Dr Michael Ryan, Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin Chlár Éigeandálaí Sláinte na hEagraíochta Sláinte Domhanda, a bhí i gceannas ar an bhfoireann atá freagrach as srianadh agus cóireáil idirnáisiúnta COVID-19, an Gradam Daonnúil Chrois Dhearg na hÉireann don bhliain 2020 agus labhair go coscrach faoin tionchar daonnúil ar phobail leochaileach an domhain.

Fiú amháin i paidéim dhomhanda, is focail fhaireacha den earnáil carthanachta iad dea-rialachas agus comhlíonadh. Ag aithint deacrachtaí maidir leis an Tionól Ginearálta a thionól le linn na tréimhse seo, rinne an Bord cinneadh fadradharcach, ag breathnú siar, chun téarma oifige sealbhóirí oifige a leathnú le bliain bhreise chun rialachas agus rialaithe iomchuí a choinneáil. Lean clár oibre comhlíonadh ár rialtóir, an Chomhairle um Chúram Éigeandála Réamh-Ospidéal (PHECC), le Crois Dhearg na hÉireann ag tabhairt faoina céad iniúchadh i gcóir a Chreat Bailíochtú Rialachais (GVF). Lean fostú athbheithniú lá amháin ar dhá iniúchadh láithreach, a stiúradh go fíorúil le saineolaithe eachtracha a ceapadh an rialtóir.

Tarraingíodh aird roimh an tionchar agus na hacmhainní breise a theastaíonn chun géilleadh leis an t-ualach de rialachán atá ag méadú agus leanann sé seo ar aghaidh. Cé go n-adhmaímid na torthaí fíorthábhachtach a bhaineann le sábháilteacht fheabhsaithe othar, cáilíocht an chúraim agus torthaí feabhsaithe, cosúil le go leor eagraíochtaí carthanachta eile, táimid ag leanúint lenár achainí chuig an Rialtas chun meicníochtaí a aimsiú chun tacaíocht airgeadais a thabhairt chun maolú na gcaiteachas breise atá riachtanach chun na caighdeán seo a chomhlíonadh. De réir mar a leanann gairmiúlacht rialtóirí ar aghaidh, is gá grinnscrúdú leanúnach agus cúramach a dhéanamh ar líon na aonán a gcaithfidh eagraíochtaí deonacha dul i ngleic leis, le comhdhlúthú iomchuí agus tráthúil na gcomhlachtaí rialála san áireamh, go háirithe maidir le gnéithe cuardaigh agus tarrthála dár gníomhaíochtaí.

Aithníodh i dTuarascáil Bhliantúil an bhliain seo caite go raibh an Cumann Náisiúnta ag feidhmiú le hacmhainní foirne laghdaithe chun a chinntiú go bhfanfaidh ár n-ioncam agus ár gcaiteachas cothrom agus tá an grinnscrúdú agus diongbháilteacht sin i bhfeidhm arís i rith na bliana seo. Lean Crois Dhearg na hÉireann uirthi ag casadh an choirnéil agus ag déanamh na gcinntí deacra ach riachtanach chun coinneigh le maoiniú sásúil den eagraíocht. Táimid thar a bheith buíoch as maoiniú breise ón rialtas, ioncaim feabhsaithe ó tiomsaithe airgid agus oidhreacht flaithiúla, cabhraíonn gach ceann acu le buncloch airgeadais níos fearr a thógáil inár féidir oibríochtaí a bhunú amach anseo. Cuireadh feabhas mór ar phríomhchuspóir amháin an chumann, a comhaontaíodh lenár n-iniúcháirí, lena chinntiú go raibh cúlchistí oibríochta leordhóthanacha ann i rith na bliana seo.

Nuair a breathnaíonn muid ar aghaidh, táimid bródúil gur glacamar páirt mar Chumann Náisiúnta chun a chinntiú go raibh an líon riachtanach daingniúcháin i bhfeidhm faoi spriocdátá an Dheireadh Fómhair chun a chinntiú go dtiocfaidh an Conradh ar Iomadú Airm Núicléacha i bhfeidhm i Q1 2021. Bheadh úsáid arm núicléach tubaisteach don chine daonna. Leis an gConradh ar Cosc ar Airm Núicléacha i bhfeidhm, táimid céim níos gaire lena chinntiú nach dtarlaíonn tubaiste daonnúil urchóideach amach as seo. Bhí Crois Dhearg na hÉireann ar cheann de roinnt Cumainn Náisiúnta a thacaigh le gealltanais ag an gComhdháil Idirnáisiúnta is déanaí chun beart práinneach a thógáil maidir le athrú aeráide, agus beimid ag díriú níos mó dár n-aird air. Dá bhrí sin, thacaíomar le seoladh an Tuairisc Tubastí Domhanda agus a thorthaí taighde dáiríre ar thionchair dhaonnúla an athrú aeráide.

Leis an tsochaí i gcoitinne ag ullmhú don saol tar éis COVID-19, stadfaimid, in éineacht le roinnt mhaith eile, I gcóir am a ghlacadh chun machnamh a dhéanamh ar ár 'raison d'être' agus chun tús a chur le comhrá fiúntach leis na páirtí leasmhara go léir chun a fháil amach cén bealach is fearr a d'fhéadfaimis freastal ar na riachtanais dhaonnúla den phobal leochaileach sa bhaile agus thar lear sa todhchaí.

Mar fhocal scoir, táimid go mór faoi chomaoin ag Rialtas na hÉireann as a thacaíocht leanúnach agus seasmhach don Chumann Náisiúnta agus dá mhisean. Bhí an-áthas orainn tacaíocht fhlaithiúil a fháil ón gCiste Cobhsaíochta. Táimid thar a bheith buíoch as na caidrimh ghairmiúla atá forbartha againn i gcomhpháirt leis na Roinne a maoiníonn na gníomhaíochtaí agus na seirbhísí a sholáthraímid thar a gceann agus faoina n-ordú, go háirithe an Roinn Cosanta; An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt; An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige agus an Roinn Fiontar, Gnó agus Nuálaíochta. I s é seo freisin tuarascáil bhliantúil deireanach ar n-Ard-Rúnaí reatha, a roghnaigh freagra a thabhairt ar ghairm pearsanta ina guímid gach rath air agus gabhaimid buíochas air as ucht a cheannaireacht ghearr, ach mar sin féin gairmiúil agus socair tríd an tréimhse dhúshlánach seo.

Tar éis bliana deacra agus dúshlánach, scoirimid níos láidre tar éis taithí na mbliana 2020. Tá ár súil ardaithe anois go léaslínte nua agus casamar ár smaointe ar an mbealach is fearr gur féidir linn tabhairt faoi na dúshláin atá romhann agus muid ag dul chun cinn sa todhchaí. |

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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.

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 three quarters 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. It has a maximum of 14 members. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary of the General Assembly, as National Officers, are automatically elected to the Board. 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 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.

The Board set the band rates (upper and lower limits of compensation) for the different types of roles within the Society, based on prevailing rates of remuneration within the sector, interim alignments can be made based on market movement, otherwise they are reviewed every three years.

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 on the recommendation of the Governance Committee approved the initial 'Good Governance Code of Conduct, as required by the Charities Regulator, at its meeting in July 2020. It is the intention of the Board to update and review this on an annual basis to ensure continued compliance with prevailing best practice.

Governance**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.

A corporate risk register outlining the top twelve risks under the four subcategories: Governance; Financial, Operational, and Compliance, is maintained by the Secretary General's office and reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Audit and Risk Committee on behalf of the Board, in advance of reporting to them on the matter.

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 damages the 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 Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC). Risk is further mitigated by appropriate insurance. 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 (redcross.ie).

The financial accounts are prepared according to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 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 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 for that item.

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

For newly elected Board members the Society offers an induction training course. The course is divided into two components and is supplemented by an induction pack comprised of:

- Garda Vetting process—to be completed
- Statement of Directors' Roles and Responsibilities—to be signed
- Code of Conduct for Directors and Senior Managers—to be signed
- Irish Red Cross (IRC) Constitution & Operating Rules
- The Governance Code for Charitable Organisations
- International Federation—Governance: National Society Guidelines
- Codes and Standards of Practice of the IRC
- Presentation on the Charities Act 2009 and the responsibilities of Directors as Trustees of the IRC
- Volunteer Handbook
- IRC Strategic Plan
- IRC Structures
- Disclosure of Interests

The first session offered to new Board Directors is provided by the senior management team and the Chair of the National Society. This session covers all of the operational activities of the organisation, the administration requirements, compliance/regulatory requirements, and a detailed explanation of the Governance of the Society.

The second session comprises a detailed overview, by an outside expert, of the Governance requirements, as set out by the Charities Regulator. This is a more generic session given in the context of meeting the overall responsibilities of their role as Directors.

In 2019, the first session was offered to four new Directors. The second session, with two newly appointed Directors, will be rescheduled due to COVID-19. |



FUTURE PLANS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a reassessment of the Strategic Plan was required, as the context in which the plan was developed was radically different to the one we are currently operating in. In recognition of these changed circumstances, the Board decided that simplifying the plan, rather than redeveloping it completely, was the appropriate course of action.

As the input process for the Strategic Plan was so robust it was crucial that the integrity was maintained as much as possible to respect the investment involved in the original consultation process. At the time of writing we are communicating the plan, which covers the next two years, to our stakeholders.

We are currently implementing an improved risk management process which has broadened the risk sub-categories and moved from an uncontrolled risk scoring and management system to a controlled risk basis. The level of controlled risk and the risk appetite determines the necessary additional controls and the timeframe in which they should be anticipated.

Following a successful year in our Fundraising department we continue to focus on diversifying our revenue streams and building on this achievement. The continued focus on sustainability means our Operational Reserves are now €520k which is well on the way to meeting the target of €750k by the end of 2022.

To support the need to focus on outcomes, impacts and reporting we have started the process of developing a digital transformation roadmap to ensure greater efficiency, consistency and scalability in all our service offerings and communications across everything we do.

The Governance committee is reviewing our operational structure and a proposal is now due for presentation at the General Assembly in Autumn 2021. Reconvening the General Assembly is an important goal as we reassess our Society in a post COVID-19 context.

An important part of being ready to help is to ensure we have access to appropriate equipment, vehicles and facilities. As part of managing our fleet we are developing a Fleet Renewal Strategy to identify future needs, replacement plans and sources of funding.

The commencement of a Community Based Healthcare in Detention Global Hub, based in Ireland is also an important area that we are developing our readiness for in the short term.

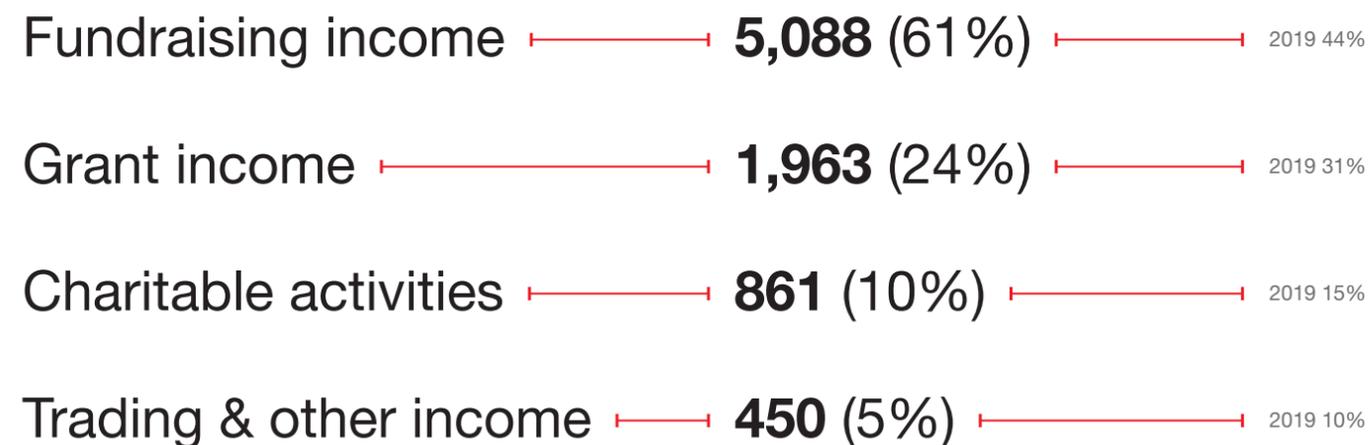
Our International agenda is currently focusing on implementing a multi-annual funding mechanism to allow commitment to programmes of a medium term nature. A recently devised policy has been approved by the Board that is a first step in this process. Its immediate objective is to create a development fund which can support these projects.

As part of our short term plans we will review the job family and staff appraisal system, the internal complaints policy and the national assets management policy. In addition, we are considering a research project to ascertain the standing and reputation of the National Society with key stakeholder groups in advance of a revamped communications campaign. |

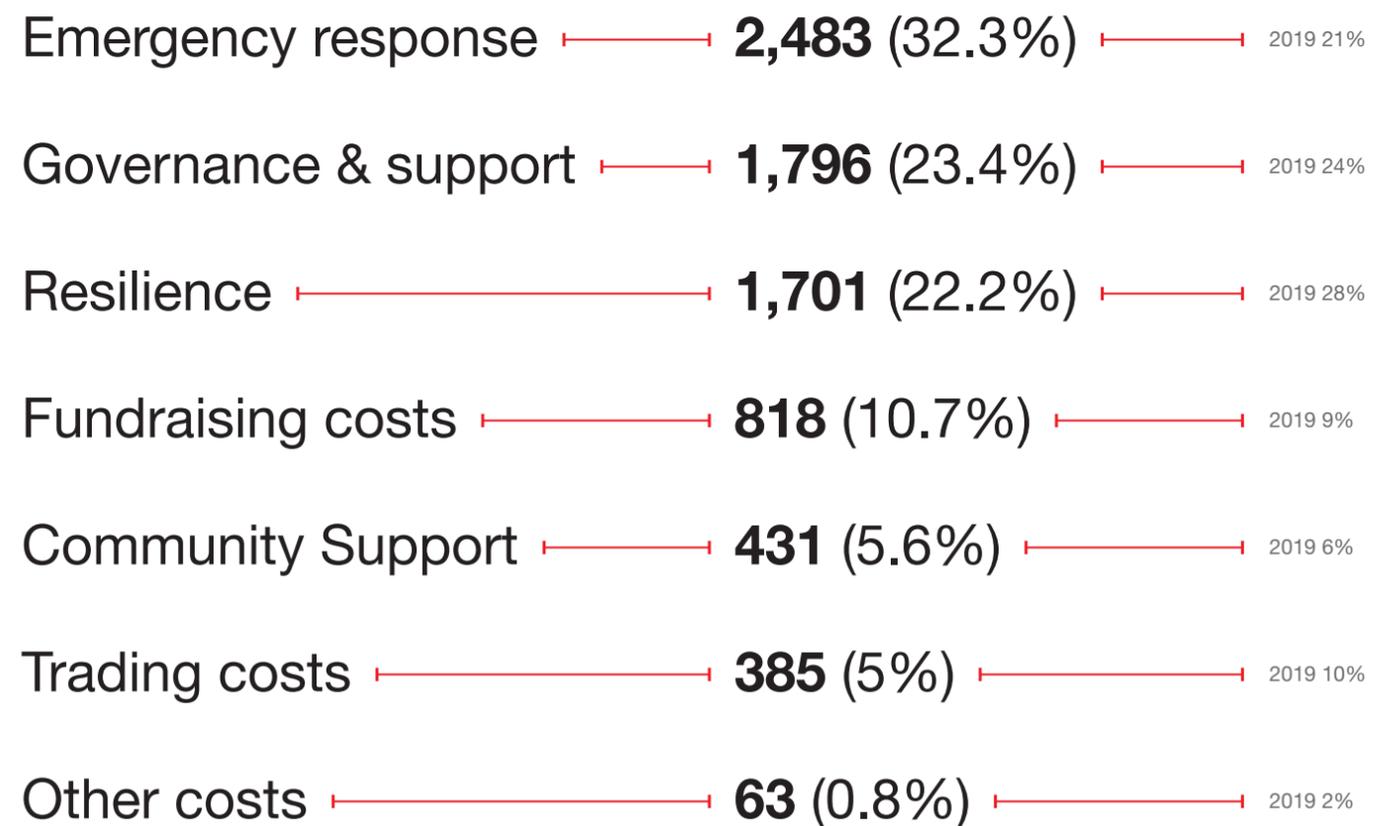


FINANCIAL RESULTS

Income (€,000)



Expenditure (€,000)



FINANCIAL RESULTS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Income

Income has grown this year to €8,362k (2019: €7,464k). A significant increase in restricted income as a result of the donations received, to provide COVID-19 assistance in our community, compensated for the reduced income in our charitable activities and other trading activities impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions.

Expenditure

Expenditure has increased to €7,677k (2019: €6,969k) due to COVID-19. Unrestricted funds expenditure reduced due to lower activity levels but restricted funds expenditure increased as we transferred COVID-19 funds to different programmes, in Ireland.

Result

The incoming resources for the year was €685k and this was split between the restricted funds surplus of €631k and the unrestricted funds surplus of €54k. The unrestricted surplus is less than last year due to the COVID-19 operational constraints but it was a pleasing result in a difficult year, brought about by improved fundraising.

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 €2.4m (2019: €2.2m). This is 4.1 months of total expenditure, including restricted funds (2019: 4.2). While this is at the low end of the range set by the Board (3 to 6 months) it has been impacted by the increased level of restricted expenditure this year.

Our expectation for 2021 is to maintain this figure and improve again in 2022.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Pat Carey
Chairperson

Cashflow

Our net cash inflow from operating activities in 2020 was €1,304k (2019: €1,165k).

COVID-19 donations made a significant contribution to this inflow and the remaining COVID-19 funds will be spent in 2021. As a result we expect our cash inflow will be lower next year.

Our operating reserve is €520k.

2020 is going to be a difficult year as a result of COVID-19 but with the support of all our stakeholders we believe we are in a good position to deal with the challenge.

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.

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 25th August 2021. |



Brian Byrne
Interim National Treasurer

Governance

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.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Pat Carey
Chairperson

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 25th August 2021. |



Brian Byrne
Interim National Treasurer

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 2020, 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 2020 and of its net incoming 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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 25th August 2021.

BDO

BDO
Dublin
Statutory Audit Firm

FUNDRAISING REPORT

In 2020, individuals and communities around Ireland faced unprecedented challenges and the Irish Red Cross was no exception.

One of the goals set in 2019 was to focus on financial sustainability for the organisation by diversifying our fundraising income in 2020. Our newly formed Partnerships and Philanthropy team focused on soliciting donations from corporates, trusts and foundations. In conjunction with a strong performance from the Individual Giving team, we were able to produce one of the strongest fundraising results we had experienced over the last decade.

I am a firm believer that to run a successful fundraising team, the Programmes department and Fundraising department must work hand in hand. The Irish Red Cross' branch and area's response to COVID-19 was tremendous. As a result, communities, individuals, corporations (big and small) came together and donated what they could. The very first sign of this was Listoke Distillery who donated over 1,000 litres of hand sanitisers to the Irish Red Cross within hours of the launch of our COVID-19 appeal. We were able to mobilise resources and ensure that all our areas and branches were equipped with PPE in order to serve the community.

With COVID-19 ongoing throughout the year, our strategy was to continue investing in our fundraising and marketing as 'per normal'. This strategy proved to be successful with positive results across all our fundraising income streams. Individual giving focused heavily on both engagement of current donors, with the launch of a monthly e-newsletter and the continuation of our physical newsletter, Frontline. Due to improved and increased engagement, income from tax-efficient giving improved, which further contributed to the growth of fundraising in 2020.

The main emergency appeals in 2020 included the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beirut explosion, Australian bush fires, and the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Yemen. The generous Irish Red Cross supporters continued to step up when they were needed by raising over €140,000 for the Beirut port explosion and over €100,000 for the Australia bush fires appeal.

The goal in fundraising for 2021 is to continue diversifying our fundraising income. We have now set the foundation for growth. In Partnership and Philanthropy there will be an extra focus on the solicitation of major giving and legacy. The major focus for Individual Giving is the acquisition of regular givers through multiple different channels whilst continuing to put our donors first.

On a personal note, this is my last fundraising report as I am moving on from the Irish Red Cross. As I start to reflect on my time at the Irish Red Cross, I am so proud to have led such a wonderful department and it just wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for our kind and loyal supporters. Thank you.

Jocelino Jorge, *Head of Fundraising*



Photo | European Pressphoto Agency

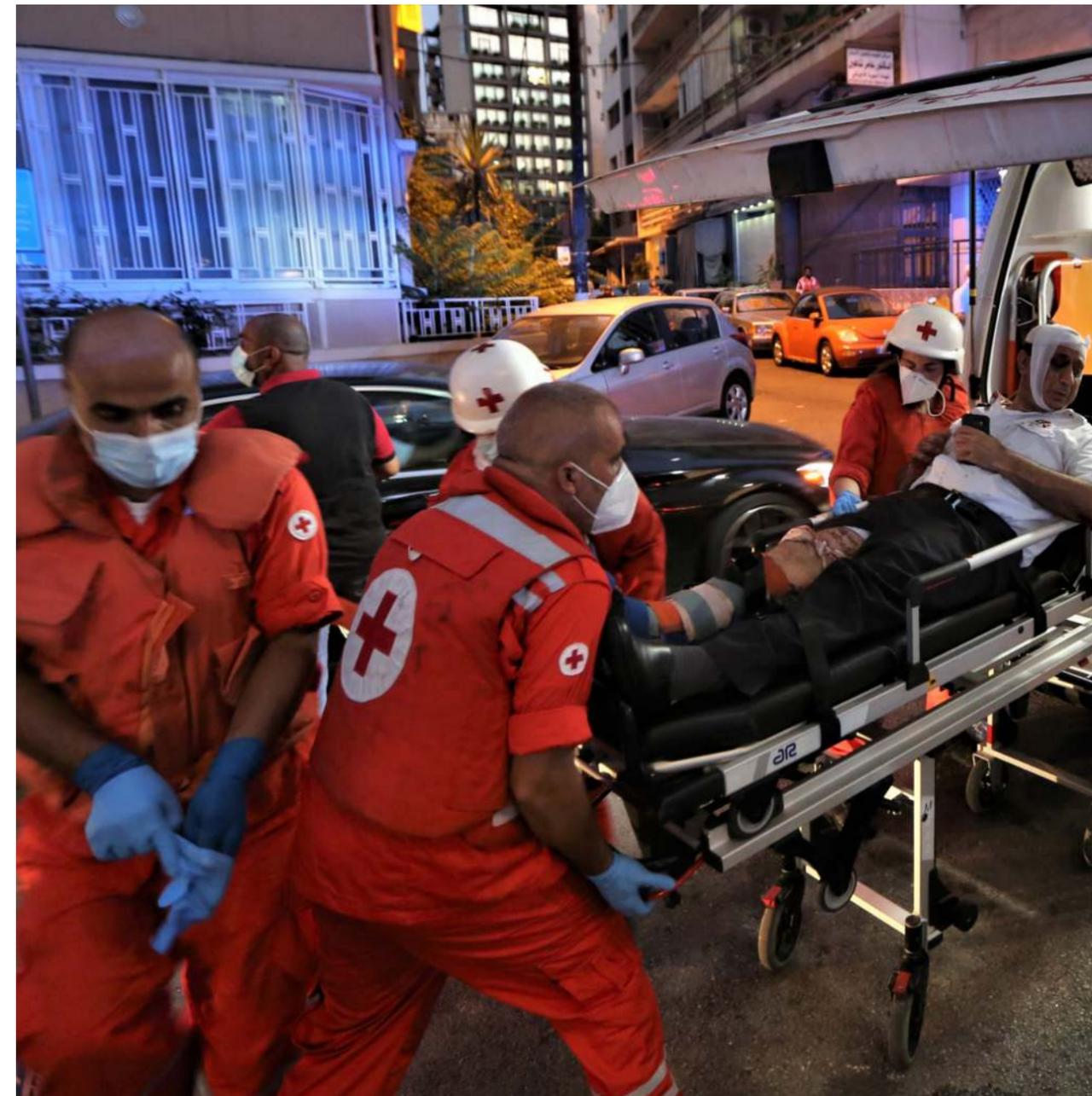




Photo | Mike Magan

The inception of this initiative comes down to the passion of one man, Mike Magan, who reached out to ICOS, among others, with his idea to respond to the shocking human tragedy in Yemen

IRISH DAIRY FARMERS APPEAL

In collaboration with the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society (ICOS) and other organisations within the Irish Dairy industry, the Irish Red Cross launched an appeal in August to dairy farmers all across Ireland to raise funds in support of relief efforts in Yemen. These funds took the form of a once-off €10 voluntary deduction from one day's milk production per farmer, representing the milk production of one cow, on a single day.

With over 24 million in need of aid, Yemen is currently the world's single largest humanitarian crisis. Years of civil war conflict, drought and instability have left thousands of Yemenis struggling to source food, water and medicine.

The inception of this initiative comes down to the passion of one man, Mike Magan, who reached out to ICOS, among others, with his idea to respond to the shocking human tragedy in Yemen. The appeal was a huge success, with generous support from individual dairy farmers and businesses involved in the sector, resulting in over €250,000 being donated.

CORPORATE GIVING

As the year began, companies across Ireland lent their support to the Red Cross relief efforts for the Australian bushfire and special mention should be made of Megazyme and their generous donation towards this crisis.

With the onset of COVID-19 in Ireland, corporate support for Irish Red Cross response efforts reached new levels. Companies such as Bristol Myers Squibb, Flutter.ie and Lilly made generous donations of direct funding in support of Irish Red Cross services. Revolut made use of its huge audience to encourage its users to donate small sums to the IRC, leading to over €250,000 in donations; while companies such as Amgen, Amundi and our corporate partners TK Maxx and H&M called on their staff and customers to lend their support in the fight against the pandemic.

Other companies such as Nestlé, Boyne Valley Foods, Standard Brands (the makers of Zip firelighters) and IKEA, generously donated thousands of units of products to provide 'Comfort Bundles' and 'Kids Packs' to isolated and vulnerable families all across the country while Procter & Gamble donated large volumes of hand sanitiser and face masks for use by IRC volunteers.

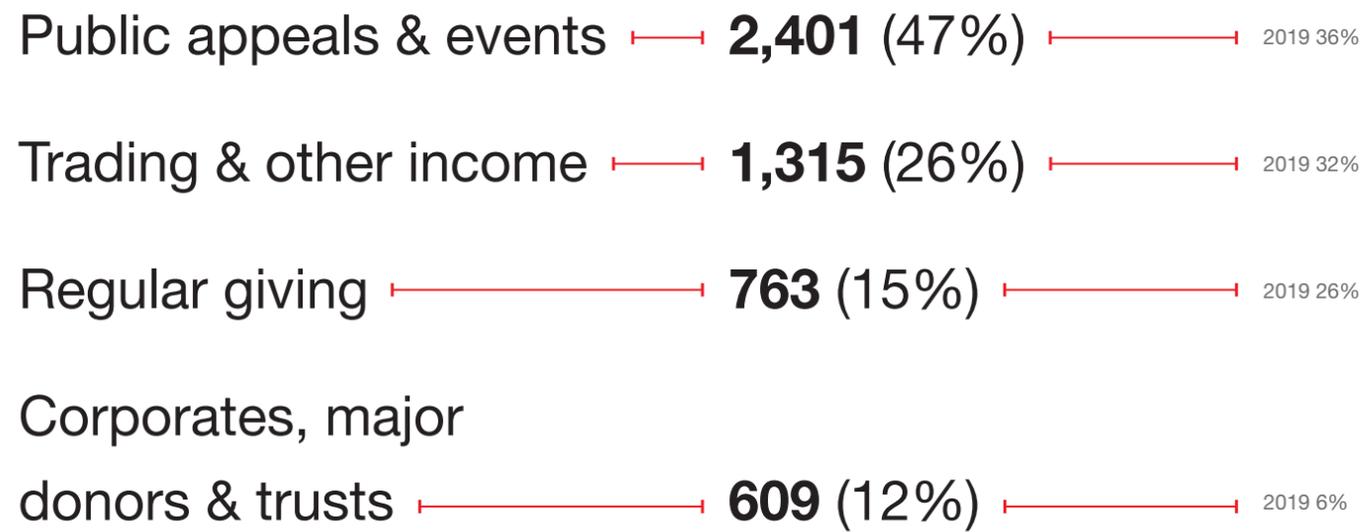
AVIVA, as a part of the Resilience Cup initiative, funded the development of a Psychological First Aid (PFA) training programme, which will allow the Irish Red Cross to develop a network of volunteers capable of delivering targeted support to individuals dealing with mental wellbeing issues.

We were delighted to continue our work with our partner Fleming Medical, delivering useful first aid advice for the home during the pandemic and in December we renewed our partnership with Lottoland with a two-year initiative to raise funds to support our national services.

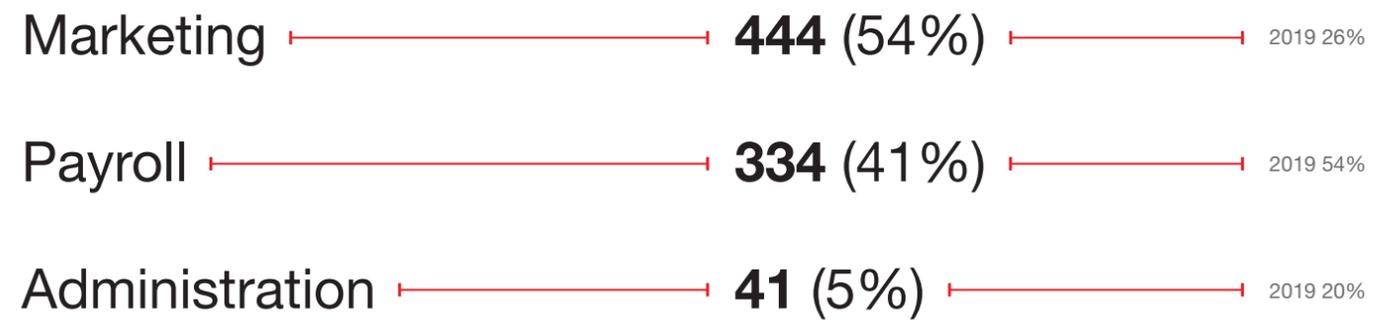
Throughout 2020 the organisation worked with DMG Media Ireland, publishers of the Irish Daily Mail and Evoke.ie, who provided over €100,000 worth of advertising space free of charge across its titles. |

Income and Expenditure

Income (€,000)



Expenditure (€,000)

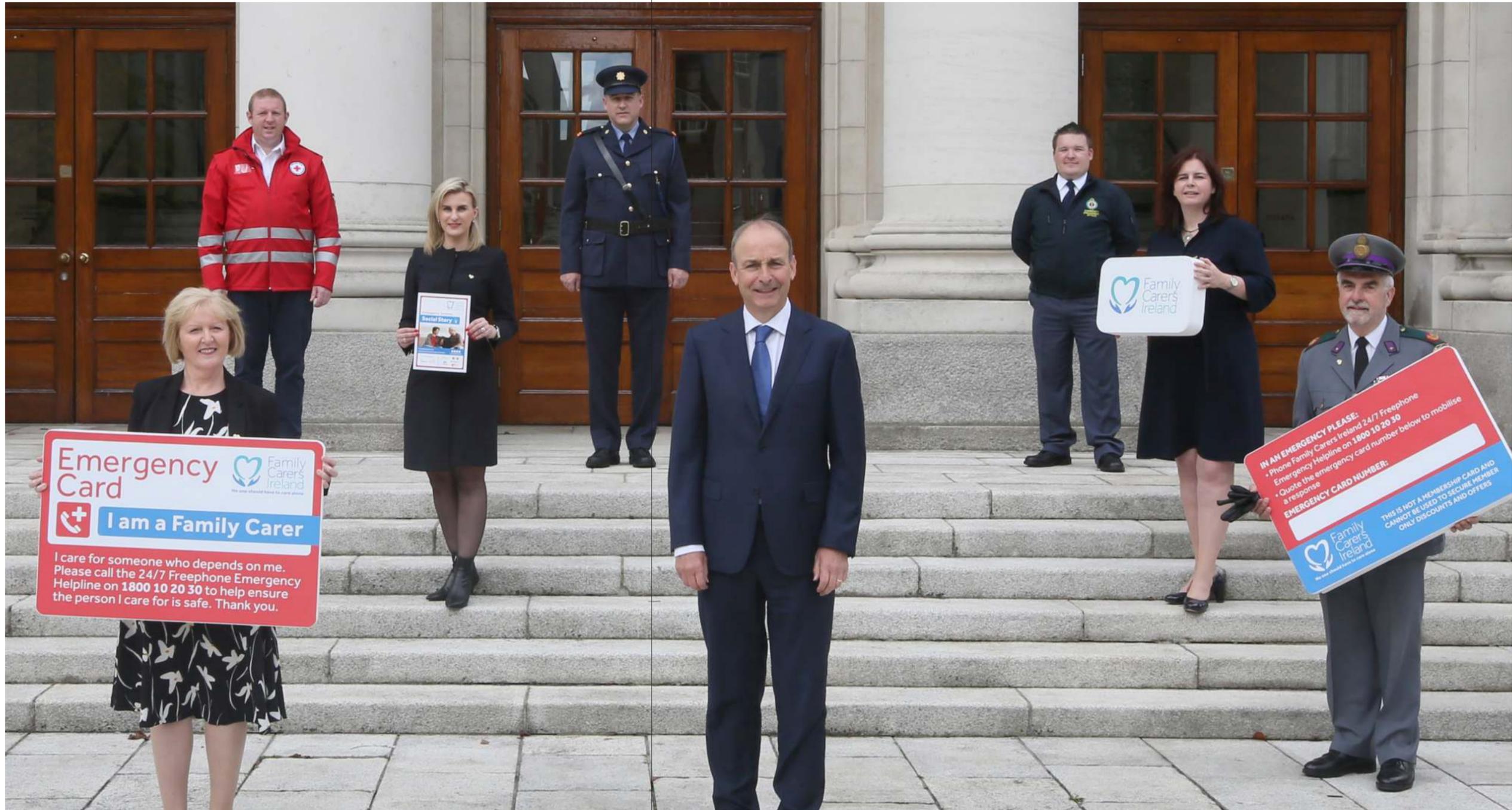


Fundraising and Operations

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ALL

National







Care Home Evacuation | P. 46
Photo | Jason Clarke

Humanitarian Awards | P. 47
Photo | Jonathan Tyner



**NATIONAL
OVERVIEW**

ACT TOGETHER, PROTECT EACH OTHER. BRANCHES RESPOND TO COVID-19.

At the beginning of 2020, we could not have prepared for how life in Ireland was about to change. News reports began to talk of a new virus that was spreading across the globe, having a devastating impact on local populations. The seriousness of the virus became apparent in March 2020 when the Taoiseach announced that older people and those with underlying health conditions should isolate while schools would be closed, businesses shut and non-essential industry placed on lockdown.

Under this backdrop, local communities were left in shock and uncertainty, with thousands of people facing the prospect of losing their jobs. The nation joined together with local communities, rallying to protect the most vulnerable. Local volunteers began to mobilise and organisations soon realised that the scale of the pandemic would test their capacity—as such, new partnerships were needed, with the community sector coming together to share resources to support those in need. The government harnessed this goodwill and community spirit into local community call networks, bringing voluntary services together on a scale never seen before in Ireland. These networks allowed better communication and coordination between organisations, ensuring no one was left unsupported.

Local Irish Red Cross Branches answered the call. Traditional Community Support services such as therapeutic care and skin camouflage clinics all had to be suspended while cancelled events meant that providing medical cover at matches, festivals etc. was no longer required. Volunteers adapted and responded to what the community needed to get through the national health crisis. Some services could continue, albeit in a new way, visitation moved to a remote service over the phone, or through video calls—keeping those who felt alone connected to their communities.

Due to the risk of contracting COVID-19, many people had to self-isolate, cocoon, or restrict their movements. Social contact was discouraged, which left many without access to essential supplies of food, medication or heating fuel. The Irish Red Cross stepped in, with local volunteers providing daily shopping runs, collecting medications and assisting Meals on Wheels services to meet their increased demand.

As people were unexpectedly unemployed and social welfare system overburdened, families and individuals found themselves suddenly facing the threat of food poverty. To deal with this, local branches ran food drives, supported food banks and delivered donations that had been offered to the Irish Red Cross nationally from companies looking to support the organisation's work. Volunteers ensured that these supplies were distributed quickly to the people and community organisations most in need around the country.

As travel restrictions continued and remote working encouraged, transport networks started to slow down. People became fearful of attending routine appointments on public transport as it posed an additional risk of contracting the virus. Irish Red Cross volunteers supported this need when many of the branches provided daily or twice daily runs from towns and villages into local hospitals and primary care centres.

As the pandemic continued into 2021, volunteers have not stopped and have pledged to keep responding as long as their local communities need them. |



These networks allowed better communication and coordination between organisations, ensuring no one was left unsupported



BUILDING A NETWORK OF SUPPORT

2020 saw massive changes in how the Irish Red Cross supports local communities. Through a strategic partnership with Family Carers Ireland and other partners a safety net for family carers across Ireland was created.

Currently approximately 500,000+ family carers, one in eight people are providing care across Ireland. To support these carers an emergency scheme has been developed by Family Carers Ireland. This scheme is being supported by an Garda Síochána, the National Ambulance Service Community First Responders, Order of Malta Ireland and the Irish Red Cross. The scheme is a free support service open to all family carers.

Family Carers who join the scheme complete a care and support plan for the person they provide care for. This may be a parent, son, daughter, other relative, friend or neighbour.

The plan is returned to Family Carers Ireland and logged onto a GDPR compliant database. The family carer then receives an emergency card to carry with them.

In the event that a family carer is involved themselves in an accident or an emergency, the scheme will mobilise a response to make sure that the person they care for at home is safe and well. Call centre staff will check the cared for person's Emergency Care Plan. If the plan has listed an emergency contact, like a friend or relative, they are contacted in the first incidence, to ask if they are available to provide care and support.

Through a strategic partnership with Family Carers Ireland and other partners a safety net for family carers across Ireland was created

There will be times when the emergency contact person may not be available or in some cases a family carer may have no one listed, even in an emergency. So, in that case the emergency scheme can offer one or two types of response. The response provided will be based on the level of care need identified in the care and support plan. For high dependency care needs or those being cared for who are under 18, an immediate emergency services call out will occur. For low dependency care needs where the person can safely stay by themselves for up to two hours local volunteers will be deployed to the cared for person's location.

Discussions with Family Carers Ireland led to the development of a Respite Visitation Service for family carers which is expected to go live in 2021. The partnership is also exploring a discharge from hospital support service for Cork and Kerry. |

PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID

COVID-19 brought many challenges to local communities and it took a particularly heavy toll on people's emotional and mental wellbeing. Isolation, restriction on people's movements, reduced social contact and the unknown elements of the virus all contributed to uncertainty and had an impact on people's mental health. Prior to the pandemic, the Irish Red Cross had been planning the rollout of Psychological First Aid. Due to lockdown restrictions related to the virus, it was now more of a priority to upskill volunteers and staff with basic skills to support an individual in crisis or emotional distress.

Working with the Red Cross psychosocial reference centre in Copenhagen, a programme to deliver remote Psychological First Aid was developed. Being able to deliver the supports remotely proved to be an advantage working in a pandemic. While in-person supports had been restricted, the option to assist remotely—over the phone or through video call—meant that vulnerable or isolated people could be reached without fear of contracting the virus.

The Psychological First Aid (PFA) training, which has been funded by Aviva Ireland, teaches volunteers to assess the situation remotely, listen to a person's concerns, and help them to access services, tackle practical issues such as collecting medications or groceries and connecting with loved ones or social supports.

Psychological First Aid IN ACTION

It was a normal day for Pauline and two of her fellow volunteers. They were travelling to the Irish Red Cross Head Office, volunteering their time to write messages for people in isolation or otherwise affected by the pandemic. The group had no idea that their training would be put into action on the journey.

While driving past a local bus stop in an Irish Red Cross ambulance, the group were waved down by members of the public—it was then that they noticed a man lying on the ground. The crew sprang into action and provided assistance. While the team and passing doctors assisted the cardiac arrest, Pauline noticed several witnesses to the incident were distressed. Having completed the Psychological First Aid training the month before, Pauline felt confident in her ability to put the skills of Look, Listen and Link into practice.

As the incident unfolded local residents and business owners began to gather, to manage the scene Pauline respectfully moved these people along. Reducing the stress of those who initially witnessed the scene, while preventing others from being affected by the sight of what was happening.

"The day started as usual, nothing was out of the ordinary, until everything changed. All the hours, weeks and months of training just takes over in those situations. Without thinking, we each took on a role yet worked together—communication is key. The critical casualty was receiving the appropriate care and attention but I was very aware of the bystanders, two of whom had witnessed the man collapse and they both knew him. They were obviously upset to witness such an accident and for it to be their friend was really shocking for them. They both were reacting quite differently, one was vocal, pacing, crying and clearly distressed. The other walked off, lit a cigarette and sat on the pavement with their head in their hands."

"Other people had started to hear what had happened and were trying to gather. I felt calm and I could see that each person needed to be checked on. Their distress was clear to be seen."

"I introduced myself and spoke with them individually, giving them the opportunity to speak about their friend, the incident as they witnessed it and how they were feeling."

"I checked in with the Paramedics and gave the individuals an update and told them the hospital he was being taken to. This was important so they knew what was happening, as no one could accompany him and they wanted to know what was happening."

"When the man had left, we had another chat and I told them if they needed to talk further to call head office and they could get my details. They both thanked us for everything and all the help. I really felt like the Psychological First Aid give volunteers another way to help the public in a crisis." |

CARE HOME EVACUATION

Members of the Irish Red Cross were on hand to assist in an evacuation from a care home in Donegal after concerns were raised about a possible outbreak of COVID-19.

It took just minutes for Irish Red Cross volunteers to congregate when they were called upon to help with an emergency evacuation in the care home.

Valerie McGrath, Assistant Area Director of Units at the Donegal branch of the Irish Red Cross, describes how quickly volunteers jumped into action.

“I got a phone call that morning that we were needed at the care home. We have a group chat for training so straight away I put a message into the group saying, ‘Right folks, I need three crews straight away, let me know who’s free’. That was at three minutes past eleven and inside of minutes I had three crews filled, so that’s six volunteers in total, and we were all together on the ground within 25 minutes. Everyone was really eager to help out.”

At the request of the HSE, the IRC volunteers responded immediately and began the task of transporting the vulnerable residents from their nursing unit to a nearby hospital.

Since there was the potential risk that the residents had been exposed to COVID-19, all volunteers were supplied with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)—and had previously been trained by the IRC in its proper use—but Valerie says that their primary concern was transporting the residents safely.

...inside of minutes I had three crews filled, so that’s six volunteers in total, and we were all together on the ground within 25 minutes. Everyone was really eager to help out

“We were provided with full PPE so there were precautions put in place and then we could just concentrate on getting them to somewhere safer. Every one of us was like, ‘Well this is what we’re here for’. Nobody there is thinking ‘oh we’re heroes’—this is just what we signed up for.”

“There was one man who had misplaced his hearing aids and with everything going on nobody had time to tell to him what was happening so I found a piece of paper and wrote down and explained to him that they were being moved. We were able to reassure the residents who might have been worried otherwise.”

Over the course of the day, three Irish Red Cross ambulances, as well as ambulances from the HSE and Civil Defence, evacuated the nineteen residents and safely transported them to alternative care settings. |

HUMANITARIAN AWARDS

As the pandemic continued on longer than expected, the difficult decision was made that the annual Humanitarian Awards could not take place in the traditional format. The awards, which had previously taken place as a black tie ball, and acted as a fundraising opportunity for the Irish Red Cross, would have to be put on hold for 2020.

However, after such a difficult year, it was also vitally important that humanitarians be honoured for their commitment and dedication to the vulnerable in society, so it was announced that the Irish Red Cross Humanitarian Awards 2020 would go ahead—albeit as a live, virtual ceremony.

Presented by broadcaster Sybil Mulcahy, the awards were a resounding success and received a record number of nominations across all categories from Young Humanitarian of the Year to the hotly contested Journalism Excellence Award.

Micheál (Mick) Ryan, an engineer with the United Nations’ World Food Programme, was posthumously named the Humanitarian of the Year on the night.

Clare man Mick was named as the winner of the award, with his wife, Naoise Ryan, accepting the award on his behalf.

Mick, who died tragically in a plane crash in in 2019, had dedicated his life to humanitarian work overseas.

During his career, Mick worked tirelessly to ensure that vulnerable people in remote parts of the world had access to food and were protected from flooding and other disasters.

Speaking of the win, Naoise said, “This award means so much to us and my only regret is that Mick isn’t here to accept it himself, I know he would be so humbled by it. To me it’s recognition of the person that he was, he was a humanitarian in every sense of the word.”

“Mick believed that engineering was about people and people were at the heart of everything that he did. From the time we met at college he really believed he could make a difference in the world and he had the skills and talent to make that happen. But really, the reason that Mick was able to achieve all that he

did was because he was intuitive about people, he was able to motivate them and have them share his enthusiasm and he did it all with such fun and laughter. He had a cheeky sense of humour and he was the kindest person you could meet and I know he would be blown away by this award—and probably a little bit embarrassed too because he never liked to be the centre of attention.”

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Mike Ryan in recognition of his global career fighting to eradicate infectious diseases such as Ebola and Polio.

Dr. Ryan, a native of Sligo and Mayo, was brought to global attention in 2020 thanks to his role as Executive Director of the World Health Organisation’s Health Emergencies Programme, leading the team responsible for the international readiness and response to COVID-19.

When asked by the Irish Red Cross Secretary General, Trevor Holmes, about the inequalities in healthcare that have been uncovered by COVID-19, Dr. Ryan said, “It has both driven inequalities and really highlighted and uncovered and pulled away the bandages from what is a very deep wound in our society and that is the lack of access to basic health care.

“We have got to get it together as a society, we just can’t keep doing this. Social justice is only a dream if we don’t put health justice at the centre of it”, he added. |

Mick believed that engineering was about people and people were at the heart of everything that he did



COVID-19 in Irish Prisons | P. 54
Photo | Jason Forde

Tandem Bike Fundraiser | P. 55
Photo | Arthur Carron



Irish Red Cross inmate volunteers are trained in Infection Control as part of the Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) Programme every year. More specifically, every year inmate volunteers learn proper hand-washing techniques, correct respiratory etiquette, and in all prisons a colour coded mop and bucket system has been introduced. Volunteers then disseminate this information to their peers within their prison community through awareness campaigns and landing demonstrations, which has proven to be a key peer education strategy. Since the partnership was developed between the Irish Red Cross CBHFA Programme and the National Infection Control Team in 2017, volunteers have become the key piece of infection control at the prison community level. The efforts made by Red Cross volunteers throughout the years have all contributed to cleaner prisons and prevention of infection. Therefore, the programme simply intensified this community level activity in January and February 2020 in all prisons by Red Cross volunteers.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Before the coronavirus landed in Ireland, Red Cross inmate volunteers learned about the symptoms of the virus and the dangers that it carried. Volunteers were able to use this knowledge to peer educate the rest of their prison community before the virus began to spread in Ireland. Having volunteers take a leadership role in creating awareness and disseminating information about the coronavirus allowed for each prison population to be prepared and apply effective infection control measures in their daily routines. Furthermore, prison communities were able to better understand the necessary precautionary measures implemented by the Irish Prison Service.

As the virus became more serious and the country went into lockdown, supports that prisoners would usually have (such as teachers, psychologists, chaplains and addiction counsellors) were no longer able to enter the prisons. Therefore, the Irish Red Cross inmate volunteers took a very strong leadership role to assist Irish Prison Service staff with the challenges of COVID-19. Volunteers continued to educate their peers in effective infection control measures, spoke to inmates facing mental health challenges, assisted with the packing and distribution of information and education packs, and did their best to keep up positive morale throughout each of the prisons.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

Irish Red Cross staff introduced two separate newsletters to distribute to prison populations each week when the first lockdown initially began: (1) COVID-19 General Information Newsletter (for all prisoners), and (2) Living in Cell Newsletter (for prisoners cocooning, isolating and quarantining). These newsletters have provided prisoners with updated information regarding COVID-19, and education and services they could access. Irish Red Cross volunteers were responsible for distributing these newsletters every week to the rest of their prison communities.

PRISON COMMUNICATION

An important strategy recognizes very early in the Pandemic was the importance of accurate and timely communications to prisoners. Irish Red Cross inmate volunteers have established a strong reputation throughout the last ten years of the programme, which is showcased by the success of using a peer education approach within the prisons. Therefore, throughout the pandemic it was decided that the volunteer inmates could continue to be a trusted and reliable source to keep prisoners informed at the local level.

The activities of the Irish Red Cross inmate volunteers helped contribute to zero positive cases amongst prisoners across the country for more than six months. |



Landing level hand-washing demonstration using the Glo-box teaching aid, which is particularly popular and effective in messaging the importance of proper handwashing

COVID-19 IN IRISH PRISONS

In 2020 the Irish Prison Service submitted a paper to the World Health Organisation as a model of best practice for keeping COVID-19 out of prisons after Irish prisons remained COVID-19 free for over six months.

Thanks to the Red Cross CBHFA programme, hygiene and handwashing has always been a priority in Irish prisons and this contributed to their success in preventing the virus from entering the prisons and keeping it under control when eventually there were cases.

Here one of the programme's teachers explains the impact of COVID-19 on the on the inmates and the running of the programme.

"Unfortunately, due to restrictions, teachers were not allowed enter the prisons from March 13th 2020 until September 2020. This left us with little interaction with volunteers and potential volunteers. As the course runs over the school year, the 2020 group had their course cut short. The creation of remote learning booklets around the module has allowed teachers keep in contact with the volunteers and continue the course. The supporting officers play a large role in this.

Luckily infection control has always been a priority in the Red Cross Programme. Hygiene and handwashing projects are done annually by all groups. This training definitely helped volunteers prepare for COVID-19. The peer-to-peer method of sharing information already existed so this extra responsibility was a small step up. From January 2020, as volunteer groups started learning about COVID-19, added infection control measures were encouraged.

The Irish Red Cross volunteers led by example and encouraged other inmates to talk about infection control

Due to close proximity of people and living conditions, infection control measures are extremely important in a prison, with or without a pandemic. A simple cold or flu can spread quickly in a prison. There has always been encouragement to adhere to infection control measures but the good hygiene practices from inmates was especially impressive in 2020. As inmates were interacting less, there was also less opportunity to spread infection.

The Irish Red Cross volunteers led by example and encouraged other inmates to talk about infection control. They are a go-to for other inmates and are available for questions and queries. They also handed out leaflets and designed posters with information about COVID-19 and stopping its spread.

Much like the rest of the population, the prison population were fearful of contracting COVID-19 and both inmates and staff were aware that, if it entered the prison, it would spread quickly.

Mental health is the biggest challenge the inmates faced during COVID-19. Not unlike the community on the outside, the lack of interaction and freedom has negative impacts.

For the inmates, their day-to-day lives changed massively and this had a significant impact on their mental health. Their routines were changed and school, library and gyms were all closed, which meant more time in their cells and fewer activities.

The cancellation of visits was especially difficult for inmates and phone calls were less frequent due to extra cleaning measures being introduced. For many inmates their connection to the outside community was cut off." |

TANDEM BIKE FUNDRAISER

Lifelong friends cycle across Ireland and back on a tandem bike to raise funds for the Irish Red Cross.

While most people took up baking during lockdown, two friends decided to try their hand at a different endeavour—tandem cycling.

David O' Reilly and Garda Kieran Shields, have been friends since they met in primary school and in September they put their new skill to good use by undertaking an epic 600km cross-country trip to raise funds for the Irish Red Cross.

The Corkonians started their adventure on September 21st in Clonbur, Co. Galway and were delighted by the amount of public support for their trip, which took them all the way to Dublin and back to Gortmore in Co. Mayo in a six day journey.

David says he and Kieran were inspired to raise funds for the Irish Red Cross when they learned about the work that volunteers do all around the country.

"Myself and Kieran decided to raise money for the Irish Red Cross because they help communities in Ireland in so many different ways. During COVID-19 they really were a lifeline for vulnerable people around the country and I've witnessed their search and rescue teams in action—their volunteers and the services they provide are second-to-none."

"We have known each other since 1974 and the last collection we did together was probably for our communion so it's great to be able to give something back to a good cause. Before all this we were never on a tandem bike before but it's been great craic trying to get used to it and seeing the countryside along the way," he added.

David and Kieran's fundraiser brought in over €10,000, which will help to ensure that the vital services provided by the Irish Red Cross can continue in communities across Ireland and abroad.

Although there were some tired legs by the end of their epic journey, David and Kieran were bolstered along the way by their supporters.

"We passed through plenty of towns and villages where the locals came out to cheer us on and we even had a school full of kids waving at us from their school gates. The support we had was just phenomenal and it really made the whole thing so enjoyable. People were so generous with their donations and we were delighted to be able to raise money for such a worthy organisation." |

While most people took up baking during lockdown, two friends decided to try their hand at a different endeavour—tandem cycling

IRISH RED CROSS YOUTH OVERVIEW

In 2020, we were faced with huge challenges and obstacles. While we were no longer allowed to meet face to face, that was never going to stop Irish Red Cross Youth.

When the pandemic hit, none of us were expecting it and we certainly weren't prepared. Suddenly everything moved online and all of our interactions were taking place remotely.

Our Youth Challenge, which had been scheduled for the end of April, had to be cancelled. However, rather than do nothing, we decided to spend the summer doing virtual challenges instead. First was the 'Steps Challenge'. When it was finished we added up all the kilometres walked to discover that, in total, we had walked from Malin to Mizen Head over eight and a half times—that's 5,237km in total. Even though we couldn't physically be with one another, we all took part in the challenge together and it was a great achievement.

In July, we all took part in a 'Climb Challenge', where we combined the steps, stairs and inclines we climbed and compared it to the steps we would have need to climb seven different mountains. In total, we virtually climbed all seven mountains ten times—which is the equivalent to 209,022 metres. Our members really got involved and sent in their photos from all the different areas around Ireland

Our Youth Camp usually takes place every year on the August bank holiday weekend. Unfortunately, we couldn't meet together like normal but nonetheless it was a successful event. On Friday evening we had an address via video from our National Director of Youth, Bernie Rutherford, kick-starting the weekend and introducing us to the theme 'A time to...'. In previous years we would have camped out or stayed in dorms for our Youth Camp but this year we suggested to the members that they camp out in their homes instead.

On Saturday we got our members to go outside and use the opportunity as 'a time to explore'. In the evening, they created kindness rocks to be left around their community, to spread a little joy. That night we asked for videos and pictures of their S'mores and their singalongs, which are always a highlight of our camps. On Sunday we sent members on a scavenger hunt, giving them a list of items to find from their local communities. This proved to be really successful with leaders and youth volunteers all getting involved.

On Sunday, Ronan, our resident DJ, asked members to send in videos of them dancing to be included in our 'virtual disco' video. It wasn't the same as being able to sing our hearts out and dance the night away but it was still brilliant and it just highlighted how excited we will be to eventually be back together eating S'mores and singing.

In autumn, we set up Zoom accounts for branches, allowing IRCY classes to get up and running online. We have learned to adapt to having meetings online and even training for the various programmes that we have created over the years. Although we weren't prepared for all the new changes that 2020 would bring, we realised the need to keep our members engaged.

In December, youth members and leaders participated in the An Post initiative, which allowed for free postage to care homes. Our members sent Christmas cards and the feedback was really positive, with the residents of the care homes saying that they brought a smile to their faces.

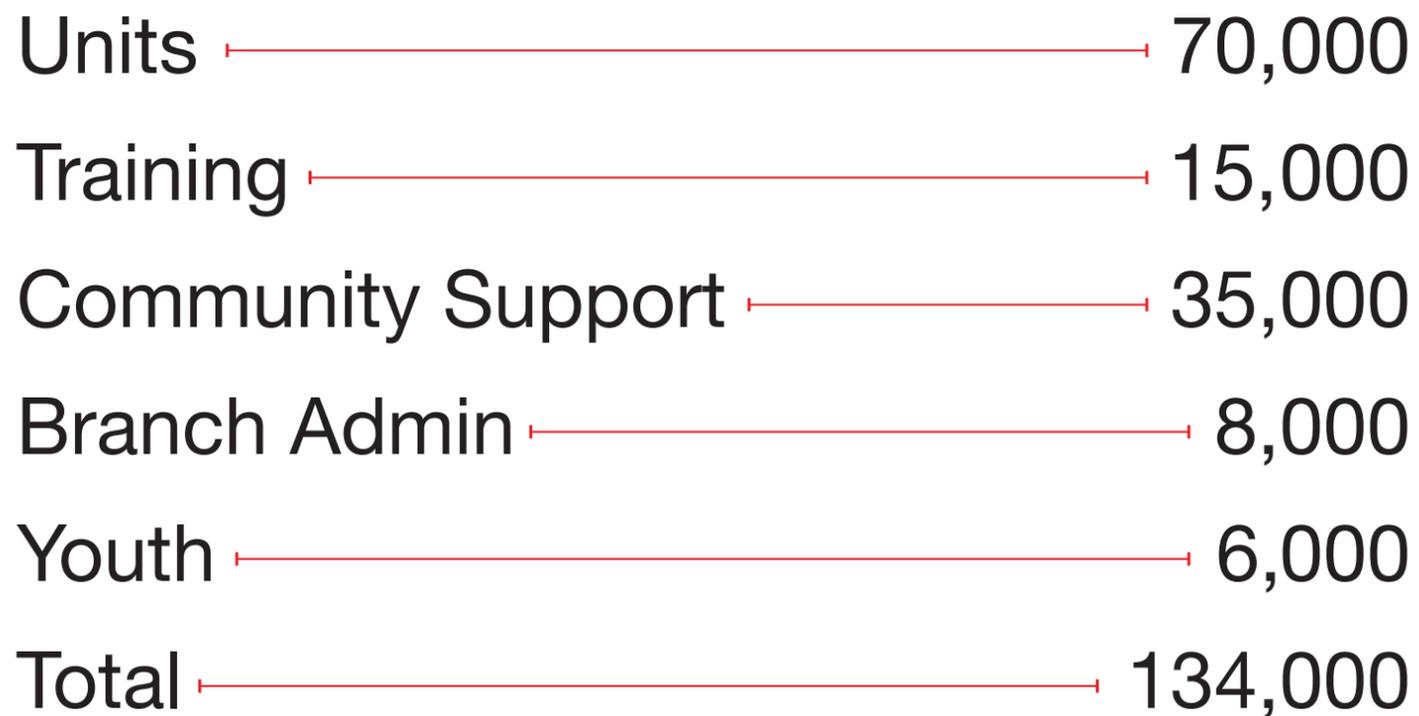
It has been a whirlwind of a year, there's no doubt about it. It has been challenging and has made us try to think outside the box and adapt to this new way of life. Despite all of this, it has been such a fantastic year. A year where even though we had to stay apart, we actually were closer than ever.

A year where even though we had to stay apart, we actually were closer than ever



VOLUNTEERING & TRAINING STATISTICS

Volunteer hours



Training figures



National Courses

- Emergency First Response Instructor Refresher—1
- Emergency First Response—5
- First Aid Response Instructor—14
- Instructional Techniques Level 1—2
- Pre Hospital Trauma Life Support Instructor—4
- Personal Protective Equipment Instructor—1
- Cardiac First Response Instructor—23
- Cardiac First Response Advanced Instructor—19

Branch Courses

- Therapeutic Hand Care—2
- Radio Operator Level 1—2
- Practical First Aid—23
- Paediatric First Aid—9
- Manual Handling Awareness—6
- First Aid Response—45
- Emergency Practical First Aid—3
- Critical Incident Stress Management Awareness—2
- Cardiac First Response Community—71
- Cardiac First Response Advanced—85
- CBHFA in Action Programme—10
- Patient Handling—6

Commercial

- Cardiac First Response Community—24
- Emergency First Aid—307
- Practical First Aid—142
- Fire Marshall—10
- First Aid Response—490
- First Aid Response Refresher—331
- Paediatric First Aid—96
- First Aid Talk—5

VOLUNTEERING & TRAINING STATISTICS

INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONAL







INTERNATIONAL OVERVIEW

2020: A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

For the Red Cross, 2020 was a year of many challenges. Despite the world's attention having been turned to COVID-19, plenty of other disasters and crises continued to converge or unfold and upend millions of lives and livelihoods around the world.

Globally, humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities surged to unprecedented levels.

We continued to witness a significant increase in extreme weather and climate events. Over the course of 2020, we saw heavy monsoon rains, hurricanes, bushfires, floods, landslides, and cyclones, all severely impact many parts of the globe.

Violent conflicts continued unabated and new ones emerged in Ethiopia's Tigray region.

The unfortunate reality is that all of these threats combined continue to cause extreme suffering and exact massive challenges that impact every facet of life.

At the same time, as part of the world's largest humanitarian network, the Irish Red Cross continued to reach thousands of vulnerable people impacted by disasters and crises. Together, in close collaboration with our Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners, we responded to emergencies in Australia, Lebanon, Mozambique, and the Philippines.

The suffering of the civilian population in Yemen also remained among our top priorities.

While in the context of COVID-19, our regular programming in Nepal, Indonesia and India suffered delays we quickly reviewed our response strategies and continued to reach thousands of people with different activities.

Overall, about 35,000 people directly benefited from Irish Red Cross programmes and assistance throughout 2020.

Throughout the year, advocating humanitarian policy and action remained a cornerstone of the Irish Red Cross work. In August, the world marked 75 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In the months preceding and after the anniversary, the Red Cross reinforced its message on the need to prohibit and eliminate them once and for all.

The 75th anniversary of the nuclear attacks saw more countries, including Ireland ratify the treaty that bans nuclear weapons and in October, the required 50 ratifications for the treaty to come into force was realised, a significant milestone that adds momentum to the movement towards the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons.

2020 also saw an alarming surge in violence against aid workers and healthcare personnel. In particular, since the onset of the pandemic, scores of health workers have come under attack across the world. In September, the Irish Red Cross launched its 'Healthcare in Danger' campaign to raise awareness about attacks that occur every day, and the serious consequences of violence against medical personnel and facilities.

As we closed out 2020, the need for humanitarian organisations such as the Irish Red Cross to continue in its efforts to help people respond to global and local challenges is at its highest levels.



The unfortunate reality is that all of these threats combined continue to cause extreme suffering and exact massive challenges that impact every facet of life





HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN CRISES & CONFLICT

Australian Bushfires

Months of severe drought and extreme temperatures in Australia fueled a series of bushfires in late 2019 and early 2020. Hundreds of properties were destroyed, and millions of hectares of land was burned. Australian Red Cross emergency teams mobilised over 2,700 staff and volunteers to assist with the response operation to help fire affected communities across the country. During the fires nearly 50,000 people were supported by Red Cross personnel at evacuation centers with food, water and hygiene items. In addition 21,000 people have been assisted with recovery. The Irish Red Cross contributed €97,000 to support the Australian Red Cross response in delivering assistance to people affected by this disaster.

In the midst of a long economic crisis, the explosion came as Lebanon was already at crisis point with up to 45% of the country's population at risk of falling below the upper poverty line

Beirut—Port Explosion

On August 4th 2020, an explosion in a warehouse, send a shockwave through the city of Beirut, damaging and destroying critical infrastructure including hospitals, and a port that was vital for the country's economy. More than 200 people lost their lives and 300,000 people suffered from severe to moderate damage to their homes.

In the midst of a long economic crisis, the explosion came as Lebanon was already at crisis point with up to 45% of the country's population at risk of falling below the upper poverty line.

After the massive explosion, the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) was immediately mobilised, and 75 ambulance teams were active on the ground in the rescue operation. Psychosocial support services were provided and two hotlines for basic assistance and restoring family links were set up.

Since then, the Red Cross has provided temporary shelter, emergency relief and primary health services to more than 250,000 people. The Irish Red Cross committed €100,000 to cover the basic hygiene and food needs of 4,000 families for a period of one month. |

SUMAN'S STORY

International

Like COVID-19, tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne respiratory infection. Before the start of the pandemic, TB was the leading infectious disease killer in the world and although, globally COVID-19 caused more deaths than TB in 2020, TB still remains the foremost lethal infectious disease in most low and middle-income countries.

In India, our support specific to the prevention and management of TB continued with special focus on difficult-to-reach and low performing areas of two districts in Punjab State.

Controlling TB requires more than just providing medicines to patients. It necessitates a comprehensive public health response. This must include education, case detection, proper diagnosis, testing, social and psychosocial support and care, along with close participation of affected communities. While progress is evident in the decline of estimated TB incidence and we see through this programme a robust treatment success rate of 99%, there is still a considerable distance to go in the fight against TB.

During 2020, the Red Cross continued to address the needs of some 647 people affected with TB and among the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in society, those who are not reachable by others.

SUMAN'S STORY

Even though TB is curable, stigma and discrimination not only stop people from seeking care but also make it difficult for those on treatment to continue, both of which make the disease more difficult to treat in the long-term and mean those infected are more likely to transmit the disease to those around them.

The Irish Red Cross TB programme aims to identify those who have dropped out of treatment and get them restarted. Red Cross volunteers will bridge the gap between the patients and the treatment centres. Supporting them emotionally and ensuring they get the right nutrition, is an essential part of recovery.

In August 2020, Ms. Suman aged 28 from Amritsar District was enrolled for treatment under the Red Cross TB Project. Immediately after the enrolment, Amit Kumar, a Red Cross volunteer recruited under

the TB programme, visited her house. She was found to be very frail. When Amit offered her water tears started rolling down her face because she was so weak, she also complained of feeling nauseous. She was provided with psychosocial support and briefed about TB, its treatment and how she could make a full recovery. Amit also explained the importance of Suman taking her medication consistently for eight whole months without defaulting. She was persuaded and motivated to gradually take some light food and was then given her TB medicine.

Afterwards the Red Cross maintained regular contact and made house visits to Suman.

However, one day she was found to be missing from her home without giving any information about her location. Initially she even didn't answer the calls of our volunteers, despite repeated attempts. The Red Cross volunteer, Amit, enquired from her neighbours to seek some information about her. Finally she was traced to be at her parents' house located in the Faizpura area in District Amritsar which was 12–13 km away from her house. The District Coordinator managed to contact her and arranged to send her medicines for two weeks. The District Coordinator and volunteers kept in touch with her and provided counselling services throughout her stay. The team continued its efforts of monitoring and ensuring her regular intake of medicines even when she returned back to her home in Amritsar.

By the end of Dec 2020, she was on the road to recovery. |

Even though TB is curable, stigma and discrimination not only stop people from seeking care but also make it difficult for those on treatment to continue

YEMAN HEALTH CLINIC

Yemen remains the world's worst humanitarian crisis. With 80% of the population heavily reliant on humanitarian aid the scale of the needs are staggering. It is estimated that nearly 30 million people need help to cope with the crippling effects of conflict, displacement, and extreme poverty.

Over 20 million people are considered food insecure and depend on food assistance to survive. Half of Yemen's health facilities are damaged. Water and sanitation systems have collapsed. The humanitarian needs remain immense and many resources are needed to continue to provide essential and lifesaving support to millions of Yemenis who have no other means of making ends meet.

In 2020, the Irish Red Cross continued to strive to respond to the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected people in Yemen. In coordination with our partner the ICRC the Irish Red Cross provided various forms of relief support, including food, basic household items and aid to 10,000 people.

YEMEN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY HEALTH CLINIC IN SANAA

Every day approximately 40 patients visit the Yemen Red Crescent (YRC) clinic—mainly mothers and children. The number of patients has been increasing. Because of the conflict people can no longer afford to buy medicine—the medicine in the clinic is free. There is only one doctor and four nurses in the clinic to help all the patients.

"I have come a long way to get to the clinic. It takes me two hours by bus. Today I am here for treatment for my children. They have had a fever for three days now and Sara also has pain in her throat. They often suffer from fever, but often I cannot afford to go to the clinic because of the transportation. But now I am here. I have gotten some antibiotics for them to kill the fever"

"I have a stomach burn, a urine infection and an infection in my kidneys"

Many people in Yemen suffer from problems with the kidneys because they don't drink enough water. For many people it is too expensive to buy bottled water and they get sick from drinking the tap water.

"It is difficult to buy food—everything from flour, sugar to vegetables and meat. Basically everything. We are living under siege, so everything is expensive"

"Sara does not attend school, because we cannot afford to buy the school uniform, the books and the registering fee. We have to spend the money on medicine. I hope that she can start school next year if we can afford it."

Sara is seven years old and has never attended school.

"Everything depends on the conflict—if it ends then the future will be good"

"I wish that my children will get success. If the conflict ends maybe they can have a good future"

"If the prices go down again then everything will be good"

Before the conflict started, Sameera and her family lived in Sanaa. But they can no longer afford to pay the rent in the capital—it has become too expensive.

"We live in a very simple house, it is poorly constructed, and the roof is bad. We have three rooms, kitchen and bathroom"

"I pray the prices will fall and that Yemen will be as it was before". |

Over 20 million people are considered food insecure and depend on food assistance to survive

NARMAYA'S STORY

Our current strategic plan titled 'Act Today—Shape Tomorrow' states that we should not only focus on meeting humanitarian needs but also support the resilience of affected populations in order to better protect people's lives, livelihoods and dignity. We do this by supporting individuals, households and communities to protect, restore, strengthen and diversify their livelihoods so as to be better prepared to cope with future shocks and stresses.

In Nepal, the IRC Community Based Livelihoods programme continues to improve incomes of over 350 extremely poor households by enabling them to enhance their livelihoods activities more productively and sustainably. We also enhance households' food security by supporting smallholders' crop and livestock production and productivity through the promotion of, and skills development in, sustainable agricultural production. Throughout 2020, 254 households alone were supported in improved nutritional practices.

NARMAYA'S STORY

Fifty year old Narmaya Tilija, is the mother of three children and lives in Begkhola village of Myagdi district in Nepal. Since the death of her husband, Narmaya struggled to support her family's daily needs. Along with farming rented land, she also worked as local labor in the village. "It was very difficult to work in the field and because I was getting older so my income was not the same as it was before." explains Narmaya.

Narmaya became aware of the Irish Red Cross livelihood programme and asked for support to start up a poultry farming business. In addition to specific training on poultry management, Narmaya's family were provided with chickens, materials, and feed to properly care for them.

Not only has this support increased their household income, it has also enhanced the family's access to improved food security and nutrition.

She adds "Now, I have 30 chickens in my yard and I want to grow it into bigger farm. I can support our needs including my children's education".

When asked what she hopes for the future, Narmaya says, "I will continue to grow my farm and will earn much more than ever before. I'm so grateful to the Red Cross. Thanks to you, I am now able to make a living and support my family". |

We do this by supporting individuals, households and communities to protect, restore, strengthen and diversify their livelihoods so as to be better prepared to cope with future shocks and stresses

DELEGATE IN AFGHANISTAN

When Julia Murphy arrived in Afghanistan in 2019 she knew that her mission would be challenging. The country has been ravaged by years of violence, which has impacted every aspect of life for the people living there.

However, one thing that the Red Cross delegate couldn't have predicted was the arrival of a global pandemic in 2020. The effect of COVID-19 has been felt around the world but, in many countries such as Afghanistan, the virus is an added problem, rather than the only problem.

"The first wave of COVID-19 was quite bad and measures were put in place in big cities. But then, unfortunately, the conflict intensified.

We have 'Tea and Talk' sessions where we invite community leaders and village elders to come to our offices from different districts and we talk to them about the situation on the ground and how civilians in their area are affected by the conflict or other issues. This is our main source of information and at first, we were asking them about the COVID-19 situation, but eventually, we stopped asking that question, because the answer was always the same—they would look at us and say 'Well, you know there's a war going on so Covid really isn't our priority anymore', which is, of course, understandable. COVID-19 is here but, to put it simply, it's the least of people's worries at the moment, particularly in the south where there is heavy fighting ongoing."

Julia's role as a PCP (Protection of the Civilian Population) delegate with the ICRC means that she interacts with the civilian population about the impact of the ongoing fighting. For example, her role involves documenting cases of violations of International Humanitarian Law, and speaking with civilians who have been harmed during the conduct of hostilities such as airstrikes, shelling, artillery fire, and IEDs (improvised explosive devices). Another crucial element of her role is interacting with the parties to the conflict in an effort to ensure that similar instances of civilian harm can be avoided in the future.

"When we speak to parties to the conflict, our focus is not to accuse them of harming civilians: it's about opening a dialogue, and helping them understand how their methods of war could have a hugely detrimental impact on the civilian population. We discuss instances where this is happening, and we encourage them to be more careful and have stricter measures about their approach with the aim of reducing harm. For instance, we would work to encourage them to not use mortar shelling in densely populated areas, because these types of weapons are extremely imprecise in terms of targeting, which may mean civilian casualties and collateral damage.

The bottom line is that all parties agree that civilians should not be harmed during the conflict, so based on that, we can engage in a dialogue with them because we have that common agreement that civilians shouldn't be harmed."

While this is not Julia's first mission overseas, this is her first time working in an active warzone. There was hope that an agreement between the US and the Taliban in February 2020 would ease fighting but since October 2020, the violence, particularly in the south of Afghanistan, has increased dramatically. The consequence of this fighting, she says, has caused lasting and untold damage.

"The impact on the people who live here is really, really bad. In terms of basic services like schools, education has probably been the most affected. There are many areas where there are simply no more schools, so children just can't get an education. And that's just one of the issues. Access to healthcare is also deeply impacted by a lack of infrastructure. It's a country that has had so many years of fighting—and not just active fighting, but also children affected by unexploded ordnances that sometimes date back to the 1980s which still cause casualties today. There are so many mines all over the country and that's also something that's affecting the development of the society."

Although Julia was stuck in Europe for a few months due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions, she says that she was eager to get back to Afghanistan, where she is finding her mission interesting, albeit challenging.

"The job itself is about victims of war, so it does mean being faced with death and destruction on a daily basis, and that can get to you after a while. We do have the regional hospital (Mirwais Regional Hospital, which is supported by the ICRC) that we visit regularly to follow up on incidents causing civilian casualties of war. The most challenging thing is when we see children in the hospital, who are so young and already being impacted by the conflict with all sorts of injuries. Some images will stay with me. Recently, we visited a young man who was a victim of an IED blast and lost both his legs and one arm.

We also invite people to our offices who have been caught up in the conflict and who have either been injured themselves or have lost a family member to the conflict; as well as those who have suffered material losses (most notably the loss of livelihood or dwelling). Again, these interviews may be challenging, because of the traumatic experiences that they have lived through. Despite this, the human aspect is the most important in a way, because it connects us to what we're doing on a daily basis." |

Well, you know there's a war going on so Covid really isn't our priority anymore



COVID-19 in Irish Prisons |
Page | 33
Photo credit | John Smith



Migration | P. 78
Photo | Ibrahim Malla IFRC

Ahmad's Story | P. 87
Photo | Nick Bradshaw



**MIGRATION
OVERVIEW**

REGISTER OF PLEDGES

The Irish Red Cross (IRC) has been working with Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) since 2015. At the request of Government, the IRC established, managed and utilised public support through the IRC Register of Pledges (ROP) platform www.registerofpledges.redcross.ie. Between 2015 and April 2020, 866 Pledges of different accommodation types have been received from the Irish Public. These pledges consisted of 170 offers of unoccupied/vacant accommodation and 696 offers of shared accommodation in the form of rooms. A total of 67 Pledges of Vacant houses and Shared Accommodation have been utilised, consisting of 21 vacant properties and 46 Shared Accommodation offers.

IRPP1 HOUSING AND CLIENT SUPPORT

The main framework of support offered by the initial programme was sourcing and matching accommodation offers from the public through the ROP and facilitating movement from EROCs and the subsequent integration into Irish society through the supply of professional casework support to IRPP appointed clients. Initially the IRC were requested to support numerous vulnerable families. The appointed client base changed to single (predominately male) clients who could not be facilitated with local authority (single) housing and who needed placement in urban areas to achieve their education and employment aspirations. The requirement to place single people in areas such as Dublin necessitated sourcing private rented accommodation and developing HAP procedures along with the offers of pledge placement and first refusal rental viewings. With this also came the need to establish relationships with private housing suppliers along with the requirement to establish working affiliations with City Councils and DSP to successfully lobby for discretionary increased social welfare payments for the under 25s.

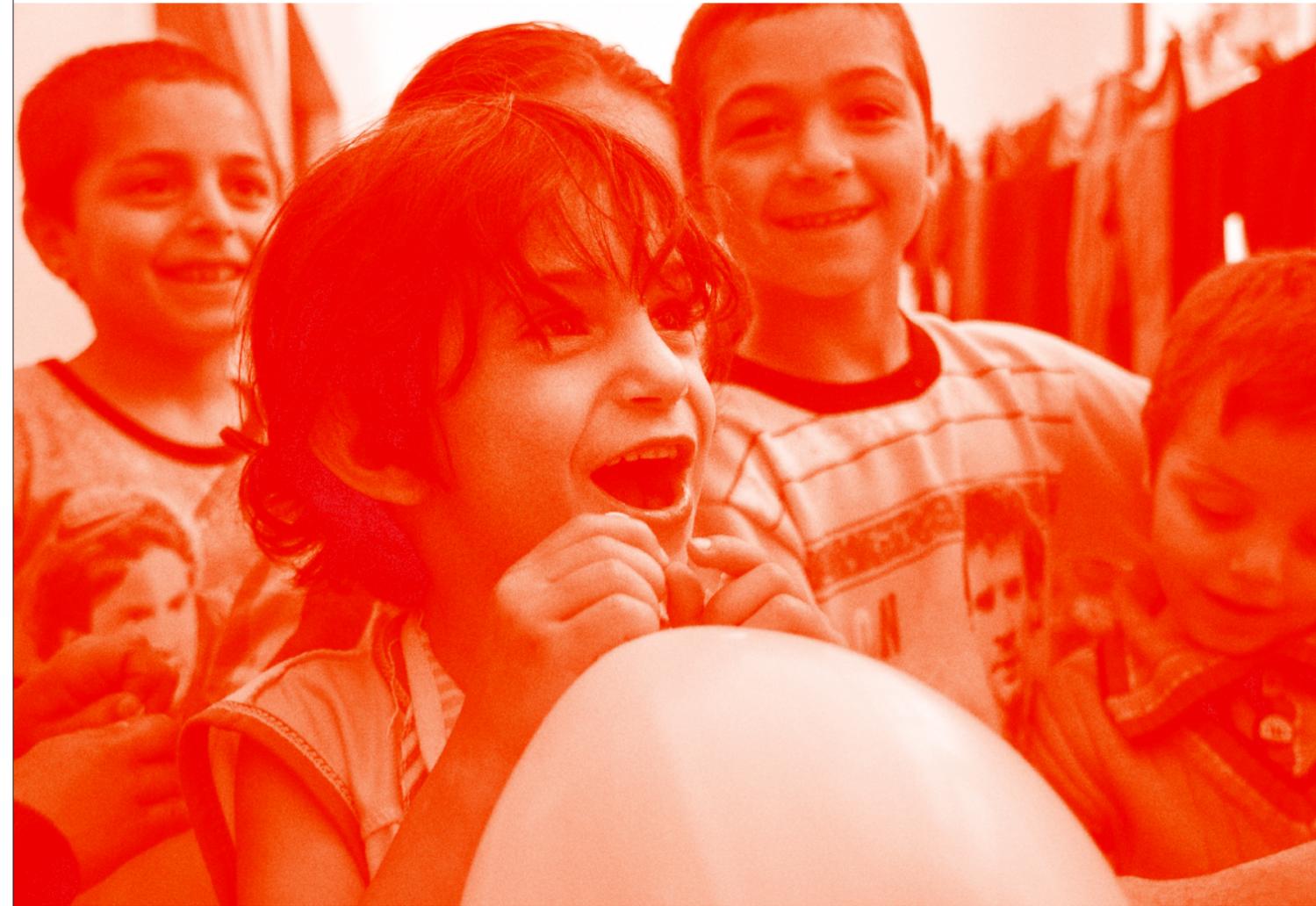
By the end of 2020, the IRC facilitated 156 people with housing across 12 different counties in Ireland, in all 4 provinces, the highest density in Leinster with 88 placements, followed by 37 in Connacht and 30 in Munster and one in Ulster. Since the start of the Programme, 128 properties have been sourced and utilised to accommodate 24 family groups and 72 single people. Some properties have been utilised numerous times. At the end of 2020, 131 people had successfully transitioned to independent living in Ireland. There have been five new babies born into the settled families supported by IRC.

ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

Prior to COVID-19, 33 Adult IRC clients were in employment and 43 adults were enrolled in English classes.



Date	# clients on books	# clients in education	# clients in English language	# clients in employment	% clients in education	% clients in English language	% clients in employment
Sep 19	74	19	40	21	14%	29%	15%
Oct 19	74	19	42	21	14%	31%	15%
Nov 19	74	19	42	21	14%	31%	15%
Dec 19	74	22	43	21	16%	32%	15%
Jan 20	74	22	43	33	16%	32%	24%
Feb 20	74	22	43	33	16%	32%	24%
Mar 20	74	22	43	33	16%	32%	24%



Through this project people from different cultural backgrounds come together to make connections with people from their own and other communities

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP IRELAND

Community Sponsorship Ireland (CSI) is an alternative resettlement stream to the traditional state-centered model of resettlement.

The Irish Red Cross (IRC), in cooperation with the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), UNHCR, Nasc, the Irish Refugee Council and Amnesty International Ireland have worked together since 2017 to develop the Irish model of Community Sponsorship. The Irish State launched a pilot Community Sponsorship Ireland model in December 2018 as an alternative way to resettle refugees in Ireland. Following this successful pilot, the Government launched the initiative nationally and the IRC have been formally appointed as a Regional Support Organisation across a number of locations.

CSI aims to mobilise the compassion that exists in Irish communities, citizens and organisations in towns, villages and parishes are encouraged to sponsor a vulnerable refugee family. Sponsors commit to providing financial, emotional and settlement support to help newcomers as they settle into their new communities. Community Sponsorship creates lasting bonds between new members of the community and their neighbors. A Community Sponsorship Group (CSG) is expected to commit to sponsor a refugee family for a period of eighteen months and to ensure that housing is secured for a minimum period of two years. Sponsoring means a CSG will provide all necessary supports to the family during the initial period of their resettlement in Ireland and assist the family's successful integration into the community.

In addition to playing the initial role to develop and support the IRPP with oversight of CSI and as a member of the National Support Organisation (NSO), the IRC has also acted as a Regional Support Organisation (RSO) within the Community Sponsorship Ireland structure as part of the pilot.

In late 2019, the IRC was part of an invited delegation by The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) to London where Ireland was named the first ever winner of an International Award for promoting community sponsorship as a means of providing support to refugee families. This international award was presented in recognition of Ireland's contribution in establishing the first phase of Community Sponsorship and for 'sharing your enthusiasm and expertise with others'.

In October 2020, the IRC was formally appointed by Government as an official RSO for two geographically designated areas in Ireland starting in January 2021 for two years. Our role is to further develop the Government's Community Sponsorship programme in these locations.

Area 4: Meath/Kildare /Wicklow/Westmeath/Offaly and
Area 6: Galway/Mayo/Longford/Roscommon.

As an RSO, the IRC provides the necessary training, advice, guidance and support to interested community members who come together to form a CSI Group. Training includes modules for CSI Groups on Cultural Competency and Unconscious Bias, Organising and Working as a Group and Settlement Planning along with the Foundations of Community Sponsorship. The IRC is supported in its work promoting CSI as a RSO by the Irish Refugee Council (Dublin, Louth, Sligo, Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan), Nasc (Cork, Kerry, Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Carlow and Laois) and Doras Lumni (Limerick, Tipperary and Clare). All RSOs are represented on the NSO, a body designed to promote and expand the role of CSI across Ireland.

Since launch five Syrian refugee families (17 people) have been welcomed into communities in Ireland. In late 2019, two Irish Red Cross CSI Groups welcomed families—constituting nine of the 17 people. A family of four settled in Dublin and a family of five in County Meath. Migration Services have continued to support those CSI groups and families throughout lockdown.

We are working with a further eight Community Sponsorship Ireland Groups currently, four of whom are well into their preparations to sponsor more families through this initiative.

COVID-19 has had a restrictive impact on the ability of the Irish State to conduct resettlement selection missions. This led to significantly reduced numbers entering the State through resettlement in 2020. The Irish State has selected more families for CSI that will be entering the State once public health restrictions are lifted in Lebanon. The IRC will support these families in quarantine when they arrive. The Irish State is committed to its resettlement and CSI targets for 2021.

FEAD PROJECT—FUND OF EUROPEAN AID TO THE MOST DEPRIVED (FEAD) EUROPEAN COMMISSION FUNDING

The IRC work in association with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP), to source, procure, coordinate and distribute Basic Material Assistance including Dignity Kits and Household Starter Kits. These kits have been designed to assist the basic needs of refugees when they first arrive in Ireland and when they move into a home in Irish Communities for the first time.

To date 2,273 Personal Hygiene Dignity Kits have been provided to migrants arriving into Irish Airports. 215 Household Starter kits have been delivered by staff and volunteers to migrants as they move into their new homes in Irish communities. These numbers are expanding as the project develops.

The most recent beneficiaries of the dignity kits are the quarantine arrivals from Lebanon and the household kits are being distributed in association with Community Welfare Officers (CWOs) across Tipperary and Cork Resettlements.

PRISIM PROJECT—PROMOTING RECONCILIATION AND INTEGRATION THROUGH SAFE MEDIATION

This project helps people explore and share the issues that drive them apart and works to bring them together. The IRC is a partner in this research project led by the British Red Cross and supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that aims to promote reconciliation and integration through safe mediation in seven communities in Northern Ireland. A key part of the project involves research with key actors in the border counties (between the Republic and Northern Ireland) in an effort to compare and contrast the experiences of migrants both north and south of the border. Through this project people from different cultural backgrounds come together to make connections with people from their own and other communities. This project is funded by the EU Peace IV Programme and has pan Ireland aspirations to understand the factors which aid and sustain attitudinal change in a divided society.

COVID-19 has had an impact on the implementation of the PRISIM project as most of the work involves the application of a 'Contact Approach' to work i.e. all meetings and events were planned as face-to-face encounters. For activities on the southern side of the border this has meant that all scheduled comparative integration research meetings with community groups, educational groups and facilitators in Cavan, Louth and Monaghan were put on hold. Work in Sligo and Donegal was completed before COVID-19. As the lockdown restrictions are lifted virtual meetings are conducted with up with 3–5 groups from each of the other three counties (approx. five meetings per county) to be followed up with individual interviews with facilitators. Each meeting/interview takes up to two hours. The research findings on both sides of the border will be compiled into a report which is due to be presented at an all-Ireland Online Conference is scheduled for this week 24th February 2020. |

This project helps people explore and share the issues that drive them apart and works to bring them together

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP IN A TIME OF COVID

New Beginnings Kells is a Community Sponsorship group of almost 20 people. Mary Coffey is a member of the group, here she explains the challenges caused by COVID-19

"In September 2019 we welcomed Adil and Nisa and their three small children. They had been living as refugees in Lebanon. In a way the timing of COVID-19 was fortuitous as most of the practicalities of settling the family had already been dealt with. It would have been a much more difficult dynamic for us all if lockdown had happened earlier in that journey.

From the beginning I was aware of how important the extended family is in Syrian society, how living as a nuclear family feels strange and how we would become a surrogate family, providing friendship and emotional support. Therefore, their greatest need was the one to suffer most when we had to withdraw our physical presence in their lives due to COVID-19 restrictions. During this time, I would visit two or three times a week, leave the car window down a little and they would gather round for a chat. If the children were in bed, I could sit on a flower pot at a safe distance. I was particularly aware of their sense of isolation during Ramadan, as it is a real time of community, where they would usually celebrate with a meal every evening that had been cooked by a group of women together. It was a lonely task for Nisa to have to do by herself. Home schooling also brought its own challenges.

During the summer months, when restrictions allowed, we made full use of our ability to socialise with the family once more. The children played with the other children from the area and group member Frances brought Nisa to her home twice weekly for English classes. It was an invaluable time, both from an educational point of view and from a social aspect and it led to Nisa volunteering locally, which unfortunately had to stop when restrictions were reintroduced.

I was particularly aware of their sense of isolation during Ramadan, as it is a real time of community

The concrete yard behind the family's house was in desperate need of some colour. Roses had been a very important part of Nisa's childhood in Syria so Adil built a raised bed for seeds and they placed lots of pots of flowers around the yard. Later, Adil acquired an allotment and Ellen worked regularly with him on it, which proved to be great way of meeting people. This year the allotment has really paid off and Adil really enjoys bringing the children to 'the farm'. Now every surface in the kitchen is packed with pots of courgette and aubergine seeds germinating.

Summer also was a time for playdates, picnics, birthday celebrations and days at the beach. Group members, Sarah, Samira, Katie, Maria and Kathryn all have children of similar ages to the Syrian children, which makes life very sociable. The most memorable event was when Adil and Nisa hosted a BBQ at a local farm, with delicious Syrian cooking, to celebrate the anniversary of their arrival in Kells and to thank us for all that we have done for them. We are equally grateful for the blessings that they have brought into our lives.

In September it was back to school and crèche for the children and they were excited to be back with their friends. There were more celebrations in October when Adil passed his driving test after taking lessons with group member Tom.

While COVID-19 has interrupted integration for this family, we can look back and see that great progress has been made. The pandemic has not just impacted their life here in Kells, but has also increased their concern for their close family members living in Syria and Lebanon, where conditions continue to deteriorate." |

Some names have been changed to protect the privacy of the people involved

QUARANTINE HOTEL PROGRAMME

In 2020 the IRC Migration Service was asked by the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) to provide supports to newly arrived refugee families who were obliged to quarantine on arrival in Ireland.

In November 2020 we welcomed 33 families, comprising 160 individuals, to a hotel in Dublin and worked in cooperation with the Irish and Lebanese offices of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Through the Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived (FEAD) we delivered hygiene kits to the hotel prior to the arrival of the guests and distributed toys and play kits to the children during their stay.

The IRC put in place a wellbeing programme for the children to align with the orientation programme for adults that was delivered by IOM. Schedules of our activities were also designed around COVID-19 testing and medical screening by Safetynet. With IRPP and IOM we assisted the registration process for the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) and we worked closely in support of the hotel staff throughout the quarantine programme.

We established a 'pop up' school in the hotel with primary school teachers and special needs assistants. We provided a number of extra-curricular activities that were not language based, such as dance classes, colouring, mindfulness, yoga, ukulele classes and circus performance. We also screened animated movies in Arabic. All of the children's activities were very gratefully and enthusiastically welcomed by the children and their parents.

A further cohort of 29 refugees arrived in December 2020. As before, these families had escaped from Syria to refugee camps in Lebanon. The IRC took full

responsibility for the adult orientation and children's activities in the second hotel. Our Arabic speaking caseworker provided orientation and information sessions on life in Ireland, housing, social welfare, citizenship, healthcare and Garda supports. We also continued with a second 'pop up' school and introduced the children to dance and music classes. We continued our work with Safetynet to conduct all the necessary health checks and COVID-19 testing and liaised with the Department of Social Protection to start the registration process for payments such as Child Benefit.

In each hotel we also asked for feedback from the residents. One parent commented "I have never seen my children so happy for a very long time" and another parent said "my children are reborn again". This positive feedback was reinforced by the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth who commended the work of the IRC that he had witnessed while visiting the Dublin quarantine hotel. |

Our Arabic speaking caseworker provided orientation and information sessions on life in Ireland, housing, social welfare, citizenship, healthcare and Garda supports

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS OVERVIEW

In early 2020 the Restoring Family Links (RFL) Unit continued to grapple with the backlog of requests for core RFL services that was created in 2019. The backlog was a result of the increase in requests for our Travel Assistance Programme from the IHAP (Irish Humanitarian Admissions Programme) by the IRPP (Irish Refugee Protection Programme) at the Department of Justice and Equality in the previous year.

Travel Assistance is quite logistical, time-consuming and time sensitive in its operation as it involves people moving from one country to another. The backlog was further compounded when COVID-19 hit in March 2020 and the movement and tracing of people was affected.

The International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation Offices and National Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies worldwide faced enormous challenges in RFL work while seeking to continue to respond to requests for assistance. Across the globe, the spread of COVID-19 was causing further problems as movement restrictions, curfews, closures of State borders, quarantine and confinement policies negatively affected the ability to maintain the family link.

At home, the Irish Red Cross RFL unit had to revise the way it offered its services and adapt its approach. This meant avoiding face to face contact with clients and providing interviews for tracing virtually via video calls, which proved very challenging for staff and service users alike.

The movement of people was very much curtailed as airlines ceased to function, making family reunification impossible and slowed down our work with our Travel Assistance Programme. The difficulties for the RFL Family Links Network were so profound that the ICRC produced a document to guide all its Delegation offices and National Societies in their RFL work called 'Protection of Family Links During COVID-19'. |

Across the globe, the spread of COVID-19 was causing further problems as movement restrictions, curfews, closures of State borders, quarantine and confinement policies negatively affected the ability to maintain the family link



Restoring Family Links Statistics 2020

TRACING	FAMILY NEWS/RED CROSS MESSAGES (RCM's)	ATTESTATIONS OR DOCUMENTATIONS (AOD's) or EMERGENCY TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (ETD's)	TRAVEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME	PERSONS AND ACTIVITIES
<p>Tracing cases opened 2020: 73</p> <p>Incoming cases from other NS or ICRC delegations: Nil</p> <p>Outgoing cases from Irish Red Cross: 72</p> <p>Tracing cases closed 2020: 18</p> <p>Incoming from other NS or ICRC delegations: 1 of which 1 was located</p> <p>Outgoing from Irish Red Cross: 17 of which 11 were located, 3 were cancelled, 3 not located</p>	<p>Number of RCM's delivered in 2020: 3</p> <p>All RCM's were outgoing from Irish Red Cross to other ICRC delegations or NS's</p>	<p>Total documents created in 2020: 9 of which 4 doc requests</p> <p>5 ETD's</p> <p>Total documents delivered 2020: 4 of which 4 ETD's</p>	<p>Travel Assistance Cases opened in 2020: 28 of which 16 families arrived</p> <p>Self-Pay Cases 2020: 12</p> <p>Self-pay is where the applicant withdraws and pays for travel for their family members to Ireland through other means</p> <p>Cancelled Cases 2020: 1</p> <p>Cancelled cases are where the applicant does not meet the criteria for our Travel Assistance Programme</p> <p>Travel Assistance Cases were opened in the following countries in 2020: Syria (13), Afghanistan (4), Sudan (2), Myanmar (2), Eritrea (2), Somalia (1), Sierra Leone (1), Palestine (1), Iran (1), Cameroon (1)</p>	<p>There were 88 new enquirers in 2020 and 102 new beneficiaries for RFL services of which 67 are still ongoing cases and 35 were cases have been closed.</p>

AHMAD'S STORY

International

There were scenes of delight in Dublin Airport in December as Ahmad Muselmani was reunited with his family after more than five years apart.

Ahmad was forced to leave his home in Aleppo in 2015, not knowing when he would see his parents or sisters again.

Although Ahmad describes Aleppo as a “historical, lively city”, when the Syrian conflict worsened it became an increasingly dangerous place to be and, despite the concerns of his parents, he made the difficult decision to make his way to Turkey and on to Greece in order to seek safety.

However, on the border between Greece and Macedonia, Ahmad found the conditions unbearable, with thousands of migrants stuck in one place without enough food or accommodation. It was two weeks before he was able to find a tent to sleep in.

“It was winter and the situation was horrible. I’d made a mistake going there. There wasn’t enough food or tents, it was heavily raining and there was mud everywhere. I got badly sick and got an infection in my stomach and an infection in my eyes so that I couldn’t see properly for 10 days.”

While there, Ahmad registered for the relocation programme and was pleased to find out that he would be travelling to Ireland. By the end of 2016 he had arrived in Mosney Accommodation Centre and was in touch with the Irish Red Cross migration programme. Through the Irish Red Cross Pledge a Bed scheme he was introduced to and moved in with an Irish couple in Rathgar.

“Martin and Róisín helped me take my first steps in life here. They were interested in my background and my culture and we’d eat dinner together and talk about my life. They helped me start a course in Rathmines and get a job. They were really open people.”

Although Ahmad was settling in to life in Ireland, he was devastated to discover that, because he was over 18, he did not qualify for reunification and therefore his family would not be able to join him.

Over the next two years Ahmed worked with a specialist Irish Red Cross caseworker who helped him further his education, employment and overall integration.

However, Ahmad was not ready to let go of his dream of bringing his family to Ireland and when his caseworker sourced accommodation for them in Wicklow, that dream looked like it might be one step closer to finally become a reality.

Ahmad’s application to the IHAP programme, which was established to provide humanitarian admission to Ireland for eligible family members of Irish citizens and those with protection status in Ireland, was accepted in March 2020. However, there was still the vital matter of actually getting his family to Ireland. Ahmad’s IRC migration caseworker told him about the Travel Assistance Programme, which is operated by the Restoring Family Links section at the Irish Red Cross. Through the Travel Assistance Programme the Irish Red Cross offer financial assistance to those who have been granted permission to bring their family members to Ireland who otherwise could not afford to travel. The IRC operates this programme with the International Organisation for Migration who arrange all the travel and transit arrangements and pre-departure medicals. Ahmad contacted the RFL Desk Officer and his case was initiated in May 2020, after which he received support with all aspects of travel arrangements for his family, including securing Irish entry visas for them.

Although the way was now clear for Ahmad’s family’s arrival, COVID-19 restrictions caused further delays. However, it was all worth it when they stepped off the plane and were reunited once more.

“My parents were the last ones to get off the plane and had to go through some procedures. I was so nervous when they were late coming out. But eventually I saw my dad, he was so tired. It was such a big day for me. That was my purpose, to bring them here. I want my younger sisters to have a new life.”

“When I used to speak to my father he would cry because he never believed it was going to come true—he didn’t think there was a way for him to come to Europe and be reunited with his son. Even now, he is still saying ‘I don’t believe I am here beside you, sitting with you, eating with you’.”

“I still get depressed thinking about what happened to us and the delay in my education all because of the war. But thank God for Martin, Róisín and my Irish and Syrian friends and the Irish Red Cross. I could have never got here without their support.”

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

40,000 People reached with information, communication and education activities across all our programmes

35,000 People directly benefited from Irish Red Cross programmes and assistance throughout 2020

20,000 People in Lebanon received food parcels after the port explosion

16,110 Different plant varieties distributed to Nepalese smallholder farmers

2,000 Hygiene kits delivered in Lebanon

401 People declared cured of TB in India

350 People in Nepal received skills training and started new businesses

100 People trained in first aid in Nepal

12 Handwashing kiosks installed in Punjab State, India

5 Humanitarian crises responded to

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

FINANCIALS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name | Pat Carey (c)
Role | Chairman
Term | Ends 2021 (2nd Term)
2020 attendance | 10/11

Name | Olivia Mitchell (c)
Role | Vice Chairperson
Term | Ends 2021 (1st Term)
2020 attendance | 10/11

Name | Sheila Callan (RIP)
Role | Treasurer
Term | Ends 2021 (2nd Term)
2020 attendance | 11/11

Name | Barry O'Donovan (c)
Role | Secretary
Term | Ends 2019 (3rd Term)
2020 attendance | 10/11

Name | Cepta Dowling (c)
Role | Board Member
Term | Ends 2021 (2nd Term)
2020 attendance | 9/11

Name | Brian Byrne (c)
Role | Board Member
Term | Ends 2022 (2nd Term)
2020 attendance | 11/11

Name | Julie O'Brien (c)
Role | Board Member
Term | Ends 2022 (2nd Term)
2020 attendance | 11/11

Name | Claire Rush (c)
Role | Board Member
Term | Ends 2021 (1st Term)
2020 attendance | 9/11

Name | Donal Lawlor (c)
Role | Board Member
Term | Ends 2021 (1st Term)
2020 attendance | 10/11

Name | Mareike Eccleston
Role | Board Member
Term | Ends 2020 (1st Term)
 Resigned January 2020

Name | Ted Noonan (c)
Role | Board Member
Term | Ends 2020 (1st Term)
2020 attendance | 11/11

Name | Rosemarie Hayden (c)
Role | Board Member
Term | Ends 2022 (1st Term)
2020 attendance | 8/11

Name | Sunil Kurup Krishnankutty (c)
Role | Board Member
Term | Ends 2022 (1st Term)
2020 attendance | 7/11

Name | Dr Muiris O'Ceidigh
Role | Board Member
Term | Ends 2021 (1st Term)
 Resigned January 2020

(c) = Current Board Members

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 AGM and elections were deferred. At the request of the National Society in these exceptional circumstances, some terms of office were extended.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Liam O'Dwyer
Secretary General
 (Retired May 2020. Trevor Holmes was appointed to the position of Secretary General in the same month.)

Jocelino Jorge
Head of Fundraising

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

PARTNERS

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 2020:

- Amnesty International Ireland
- AVAIL
- AVIVA
- Belgian Red Cross
- British Red Cross
- Build-A-Bear
- Care Alliance Ireland
- Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais
- 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
- Disney
- DMG Media Ireland
- Dóchas
- Dublin City Council
- Dublin LGBTQ PRIDE
- Dublin Regional Homeless Executive
- e-Frontiers
- Electric Aid
- FEAD Ireland
- Fleming Medical
- Flutter.ie
- Foróige
- Gaisce
- H&M
- Health Service Executive
- HIV Ireland
- IKEA
- India Red Cross
- Indonesia Red Cross
- International Committee of the Red Cross

- International Federation of the Red Cross
- International Organisation for Migration
- Irish Aid
- Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence
- Irish Co-Operative Organisation Society (ICOS)
- Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
- Irish Prison Service
- Irish Refugee Council
- Irish Refugee Protection Programme
- Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service
- La Cooperation Belge Au Development
- Lottoland
- Megazyme
- Merchants Quay Ireland
- Nasc Ireland
- National Lottery
- National Vetting Bureau
- National Youth Council of Ireland
- Nepal Red Cross
- Nestlé
- 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
- Procter & Gamble
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland
- Queen's University Belfast
- Royal College of Surgeons Ireland
- Reception and Integration Agency
- Revolut
- Road Safety Authority
- Swiss Embassy
- St Stephen's Green Trust—Travellers in Prison Initiative
- The Charities Regulator
- The Probation Service
- The Wheel
- TK Maxx
- Tusla—Child and Family Agency
- UNHCR—The UN Refugee Agency
- United Nations Youth Delegates
- University College Cork
- Your English Language School

THE MOVEMENT

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 organisation 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 Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the world's largest humanitarian network. The Movement is neutral and impartial, and provides protection and assistance to people affected by disasters and conflicts.

The Movement is made up of nearly 100 million members, volunteers and supporters in 192 National Societies. It has three main components:

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- 192 member Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

As partners, the different members of the Movement support communities in becoming stronger and safer through a variety of development projects and humanitarian activities. The Movement also works in cooperation with governments, donors and other aid organisations to assist vulnerable people around the world.

The ICRC, the Federation and the National Societies are independent bodies. Each has its own individual status and exercises no authority over the others.

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.



INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Notes	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds		
		2020	2020	2020	2019
		€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations & Legacies	3 (a)	3,189	3,862	7,051	5,605
Charitable Activities	3 (b)	529	332	861	1,100
Other trading Activities	3 (c)	–	323	323	613
Investments	3 (d)	–	9	9	8
Other	3 (e)	–	118	118	138
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS	3	3,718	4,644	8,362	7,464
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	4	95	1,480	1,575	1,729
Charitable Activities	5	2,992	3,110	6,102	5,240
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		3,087	4,590	7,677	6,969
NET INCOMING					
RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	15	631	54	685	495
Transfer between funds	14	(414)	414	–	–
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		217	468	685	495
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	14	888	8,207	9,095	8,600
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,105	8,675	9,780	9,095

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 25th August 2021.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Pat Carey
Chairperson



Brian Byrne
Interim National Treasurer

STATEMENT OF
FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
		€'000	€'000
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	7	6,253	5,980
		6,253	5,980
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	8	95	113
Receivables	9	500	493
Cash and cash equivalents	10	3,877	3,396
		4,472	4,002
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	11	(735)	(653)
		3,737	3,349
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		9,990	9,329
Total Assets less current liabilities			
		9,990	9,329
Payables: (Amounts falling due in more than one year)	12	(210)	(234)
		9,780	9,095
TOTAL NET ASSETS			
Funds:			
Represented by			
Restricted funds	14	1,105	888
Unrestricted funds	14	7,063	6,146
Designated funds	14	1,612	2,061
		9,780	9,095
TOTAL FUNDS			

The financial statements were reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors on 25th August 2021.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Pat Carey
Chairperson



Brian Byrne
Interim National Treasurer

	Notes	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities		1,304	1,165
Return on investments:			
Deposit interest income	3 (d)	-	1
Capital expenditure and related grants:			
Payment to acquire fixed assets	7	(951)	(1,230)
Receipts from sale of fixed assets		34	28
Net cash provided by/ (used in) financing activities			
Loans received in year		150	141
Loans (repaid) in year		(56)	(122)
INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH		481	(17)
RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW			
Increase / (Decrease) in cash		481	(17)
Bank balances at beginning of year		3,396	3,413
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	10	3,877	3,396

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

	Notes	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		685	495
Depreciation	7	581	603
Deposit interest income	3 (d)	-	(1)
Decrease in stocks		18	16
(Increase) in receivables		(7)	(119)
(Decrease) / Increase in payables		(36)	23
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		63	148
Net cash inflow from operating activities		1,304	1,165

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 2020 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. Motor vehicles donated for use by, and now owned by, the Society are 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.

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.

Fixed assets 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.

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 Line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment—10% Straight Line
Computer equipment—20% Straight Line

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: Lessee

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 for courses due to take place in the following year.

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 Society pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Society 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) | 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.

3 | Income and Endowments from

	Notes	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds		
		2020	2020	2020	2019
		€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Donations & Legacies	3 (a)	3,189	3,862	7,051	5,605
Charitable Activities	3 (b)	529	332	861	1,100
Other trading Activities	3 (c)	–	323	323	613
Investments	3 (d)	–	9	9	8
All other sources of income	3 (e)	–	118	118	138
Total		3,718	4,644	8,362	7,464

3 (a) | Donations and Legacies

	Notes	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds		
		2020	2020	2020	2019
		€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Regular Giving		2	761	763	841
Public Appeals and Events		1,434	967	2,401	1,184
Tax Efficient Giving		–	174	174	134
Legacies		–	474	474	350
Donations in Kind		617	50	667	548
Corporates, Major Donors and Trusts		229	380	609	198
Grant Income	3 (a) (i)	907	1,056	1,963	2,350
Total		3,189	3,862	7,051	5,605

3 (a) (i) | Grant Income

Unrestricted Grant Income		Total	Total
Granting Authority		€'000	€'000
Department of Defence	Contribution to the Admin costs of Head Office	835	802
Health Service Executive	Various Projects	–	14
Health Service Executive	Covid 19 Emergency	5	–
Various County Councils	Various Projects	16	–
Education and Training Boards	Various Projects	–	5
Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation	Contribution to Admin costs for Storm Lorenzo	–	1
Department of Rural & Community Development	Community & Voluntary Sector Covid-19 Stability Funding	200	–
Total unrestricted grant income		1,056	822

Financials**3 (a) (i) | Grant Income (Continued)**

Restricted Grant Income		Total	Total
Granting Authority		€'000	€'000
Department of Defence	Grant for ICRC funding.	130	130
Department of Justice & Equality	Administration of the IRPP.	378	934
Department of Environment	Community Based Health and First Aid Programme development and maintenance in the Irish Prison Services.	200	200
Department of Rural & Community Development	Funding for replacement ambulances. CLAR.	96	150
County Council	Various projects.	44	24
Health Service Executive	Chiropody Grant.	–	1
	IRC Mallow.	–	18
	First Aid & Emergency Treatment (vehicle).	3	–
Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport	Coastal Inshore Mountain and Cave Grant.	27	38
SSE Airticity	Insulation for the Building in Doon Co. Limerick.	–	6
	Jackets/dry suits and repairs to boats and engines.	12	–
Forum	IRC Clonbur for courses.	12	–
Sanofi Genzyme (Ireland) LTD	Funding for shelter/emergency tent.	–	6
Mayo House Moneen	Corrib Search and Rescue.	–	1
Coast Guard	Repairs to boats/boathouses/equipment & engines.	5	–
Total Restricted Grant Income		907	1,528
Total Grant Funding		1,963	2,350

3 (b) | Charitable Activities

	Restricted Funds 2020 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2020 €'000	Total 2020 €'000	Total 2019 €'000
Training	–	41	41	103
Membership fees	–	28	28	19
Ambulance duties	–	208	208	851
Community support services	–	8	8	27
Sundry	529	47	576	100
Total	529	332	861	1,100

3 (c) | Other Trading Activities

	Restricted Funds 2020 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2020 €'000	Total 2020 €'000	Total 2019 €'000
Products and Manuals	–	2	2	8
Medical and First Aid Services	–	103	103	95
Retail	–	–	–	13
Training	–	218	218	497
Total	–	323	323	613

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

3 (d) | Investments

	Restricted Funds 2020 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2020 €'000	Total 2020 €'000	Total 2019 €'000
Bank Interest	–	–	–	1
Rental Income	–	9	9	7
Total	–	9	9	8

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.

Financials**3 (e) | All Other Sources of Income**

	Restricted Funds 2020 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2020 €'000	Total 2020 €'000	Total 2019 €'000
Royalties income	–	118	118	138
Total	–	118	118	138

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

4 | Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Direct Costs 2020 €'000	Support Costs 2020 €'000	Total 2020 €'000	Total 2019 €'000
Voluntary income	818	253	1,071	855
Trading activities	385	119	504	874
Total	1,203	372	1,575	1,729

5 | Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Notes	Direct Costs 2020 €'000	Support Costs 2020 €'000	Total 2020 €'000	Total 2019 €'000
Emergency response and recovery	5 (a)	2,483	766	3,249	1,971
Resilience	5 (b)	1,701	525	2,226	2,587
Health and Social Care		431	133	564	534
Other—Loss on Disposal		63	–	63	148
Total		4,678	1,424	6,102	5,240

5 (a) | Emergency Response and Recovery

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total	Total
	2020	2020	2020	2019
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Domestic Emergency	1,629	503	2,132	1
Refugee Resettlement	600	185	785	1,542
International Project Expenditure	254	78	332	428
Total	2,483	766	3,249	1,971

5 (b) | Resilience

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total	Total
	2020	2020	2020	2019
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Ireland				
Training	454	141	595	530
Membership & volunteer development	90	28	118	188
Youth programmes	50	15	65	151
Unit management	458	141	599	667
Branch operational costs	649	200	849	1,051
Total	1,701	525	2,226	2,587

5 (c) | Governance Costs

Governance costs included in support costs above include the following:	Total	Total
	2020	2019
	€'000	€'000
External audit	62	62
Subscriptions to ICRC & IFRC	415	207
Staff	246	234
Other governance costs	85	116
Total	808	619

5 (d) | Support Costs

Support costs include the following:	Total	Total
	2020	2019
	€'000	€'000
Payroll administration	3	3
Purchasing	-	36
IT	155	108
Building management services	125	117
Finance & communications functions	594	664
Depreciation	111	114
Total	988	1,042

6 | Employees and Staff Costs

Number of employees	2020	2019
	No.	No.
Fundraising	7	7
Finance	10	11
Services & Commercial	28	36
International services	2	2
Governance	2	2
Utilities	1	1
Communications	2	2
International delegates	1	1
Committed giver	-	2
Newbridge shop	-	1
Migration department	8	11
Fundraising door to door (casual)	-	2
Total	61	78

6 (a) | Total staff costs

	2020	2019
	€'000	€'000
Wages & salaries	2,178	2,351
Social welfare costs	236	231
Pension costs	109	101
Total	2,523	2,683

6 (b) | Senior staff remuneration

	2020	2019
	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.

6 | Employees and Staff Costs (Continued)**6 (c) | Key Management Remuneration**

Key management personnel include senior management and received remuneration of €327,000 (2019: €312,000) in the year. The cost of employer pension contributions for key management in 2020 was €22,000 (2019: €26,000).

6 (d) | Staff Emoluments and Directors' Expenses

	2020	2019
	No.	No.
The average number of volunteers working for the Irish Red Cross Society during the year was as follows:		
National Services	2,700	2,800
	2,700	2,800
	2020	2019
	€'000	€'000
Directors expenses:		
Expenses incurred by directors and reimbursed by the Irish Red Cross Society	1	6
Directors' indemnity insurance cover cost	5	5
Total	6	11
	2020	2019
	No.	No.
Number of directors receiving expenses	12	12

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 (2019: € NIL).

7 | Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold/ Leasehold Premises & Land €'000	Ambulance Sea Rescue & Equipment €'000	Mini Buses €'000	Fixtures Fittings & Equipment €'000	Computer Equipment €'000	Total €'000
Cost						
At 1 January 2020	3,492	7,369	419	607	762	12,649
Additions	583	290	71	6	1	951
Disposals and write-offs	(22)	(450)	(22)	(2)	(1)	(497)
At 31 December 2020	4,053	7,209	468	611	762	13,103
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2020	821	4,347	297	525	679	6,669
Charge for the year	71	429	22	16	43	581
On disposals	(4)	(375)	(19)	(1)	(1)	(400)
At 31 December 2020	888	4,401	300	540	721	6,850
Net Book Value						
At 31 December 2020	3,165	2,808	168	71	41	6,253
At 31 December 2019	2,671	3,022	122	82	83	5,980

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 five 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

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Uniforms	79	90
Manuals	16	23
Total	95	113

There are no material differences between the replacement cost of stock and balance sheet amounts.

Financials**9 | Receivables: (Amounts falling due within one year)**

	Notes	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Trade receivables		41	132
Amounts owed by related party	18	11	11
Prepayments		448	350
Total		500	493

10 | Cash & Cash Equivalents

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Cash at bank and on hand	3,875	3,394
Prize bonds	2	2
Total	3,877	3,396

Prize bonds have a maturity of less than 90 days.

11 | Payables: (Amounts falling due within one year)

	Notes	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Trade payables		35	219
Accruals		418	263
Other payables		54	67
Deferred Income	11 (i)	34	28
Bank loans	13	194	76
Total		735	653

11 (i) | Deferred Income

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Opening balance	28	17
Amounts received	376	512
Amounts released	(370)	(501)
Total	34	28

Included within other payables is an amount for PAYE/PRSI of €53,000 (2019: €55,000).
All deferred income as at 31 December 2020 relates to amounts received in advance of entitlement in respect of training courses.

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

	Notes	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Bank Loans	13	206	230
Other Payables		4	4
Total		210	234

13 | Bank Loans

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Current		
Bank Loans	194	76
Total	194	76
Non-current		
Bank loans due 2–5 years	160	160
Bank loans due > 5 years	46	70
Total	206	230

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 €113,409 (2019: €115,874) 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 €283,348 (2019: €289,377) 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.

There was an unsecured loan drawdown in 2019 and used to part finance the purchase of a building at Liosban Industrial Estate, Galway. It is registered in the name of the Irish Red Cross and is carried in the balance sheet at €153,098 (2019: €156,288) at the financial year end date.

The current interest rate applying to this loan is 4.95% and the term is eight years.

14 | Movement in Funds

	At start of year 2020 €'000	Incoming Resource 2020 €'000	Outgoing Resource 2020 €'000	Transfers between funds €'000	At end of year 2020 €'000
Restricted Funds	888	3,718	(3,087)	(414)	1,105
Unrestricted Funds	6,146	4,106	(3,457)	268	7,063
Designated Funds	2,061	538	(1,133)	146	1,612
Total	9,095	8,362	(7,677)	-	9,780

The Board decided that unrestricted funds in Area and Branch bank accounts should be designated for use in the areas and branches.

A designated fund is used to maintain the royalties earned from the works of French writer Joseph Kessel who bequeathed the royalty rights of his books to the Irish Red Cross Society. The fund is used for capital expenditure projects.

The transfer from designated funds to unrestricted funds represents a number of fixed asset purchases which are for the general use of the Society. The balance of the designated fund represents the bank accounts which are designated by the Board for use at area and branch level.

14 (a) | Analysis of Net Assets

	Restricted Funds 2020 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2020 €'000	Designated Funds 2020 €'000	At end of year 2020 €'000	At end of year 2019 €'000
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	6,253	-	6,253	5,980
Current Assets	1,105	1,755	1,612	4,472	4,002
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-	(735)	-	(735)	(653)
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year	-	(210)	-	(210)	(234)
Total	1,105	7,063	1,612	9,780	9,095

Financials**14 (b) | Analysis of Restricted Funds**

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2020 €'000	Restricted Funds 2019 €'000
Appeal-Tsunami		-	27
Gaza		6	5
Indonesia Emergency		71	93
International Response Fund		15	2
Cyclone Idal		14	13
Migration Crisis		4	3
Nepal	(i)	108	192
Pakistan		3	3
Philippines		-	33
Sierra Leone		2	2
Somalia		4	4
Southern Africa		6	5
Sudan		4	4
Brazil		-	1
Syria		113	75
Yemen		129	57
Canon H&SC Fund		9	42
Carers Courses & Alarms for the Aged		1	5
Floods Fund		34	34
IRC—Irish Refugee Protection		-	4
Restricted Funds in Areas & Branches	(ii)	222	284
Lebanon		63	-
Covid 19 Fund		195	-
IFRC Project Funding		102	-
Total		1,105	888

(i) The roll out and implementation of recovery programming in Nepal will continue until 2021.

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

Split of Branch Projects	€'000
Ambulance/motor vehicles	47
Ambulance equipment	107
Health & Social Care	10
Buildings	2
Training	44
Youth	12
Total	222

15 | Net (Outgoing)/Incoming resources for the year

	2020	2019
	€'000	€'000
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	581	603
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	63	148
Auditors' remuneration	62	62

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, as it is for charitable purposes.

17 | Commitments**(a) Capital Commitments**

At 31 December 2020, the Society had not entered into contracts for the construction or purchase of properties (2019: €Nil).

(b) Operating Lease Commitments

At 31 December 2020 annual commitments under operating leases were as follows:

The amount payable within the next 12 months on leases expiring:	Property	Total	Total
	€'000	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Within one year	4	4	63
In two to five years	1	1	32
After five years	11	11	11
Total	16	16	106

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.

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 (2019: €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 €42,000 to the Society during the year (2019: €37,164) and the salaries relate to delegates in the field. There is an amount due to the Society at year-end of €10,500 (2019: €10,984).

During the year, the Irish Red Cross Society reimbursed expenses to Director's amounting to €631 (2019: €5,515).

19 | Post Balance Sheet events

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

20 | Contingent Liabilities

At 31 December 2020, the Society did not have any contingent liabilities (2019: €Nil).

21 | Financial Instruments

	2020	2019
	€'000	€'000
Financial Assets		
Financial assets that are measured at amortised at cost	3,929	3,539
Total	3,929	3,539
Financial Liabilities		
Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Total	489	596

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 and bank loans.

22 | Approval of signing of the Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved for signing and authorised for issue by the Board on 25th August 2021.

Humanity
Impartiality
Neutrality
Independence
Voluntary Service
Unity
Universality

