

Our Vision/Our Mission	04	Chairperson & Secretary		
General Statement	06	Ráiteas Réamheolais	09	
Structure, Governance & Management	12	Induction		
for the Board of Trustees	15	Future Plans	16	
Financial Highlights	18	Report of the Directors		
20	Statement of Directors' Responsibilities	21		
Independent Auditor's Report	22	Fundraising Report		
24	Fundraising Highlights	26		
Voluntary Service				
Overview	30	Rescue at Bundoran Cliffs	42	
New Ambulances Presented	43	Culture Night	44	
A Caseworker's Diary	45	The ABCs of First Aid		
46	CBHFA Overview	47	Prison Conference	49
Youth Overview	50	IRCY Award	53	Volunteers of
the Year Award	54	Strategy Launch	55	Volunteer
& Training Statistics	56	International Overview	60	
Florence Nightingale Medal	72	70 Years of the		
Geneva Conventions	73	Corn Adomnáin	75	Migration
Overview	76	Humanitarian Awards Ball	80	An
Interview with a Host	84	Restoring Family Links		
Overview	86	RFL Story	88	International Statistics
90	Administrative Information	94	Partners	96
The				
Movement	97	Consolidated Financial Statements	100	
Annual Report	year ended 31 December	2019		

Humanity  
Impartiality  
Neutrality  
Independence  
Voluntary Service  
Unity  
Universality

Annual Report  
Year Ended  
31 December  
2019



# Contents

1



## Governance

Our Vision/Our Mission	04
Chairperson & Secretary	
General Statement	06
Ráiteas Réamheolais	09
Structure, Governance & Management	12
Induction for the Board of Trustees	15
Future Plans	16
Financial Highlights	18
Report of the Directors	20
Statement of Directors' Responsibilities	21
Independent Auditor's Report	22
Fundraising Report	24
Fundraising Highlights	26

2



## National

Voluntary Service Overview	30
Rescue at Bundoran Cliffs	42
New Ambulance Presented	43
Culture Night	44
A Caseworker's Diary	45
The ABCs of First Aid	46
CBHFA Overview	47
Prison Conference	49
Youth Overview	50
IRCY Award	53
Volunteer of the Year Award	54
Strategy Launch	55
Volunteer & Training Statistics	56

3



## International

International Overview	60
Florence Nightingale Medal	72
70 Years of the Geneva Conventions	73
Corn Adomnáin	75
Migration Overview	76
Humanitarian Awards Ball	80
An Interview with a Host	84
Restoring Family Links Overview	86
RFL Story	88
International Statistics	90

4



## Financials

Administrative Information	94
Partners	96
The Movement	97
Consolidated Financial Statements	100

## Our Vision

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



## Our Mission

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



# Chairperson & Secretary General Statement

The Irish Red Cross completed a year of celebrations and organisational progress in 2019, during which the Society celebrated the 80th anniversary of its foundation. The celebrations involved the opening of 16 Merrion Square to the general public on Culture Night. Thanks to our archivist and staff, the Society presented a display of memorabilia from the last 80 years.

The Society was honoured to have the Minister for Arts, Heritage, and Culture launch the anniversary. The publication of the History of the Irish Red Cross by Dr. Shane Lehane, a member of the Tralee Branch, was also celebrated. This masterful work sets out, in detail, the founding of the Irish Red Cross and the main events during the subsequent 80 years. Shane’s prose style and his collection of documents and memories come together in this exciting chronicle of the development of the Irish Red Cross.

Earlier in the year, the Society launched its new five-year strategy: Act Today, Shape Tomorrow. The strategy was launched at a special event by the Minister for Defence. The Minister, in congratulating the Society on this development, reminded the attendees of the crucial role played by the Irish Red Cross in initiating numerous social and clinical services throughout its 80 years and the Society’s willingness to share its knowledge and skills with other organisations. He also recalled the key role of the IRC in welcoming and supporting refugee groups and the huge work in emergency first aid and community care provided to so many during national emergencies and international crises. These roles are reflected on and enhanced in the new strategy.

The strategy is set in the context of strained financial times for the Society. The lessons learnt from the past 10 years are that the desire to do more, provide new services, and help more people must be tested against the sustainability of all such projects. The key themes are:

- Sustainability
- Increasing membership
- Enhancing member support services
- Pride in the membership of a global humanitarian movement
- Leadership in compliance standards within the voluntary sector
- Preparedness to save lives at home and abroad
- Raising public awareness of core Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles
- Being the first-choice provider nationwide for first aid event cover and training
- Encouraging youth membership and development within the Society
- Promoting community development and supporting vulnerable people
- Ensuring compliance with regulatory and statutory requirements



2019 had a focus on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) with the promotion of the Corn Adomnáin competition, the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, and our attendance at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at the end of the year, where we committed to a number of resolutions and pledges alongside the Irish Government to strengthen IHL and protect vulnerable people.

In April, the National Volunteer Awards were held in Croke Park. Guest presenter, Jason Sherlock, former Dublin footballer, recognised the crucial role played by volunteers in the development of the GAA and soccer infrastructures in Ireland and the encouragement volunteers bring to the children and young adults they support.

In October, the Minister for Community and Rural Affairs presented the Society with three new ambulances and a new rescue boat. It was a wonderful occasion for celebration in Claremorris Co. Mayo, with funding coming from local branches, IRC HQ, the Department of Community and Rural Affairs and our sponsors, Lottoland.



IRC Youth was honoured on a worldwide stage at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Geneva, with recognition of its ‘Allies’ programme, which promotes inclusion and understanding of LGBTI issues.

At home, we celebrated the lifesaving work of our members. Members of Dublin Borough were in attendance at the Dublin City Marathon when, close to the finish line, a young woman collapsed. Her life was saved by the speed of response and quality of care provided by IRC members. In Co. Galway, the Clonbur water rescue service put out in rough water and saved the lives of three fishermen. This important but risky intervention was celebrated in March 2019 with the Chair’s presentation of the Medal of Merit to the branch members. These are just two examples of the extraordinary work carried out by our members every day. These demands require our members to be excellent in their clinical expertise. On every occasion, when these success stories are recounted, the theme is; preparation, training, and proper resources—leading to best practice.

The Irish Red Cross undergoes a rigorous accreditation process by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) to ensure best practice standards are met. These standards help save lives. Their implementation, by our volunteers, requires time dedicated to crucial training, coupled with the administration involved in ensuring and recording accreditation. This accreditation and associated training is becoming more onerous every year. Valuing voluntary activity which is a corner stone in our wider society, especially in the health sector, is important and, while valued by all, it comes at a cost—a financial



one. Voluntary organisations like the Irish Red Cross welcome regulation and compliance, and experience their benefit. However, resourcing is a real issue and is one the Irish Government needs to recognise. The general public who donate so kindly to organisations like ours, do so to support the lifesaving work of our members and colleagues here and abroad—not to fund compliance costs. We join with other charitable organisations in calling on Government to contribute financially to alleviating the costs incurred.

The work of our Restoring Family Links programme was greatly expanded. The Irish Government made the positive decision to allow young single ‘programme refugees’ to bring their family members to Ireland. Our Migration Team continues to work with ‘programme refugees’ to support and move people out of Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres and into either pledged or private rented accommodation. We are humbled by the generosity of the Irish public—it is truly inspiring that so many have opened their arms and homes to Syrian men, women, and children, to enable their transition to independent living. Two videos were produced by the AVAIL project which have documented how significant public involvement can be to the wellbeing of refugees. The Irish Government, with support from the Irish Red Cross, have initiated its Community Sponsorship Ireland Programme. It is similar to the accommodation pledge system, but organised through communities taking responsibility for the welcome, accommodation and support of refugee families with assistance and training from seven participating NGOs, including the Irish Red Cross.

For the third consecutive year, the Humanitarian Awards Ball was hosted by the Society. This wonderful event is both a fundraiser and a promoter of the value of humanitarianism. This year the Humanitarian of the Year Award went to Gena Heraty. Gena runs a community development scheme and a residential centre for people with disabilities in Haiti. The Lifetime Achievement Award went to John Lonergan, former governor of Mountjoy and Portlaoise prisons, for his humanitarian approach to prisoners and for making so many people aware of the causes of crime and poverty.

In last year’s annual report, we reflected on

the difficult financial environment in which we operated and the concerns regarding the financing of the Irish Red Cross. Additional Government funding, innovative work by our fundraising team, and a number of legacies have enabled the Irish Red Cross to turn a corner. While the financial situation has improved, the Society acknowledges that there is still work to be done. The Society is operating with reduced staff resources to ensure that our current income and expenditure balance.

On behalf of the organisation, we wish to thank the members of the General Assembly and Board for their personal commitment and time given to ensuring best practice and good governance. We thank our members who serve on so many critical committees to enable the Society to function well. We thank our volunteers on the front line around the country for their dedication to the Society and the excellent work they do in their communities. We wish to especially thank our devoted staff, who give extraordinary amounts of time and expertise to ensure the operation and development of services provided by the Irish Red Cross nationally and internationally.

For all of our work with vulnerable communities at home and abroad, we are grateful to our donors for their continuous support and generosity.

We are deeply indebted to the Government Departments who fund the Irish Red Cross – Defence, Justice, Social & Community Affairs and Business and Enterprise. This is also the last annual report from our current Secretary General, who is retiring in 2020. We wish him well on behalf of the organisation and thank him for his dedicated service.

# Ráiteas an Chathaoirligh agus an Ard-Rúnaí

Chríochnaigh Cumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann bliain cheiliúrtha agus dul chun cinn eagraíochtúil i 2019, inár cheiliúir an Chumann 80 bliain ó bhunaíodh é. Mar chuid den cheiliúradh, osclaíodh 16 Cearnóg Mhuirfean chuig an bpobal ar Oíche an Chultúir. Le bhuíochas a ghabháil le nár gcartlannaí agus dár bhfoireann, chuir an Chumann taispeántas i láthair dár n’earraí cuimhneacháin ó 80 bliain anuas.

Ba mhór an onóir é don Chumann gur tháinig an tAire Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Cultúir go dtí seoladh comóradh an chumann chomh maith le láinseál agus foilsíú Stair na Croise Deirge na hÉireann, le Dr. Shane Lehane, ball den bhrainse Thrá Lí an chumann. Leagtar amach go mion sa leabhar bunú Cros Dhearg na hÉireann agus na phríomh imeachtaí le linn na 80 bliain ó shin. Tagann stíl phróis Shane agus a chuid cáipéisí agus cuimhní le chéile sa chuntas spreagúil seo ar fhorbairt Cros Dhearg na hÉireann.

Níos luaithe sa bhliain, sheol an Chumann a straitéis 5 bhliana nua: Gníomh Inniu, Cruth Amárach. Sheol an tAire Cosanta an straitéis ag ócáid speisialta. Fad a bhí an tAire ag leaga comhghairdeachas ar an gCumann maidir leis an bhforbairt seo, chuir sé i gcuimhne do na daoine a bhí i láthair ar an ról rithábachtach a bhí ag Cros Dhearg na hÉireann maidir le seirbhísí sóisialta agus clínicíúla a thionscnú i rith na 80 bliain sin agus toilteanas an Chumainn a chuid eolas agus scileanna a roinnt le heagraíochtaí eile. Chuimhnigh sé freisin ar an bpríomhról a bhí ag an chumann maidir le grúpaí dídeanaithe a fháiltiú agus a thacú agus an obair ollmhór i garchabhrach éigeandála agus cúram pobail a cuireadh ar fáil don oiread sin daoine le linn éigeandálaí náisiúnta agus géarchéimeanna idirnáisiúnta. Déantar machnamh agus feabhsú ar na ról seo sa straitéis nua.

Tá an straitéis leagtha amach i gcomhthéacs teannta don chumann maidir le cúrsaí airgid. Is iad na ceachtanna a foghlaimíodh le 10 mbliana anuas ná go gcaithfear tástáil a dhéanamh ar an bhfonn chun níos mó

imeachtaí a thosú, seribhisí a chur ar fáil agus cabhrú le níos mó daoine, in aghaidh inbhuanaitheacht na tionscadal dá leithéid seo. Is iad na príomhthéamaí ná:

- Inbhuanaitheacht
- Ballraíocht a mhéadú
- Seirbhísí tacaíochta baill an chumann a fheabhsú
- Bród as ballraíocht i ngluaiseacht dhomhanda dhaonnúil
- Ceannasaíocht i gcaighdeáin chomhlíonadh laistigh den earnáil dheonach
- Ullmhacht chun beatha a shábháil in Éirinn agus thar lear
- Feasacht a ardú san phobail ar chroíphrionsabail an Chros Dhearg agus an Chorráin Dheirge.
- Bheith mar an gcéad rogha soláthróir garchabhrach—do clúdach imeachtaí agus oiliúint—ar fud na tíre.
- Ballraíocht óige agus forbairt a spreagadh laistigh den Chumann
- Forbairt pobail a chur chun cinn agus tacú le daoine leochaileacha
- Cinntiú go gcomhlíontar le riachtanas rialála agus reachtúla

Cuirtear béim ar an Dlí Dhaonnúil Idirnáisiúnta (DDI) i 2019. Dá leithéid seo, cuirtear chun cinn an comórtas Corn Adomnáin, comóradh 70 bliain Choinbhinsiún na Ginéive, agus bhíomar i láthair ag an Comhdháil Idirnáisiúnta Ghluaiseacht na Croise Deirge agus an Chorráin Dheirge ag deireadh na mbliana, inar thugamar gealltanas do roinnt rún agus gealleamar in éineacht le Rialtas na hÉireann an Dlí Dhoannúil Idirneasúnta a neartú agus daoine leochaileacha a chosaint.

I mí Aibreáin, reáchtáladh na Gradam Deonacha Náisiúnta i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. D’aithin an láithreoir Jason Sherlock, a bhfuil clú ar mar iar imreoir peile Baile Átha Cliath, an ról ríthábhachtach a imríonn oibrithe deonacha i bhforbairt ar an mbonneagar CLG agus Sacair in Éirinn agus an spreagadh a thugann no oibrithe dheonacha chun na leanaí agus na dhaoine fásta a dtugann siad tacaíocht dó.

I mí Dheireadh Fómhair, bhronn an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail agus Tuaithe trí otharcharr nua don Chumann, agus bád tarthála nua. Ba ócáid iontach é le ceiliúradh i gClár Chlainne Mhuiris, Co. Mhaigh Eo, le maoiniú ag teacht ó bhrainsí áitiúla, Ceanncheathrú an Chumann, an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail agus Tuaithe agus ár n-urraitheoirí, Lottoland.

Tugadh onóir do rannóg óige an Chumann ar stáitse domhanda ag Comhdháil Idirnáisiúnta Gluaiseacht na Croise Deirge agus an Chorráin Dheirge sa Ghinéiv, tugtar aitheantas ar chlár ‘Allies’ an rannóg, a chuireann cuimsiú agus tuiscint ar cheisteanna LGBTI chun cinn.

In Éirinn, rinneamar ceiliúradh ar obair tarthála ár mbaill. Bhí baill de bhuirg Baile Átha Cliath i láthair ag Maratón Chathair Baile Átha Cliath nuair a thit bean óg gar don críochlíne. Sábháladh í le luas na freagartha agus le caighdeán an chúraim a thug baill an chumann dí. I gContae na Gaillimhe, shábháil seirbhís tarthála uisce Chluain Buí saol de triúr iascairí in aimsir dáinséarach. Rinneadh an idirghabháil boalach agus thábhachtach seo a cheiliúradh i mí Márta 2019 nuair a bronnadh an Chathaoirleach an Bonn Fiúntais ar na baill den bhrainse. Níl iontu seo ach dhá shampla den obair neamhghnách a dhéanann

ár mbaill gach lá. Theastaíonn na héilimh seo ár mbaill a bheith sármhaith ina gcleachtas cliniciúil. Ar gach ócáid nuair a athchóirítear na scéalta ratha seo is é an téama ná; ullmhú, oiliúint, agus acmhainní cuí—agus leantar dea-chleachtas as seo.

Cuirtear Cumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann faoi próiséas creidiúnaithe dian de Chomhairle um Chúram Práinne Réamhospidéil (PHECC) chun a chinntiú go gcomhlíontar le caighdeáin dea-chleachtais. Cabhraíonn na caighdeáin seo le beatha a shábháil. Éilíonn cur i bhfeidhm na caighdeán seo ó ár n-oibrithe deonacha, am atá tiomnaithe do thraenáil ríthábhachtach, mar aon leis an riarachán atá bainteach le creidiúnú a chinntiú agus a thaifead. Tá an creidiúnú seo agus an oiliúint atá bainteach leis ag éirí níos troime chuile bhliain. Tá sé tábhachtach luach a chur ar ghníomhaíochtaí dheonacha atá lárnach inár sochaí, go háirithe san earnáil sláinte, agus, cé go bhfuil meas ag gach duine ar obair dheonach, is costas é-costas airgeadais. Fáiltítear le rialáil agus comhlíonadh le heagraíochtaí deonacha cosúil le Cumann Crois Deirge na hÉireann, agus faightear sochair as iad. Áfach, is saincheist mhór í acmhainniú don chumann agus is gá do Rialtas na hÉireann é sin a aithint. Nuair a bhronnann pobail na hÉireann go lách dúinn a chuid airgead, tá siad ag tacú leis an obair tarrthála dár mbaill agus dár gcomhghleacaithe anseo agus thar lear—níl an tairgead seo ag maoiniú costaisí chomhlíonta. Táimid ar aon intinn le heagraíochtaí carthanachta eile chun iarraidh ar an Rialtas le cúnamh airgid a chur ar fáil dúinn chun na costais a thabhaíonn muid a mhaolú.

Leathnaíodh go mór obair ár gclár ‘Athchóiriú Naisc Teaghlaigh’. Rinne Rialtas na hÉireann an cinneadh dearfach chun cead a thabhairt do ‘dídeanaithe clára’ a bhfuil ina aonair, a chlann a thabhairt anseo go hÉireann. Ta obair ár bhFoireann Imirce le ‘dídeanaithe clára’ ag leanúint ar aghaidh chun tacú leo agus chun iad a bhogadh amach as Ionaid Éigeandála nó ionaid ionduchtaithe agus chun freastal leo i gcóiríocht geallta nó i gcóiríocht phríobháideach atá ar cíos. Bhain fleathúlacht pobail na hÉireann an gus asainn i rith na mbliana, tá sé fíor spreagúil go bhfuil an oiread sin daoine ag oscailt a n-arm agus a dtithe do fhir, do mná agus do leanaí na Siria, chun go bhféadfaidís maireachtáil go neamhspleách. Léirigh an tionscadal AVAIL dhá fhíseán a rinne cur síos ar cé chomh suntasach atá rannphairtíocht on phobail i sláinte dídeanaithe in Éirinn. Le tacaíocht Cumann Croise Deirge na hÉireann, thionscain Rialtas na hÉireann a gClár Urraíochta Pobail. Tá sé cosúil leis an gcóras cóiríocht geallta, ach eagraítear é ionas go glactar an phobail freagracht le fáilte, cóiríocht agus tacaíocht do clainne dídeanaithe, le cúnamh agus oiliúint ó seacht n-eagraíocht neamhrialtasach rannpháirteacha, ina measc Cros Dhearg na hÉireann.

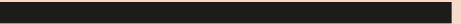
Don tríú bhliain as a chéile, d’óstáil an Chumann Bál na Ghradaim Dhaonnúil. Feidhmíonn an imeacht iontach seo mar ócáid tiomsaithe airgid agus mar tionscnóir de luach an daonnúlachas. I mbliana, bronnadh Gradam Daonnúil na Bliana ar Gena Heraty. Reáchtálann Gena scéim forbartha pobail agus ionad cónaithe do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas i Háití. Bronnadh an Ghradam Saolré Gaisciúil ar John Lonergan, iar-ghobharnóir phríosúin Mhuinseo agus Phort Laoise, mar gheall ar a cur chuige daonnúil i leith príosúnaigh agus as an oiread sin daoine a chur ar an eolas faoi chúiseanna na coireachta agus na bochtaineachta.

I dtuarascáil bhliantúil an bhlian seo caite, rinneamar machnamh ar an dtimpeallacht airgeadais dheacair inar oibríomar agus ar na hábhair imní maidir le maoiniú Cros Dhearg na hÉireann. Ligeadh an Chumann cúinne a chasadh mar gheall ar maoiniú breise ón Rialtas, roinnt oidhreachtaí agus obair nuálach ag ár bhfoireann tiomsaithe airgid. Cé go bhfuil feabhas tagtha ar an gcás airgeadais, aithníonn an Cumann go bhfuil fós obair le déanamh. Tá an Cumann ag feidhmiú le hacmhainní foirne laghdaithe chun cinntiú go bhfuil cothromaíocht inár ioncain reatha agus ár caiteachais.

Thar ceann na heagraíochta, is mian linn buíochas a ghabháil le baill an Chomhthionóil Ghinearálta agus leis an mBord as a dtiomantas pearsanta agus as a gcuid ama chun dea-chleachtas agus dea-rialachas a chinntiú. Gabhaimid buíochas lenár mbaill a freastalaíonn ar an oiread coistí criticiúla chun ligint an Chumann a fheidhmiú go maith. Gabhaimid buíochas lenár saorálaithe ar an líne thosaigh ar fud na tíre as a dhíograis don Chumann agus as an obair a dhéanann siad ina phobail. Go háirithe is mian linn buíochas a ghabhail dár bhfoireann dhílis, a thugann an méid sin ama agus saineolais chun cinntiú go n-oibrítear agus forbrítear na seirbhísí a sholáthraíonn Cros Dhearg na hÉireann go náisiúnta agus go hidirnáisiúnta.

I gcás ár gcuid oibre le pobail leochaileacha in Éirinn agus thar lear, táimid buíoch dár ndeontóirí as a dtacaíocht agus a bhflaithiúlacht.

Táimid fíorbhuíoch go na Ranna Rialtais a mhaoiníonn Cros Dhearg na hÉireann - Cosaint, Dlí agus Cirt, Gnóthaí Pobail agus Tuaithe agus an Roinn Gnó, Fiontar agus Nualaíochta. Is é seo freisin an tuarascáil bhliantúil dheireanach ón Ard-Rúnaí reatha, atá ag dul ar scor i 2020. Thar ceann na heagraíochta guímid gach rath air agus gabhaimid buíochas leis as a sheirbhís thiomanta.



Structure, Governance & Management

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](http://www.governancecode.ie) for more information). The Board is aware of the new Governance Code introduced in 2018 by the Charities Regulatory Authority and will comply with same by the end of 2020.

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 ([www.redcross.ie](http://www.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 and 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

The future plans of the Irish Red Cross are set out in detail in the recently launched strategy: *Act today, Shape Tomorrow* (July 2019), which guides the organisation until 2024. Given the financial difficulties experienced by the Society in 2018, the overriding goal is to reach sustainability for the core Red Cross activities by the end of 2020 and to be in a position to fully fund the project activities of the various sections of the organisation by end of 2022, ensuring that we continue to build a strong, vibrant organisation that is sustainable in the future. A key facet of this sustainability is to build the operating reserves of the IRC to between €500k and €700k by the end of the strategy period. The first step in that direction was achieved in 2019 with €150k being set aside as an organisational reserve.

The role of the Fundraising Department is critical to this goal and the organisation has invested in a new approach to resource mobilisation to enable meeting targets by improving yield from existing sources of income and at the same time ensuring effective cost recovery and cost management. We have a fundraising strategy that sets out how the Society proposes to secure diversified and sustainable income streams to ensure that the organisation can continue to fund its core functions. This strategy particularly focuses on the corporate and philanthropic sectors.

The other overarching goal is to measure the impact the Society makes via its member services and policy interventions. This requires an increased use of, and investment in, information technology and an increased awareness, by both staff and members, of the importance of information and good communication within the Society; demonstrating and communicating the results and impact it achieves.

The most significant plan for 2020 is the launch of the new recruitment plan and toolkit for members, to enable them to recruit new members. The target for 2020 is 300 new members, together with the retention of the current members. One of the key aspects to be focused on in the new campaign is to target particular positions within the organisation—namely people with specific skills i.e. drivers, treasurers etc.

Another key area is membership support, enabling members to operate more efficiently via online training, e-banking, and membership portals, providing easy access to membership and training information. Additional supports will also be made available to members in 2020 via a new complaints procedure – training in the procedure and support in implementing this procedure through three volunteer facilitators.

At a national level the Society is reviewing its operational structure. This task has been undertaken by the Governance Committee which will bring proposals for change to the General Assembly in November 2020.

The development of operational activities is managed by the National Directors of Units, Youth and Community Support. All three have specific operational plans to sustain and develop their services. It is planned that in future there will be three volunteer development officers in place to assist them.

A key development in 2020 will be the enhancement of the Society's humanitarian diplomacy function. This work will include a focus on international humanitarian law, gender based violence, nuclear disarmament, migration, and climate change. It is hoped that these policy initiatives will create a stronger visibility for the public of the issues being challenged by the IRC.

During 2020 the Society will review all of its policies and procedures, as well as moving from the current good governance standards, as agreed by the Not-For-Profit sector, to the new standards set by the Charities Regulator.

The newly named Community Support team have developed a project plan to enhance the delivery of their services in the community. They have committed to provide training to all members to enhance their participation in the non-clinical activities of the Society.

Our Youth section plan to enhance the development of our younger members through a variety of initiatives, some in cooperation with the Community Support programme. The plan to move older members from the Youth section to leadership positions in the Unit and Community Support structure is underway.

Currently the Society has one delegate working overseas. The plan is to increase this number to three by 2021.



Income (€,000)

Fundraising income

€3,255 (44%) 2018 42%

Grant income

€2,350 (31%) 2018 32%

Charitable activities

€1,100 (15%) 2018 14%

Trading & other income

€759 (10%) 2018 12%

Expenditure (€,000)

Resilience

€1,957 (28.1%) 2018 32%

Governance & support

€1,661 (23.8%) 2018 22%

Emergency response

€1,491 (21.4%) 2018 18%

Trading costs

€661 (9.5%) 2018 9%

Fundraising costs

€647 (9.3%) 2018 13%

Health & Social Care

€404 (5.8%) 2018 6%

Other costs

€148 (2.1%) 2018 0%

# Report of the Directors

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

### Income

Income has improved this year to €7,464k (2018: €7,044k) mainly due to the donation of ambulances to the Society.

### Expenditure

Continued focus on expenditure has helped to reduce it from €7,414k to €6,969k. This improvement was achieved in a number of areas from Fundraising to branch operations and the end of our programme in Niger.

Our work in refugee resettlement continued this year and the increased expenditure in this area was focused on moving refugees into their own accommodation.

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

### Reserves

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

Our available reserves at year-end were €2.2m (2018: €2m). This is 4.2 months' of total expenditure from general funds (2018: 3.5). While this is at the low end of the range set by the Board it has improved as expenditure has reduced.

Our expectation for 2020 is to hold it at this level and improve again in 2021.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



**Pat Carey**  
Chairperson

### Cash Flow

Our net cash inflow from operating activities in 2019 was €1,165k (2018: €185k). This improvement is the result of continued focus on all elements of managing our cash.

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 July 2020.



**Sheila Callan**  
Treasurer

# Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 25th July 2020.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



**Pat Carey**  
Chairperson



**Sheila Callan**  
Treasurer

# Independent Auditor's Report

## 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 2019, 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 2019 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

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

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

### Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

### Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

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

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

### Non-Statutory Auditors’ responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

### Non-Statutory Auditors’ responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA’s website at: [http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description\\_of\\_auditors\\_responsibilities\\_for\\_audit.pdf](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 July 2020.

BDO.

**BDO**  
Dublin  
Statutory Audit Firm

2019 was a positive year in fundraising, achieving the budgeted net contribution to the society. After the difficult year in 2018, the fundraising and marketing strategy was to focus on the highest yielding channels of funds. There was an expenditure review of the department which focused on activities that brought the highest return on investment. The main sources of fundraising income came from committed giving, tax rebates, direct mail and legacies. Legacy proved the strongest source of income, achieving almost 250% of the projected budget. Although this source of income can be seen as 'unreliable', 85% of legacies received were forecasted and pledged by IRC supporters. Community fundraising, major gifts, trust and foundations came in below budget for 2019.

There were structural changes in the department which are reflected in the strategy as the Society moves away from community fundraising and focused on other streams of fundraising which give a higher yield. Increased competition in the industry and the rise of crowd sourcing platforms such as Go Fund Me, raise challenges to more traditional methods of fundraising. The fundraising department's key strategy is to work with these platforms and offer them to our supporters to consider as part of their fundraising.

Another major move was the change in committed giving acquisition strategy. In the past the Society had invested and focused on face-to-face acquisition. Due to the growing trends in the sector and the difficulties in recruiting a sufficient number of quality committed givers, the IRC has had to consider other avenues to acquire new committed givers. Fundraising has explored 'lead generation' through digital platforms and through an acquisition appeal using inserts and cold mail. This project was funded by the International Committee of the Red Cross, who were able to help fund an acquisition appeal to the sum of €80,000.

The goal in 2020 is to focus on sustainability, focusing on diversifying the Society's income stream from the traditional committed giving system. A major focus will be corporate partnerships and philanthropy. The IRC has invested in a Corporate Partnerships and Philanthropy Manager to grow this channel of income, looking at opportunities with other Red Cross National Societies (such as the British and Canadian), the ICRC and the IFRC to leverage from bilateral, multi-national, and global corporate opportunities. Lastly, the Society is investing in maximising our tax revenue claims from individuals who have donated €250+. The fundraising department continues to work with the Charities Institute of Ireland to make the process more efficient and cost effective.



Income (€,000)

Public appeals  
& events

€1,184 (36%) <sup>2018 44%</sup>

Trading & other income

€1,032 (32%) <sup>2018 12%</sup>

Regular giving

€841 (26%) <sup>2018 29%</sup>

Corporates,

major donors & trusts

€198 (6%) <sup>2018 14%</sup>

Expenditure (€,000)

Payroll

€350 (54%) <sup>2018 49%</sup>

Marketing

€165 (26%) <sup>2018 39%</sup>

Administration

€132 (20%) <sup>2018 12%</sup>



[Voluntary Service Overview](#)

[Rescue at Bundoran Cliffs](#)

[New Ambulances](#)

[Culture Night](#)

[A Caseworker's Diary](#)

[Strategy Launch](#)

[The ABCs of First Aid](#)

[CBHFA Overview](#)

[Prison Conference](#)

[Strategy Launch](#)

[Volunteer of the Year](#)

[IRCY Award](#)

[Volunteer & Training Statistics](#)

**National**  
**Irish Red Cross**  
**YOUTH**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

Voluntary  
Service  
Overview

One of the key areas of focus for the Society in 2019 was the recruitment and retention of new and associate members. To prepare for a recruitment campaign, the National Volunteer Support and Development Working Group ensured that becoming a member and renewing membership was accessible and streamlined. This included a new volunteer page on the IRC website with a new membership pathway process pack. The new process included the important meeting of new members with a member of their Branch to complete the ID verification. Together with online e-Fáilte and e-Safeguarding training, online renewals of membership and membership on a calendar year basis, the Society is becoming easier to join.

By year end, the Society had 2,900 active members and a further 815 non-active life members. The National Services Department did a wonderful job keeping the Garda vetting status of members and staff under review, and ensuring members were up to date with their vetting and keeping their Branch Officer aware of any vetting gaps.

The Health and Social Care Working Group, under the leadership of Aiden Longeran, engaged in operational and planning meetings throughout 2019. The Working Group proposed a Group name change to reflect the activities members were now engaged in. The Board agreed to the new name of Community Support Group, together with a new operating structure.

One of the highlights of the year for the Community Support team was the creation of a promotional video to raise awareness of the National Services of the Society. The video is available for viewing in the member section on the IRC website.

Reviewing the Community Support activities carried out in 2019, it is evident that buddying and migration supports, community transport, our skin camouflage, and especially our enhanced therapeutic care programme, were key activities throughout 2019, providing on-the-ground assistance to so many people. One of the highlights of 2019 was the reintroduction of the First Aid Competition.

Under the direction of the National Unit Management team and the Regional Director of Units, South, the President’s Perpetual Award and the Dominic Nugent Award were competed for. A new competition to mark the 80th Anniversary of the Society was also launched – the Responder First Aid Award.

The Competitions were hosted on 19th October in Ardscoil Rís in Limerick. Scenarios designed by the National Medical Officer were set up around the campus. The events were very competitive, with Galway IRC winning two awards and Limerick, Cork South West and Tipperary winning an award each.

Under the auspices of our National Unit Management structure, a large calendar of sporting, community and cultural events were covered for first aid by our members; Electric Picnic, Longitude and Life festivals, the Haiti Cycle, the Great Limerick Run, Tipperary Race meetings and Munster Rugby matches were among the highlights. It is a

tribute to the members that in order to ensure all events were covered by qualified first aid volunteers, significant training, now under the direction of the regulator PHECC, took place. The importance of this training is reflected in the numbers of life-saving interventions that members made in 2019, some of which are reflected in this Annual Report and in the number of patient contact forms that were completed in 2019, amounting to 2,400. Such interventions, rescues and lives saved, can only take place when members are highly trained and knowledgeable and their equipment is maintained and tested to the highest standards. This is the auxiliary role that the Irish Red Cross fulfils—to be trained, prepared and ready. Again, this was evident during the major storms in 2019, such as Storm Lorenzo in October.

Finally, the digitisation of the fleet began during 2019, thanks to funding donated by Lottoland. The Society purchased digital tablets to enable patient records be moved securely and in a timely manner from the field to PHECC and the IRC Head Office.



Such interventions, rescues and lives saved, can only take place when members are highly trained and knowledgeable and their equipment is maintained and tested to the highest standards.





Rescue at Bundoran Cliffs [P42](#)



New Ambulances Presented [P43](#)



Culture Night P44



The ABCs of First Aid P46



CBHFA P47



IRCY P50



Volunteer of the Year Award **P54**



Strategy Launch **P55**

Rescue at Bundoran Cliffs

Patrick McGonagle, Irish Red Cross Donegal Area Treasurer, had just arrived home at 3.03am from the ‘Sea Sessions’ music festival when he was called back for duty. A young woman had fallen fifty feet from a cliff in Tullan Strand onto the rock bed below.

After Patrick received the call, Medilink staff, along with three Irish Red Cross volunteers, went with an ambulance crew to assess the situation. The team could see the young woman below and through the helpful information of a local, realised they would be able to access the bottom of the cliff through a small, steep path. Unfortunately, this path was blocked off by a locked gate. Realising that they would not be able to get the Red Cross 4x4 down the path, the event organisers were able to provide a stretcher buggy instead. After securing the young woman into the buggy, Patrick was involved in pushing the buggy back up the path—efforts which he attributes to, “the brute strength of the RNLI and the Irish Red Cross.”

Patrick, who works in A&E and was familiar with the ambulance staff, travelled with the young woman to Sligo University Hospital. From the moment he received the call to the arrival of the ambulance at the hospital took an hour and a half—an impressive turnaround by all those involved.

The rescue of the young woman was a real team effort—the RNLI, the HSE, the fire brigade, Medilink and Event Medical Services were all involved, not to mention the helpful insight from local individuals who directed the emergency services around the difficult landscape.

The Irish Red Cross is in its eleventh year of covering the ‘Sea Sessions’ festival. IRC members of the Donegal Area worked tirelessly over the course of the weekend, and their efforts are to be commended as an impressive example of the Red Cross’ work in action.



From the moment he received the call to the arrival of the ambulance at the hospital took an hour and a half...

New Ambulances Presented

In September 2019, Michael Ring, Minister for Rural and Community Development, officially presented the keys of three new ambulances to Irish Red Cross Chair, Pat Carey. The ambulances, worth €270,000 were funded by the CLÁR programme which provides support for small-scale infrastructural projects in rural areas and is managed by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Online lottery company, Lottoland, also provided funding, adding to funds raised at local level by IRC volunteers in Tipperary town, Raheen, Co Laois and Claremorris, Co Mayo. The Branches in these three towns received an ambulance each.

IRC vehicles complete over 5,000 duties every year—this includes first aid cover at festivals, concerts, sporting events, and emergencies. IRC volunteers are trained to meet the very high regulatory standards set by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC).

Minister Ring said, “Sometimes we don’t say thanks for the great job that they [IRC volunteers] do, often in very difficult circumstances. Sometimes these people put their lives at risk, as voluntary people, and I thank them for that.”

Tony Lawlor, National Director of Units with the IRC, thanked the Minister and Lottoland for their generosity, saying, “The ambulances being replaced are very old, so this funding was really needed. It is no exaggeration to say that these ambulances will help save lives. As well as that, they will provide many years of support in their localities. These vehicles will allow our volunteers to continue serving their communities at sports events and festivals and providing community transport. They will also be on standby for severe weather response. We’re grateful to Minister Michael Ring and Lottoland for their work on this.”



Sometimes these people put their lives at risk, as voluntary people, and I thank them for that.



The Law of Innocents is considered by many to share the same fundamental characteristics as the Geneva Conventions and were incredibly forward thinking for seventh century Ireland.

The Irish Red Cross welcomed visitors to its headquarters in Merrion Square last September for Culture Night. 2019 marked the 80th anniversary of the IRC and the Society hosted a number of events at its head office where visitors could learn about the history and work of the IRC over the past 80 years.

On Friday the 20th of September, Dr Jim Houlihan made a presentation on the Cáin Adomnáin, or Law of Innocents. These are seventh century Irish laws created to protect the innocent (clerics, women, and children) during conflict. These ancient laws were promulgated in Birr, Co Offaly in 697AD. Jim has just completed a significant academic work on this matter, which will be published in 2020.

The Law of Innocents is considered by many to share the same fundamental characteristics as the Geneva Conventions and were incredibly forward thinking for seventh century Ireland. Jim’s fascinating research highlights what is happening internationally today, with so many breaches of international humanitarian law.

On Saturday the 21st, Minister for Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan, formally launched a new book A History of the Irish Red Cross. The book’s author, Dr Shane Lehane (Tralee Branch member), presented a summary of the Society’s history and IRC Chair, Pat Carey, and Minister Madigan responded by sharing their thoughts on the work of the IRC over the last 80 years.

Over the course of the weekend Joe Millar, an IRC volunteer and the Society’s archivist, was on hand to showcase IRC memorabilia and artefacts as part of a historical exhibition which was open to visitors all weekend.



A Caseworker’s Diary



No two days are ever the same at the Irish Red Cross.

I’m in the Dublin office on a Monday morning and, after a cup of tea and quick catch up with my colleagues, my morning starts with paperwork, responding to emails and messages from my clients.

10:30am is the weekly caseworker meeting, the team catch up about in-depth issues we are encountering, share information and outline our plans for the week.

Back to emails, one has come through about delivering a school training session for a primary school in Co. Wicklow. I reply with some possible dates for them.

Next is a house search for two Syrian adult brothers in Co. Wexford. They have been living in an Irish Red Cross pledged two-bedroom apartment in Wexford town for over a year. The apartment was pledged to the Red Cross rent free for one year from a very kind gentleman who wanted to do his part in response to the Syrian crisis. Fortunately for the brothers, their Irish Humanitarian Admission Programme (IHAP) family reunification application has been successful and so they can bring their elderly mum and dad to Ireland. They now need a bigger place. Their parents are living in a precarious region of Aleppo and are anxious to leave. I call the brothers and discuss Daft.ie notifications we have received over the weekend. I complete a tenant application form for an upcoming viewing. Prior to the viewing we need to collect references, payslips, and copies of ID, PPSN, etc. I receive a call from

a letting agent in Wexford town that we have good links with. She has offered us a viewing tomorrow afternoon and we are hopeful about this one.

After lunch I’m over at Parkgate Hall Dublin Region Homeless Executive with a client who is currently residing in the Mosney Accommodation Centre. It’s been almost a year, but we have finally helped him to secure a much sought-after studio apartment in Dublin city. We take a ticket. The queue and wait aren’t as bad as usual, although today there are two homeless families waiting alongside us. I’ve seen it much busier. The security staff are singing to frustrated little kids to keep spirits up—the waiting must be awful for them. To pass the time, my client tells me about the upcoming holiday Nowroz, the Kurdish New Year. He will not be able to celebrate with his family in Iraq but feels fortunate to have made friends within the Kurdish community in Dublin. Our number pops up, we go through all the paperwork, and thankfully the Homeless Housing Assistance Payment (HHAP) is approved for my client. With rent prices soaring in Dublin, the HHAP allows an increased HAP payment and will aid him immensely. I make notes to arrange Irish Red Cross volunteers to help him move from Mosney to his new home, to set up utilities, and to change his GP and medical card.

At 4pm I’m off to Phibsborough to do an introductory meeting between a service user of mine and a volunteer Irish Red Cross Buddy. The Buddy programme is an initiative to provide a bit of additional support to people new to the country. We meet in the client’s home and she has prepared a feast of delicious kibbeh meat balls with onions and spices, and a tabbouleh salad, all washed down with leben, a yoghurt drink. The buddy volunteer, who is Syrian herself, has been in Ireland for over five years and has a wealth of information for my client. They exchange numbers and plan to meet weekly.

I check my emails on my phone and I’m pleased to see that I have received a query about the Community Sponsorship Ireland Programme from an interested group in the midlands. This initiative involves a group of community members coming together to support a refugee family in their community. I call the group leader with information; she is very interested. I agree to attend an upcoming information morning.

No two days are ever the same at the Irish Red Cross. Despite the challenges, it’s a rewarding job which lets me see the difference I am making to the lives of others.



## The ABCs of First Aid

On a January morning, Padraic O'Driscoll, Irish Red Cross member and EMT trainee, took a different route on his journey to work. This decision would prove crucial as he happened upon a traffic collision where he was able to assist and put his first-aid training to good use.

It was an icy morning on the Macroom Road when Padraic came across the two-car collision. Although there was only minor damage to the first car, the second car was a wreck. A woman standing by the collision was already on the phone to emergency services but Padraic knew that he could give a more detailed assessment of the situation to the operator and offered to continue the call while checking on both drivers.

The driver of the first car appeared to be fine, aside from a broken thumb. However, the driver of the more badly damaged car was unresponsive. After checking for vital signs and finishing the call, Padraic got into the car to maintain spinal column support for the unconscious man.

Around twenty-five minutes later, paramedic Kieran Minehan arrived on the scene and assisted Padraic. Together they continued to check the unconscious man's breathing and pulse while also holding the man's head and neck perfectly still. Around fifteen minutes later the Ballincollig Fire Brigade arrived but still

Padraic stayed in place, supporting the man's head and neck as the jaws of life were cutting the car open so that the ambulance crew would be able to get him out easily when they arrived.

**Padraic's cool head and Red Cross First Aid training ensured that he was able to deliver life-saving support in this emergency situation.**

He received a commendation from the National Ambulance Service, which states:

"Having witnessed you in action myself, I must compliment you on how professional and calm you remained throughout.

"On behalf of myself and the National Ambulance Service, I would like to thank you for all that you did for the patient and the assistance you provided to the paramedics and fire service personnel at the scene. You are a credit to yourself, your training and to the Irish Red Cross."

Padraic commented modestly, "There was nothing fancy. It was just the simple ABCs of first aid, your bread and butter stuff. I just followed what my training has taught me."



# Padraic's cool head and Red Cross First Aid training ensured that he was able to deliver life-saving support in this emergency situation.

## CBHFA Overview

In 2009, Ireland became the first country in the world to adopt the Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) in prisons programme. It was introduced in one prison as a pilot project and adopted by all Irish prisons by the end of 2014. Ten years on, the programme is still positively impacting the lives of prison inmates, staff, and former inmates.

The programme runs as a three way partnership between the Irish Red Cross, the Irish Prison Service (IPS), and the Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI). It operates via the recruitment of prison inmates who receive six months of training and then work as peer-to-peer educators across a wide array of areas, largely focusing on first aid, non-violence, early identification of communicable diseases, and mental health issues. Prior to CBHFA in prisons, inmates sought help from nurses and doctors only when they became sick.

Infection control is a vital aspect of the CBHFA programme and is an essential focus of IPS healthcare work, in which peer educators contribute to reducing infection and the spread of disease in prisons. Inmate volunteers in all prisons have contributed to this by undertaking regular hand washing technique trainings.

Volunteers have been provided with a module of learning by IPS Infection Control personnel and were supported by the International Federation of the Red Cross infection control module of new CBHFA material. This new learning module will continue to be rolled out in the early part of 2020 by Red Cross inmates, nurses, and teachers. This information is being used by volunteers to improve prisoner understanding about controlling and preventing the chain of infection in order to reduce infectious diseases within the prison population.

Smoking cessation programmes in 2019 have led to a number of smoke free landings in Irish prisons. In the longer term, the hope is to achieve smoke-free prison campuses. This initiative trains inmate IRC volunteers to be support group mentors for smoking cessation. It operates in partnership with IPS, IRC, ETB and the HSE. It is led by the IPS Red Cross prison nurse prescriber who also provides participating prisoners with their nicotine replacement therapy. Volunteers then support participants over a seven-week programme in association with the HSE. Research indicates that, where peer-support is provided, greater success is likely.

Anti-stigma programmes for Hepatitis C, HIV, and AIDS have been hugely successful. In 2019, inmate IRC volunteers raised awareness as peer agents and advocates for screening for Hepatitis C amongst prisoners in the Midlands Prison in Portlaoise. The result of this was over fifty percent of inmates volunteering to be screened.

The Merchants Quay Ireland Addiction Service has partnered with CBHFA to help train and facilitate overdose prevention workshops, relapse prevention support courses, and general awareness around drug safety. The World Health Organisation has identified that people leaving prison are at high risk of death in the first six months of release due to the loss of tolerance whilst in custody. Training in this field is therefore particularly aimed at inmates who are preparing for both temporary and permanent release from prison.

Peer-led violence prevention workshops have been successful for the CBHFA programme. With the co-operation of inmate IRC volunteers and of prison management, inmates were encouraged to turn over home-made weapons on the understanding that there would be an amnesty. Such events help to create safer communities for prisoners to live in and for staff to work in.





The nature of the programme design and delivery supports volunteers developing their communication and confidence skills.

The nature of the programme design and delivery supports volunteers developing their communication and confidence skills. Anecdotal evidence over the last ten years of the programme—as well as qualitative research initiatives—have indicated that volunteers undergoing the programme experience personal development.

In 2019, the programme partnered with the Psychology faculty of University College Cork in undertaking quantitative research aimed at evidencing this personal development. The results of this research are expected in late 2020.

Proposals were prepared in 2019 to qualitatively review the effects of the programme on male and female prisoners in the Mountjoy campus by two Masters students from UCD School of Law, with a view to preparing for working post-prison. This is important because prison-based courses that aid personal development of inmates may be key to supporting improved employability post-release.

International CBH workshops have been provided in Ireland for over twenty countries in recent years. In April 2019, an international workshop was hosted by the IPS in Portlaoise

for fourteen countries, which included the national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and their respective Justice/Correction Service representatives. Bi-monthly Global Webinars are hosted by the IRC and Geneva Health Department at IFRC Switzerland to knowledge-share CBHFA developments from around the world.

To foster increased effectiveness in the partnership with Probation Services, a Prison to Community Coordinator was appointed in 2019. This has enabled the IRC coordinator to work more closely with Probation staff, linking with probation funded projects across the country and their participants. Work has begun on developing a programme aimed at recruiting probation participants as volunteers who would be trained to facilitate workshops in their local communities.

Peer-to-peer work on all aspects of CBHFA continues beyond the confines of prisons and is present in the Prison to Community initiative. More than 1,000 people have become IRC inmate volunteers since the programme began (120 new recruits in 2019), and many of them, as probationers, have continued their involvement with CBHFA. This work involves workshops on first aid, overdose prevention, non-violence, and crime prevention across the country. In 2020, the IRC's involvement in CBHFA and Prison to Community will continue to expand as more venues for workshops become available.

## Portlaoise Prison Conference

Last year, representatives from prison services from across the world travelled to Portlaoise to learn about the unique Irish prison programme. The Community Based Health and First Aid programme (CBHFA) was originally designed by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to be facilitated globally and was first put into practice here in Ireland. **The Irish Red Cross is now deemed a 'global pole' of expertise for its prison work** within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Delegates were drawn from as far away as Australia to learn about the CBHFA programme with a view to implementing it in their own countries.

In 2019, the CHBFA programme celebrated its 10-year-anniversary and in that time has witnessed phenomenal success. For example, before inmate IRC volunteers initiated a weapons amnesty in Wheatfield Prison, 97% of all prisoner-on-prisoner assaults involved handmade cutting weapons; in a matter of months just 6% of these assaults involved such weapons. An amnesty arranged by inmate IRC volunteers and management saw forty handmade weapons turned in to the Midlands Prison in Portlaoise over the course of a week in October.

In 2019, HIV screening for prisoners was facilitated in St James' Hospital, Dublin, and was encouraged by Irish Red Cross volunteers. Overall, 80% of prisoners from Mountjoy, 58% of prisoners from Wheatfield and 55% of prisoners from Cloverhill engaged in voluntary HIV screening. Such a high number of inmates volunteering for screening was unprecedented and it was very encouraging for all involved in the CBHFA programme.

The CBHFA programme makes life safer for prison staff and inmates alike—it improves the sense of wellbeing amongst prisoners and makes the prison environment better for everyone. Thanks to the CBHFA programme, prisoners have reported that their outlook has changed, they feel proactive and positive about developing their community. The Irish Prison Service recognises the importance of this project and acknowledges the vital changes that it has already brought about in prison life.

Pat Carey, Chair of the Irish Red Cross said, "The prison system has reached out, in a way that many people didn't think could be done, to make significant changes to the life circumstances of a large number of people."

Representatives from national prison services were joined by delegates from the Red Cross Societies in their countries, as the implementation of this prison programme requires the cooperation of both stakeholders. Over the two days, delegates were engaged in interactive training and workshops around the potential integration of a CBHFA programme within the prison communities in their own countries.



The Irish Red Cross is now deemed a 'global pole' of expertise for its prison work...

# Irish Red Cross Youth Overview

2019 was a busy year for Irish Red Cross Youth. Here are some of the highlights and focal points of this ever-important part of the Society.

**National Youth Camp**

The National Youth Camp took place as usual this year in Petersburg, Co. Galway with 15 leaders and 44 participants. The theme of the camp was ‘Humanitarian Superheroes’. Workshops and the Sunday educational treasure hunt were based on this theme. Participants camped as well as staying in dorms and all attendees took part in art projects as well as land and water based outdoor activities.

**International Youth Camps**

Four IRCY members were invited to attend the German and Austrian International Peace Camps which took place in July and August respectively. Participants were funded by their branches and all received glowing reports from their host countries.

**LGBTI+ Allies Programme**

IRCY completed and submitted the official report to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs for the funding received in November 2018. The report was received and approved. The report contained very positive feedback and analysis from the training.

The IFRC contacted IRCY and asked them to submit information on the programme which will be featured in the next IFRC Newsflash. They also requested a number of pins for IFRC staff members who wish to express their solidarity with the LGBTI+ community and are discussing plans to possibly train staff members in the programme.

The German Red Cross reached out to IRCY asking for the materials from the LGBTI+ Allies Programme so that they can adapt it for use in their national society. We look forward to hearing how the programme is received and adapted. Representatives from Polish Red Cross were in touch to find out more about the programme as hostility towards LGBTI+ people in Poland is sadly becoming more common. We look forward to assisting them with adapting the programme for their needs.

**Dublin Pride Parade**

IRCY took part in the Dublin PRIDE Parade for the eighth year in a row, representing the organisation as inclusive and humanitarian. 35 IRCY volunteers and one staff member attended on the day.

**Western European Network**

IRCY have continued their partnership with WEN and each country involved (Ireland, Britain, Netherlands and Belgium) are currently co-managing the €112,000 Erasmus+ fund, with Britain taking the role of administrator. The Youth Officer (Catriona Finn) National Director of Youth (Bernie Rutherford) and a member of the National Youth Working Group (Tom Doyle) attended the second Transnational Partnership Agreement meeting in Brussels in March, which focused on sharing best practice in youth governance models, as well as financial and logistical planning and reporting.

Interim reports have been submitted and the third of the four planned activities have been completed—three of which are to be hosted in Ireland by IRCY, as well as one Transnational Partnership meeting. The network is now beginning to explore future funding opportunities to continue our work.

**Youth on the Run**

IRCY hosted events in February and October for the Erasmus+ Beyond Borders project. Participants from the British, Irish and Belgian Flanders Red Cross Societies spent a week (in both instances in Cavan) examining aspects of migration and discrimination, as well as historical border issues between Ireland/ Northern Ireland before taking part in the Youth on the Run 24-hour roleplay game. The events were extremely successful, receiving excellent feedback from the participants from Ireland, Britain and Belgium.

**Anti-bullying campaign**

The German Red Cross launched their translation and adaptation of the IRCY Anti-bullying campaign in March at their National Youth Conference. The Buddy Bear gifted to the German Red Cross in 2018 was on display to help promote the programme. Members of IRCY were invited to attend the conference but it was not possible due to budgetary constraints.



► **Positive Mental Health—Different Feathers**

The Netherlands Red Cross asked for the IRCY Positive Mental Health tip cards and programme, which they plan to adapt and pilot with their university groups. Student teachers from St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra received copies of the books and provided feedback, which will be incorporated into the next draft. We are still seeking sponsorship to print and distribute the books.

IRCY was invited by the European Youth Coordination Committee to take part in a month-long campaign in June to raise awareness of mental health issues and provided tips for young people to monitor and take care of their mental well-being. IRCY posted their contributions every day on social media, sharing tips from the PMH programme as well as submissions from IRCY volunteers around Ireland. This led to an increase in enquires about the programme from volunteers both at home and abroad, as well as members of the public.

**Sense and Science Foundation**

The foundation requested that an IRCY member attend their conference on youth and fact-based evidence and its use in Europe. Kate Buckley from Mallow Branch attended and was highly praised by the organisers for her contribution.

**Solferino 2019**

IRCY sent three youth delegates to the 4th International Youth Meeting in Solferino, which coincided with the 100th anniversary of the formation of the IFRC. During the Meeting, Youth representatives from more than 130 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies of the Movement had the opportunity to attend a series of workshops by the IFRC held in three different languages. The workshops were—Success and the next decade of Youth As Agents of Behavioural Change Programme (YABC); Why education matters and why young people care, and the IFRC Youth Engagement Stragedy (YES) Implementation Toolkit Launch.

**BYO, ADY & Youth Leadership Development**

22 Branch Youth Officer (BYO), Area Director of Youth (ADY) and Youth Leaders from all over Ireland attended a two-day leadership development training in February, in Gormanston. The training included programme overviews and tasters, training on Moodle, strategic development and understanding of the current youth structure, networking, sharing of best practices and inclusion for children with additional needs, which was delivered by consultant Aisling Tracey.

**Capstone Project, Case Study**

Irish Red Cross Youth were specially invited by IFRC to be one of only three National Societies to take part in this under the patronage of the Geneva Graduate Institute. The IFRC Secretariat became a 2019 Capstone Project Partner and embarked on an interesting project with three Master programme students at the Graduate Institute Geneva, with the aim to conduct research to better understand the pillars of successful leadership identity development in young people. IRCY staff and volunteers have now completed a series of interviews on the same and we await follow up from the project.

**British Red Cross Partnership—Leeds & Reading Festivals Safemates**

The British Red Cross invited IRCY members aged 18–30 to attend Leeds and Reading Festivals during the summer to train and provide support as part of their Safemates Programme. five IRCY members were successful in their applications and assisted at both festivals. The programme encourages festivalgoers to look after each other and spot warning signs early. The relevant National Red Cross (NRC) provides ‘Safe Hubs’ where volunteers provide peer support in a safe and confidential space, free from judgement.

**HIV Awareness Training**

IRCY have reviewed and reworked the HIV Awareness Programme due to the significant advances in treatments and the rapidly changing statistics around infections, particularly in Ireland. The newly revised programme will be submitted to HIV Ireland for their review as our long-time collaborators on this topic.

**Applications for funding**

IRCY worked with the Fundraising Department to apply for funding from Coca-Cola, Dublin Bus and the Empress Shoken Fund, however these applications were unsuccessful. IRCY continue to actively seek funding opportunities with the Fundraising Department.

**IRCY social media**

We have continued to run our active and popular Facebook page and Twitter account as well as posting photographs and videos from all of our events, which has seen an increase in interest from the public. IRCY media teams, consisting of IRCY volunteers, are now used for every event.



In 2019, Irish Red Cross Youth were presented with the Youth on the Move Award at a special ceremony in Geneva, for its LGBTI+ Allies Programme in the ‘Promoting Social Inclusion and Culture of Non-Violence and Peace’ category.

Ronan Gannon was selected as the youth delegate to attend the statutory meetings in Geneva in December. Ronan gave a presentation about the LGBTI+ Allies programme and accepted the award on behalf of IRCY.

Surveys carried out by Gay Community News in 2017 reported that nearly half of those surveyed in the 13–24 age bracket feel that lack of acceptance in Irish society of LGBTI+ people is their main issue of concern. The desire to ‘fit in’ is denied to so many because of this lack of acceptance. Nearly three quarters of those surveyed feel unsafe in their school because of bullying.

An LGBTI+ Ally is someone who supports and stands up for the rights of LGBTI+ people, even if they don’t identify as LGBTI+. Allies help by being visible and standing up to homophobic or transphobic language; **sending a clear message that discrimination is not acceptable** and that everyone should be free to be themselves.

The programme aims to allow for a greater understanding of LGBTI+ issues and definitions to help create a safe and welcoming space for all volunteers. It also aims to promote social inclusion and alleviate the emotional suffering of LGBTI+ people, teaching correct, appropriate, and sensitive language to all Irish Red Cross volunteers offering frontline services.

The LGBTI+ Allies programme was developed as a response to motions submitted at the Irish Red Cross National Youth Forum in 2017 and after requests were received directly from youth members. Tom Doyle, who is a member of the National Youth Working Group and Regional Director of Youth for Dublin Mid-Leinster, is the project lead.

The LGBTI+ Allies programme was initially funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and thanks to this support, the IRC has been able to offer its LGBTI+ Allies training to all youth leaders and all members within the IRC, irrespective of age. This programme supports the Irish Government’s LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020 under Goals 1 and 2.

The programme is delivered through presentations, videos, and group activities. Leaders who have completed it say they feel more comfortable and confident speaking about LGBTI+ issues with young people.

This is the second time Irish Red Cross Youth has won an award from the International Federation. IRCY received the Society’s first ever International Federation award in 2011 for their HIV Awareness programme (which will be re-launched in an updated format in 2020).



...sending a clear message that discrimination is not acceptable...

Volunteer  
of the Year  
Award

James Lafferty, Clare Area Treasurer, was named Volunteer of the Year in the Safety and Emergency Services category at the Volunteer Ireland Awards on Friday 6 December 2019. Padraig Allen from St John Ambulance Dublin and Frank Heidtke from Dingle Coast Guard, Kerry were also in the same category. The award was given for the thousands of hours he has given in helping others, his hugely successful fundraising efforts and for his leadership qualities.

After the bad storm in 2013, James realised that many people felt isolated and had no way to get anywhere other than by taxi. People struggled getting to and from hospital appointments. James had a vision for a new community multi-purpose support vehicle; a minibus which can be transformed to an ambulance—a vehicle to bring people to their medical appointments or to help older people go on days out, free of charge.

James’ vision was realised in 2016. He raised €86,000 for the state-of-the-art community vehicle. James organises drivers and takes all calls in relation to the vehicle, putting patients at ease by taking their travel concerns away. The vehicle is on the road approximately four times a week with many dedicated drivers, and James ‘steering’ the whole concept as well as doing much of the driving himself.

James also spearheaded the purchase and development of a state-of-the-art Training Unit and Ambulance Centre which was opened in October 2018. He has taken charge of fundraising to pay back the mortgage on this property. The new centre is 4,100 square feet and serves as a training premises for the unit in Ennis. It also securely stores equipment, housing a fleet of vehicles and hosts training courses for members.

James’ ‘Tour of Clare’ fundraiser is helping to reduce the mortgage on the centre and pay for the minibus service. This fundraiser sees James head out to a different part of Clare every week, mostly Fridays and Saturdays, and set up a stall to raise money. He sits from morning to evening outside shops selling raffle tickets. He organises permits, rings shops for permission, sits collecting and then lodges all monies.

One of those who nominated James for the award said; “James is a diamond in this organisation. He is an all-rounder and extremely approachable. He is always there to help while still keeping the community and fundraising alive. Without him, his dedication as a volunteer, and the time he has committed, the community transport vehicle or the building we currently train in would not exist.”

James was described as being “passion, initiative and creativity personified when it comes to fundraising.”



Passion, initiative and creativity personified when it comes to fundraising.

Strategy  
Launch

In July 2019, the Irish Red Cross’ new strategy Act Today, Shape Tomorrow: Strategic Plan, 2019-2024 was launched by Paul Kehoe, Minister for Defence. The launch took place at the Irish Red Cross head office where Minister Kehoe praised the work of the IRC. He stated, “The value that 3,200 Red Cross volunteers in 86 Branches throughout the country deliver is significant and shows the very best of humanity.”

This strategy places a particular focus on our volunteers and their need for support and resourcing. This is to enable the delivery of their lifesaving services, community support activities, and first aid training to the general public and our members.

The new strategy sets out the ambition of the Irish Red Cross and gives direction to the Society for the next five years. Following an extensive consultation process, the strategy identifies the need for more members and enhanced member supports, especially in the areas of training and IT. Other areas of focus for the next five years include resilience building in local communities, enhanced preparation for emergency response and the redevelopment of the IRC’s international support infrastructure and policy development capacity.

Another critical goal is to ensure that the operation standards for the organisation and its members are in place to meet new regulatory requirements. The theme which ties the strategy together is sustainability; ensuring the future of the Society.



The value that 3,200 Red Cross volunteers in 86 Branches throughout the country deliver is significant and shows the very best of humanity.

## Volunteer hours

### Units

113,636

### Training

37,593

### Community Support

13,408

### Branch Admin

15,464

### Youth

22,785

### Total

202,886

## Training figures

### First Aid Response

2,108

### Cardiac First Response

2,014

### Emergency First Aid

1,102

### Practical First Aid

848

### Emergency

### Practical First Aid

545

### Other

909

### Talks

860\*

### Total

8,386

\* 43 talks holding up to 25 people in each (43 x 20 = 860)

# International

International Overview

Florence Nightingale Medal

70 Years of the Geneva Convention

Corn Adomnán

Migration Overview

Humanitarian Awards

Interview with a Host

Restoring Family Links

International Statistics

Despite global development efforts over the last decade, the negative impact of inequality, urbanisation, and climate change have left people more vulnerable than ever to the devastating impact of conflict, natural disasters, and other emergencies. From a humanitarian standpoint, 2019 remained challenging, with the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance at an all-time high of 145 million. The scale of humanitarian need is vast, and the gap between needs and the resources available continues to widen.

The Irish Red Cross has continued in its efforts to respond to these growing needs and to arising crises, despite the tight economic environment.

Responding to the humanitarian consequences of on-going conflict in Yemen and Syria remained one of IRC's priorities for 2019. Together with our partners within the Red Cross Movement, the Society responded to emergencies, including in March, when Cyclone Idai ravaged southern Africa, and in September when Hurricane Dorian hit the Caribbean. In addition to disaster relief provision, the Irish Red Cross continued its support to on-going projects in Nepal and India. As the year drew to a close, a new agreement was signed with Indonesia Red Cross that will see us support an 18-month livelihood programme.

Throughout the year, advocating humanitarian policy and action remained a cornerstone of the Irish Red Cross work. The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent took place in Geneva, bringing together States and components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Together with the Irish Government, the Irish Red Cross addressed on-going and emerging humanitarian concerns related to health, international humanitarian law, the effects of climate change, and trust in humanitarian action. A consensus on a series of new resolutions was reached which will govern Red Cross humanitarian action over the course of the next four years.

There are many challenges that remain, but alongside our global Red Cross Red Crescent network, and **with the support of our donors, the Irish Red Cross will continue to face these challenges, and will continue to deliver critical assistance to some of the most vulnerable communities in the world.**

OUR INTERNATIONAL  
OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Bosnia and Herzegovina—Migration**

In Bosnia and Herzegovina a humanitarian catastrophe is unfolding, with the number of people on the move reaching new and dangerous levels. Conditions for those migrating are stark, with many arriving undernourished, exhausted and traumatised. Reception centres are overcrowded, and thousands of people are living out in the open. Since early 2019, the Red Cross has been working to ensure that migrants have access to hot food, water, and shelter, as well as first aid and psychological support. Mobile teams are also assisting those on the roadside who are sleeping rough.

As the situation worsened, ahead of freezing winter temperatures and deteriorating weather conditions, the Irish Red Cross scaled up its support to the Red Cross humanitarian response in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This enabled the National Society to provide essential life-saving assistance through the distribution of food, blankets, hot drinks, and first aid.

**Mozambique—Cyclone Idai**

In mid-March, Cyclone Idai made landfall in Mozambique before continuing on to Zimbabwe and Malawi, killing hundreds and causing widespread devastation. On the 25 April, Cyclone Kenneth, the strongest storm on the country's record, brought further destruction. Combined, the two cyclones have been unprecedented and caused major destruction across much of the country, affecting close to 3.7 million people.

Nearly 183,000 homes were destroyed and damaged, as well as other critical infrastructure including schools, hospitals, water systems, and roads. The cyclones hit during the country's main harvest, which destroyed hundreds of thousands of acres of crops and farmland. More than 1.6 million people are severely food insecure, with thousands more at risk of facing crisis levels of food insecurity in the coming months.

Through its network the Irish Red Cross has been supporting communities since the onset of the disasters by delivering emergency relief. The Red Cross will continue to give support to those most vulnerable by providing shelter, health, sanitation, food assistance, psychosocial and livelihood support for as long as it is needed—helping communities become stronger and more resilient than before the cyclones hit.

\* With the support of our donors, the Irish Red Cross will continue to face these challenges, and will continue to deliver critical assistance to some of the most vulnerable communities in the world.

►

**Niger—Saving the lives of women and children**

With a population of more than 22 million people, Niger, located in the Sahel region of West Africa is, according to United Nations Human Development Index (HDI), the lowest-ranked country of the world. This index is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development, with life expectancy at birth being a key indicator. Niger scores particularly low on this indicator, and also has high rates of infant and maternal mortality at birth and very low attendance of skilled midwives at births.

To remedy this, the Red Cross set about improving maternal health in the rural area of Kiéché. During the period 2018/19, the Irish Red Cross provided support to the rehabilitation and equipping of the sole maternity ward in the region. A small residence was constructed next to the maternity ward for the midwife.

In Kiéché, before the completion of this project, there were on average 600 deliveries per year without the assistance of a midwife and without the necessary equipment to reduce the mortality rate. Today, thanks to our support, conditions are in place to promote safe delivery. The improved service now also attracts more women to attend the Health Centre for pregnancy monitoring and to give birth in the maternity ward instead of at home.

**Syrian conflict—Helping conflict-affected families recover their livelihoods**

Since the onset of the conflict, the Irish Red Cross has been supporting the humanitarian efforts of our partners in Syria. It is now almost nine years of crisis, during which millions of Syrians faced displacement, sometimes multiple times. The impact of past and ongoing insecurity continues to drive humanitarian needs and is gravely affecting the population’s food security and livelihoods. Those returning to their homes after escaping conflict face major challenges to restarting their lives. In rural areas, access to land irrigation and agricultural inputs is problematic and the numbers affected are increasing.

In response to this, the Irish Red Cross has been supporting the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) early recovery efforts and is contributing towards improving resilience of vulnerable people by scaling up SARC’s

food security and livelihoods programme. The project, which targeted up to 200 returnee families in Quneitra Governorate, has provided direct support to poultry farmers affected by the crisis, through the provision of assets to restore their livelihood and income generating activities.

Another result of the project is that, through contributing to the increase of meat and eggs production, access to protein nutritious commodities by the affected population has mitigated the food insecurity of the targeted community. The project also supported 1,000 households in Idlib Governorate with vegetable seeds and agricultural tools to strengthen their food production capacities at household level.

In October, the conflict in North East Syria took a turn for the worse with fighting on the Syrian Turkish border having a devastating impact on civilians. Over 176,000 people have been displaced, including nearly 80,000 children, and critical infrastructure has been damaged. Against this backdrop, humanitarian needs continue to grow. While the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its partners have scaled up their assistance in response, far more needs to be done, both in the short and long-term, to support affected communities and protect them from further harm.

**Yemen—Largest humanitarian crisis in the world**

The conflict in Yemen continued to cause unspeakable suffering, and the humanitarian needs are colossal. More than 24 million people now need aid, an estimated 80% of the population. Every day, lives are lost in Yemen due to intense fighting, preventable diseases, lack of food, and extreme poverty. Nearly 10 million people are suffering from extreme levels of hunger, while about 238,000 are in “catastrophe” conditions, which translate to: people facing starvation and death. The conflict has significantly weakened already fragile health and water infrastructures leading to the re-emergence of infectious diseases, such as cholera, where cases are being recorded every single day across the country. 2019 saw certain improvements in the most affected areas but much more must be done. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), with funding support from the Irish Red Cross, continues to strive to respond to the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected people in Yemen. Working across Yemen, the Red Cross and Red Crescent provides primary health care, delivers food and household items, and supplies clean water to those in need.

**Bangladesh—World’s largest refugee settlement**

More than two years since the onset of the crisis, needs in Cox’s Bazar District in Bangladesh are still acute. More than a million people from Rakhine State in Myanmar are now residing in 34 extremely congested camps in Cox’s Bazar, making it the largest encampment of displaced people in the world. People continue to face instability, health issues, poverty, and natural and climatic hazards, resulting in the need for a prolonged humanitarian response. In particular, the extremely precarious situation in the camps has raised health issues such as acute diarrhoea and an on-going measles outbreak. Health services are crucial for about 1.24 million people living in and around the camps who must cope with overcrowded shelters and limited access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities.

Cholera is now endemic in Bangladesh, including amongst the host community in Cox’s Bazar. With the additional million people in the region, there has been an added strain on services, including access to clean water, health services, and sanitation. Cholera is incredibly contagious and can spread quickly—prevention and early intervention are key.

In continuing efforts to protect against cholera and prevent outbreaks, the Red Cross Red Crescent network are improving access to clean water and sanitation. Additionally, volunteers are providing health and hygiene promotion and awareness messages.

**Nepal—Reducing vulnerability and building communities’ resilience**

Nepal is one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries due to its location and climatic conditions. Earthquakes, landslides, and floods affect the country every year, leading to severe damage to infrastructure and disrupting the economic development of the country, thus increasing the population’s vulnerability. It is also one of the poorest countries in the world with 23% of total population still living below the poverty line.

Since 2018, the Irish Red Cross, in partnership with the Nepal Red Cross, are addressing livelihood needs and promoting more self-sustainable options in the longer term across three communities in the Myagdi District, Nepal. Our livelihoods intervention will play an important role in terms of diversifying income and strengthening food security for around 358 households and the local economy. During 2019, the project focused on enhancing livelihood initiatives through the promotion of high value crop production activities that includes fruit, herbs and tourism promotion. With the help of cash grants and technical support from the Red Cross, at least 140 households bolstered their resilience by enabling them to start or expand small businesses.

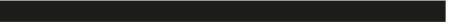
**India—Combatting the TB epidemic**

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a pressing health problem in India, with 2.6 million people estimated to develop new active TB cases each year. Furthermore, India is home to 25% of missed cases worldwide where many untreated people with the disease continue to transmit TB within their communities. While progress is evident with a rise in treatment success rate in India, there is still a considerable distance to go in the fight against TB.

Since 2015, the Irish Red Cross has been supporting the Red Cross Prevention and Management of TB programme in two districts in the Punjab State. Through our network of community-based volunteers, extensive support is provided to TB patients and their families through home visits. Volunteers also make sure that patients attend their outpatient check-ups and that they are eating properly, as healthy diet plays a part in a patient’s recovery. Currently the Red Cross continues to address the needs of some 400 people affected with TB who are among the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in society.

In addition, the programme provides community advocacy and increases community knowledge about TB through health education and awareness.

The treatment success rate for people diagnosed with TB and assigned to the Red Cross programme was 99.4% in 2019.







Florence Nightingale Medal **P72**



Celebrating 70 Years of the Geneva Conventions **P73**



Corn Adomnán [P75](#)



Migration Overview [P76](#)





Humanitarian Awards Ball **P80**



Interview with a Host **P84**



Restoring Family Links **P86**

## Florence Nightingale Medal

As a preliminary to the proceedings of the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Convention celebrations, President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, presented long-serving Irish Red Cross overseas aid worker, Vivien Lusted, with the Florence Nightingale Medal—the highest international distinction a Red Cross and Red Crescent nurse can achieve.

Up until last year, Vivien had worked for the Irish Red Cross as an overseas delegate for more than 14 years. During this time, she served 13 International Red Cross missions in some of the world's toughest armed conflicts, including Somalia, Sudan, Myanmar, Israel, and Liberia, to name but a few. In particular, the medal was awarded in recognition of Vivien's

mission in Mosul, Iraq (where she worked as a detention nurse for more than 18 months). **Ensuring that effective healthcare is delivered in prisons is no easy task, yet Vivien managed, in the most difficult, dangerous and challenging circumstances**, to ensure that detainees had their wounds and illnesses cared for. Vivien's advocacy also brought about an improvement in sanitation facilities and in detainee nutrition. As such, it was a wonderful acknowledgement of Vivien's hard work and perseverance that she received this award.



Ensuring that effective healthcare is delivered in prisons is no easy task, yet Vivien managed, in the most difficult, dangerous and challenging circumstances.

## Celebrating 70 years of the Geneva Conventions

2019 saw the IRC mark the establishment of the four Geneva Conventions, an important milestone that has governed the protection of individuals in armed conflicts for the last seven decades. Adopted in 1949, the Geneva Conventions, which are universally ratified, form the backbone of today's International Humanitarian Law (IHL), a body of law which governs conflict—the law of war. Created for the worst of times, the Conventions were signed in the hope that the atrocities and inhumane acts of the Second World War would never be repeated and that future conflicts would be fought with measures of restraint.

To commemorate this anniversary, the Irish Red Cross held a high-level panel discussion on October 20th at the Mansion House, Dublin. The event entitled 'Conflict in Ten Years' Time—Future of IHL' brought together over 100 participants and speakers, including representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, academia, Defence Forces, the Attorney General, and civil society.

In advance of the panel discussion, President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, presented long serving Irish Red Cross overseas aid worker, Vivien Lusted, with the Florence Nightingale Medal—the highest international distinction a Red Cross Red Crescent nurse can achieve.

President Higgins then opened the discussion with an address which critically analysed the current state of affairs regarding conflict and violence at an international level. Much discussion took place regarding the 70th Anniversary of the Conventions—is it a celebration, an acknowledgement, or a marking of an occasion? In today's world of heightened tensions and protracted conflicts, how do we celebrate such a point in history when violence and human suffering continues to prevail? The President captured the essence of the Conventions and the Anniversary succinctly when he said,

"Commemorating 70 years of the Geneva Conventions is not a celebration of militarism, nor a valorisation of martial spirit, but **a simple recognition of our common humanity as we try to provide basic protection for those caught up in armed struggles.**"

After President Higgins concluded his speech, the panel discussion ensued with Senator Ivana Bacik as Chair. The panel was made up of three distinguished speakers: Colonel Jerry



...a simple recognition of our common humanity as we try to provide basic protection for those caught up in armed struggles.

Lane of the Irish Defence Forces; Dr Helen Durham, Director of International Law and Policy at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); and Michiel Hofman, Senior Humanitarian Specialist with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

Opening the discussion, Colonel Jerry Lane gave an informative overview of IHL from a military perspective. He particularly emphasised the challenges imposed by the rapid development of weapons technology as modern society attempts to navigate this uncharted territory, relative to the 19th century landscape from which the First Geneva Convention was borne.

Speaking from the perspective of the ICRC, Dr Helen Durham highlighted the narrative around respect for IHL and how this narrative has become increasingly negative in its focus on violations as opposed to restraint. As a way of challenging this narrative, Dr Durham spoke of a new project that the ICRC are engaged in as they have started to record cases of respect for IHL in a database. In her speech Dr Durham stated,

“The focus on violations and accountability is important, but **the daily implementation of IHL in the field is very often overlooked**. We have to build on positive examples of respect, and this project is one way of doing that.”

Closing the panel discussion, Michiel Hofman gave a more critical analysis of the current situation. The humanitarian specialist emphasised the absolute importance of ensuring robust protection for healthcare facilities and medical personnel in times of armed conflict. He also drew attention to the impact of counter-terrorism measures taken by states on principled humanitarian action, in particular potential criminalisation of humanitarian activities which remains an issue of concern for humanitarian actors. Michiel Hofman highlighted that such measures hinder humanitarian access, and hamper impartial delivery of aid to populations trapped in militant controlled areas.

All three panellists gave a thought-provoking analysis of IHL and the challenges facing the modern world that need to be addressed. As long as conflict remains a reality, there must be a limit to suffering. The Attorney General, Seamus Woulfe, gave the closing address, focusing on the life-saving role the Geneva Conventions have played during the last 70 years and congratulating the ICRC on its vigilance in ensuring that the Conventions remain centre stage in armed conflict.

## Corn Adomnáin

The fifth edition of the Corn Adomnáin took place on April 13th, 2019 at Griffith College Dublin. The International Humanitarian Law competition is an annual event to promote and encourage the study of, and respect for, the rules of war. The Corn Adomnáin derives its name from the ‘Cáin Adomnáin’ which was first promulgated in Birr, Co. Offaly in 697 AD. **Also known as the ‘Law of Innocents’, the ‘Cáin Adomnáin’ was one of the earliest known IHL treaties.** The ancient law called for the protection of women, children, and clerics during a conflict and is particularly interesting as it broke the mould of the traditions in Ireland at this time. During this period, laws would have commonly been based on custom and would subsequently be enforced at a local level. The Cáin Adomnáin however was officially drafted in writing and adopted. The Irish people have a long and proud history in promoting the values of respect during conflict and so it is fitting that the competition derive its name from such a forward-thinking piece of law.

The 2019 edition of the Corn Adomnáin saw representatives from University College Cork, Queen’s University Belfast, the Law Society, and Griffith College Dublin take part. The participants completed a series of challenging scenarios which tested their knowledge and application of IHL in high pressure situations. While all teams showcased an excellent performance, the ultimate winners were Aneta Szczurek and Gráinne Hussey of the Law Society. Both Aneta and Gráinne gave an impressive display of their legal skills and ability and managed to come out on top, despite having one less participant than the other competitors.

The Corn Adomnáin plays a significant part in the mandate of the Irish Red Cross to promote and encourage respect for IHL. The competition has been a great success and the Irish Red Cross is greatly appreciative of the assistance that has been given through the years from academics, the ICRC, members of the judiciary, government officials and the defence forces.



...the daily implementation of IHL in the field is very often overlooked.



Also known as the ‘Law of Innocents’, the ‘Cáin Adomnáin’ was one of the earliest known IHL treaties.

# Migration Overview

In 2015, the Irish Red Cross was tasked, as auxiliary to the Irish Government, to provide support to the Department of Justice and Equality's Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) to fulfil the Government's EU commitment to aid and resettle 4,000 of the displaced people fleeing from the dangerous situation in the Middle-East. The overall goal of the programme is to successfully integrate refugees into Irish society so that they can achieve their potential in a safe and welcoming environment here.

The IRC co-ordinates and facilitates offers of accommodation, services and goods from the public, supports refugees with housing (both pledged and privately rented) and with social integration at community level, providing professional casework for our clients. The IRC, through its migration casework team and ancillary staff, fulfils the roles of resettlement and intercultural worker, housing authority, community welfare officer, social worker and career guidance, among others.

Since the first client was housed in 2017, the IRC has housed clients across 13 counties. This geographical spread continues to pose difficulties in providing comprehensive service to all clients, but our dedicated team of caseworkers are tireless in their efforts to aid their clients.

## Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres (EROCs)

The key focus of the IRC migration programme since mid-2017 has been facilitating the move of mainly single migrants from reception centres into homes in communities across Ireland. In 2019 the IRC continued to work with three EROCs—the Abbeyfield Hotel in Ballaghaderreen, and the Mosney and Clonea Reception Centres.

In October 2019, the IRC completed its work with clients in Ballaghaderreen. There remain a small number of clients in Mosney and Clonea who will be moved in early 2020.

## Community Sponsorship Ireland (CSI)

The IRC has been working with the Irish Refugee Protection Programme at the Department of Justice and Equality, IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada), UNHCR, NASC, the Irish Refugee Council, and Amnesty International since 2017 in developing the Irish model of Community Sponsorship. The initiative is based on the model which has been successfully operating in Canada since 1979. It has been supported and followed up by Governments in Ireland, the UK, Argentina, Spain and New Zealand.



CSI is a community led initiative and offers an alternative resettlement stream to the traditional state-centred model of resettlement. It involves a minimum of five people coming together to bring one Syrian refugee family to their community and offering integration supports. Community Sponsorship Groups (CSGs) commit to providing practical, logistical, social and emotional support to assist newly arrived refugees settle into their new neighbourhood. The responsibilities of the CSGs include fundraising, finding suitable accommodation, helping the family to engage with state service providers, linking refugees with appropriate language training, employment and education opportunities, and integrating with their new community.

The IRC acts both as a National Support Organisation and a Regional Support Organisation. It's tasked with vetting CSGs' applications and providing support and training to them in the lead-up to and after a refugee family's arrival. In 2019 the IRC supported two CSGs with families now in Meath and Dublin, respectively. There are also six CSGs, at varying stages of preparation for next year, with whom we are working.

**Irish Humanitarian Admissions Programme (IHAP)**

The current family reunification guidelines continue to present a challenge for many clients supported by the IRC. A significant proportion of our service users are single males. These clients are in the State by themselves with limited or no family support network. Many embarked on the arduous migration trail by themselves at an early age. The IRC recognises that they have had to deal with the harsh realities of war and separation during a developmental time in their lives. The IRC strongly believes that the lack of a family support network during this time has the potential to negatively affect the mental and emotional health of our clients.

The IRC played a key role in helping guide the development of the IHAP programme in close collaboration with the Department of Justice & Equality and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. The IRC was asked to contribute our expertise in areas such as housing, integration and travel assistance. The IRC supported several clients with guidance through the application process, the provision of accommodation, and with travel assistance for their family members.

Working with Restoring Family Links, the IRC Migration Team has planned travel assistance for many of the incoming family members of IHAP applicants.

**Amplifying the Voices of Refugees and Asylum Seekers for Integration and Life Skills (AVAIL) Project**

The Irish Red Cross partnered with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, the British, Italian and Latvian National Societies in the implementation of the AVAIL Project throughout 2019. The project aimed to highlight the successful integration of refugees and asylum seekers (RAS) into their host communities from day one, by focusing on the dynamism and resilience that brought them to Ireland, rather than passive engagement.

National buddy projects were implemented in Ireland and Latvia through AVAIL. In Ireland, 73 host and service pledgers facilitated the integration of 74 refugees and asylum seekers by hosting them in their homes, assisting with language and other skills acquisition. A co-produced video outlining three Syrian refugee client stories of war, the journey to and integration into Ireland was completed in April and launched on World Refugee Day 2019. It highlights the challenges single refugees encounter with isolation in reception centres, loneliness without having family members nearby, and how much faster they feel integration could be achieved if family reunification regulations were more relaxed. The project will reach completion in February 2020.

**PRISM Project**

The Irish Red Cross is a participant in the PRISM (Promoting Reconciliation & Integration through Safe Mediation) project together with the British Red Cross (BRC), ArtsEkta and Corrymeela. The IRC is facilitating research and sharing of best practice and knowledge of how the Irish Government's Migrant Integration Strategy has impacted on their work and will identify key topics to be considered in Northern Ireland. There is currently no migration strategy in Northern Ireland and it is envisaged that the research can inform, shape or validate future policies there. The main goals of the project are:

- To reduce negative perceptions of the Catholic and Protestant cultures and increase the knowledge of ethnic communities
- To develop sustainable pathways for Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Vulnerable Migrants and Catholics and Protestants to integrate within their local communities
- To evolve new contact approaches to meet the needs of the changed demographics within N.I. and the shifting patterns of identity and culture through increased migration

The project research findings will be presented at a conference in Newry next October.

**FEAd Project**

The Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived has enabled the sourcing, procurement, coordination and distribution of Basic Material Assistance including dignity kits and household starter kits to migrants at vital stages. On entering the country, refugees have no source of income and rely on the State to provide emergency accommodation. The aim of the FEAD Project is to meet the basic needs of these people at arrival points into Ireland and to support their welcome and transition into independent living. In 2019 there were 826 dignity kits and 73 household kits provided by the IRC.



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The awards recognise those who have had a humanitarian impact on the lives of others through volunteering, skill sharing, storytelling or fundraising, and highlight the efforts of those who have given a voice to humanitarian issues.

The Irish Red Cross Humanitarian Awards Ball honours humanitarian achievements while raising much-needed funds for vulnerable people in Ireland and overseas. The black-tie fundraiser took place on November 16th in the Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin.

The awards recognise those who have had a humanitarian impact on the lives of others through volunteering, skill sharing, storytelling or fundraising, and highlight the efforts of those who have given a voice to humanitarian issues.

**Award Categories**

- Humanitarian of the Year Award
- Young Humanitarian Award
- Journalism Excellence Award
- Innovation for Change Award
- Corporate Impact Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award

The competition for these awards was intense. Entries were judged on:

- How the nominees made an outstanding contribution to humanitarian work.
- How many people were reached, impacted, influenced, or educated by this work.
- How much of a lasting impact the nominees are making on the lives of others.
- How the nominees and their stories are inspiring others to make change.
- How compellingly the nomination is presented.

**Humanitarian of the Year**

This award is the highest honour bestowed by the IRC on an individual for exceptional humanitarian achievement. The winner will not only have demonstrated extraordinary leadership but will have made a positive difference in the lives of others. They will also have inspired others to make societal change a reality.

**Winner**—Gena Heraty

Gena Heraty arrived in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in 1993 and continues to challenge prejudice against people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Gena is the Coordinator of the Special Needs programme with Nos Petits Frères et Soeurs (NPFS), a home for orphaned and abandoned children. Gena’s team has developed an outreach programme which provides education for over 100 children with neurological disorders while approximately 80 patients a day receive physical therapy treatments. Gena is the co-founder of the Kay Christine home for children with special needs at NPFS, which has created services to ensure children with special needs are not abandoned. Conditions are always challenging; in 2013 the orphanage was attacked in an attempted robbery during which one of Gena’s colleagues was bludgeoned to death.

**Finalists**—Sister Stanislaus Kennedy, Vivien Lusted



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**Young Humanitarian Award**

This award recognises the extraordinary contribution of a young person or group of people who dedicate their extracurricular hours to being a visionary young leader for humanitarian causes.

**Winner**—Donal Walsh: #Livelife Foundation

Brendan O'Connor interviewed Donal Walsh on The Saturday Night Show in 2013. His twenty minute interview touched the nation's heart. While Donal battled cancer he became very aware of the effect his illness was having on his family and friends. Donal's experience of fighting to live spurred him on to publicly address an issue which he was in a unique position to comment on: teenage suicide.

The #LiveLife Foundation was set up after Donal died, to promote his anti-suicide message and to fundraise. Donal found there were not enough facilities in hospices, in terms of teenage mental health and faith, both of which were a big part of Donal's life. Donal's Foundation has now raised and distributed €500,000 to help develop these facilities. Donal also worked tirelessly and raised €65,000 for the children's hospital in Crumlin within his own lifetime.

**Finalists**—TCD Plastic Solutions, Jessie Dolliver.

**Journalist of the Year Award**

Honest, fearless and impartial journalism is a cornerstone of Humanitarianism. This award recognises an individual's outstanding contribution to humanitarian storytelling in the media.

**Winner**—Sally Hayden

Sally Hayden is a journalist and photographer who focuses on conflict, migration, and humanitarian crises. She has reported across Europe, the Middle-East, and Africa for outlets including the BBC, The Irish Times, TIME, CNN, Al Jazeera, and The New York Times. Sally's investigation into the arrest and torture of refugees returning to regime-held parts

of Syria won first prize in the 2018 European Migration Media Awards. Her investigation into corruption in the UN Refugee Agency in Sudan led to a staff member being found guilty of abuse of power and soliciting bribes. For over a year, Sally has been in daily contact with refugees in Libyan detention centres, who use hidden phones to send evidence of human rights abuses.

**Finalists**—Ian Begley: Irish Independent Journalist, SORCHA POLLAK: Irish Times Journalist

**Innovation for Change Award**

Change and innovation are the only constants in society. This is nowhere truer than in the field of humanitarian endeavour. This category recognises the achievements of an individual or team who have had a humanitarian impact on society through innovation. The winner of this award will have recognised a humanitarian issue, implemented a solution and have consequently made a positive impact on society.

**Winner**—Austin Campbell: My Streets Ireland

Austin Campbell is founder of My Streets Ireland, which trains people who are homeless to become walking tour guides in their own cities. My Streets runs three-month training courses focused on confidence and presentation skills, creative writing, research and tour guiding, and offers graduates the opportunity to become paid tour guides. All of the My Streets Ireland guides have experienced or are experiencing homelessness and they understand the streets that run through our towns and cities better than anyone else. The aim of the programme is to help the guides to educate the public about their lives and to foster empathy. My Streets Ireland has attracted 12,000 customers to date. Austin is also director of Robert Emmet CDP, a community development project in south west inner city Dublin.

**Finalists**—Maggie Clune: Mugshot, Colin Keogh & Shane Keaveney: The Rapid Foundation.

**Corporate Impact Award**

Companies and corporate organisations can and do make a tremendous contribution to advancing the humanitarian cause. Not only does this benefit others but it also adds to the organisation's sense of purpose, employee engagement and overall place in the community. This award recognises an organisation's exemplary contribution to humanitarian causes through employee volunteering, skill sharing and fundraising.

**Winner**—Aldi

Aldi was named winner in the Corporate Impact category. Aldi has been introducing and implementing initiatives to tackle climate change step by step over the past number of years. Every Aldi store in the UK and Ireland now has an Energy Management System, using energy-saving technology and employee awareness to help achieve the most efficient energy consumption possible.

Another example of their work in this area is reducing fuel consumption through fuel-efficient tyres and investment in fuel management systems, while LED lighting saves on carbon. Aldi has upgraded fridges, freezers, and other appliances with environmentally-friendly equipment.

Aldi is also offsetting its remaining carbon footprint via carbon offset projects in Peru, India, Vietnam, and Ghana.

**Finalists**—Fujitsu, Qualtrics, Version 1, Marks & Spencer

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

John Lonnergan, 'The Governer', received a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his work in Irish prisons over a career of 42 years. IRC Chair, Pat Carey, said, "John Lonergan brought humanity into the prison system and had a profound effect on Irish society in terms of its understanding of who was in prison and why."

John was among the first people to focus public attention on the origins of modern criminality in Ireland and the connections between criminality and socio-economic strata, educational opportunities and geography. While he was Governor of Mountjoy, John advised the public and government that three quarters of Dublin based inmates were from six small communities, showing categorically the connection between poverty and criminality.

His approach to managing prisons was one of rehabilitation rather than just incarceration, encouraging education, training and self-esteem building exercises. John opened Mountjoy to outside contacts in the forms of career development, sport, music and theatre. Among these strides forward to address the mental health and emotional wellbeing of inmates, John was involved with the introduction of the Irish Red Cross' Community Based Health and First Aid programme in Irish prisons in 2009. This programme was transformative for the Irish Prison Service as it focuses on health, first aid and non-violence.

Along with prize-giving there were guest speakers, an auction, food and drink, music, and dancing. The night was a resounding success and enjoyed by all.



With the housing market as it is, and growing concerns for the younger generations’ ability to get onto the property ladder, parents converting garages and outhouses into independent living spaces seems to be a growing trend. When they move out, what happens to the converted living quarters later on? This is a question which was faced by Susan and Jim in their Wexford home. Their answer is an inspiring one and their story is shared here following an interview given to the Irish Red Cross last November.

“I did offer it to the Irish homeless agencies. They came back to me and said, ‘It’s a long way from Dublin’,” Susan told us. This disheartening lack of interest would not dissuade the couple. Refusing to give up on this living space being used for its intended purpose, and not wanting to let it become simply another storage area, they pressed on and remembered that there was an appeal, connected with the Irish Red Cross, to assist refugees from Syria. Susan made contact with the Irish Red Cross migration team and pledged the converted garage at the end of 2016.

The Irish Red Cross migration team was set up to make use of public generosity in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. The team continues to accept offers of accommodation, goods and services. They achieved their first placement of a refugee into pledged accommodation in March 2017, but it wasn’t until mid-July that shared and semi-shared pledges began to be utilised. It was necessary to pilot this scheme on a small scale to assess its viability before approaching a nationwide policy. So it wasn’t until September of that year that the team were able to assess Susan’s property for suitability. Then the process of matching a client to it began.

Susan recalls, “It took a long time to match us with somebody. I’d be sitting in my sun room, crocheting, looking out across the garden dreaming of seeing the light on and having somebody there. I never thought we’d get somebody like Muhannad.”

Susan’s offer was matched with Muhannad that December and, days later, they met for the first time. “We were so excited—apprehensive, but excited—just to meet him. We had lunch here and a chat and then the big wait for when he would come back. I was longing for him to be here for Christmas.” Unfortunately, unforeseen delays prevented this from happening which Susan acknowledges as having left her, “a bit deflated about that, but that was fine.” Muhannad had been living in the Emergency Reception and Orientation Centre in Ballaghaderreen, County Roscommon since April 2017. An Irish Red Cross vehicle brought Muhannad from Roscommon to his new home in Wexford on January 11th 2018. Susan recalls, “I think it was a Thursday, and he came with a big entourage; two ambulance drivers, a translator, the housing officer, and his caseworker. We had lunch for all of them, just sitting around chatting. I just wanted everyone else to go because I just wanted to get to know him, and I knew he was nervous too. There was so much officialdom which had to be gotten through and forms to be filled out.”

Once that was all complete and everyone else had left, Susan, Jim, and Muhannad were able to relax and get to know each other properly. After giving Muhannad his keys, Susan and Jim went about trying to make Muhannad feel at home, “Just little things, we put up a mailbox with his name on it, just so he’d have a sense of ownership of this place. Damascus is known as the City of Jasmine and so we named it ‘Jasmine Cottage’. I wrote it in English on the stone over the door and then he wrote it in Arabic on a stone which I have here. We planted some jasmine outside and it’s

still growing.” These little gestures helped him feel welcome and reminded him of some of the more pleasant memories of home.

The timeline once he moved in was marked by Susan—at first weekly, then monthly—thinking, “It’s Thursday. He’s been with us two weeks, three, then before we knew it two months, three, six, until I stopped counting because it didn’t matter after that because he was just...here.”

The newness of the experience and the initial apprehension was twofold for Susan and Jim. They were concerned about how they would manage, if they would be out of their depth, but the other aspect was concern for Muhannad; would he feel happy, would he feel safe and comfortable, would he make progress and flourish? The expectations of pledgers like Susan and Jim of how the placement of a refugee will work out is extremely varied and often at variance with the realities which they face once their guest has arrived. Experience is the only way to assess whether these expectations are met, fallen short of, or exceeded.

“He’s very noble and he doesn’t like to burden us,” Susan explains about Muhannad’s communication with her and Jim. “He’s the same with his parents if he has problems. He’ll say, ‘I don’t want to burden them.’ or, ‘I don’t want to trouble them.’ So sometimes we have to coax him to come in and open up if we know something is going on that he is reluctant to speak about. As time has gone on we’ve gotten better at reading the signals. We just invite him in for a coffee or a bite to eat and bit by bit he’ll open up.

“We’ve had highs and lows. He has a big thing about trust and he’s very conscious of his refugee status. **The fact that we trust him to be here, that he can come and go as he likes is a big thing to him.** There was never a question. He didn’t have to earn it, he just had it.” Susan tells us of the progress Muhannad is making—driving lessons, a course in tourism and event management, two jobs that he is working simultaneously in a hotel and in a restaurant. Her pride in his determination to succeed is overwhelming. “I suppose, as a mother, I keep thinking of his mother and if she could speak to me she’d be willing me to go the extra mile. She’d say ‘Please don’t give up on him. Please try harder.’ So I feel I’m her hands. I’m her presence in his life and I can’t let her down.

“The first day he came, he said, ‘How long can I stay here?’ And I said, ‘As long as you need to, Muhannad.’ I know now that wherever he’ll be, he will always have a place here. He might move on and someone else might be in that place, but he will always have a key to our house and he will always be part of our lives.”

One of the terrible aspects of becoming a refugee is that your life is put on hold and you may never get parts of it back, no matter how much you try. Like so many others, Muhannad still has family in Syria and there is always the worry for their safety, that he may never see them again. Susan describes him watching his nephews growing up nearly three thousand miles away and the pitiful reality that he can’t be with them.

In spite of all he has been through and all he has left behind, Muhannad is proud of his home. “He delights in talking about Syria—the real Syria—not the war, not pre-war, not looking for post-war Syria, he wouldn’t get all political—but he’d talk about the Syria he loves.”

He is also proud of his new home. “He doesn’t like to think of himself as a refugee because it conjures up feelings of not belonging and being in transit. He will always have a place with us.”

Muhannad and Jim attended the Irish Red Cross Humanitarian Awards Ball a few days after Susan gave this interview. Muhannad shared his harrowing experience of journeying from Damascus to refugee camps in Greece, his joy at receiving the news that he would be relocated to Ireland, homesickness, and his hopes for his future.

“I have two families; my Syrian family and my Irish family,” Muhannad says. “Today, as a Syrian, we owe Ireland. We owe our lives. I don’t know what I can say. Saying thank you is not enough, but thank you so much.”

The Irish Red Cross’ involvement in aiding Syrian refugees continues. This is one snapshot example of the many lives changed by the good will of the Irish public and the hard work of the Society.

# Restoring Family Links Overview

In 2019, the demand for Restoring Family Links (RFL) services was high. There was a surge in queries from individuals and agencies looking for assistance with a variety of issues at domestic level and on an international front. In the latter half of 2018 the number of staff working in the RFL unit was halved. This had a devastating impact on how services were offered to our service users.

There was an increase in our family reunification travel assistance programme following the Irish authorities' introduction of the IHAP (Irish Humanitarian Admissions Programme) by the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) at the Department of Justice and Equality. The Irish Red Cross Migration Team works in facilitating the placement of refugees into transitional, medium, and long term accommodation throughout Ireland, thus helping the Department of Justice and Equality to fulfil its EU commitment by supporting resettlement and integration activities of Refugees and Asylum Seekers under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme.

The RFL Desk also works with this cohort of people through IRPP and people who had received family reunification permission through IHAP to bring their family to Ireland through our travel assistance programme. Travel assistance work is quite logistical and time-consuming and takes precedence over other work as it involves the movement of individuals from one country to another in extremely time-sensitive circumstances. The demanding nature of this work has led to an increased backlog of requests and a substantial delay in providing RFL to service users, particularly on our tracing and other core RFL services.

The RFL Desk continued to have contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegations offices worldwide as well as with its sister National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 2019. It also worked closely with ICRC's Mission office in London on case files and with discussions on capacity building. At home, the RFL desk continued to engage with service users providing much sought after services like tracing, requests for ICRC Emergency Travel Documents and Red Cross Messages, but to a lesser degree than in the previous years.

## Statistics

In 2019, the Restoring Family Links unit created case files for 182 persons, 85 of which were enquirers and 97 of which were beneficiaries. Of the 97 beneficiaries created in 2019, 34 of them remain active in the 2020 caseload.

## Tracing

14 tracing cases opened in 2019. All 14 were initiated by Irish Red Cross with our fellow Red Cross and Red Crescent or ICRC delegations colleagues.

45 tracing cases were closed in 2019. This involved two incoming cases from other Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or ICRC delegations which were not located.

There were 43 outgoing cases initiated by Irish Red Cross with other Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or ICRC delegations out of which 14 were located, 13 not located, one enquirer contacted and 15 cases were cancelled.

## Red Cross Messages

The number of Red Cross Messages handled by the RFL unit in 2019 was eight; six of which were incoming messages and two outgoing message replies. Red Cross Messages are used when other means of communication are not possible e.g. when people are deprived of their freedom or where telecommunications no longer work.

## Attestation of Detention (AOD) & Travel Documents

The RFL unit handled 18 requests for travel documents in 2019. There were no AOD cases in 2019.

## Family Reunification Travel Assistance

The RFL unit opened 69 cases in 2019 involving 238 beneficiaries. Of the 69 cases, 26 were completed and saw families arrive to Ireland, one case was cancelled and 36 cases self-paid. The remaining six cases remained open and transferred to the 2020 caseload.

The top three nationalities of those initiating travel assistance cases were Syria (39), Afghanistan (10), Zimbabwe (5)



Roshan Sadik is a 19-year-old refugee living in Ireland. In September 2017 he made the tough decision to leave his country and separate from his family in order to seek protection. This is his story...

I was living with my parents and siblings in North Macedonia. We had a happy normal existence, like any family would. My siblings and I attended school, my mother worked as a solicitor and my father was a police officer responsible for border security. We had no worries and were really happy together. An incident that happened to my father at work in June 2016 changed everything for me and my family and turned our existence upside down. On the day in question my father was at work as normal. He was approached by a criminal gang who wanted to pass through the border crossing into our country with their truck full of goods without paying tax. They threatened my father that if he did not allow them to pass, he would be hurt. Scared for his wellbeing, he allowed the truck through, but it crashed soon after it entered our country. The police were called, and they confiscated the goods and arrested my father. For a year, my father was on house arrest and had to sit multiple trials while receiving constant threats from these criminals. If he informed on them, they would not only harm him, but his wife and children too. It was very difficult for us and changed our life as my father was so frightened for the safety of himself and our family.

In June 2017 things took a turn for the worse. I was coming home from school one day, and I was attacked by two men who were part of the criminal gang who threatened my father. They said that I should tell my father that if he spoke to the police that it would be me that would face the consequences. When I told my parents what had happened, they were very frightened for my safety. **My father wanted to keep us all together but, when I was attacked, he knew that he had to do more to protect us.** My parents discussed the matter and made the difficult decision that it would be best for the family if we all separated outside our country. As I had been threatened, my father arranged for me to be taken to my uncle's house in the west until they could find someone who could smuggle me out.

It took a whole month to make the arrangements, and during this time I couldn't see any of my family and was totally isolated. Before I left my uncle's house, he told me not to worry about anything. He said that I would be taken to a new country by the smuggler and that I should just take care of myself and seek protection in the arriving country. He said that arrangements had been made for my parents and siblings to leave our country too and they had already fled but I was sad as I didn't know exactly where they had gone.

I arrived in Dublin with the smuggler in September 2017 and was directed to go the International Protection Office to seek asylum. I was put in the care of TUSLA and assigned a Social Worker. While I was in the asylum process, I didn't know if my family were safe, alive or dead and I worried about them all the time. My social worker suggested that I contact the Red Cross and begin a tracing request for my family's whereabouts. I went to their office with my Social Worker and filled in a tracing form with the lady there and they were really helpful. In 2019 I finally found my family and was so relieved that they were all alive and safe. My mother and siblings had been living in Serbia for two years. While they were there the Red Cross helped them tremendously with food supplies. My father fled to Turkey, which was a country he knew as he had finished college there and spoke the language fluently, so it wasn't too hard for him to survive there on his own.

When I was declared a refugee in Ireland my father left Turkey and went to Serbia to be with my mother and siblings. I was still under 18 years of age when I applied for family reunification for my parents and siblings to join me in Ireland. I was delighted and excited at the thought of being back together with my family when I received the permission from the Irish authorities to bring them. I soon realised that I had another problem as I couldn't afford to pay for their travel from Serbia to Ireland. Again, I contacted the Irish Red Cross to ask them what I could do. They told me about their wonderful Travel Assistance Programme and said that I qualified for assistance with paying for the travel tickets. They also said that my family could get help in departure and on arrival in Ireland with immigration officials at the airport. This gave me great peace of mind.

In September 2019 my family arrived in Ireland. On the morning of their arrival I waited anxiously for them at Dublin Airport. When they came through to the arrival hall, I could not believe how much my little siblings had grown during the time we were apart. I remember how good it felt to hug my family and finally be together again. It is so hard to explain how it feels to be separated from your family but all I can say for sure was the day they arrived in Ireland was the best day of my life. I will always be grateful to the Irish Red Cross, their amazing staff and the Travel Assistance Programme.



My father wanted to keep us all together but, when I was attacked, he knew that he had to do more to protect us.

7 Red Cross mobile teams reached 19,000 people through its outreach activities.

More than 192,000 cyclone-affected people have received emergency relief assistance following cyclones Idai & Kenneth.

An estimated 3,050 females now benefit from improved quality maternal health care.

27 hospitals near front lines received medicines, supplies and equipment on a regular basis.

This year there have been 217 confirmed and 31 suspected cases of cholera. We have reached 132,000 people with hygiene promotion messages.

8 Health screening camps conducted in Nepal with 143 people provided with essential assistive devices.



Administrative information

The Movement

Partners

Consolidated Financial Statements

# Financials

# Administrative Information

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Name:** Pat Carey  
**Role:** Chairman  
**Term:** Ends 2021 (2nd Term)  
**2019 attendance:** 10/10 (c)

**Name:** Olivia Mitchell  
**Role:** Vice Chairperson  
**Term:** Ends 2021 (1st Term)  
**2019 attendance:** 7/10 (c)

**Name:** Sheila Callan  
**Role:** Treasurer  
**Term:** Ends 2021 (2nd Term)  
**2019 attendance:** 10/10 (c)

**Name:** Barry O'Donovan  
**Role:** Secretary  
**Term:** Ends 2021 (3rd Term)  
**2019 attendance:** 8/10 (c)

**Name:** Cepta Dowling  
**Role:** Board Member  
**Term:** Ends 2021 (2nd Term)  
**2019 attendance:** 8/10 (c)

**Name:** Kieran Meehan  
**Role:** Board Member  
**Term:** Ends 2019 (2nd Term)  
Retired May 2019  
**2019 attendance:** 2/3

**Name:** Conor Molloy  
**Role:** Board Member  
**Term:** Ends 2021 (1st Term)  
Resigned in April 2019  
**2019 attendance:** 1/3

**Name:** Brian Byrne  
**Role:** Board Member  
**Term:** Ends 2022 (2nd Term)  
**2019 attendance:** 8/10 (c)

**Name:** Julie O'Brien  
**Role:** Board Member  
**Term:** Ends 2022 (2nd Term)  
**2019 attendance:** 7/10 (c)

**Name:** Ted Noonan  
**Role:** Board Member  
**Term:** Ends 2020 (1st Term)  
**2019 attendance:** 7/10 (c)

**Name:** Mareike Eccleston  
**Role:** Board Member  
**Term:** Ends 2020 (1st Term)  
Resigned January 2020  
**2019 attendance:** 4/10

**Name:** Dr Muiris O'Ceidigh  
**Role:** Board Member  
**Term:** Ends 2021 (1st Term)  
Resigned January 2020  
**2019 attendance:** 8/10

**Name:** Claire Rushe  
**Role:** Board Member  
**Term:** Ends 2021 (1st Term)  
**2019 attendance:** 8/10 (c)

**Name:** Rosemarie Hayden  
**Role:** Board Member  
**Term:** Ends 2022 (1st Term)  
**2019 attendance:** 6/10 (c)

**Name:** Donal Lawlor  
**Role:** Board Member  
**Term:** Ends 2021 (1st Term)  
Term began November 2019 (c)

**Name:** Sunil Kurup Krishnankutty  
**Role:** Board Member  
**Term:** Ends 2022 (1st Term)  
Term began November 2019 (c)



(c) = Current Board members at July 2020.

As the 2020 AGM and elections had to be deferred due to public health guidance on restrictions, caused by the COVID19 pandemic, 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.

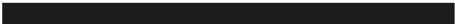
## GOVERNING DOCUMENT

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 2019:

- Amnesty International Ireland
- AVAIL
- BDO
- Belgian Red Cross
- British Red Cross
- Build-A-Bear
- Canon
- 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
- Dóchas
- Dublin City Council
- Dublin LGBTQ PRIDE
- Dublin Regional Homeless Executive
- e-Frontiers
- Electric Aid
- Facebook
- FEAD Ireland
- Fleming Medical
- Foróige
- Gaisce
- Health Service Executive
- HIV Ireland
- 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 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
- LinkedIn
- Lottoland
- Mazars
- Merchants Quay Ireland
- Nasc Ireland
- National Lottery
- National Vetting Bureau
- National Youth Council of Ireland
- Nepal Red Cross
- Netherlands Red Cross
- Niger Red Cross
- Palestine Red Crescent Society
- PERCO—Peace IV—Promotion of Reconciliation & Integration Through Safe Mediation
- Pobal
- Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland
- Queen’s University Belfast
- Royal College of Surgeons Ireland
- Reception and Integration Agency
- Road Safety Authority
- Swiss Embassy
- St Stephen’s Green Trust—Travellers in Prison Initiative
- The Charities Regulator
- The Probation Service
- The Wheel
- Three Ireland
- Turkish Airlines
- Tusla—Child and Family Agency
- UNHCR—The UN Refugee Agency
- United Nations Youth Delegates
- University College Cork
- Vodafone
- 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 Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world’s largest volunteer-based humanitarian network, reaching 150 million people each year through its 190 member National Societies. Together, the IFRC acts before, during and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people. It does so with impartiality as to nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class and political opinions.

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



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

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



Statement  
of Financial  
Activities

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2019 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2019 €'000	Total 2019 €'000	Total 2018 €'000	
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations & legacies	3 (a)	1,856	3,749	5,605	5,270	
Charitable Activities	3 (b)	28	1,072	1,100	995	
Other trading Activities	3 (c)	–	613	613	684	
Investments	3 (d)	–	8	8	14	
Other	3 (e)	–	138	138	127	
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		3	1,884	5,580	7,464	7,090
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds	4	6	1,723	1,729	2,107	
Charitable Activities	5	1,871	3,369	5,240	5,307	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			1,877	5,092	6,969	7,414
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR						
	15	7	488	495	(324)	
Transfer between funds	14	(148)	148	–	–	
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			(141)	636	495	(324)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:						
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		14	1,029	7,571	8,600	8,924
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD			888	8,207	9,095	8,600

- 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 July 2020.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Pat Carey  
Chairperson



Sheila Callan  
Treasurer

Statement  
of Financial  
Position

AS AT  
31 DECEMBER 2019


	Notes	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	7	5,980	5,529
		5,980	5,529
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stocks	8	113	129
Receivables	9	493	374
Cash and cash equivalents	10	3,396	3,413
		4,002	3,916
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Payables	11	(653)	(617)
		3,349	3,299
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
		9,329	8,828
<b>Total Assets less current liabilities</b>			
Payables: (Amounts falling due in more than one year)	12	(234)	(228)
		9,095	8,600
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>			
<b>Funds:</b>			
Represented by			
Restricted funds	14	888	1,029
Unrestricted funds	14	6,146	5,378
Designated funds	14	2,061	2,193
		9,095	8,600
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			
		9,095	8,600

- The financial statements were reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors on 25th July 2020.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Pat Carey  
Chairperson



Sheila Callan  
Treasurer

Cash Flow Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>		<b>1,165</b>	<b>185</b>
Return on investments:			
Deposit interest income	3 (d)	1	1
Capital expenditure and related grants:			
Payment to acquire fixed assets	7	(1,230)	(923)
Receipts from sale of fixed assets		28	266
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities</b>			
Loans received in year		141	235
Loans (repaid) in year		(122)	(62)
<b>DECREASE IN CASH</b>		<b>(17)</b>	<b>(307)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW</b>			
Decrease in cash		(17)	(307)
Bank balances at beginning of year		3,413	3,720
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	10	<b>3,396</b>	<b>3,413</b>

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

	Notes	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources</b>		<b>495</b>	<b>(324)</b>
Depreciation	7	603	576
Deposit interest income	3 (d)	(1)	(1)
Decrease in stocks		16	46
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables		(119)	235
Increase/(Decrease) in payables		23	(325)
Loss/(Profit) on disposal of fixed assets		148	(22)
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>		<b>1,165</b>	<b>185</b>

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

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 2019 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 Balance  
Fixtures, fittings & equipment—10% Straight Balance  
Computer equipment—20% Straight Balance

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

**1 (e) Investments**

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

**1 (f) Receivables**

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

**1 (g) Operating Leases: 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 that relate to courses due to take place in 2020.

**1 (m) Financial Instruments**

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

**1 (n) Holiday Pay Accrual**

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

**1 (o) Pensions**

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

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

**1 (p) Taxation**

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

**1 (q) Value Added Tax**

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

**1 (r) Provisions**

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

**1 (s) Reserves Policy**

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

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

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

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

3 Income and Endowments from

	Notes	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds		
		2019	2019	2019	2018
		€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Donations & legacies	3 (a)	1,856	3,749	5,605	5,270
Charitable Activities	3 (b)	28	1,072	1,100	995
Other trading Activities	3 (c)	–	613	613	684
Investments	3 (d)	–	8	8	14
All other sources of income	3 (e)	–	138	138	127
<b>Total</b>		1,884	5,580	7,464	7,090

3 (a) Donations and Legacies

	Notes	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds		
		2019	2019	2019	2018
		€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Regular Giving		3	838	841	869
Public Appeals and Events		279	905	1,184	1,332
Tax Efficient Giving		–	134	134	128
Legacies		1	349	350	186
Donations in Kind		8	540	548	50
Corporates, Major Donors and Trusts		37	161	198	434
Grant Income	3 (a) (i)	1,528	822	2,350	2,271
<b>Total</b>		1,856	3,749	5,605	5,270

3 (a) (i) Grant Income

Unrestricted Grant Income		Total	Total
		2019	2018
Granting Authority		€'000	€'000
Department of Defence	Contribution to the Admin costs of Head Office	802	770
	Administration of Emergency Humanitarian Scheme	–	69
Health Service Executive	Various Projects	14	6
County Councils	Various Projects	–	11
Education and Training Boards	Various Projects	5	4
Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation	Contribution to Admin costs for Storm Lorenzo	1	–
<b>Total unrestricted grant income</b>		822	860

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

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

Restricted Grant Income	Granting Authority	Total	Total
		2019	2018
		€'000	€'000
Department of Defence	Grant for ICRC funding.	130	130
Department of Justice & Equality	Administration of the IRPP.	934	1,012
Department of Environment	Community Based Health and First Aid	200	200
	Programme development and maintenance in the Irish Prison Services.		
Department of Rural & Community Development	Funding for replacement ambulances.	150	–
	CLAR.	20	–
County Council	Youth Service Grants.	–	2
	Communities Grant.	–	1
	To provide winter mountain rescue training.	–	5
	Provide training on SAGE system.	–	1
	Various projects.	24	–
Education and Training Board	Equipment Grant.	–	1
	Youth Grant.	–	3
Health Service Executive	Community Grants—care for the aged.	–	2
	Chiropody Grant.	1	1
	Storm Grants.	–	5
	IRC Mallow.	18	–
Department of Health National Lottery	To support senior citizens activities.	–	4
Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport	Coastal Inshore Mountain and Cave Grant.	38	20
SSE Airticity	Eight life jackets and four GPS systems.	–	5
	Insulation for the building in Doon Co. Limerick.	6	–
Glaxo Smithkline “Making a difference scheme”	Youth Grant.	–	1
Department of Rural & Community Development	Mountain Rescue.	–	13
Sanofi Genzyme (Ireland) LTD	Funding for shelter/emergency tent.	6	5
Mayo House Moneen	Corrib Search and Rescue.	1	–
<b>Total Restricted Grant Income</b>		1,528	1,411
<b>Total Grant Funding</b>		2,350	2,271

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

3 (b) Charitable Activities

Charitable activities	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds		
	2019	2019	2019	2018
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Training	1	102	103	112
Membership fees	–	19	19	20
Ambulance duties	–	851	851	783
Community support services	2	25	27	39
Sundry	25	75	100	41
Total	28	1,072	1,100	995

– Restricted sundry income relates to money received to fund the IRPP Avail programme.

3 (c) Other Trading Activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds		
	2019	2019	2019	2018
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Products and Manuals	–	8	8	2
Medical and First Aid Services	–	95	95	98
Retail	–	13	13	66
Training	–	497	497	518
Total	–	613	613	684

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

3 (d) Investments

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds		
	2019	2019	2019	2018
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Bank Interest	–	1	1	1
Rental Income	–	7	7	13
Total	–	8	8	14

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

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

3 (e) All Other Sources of Income

All other sources of income	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds		
	2019	2019	2019	2018
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Royalties income	–	138	138	105
Profit on Disposal	–	–	–	22
Total	–	138	138	127

– 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	Support Costs	Total	Total
	2019	2019	2019	2018
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Voluntary income	647	208	855	1,214
Trading activities	661	213	874	893
Total	1,308	421	1,729	2,107

5 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Notes	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total	Total
		2019	2019	2019	2018
		€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Emergency response and recovery	5 (a)	1,491	480	1,971	1,684
Resilience	5 (b)	1,957	630	2,587	3,055
Health and Social Care		404	130	534	568
Other — Loss on Disposal		148	–	148	–
Total		4,000	1,240	5,240	5,307

5 (a) Emergency Response and Recovery

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total	Total
	2019	2019	2019	2018
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Ireland: Floods	1	–	1	129
Refugee Resettlement	1,166	376	1,542	1,324
International Project Expenditure	324	104	428	231
Total	1,491	480	1,971	1,684

5 (b) Resilience

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total	Total
	2019	2019	2019	2018
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Ireland				
Training	401	129	530	542
Membership & volunteer development	142	46	188	209
Youth programmes	114	37	151	127
Unit management	505	162	667	536
Branch operational costs	795	256	1,051	1,418
International				
Niger	–	–	–	223
Total	1,957	630	2,587	3,055

5 (c) Governance Costs

Governance costs included in support costs above include the following:	Total	Total
	2019	2018
	€'000	€'000
External audit	62	74
Internal audit	–	42
Subscriptions to IFRC & ICRC	207	130
Staff	234	208
Other governance costs	116	126
Total	619	580

5 (d) Support Costs

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

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

6 Employees and Staff Costs

Number of employees	2019 No.	2018 No.
Fundraising	7	7
Finance	11	10
Services & Commercial	36	33
International services	2	2
Governance	2	2
Utilities	1	1
Communications	2	2
International delegates	1	2
Committed giver	2	2
Newbridge shop	1	2
Migration department	11	11
Fundraising door to door (casual)	2	6
Total	78	80

6 (a) Total staff costs	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Wages & salaries	2,351	2,620
Redundancy	–	24
Social welfare costs	231	256
Pension costs	101	105
Total	2,683	3,005

6 (b) Senior staff remuneration	2019 No.	2018 No.
The number of staff earning salaries over €70,000 is:		
Band: €70,000–€79,999	4	4
Band: €90,000–€99,999	1	1
Total	5	5

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

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

6 Employees and Staff Costs (Continued)

6 (c) Key Management Remuneration

Key management personnel include senior management and received remuneration of €312,000 (2018: €382,000) in the year. The cost of employer pension contributions for key management in 2019 was €26,000 (2018: €32,000).

6 (d) Staff Emoluments and Directors' Expenses

	2019 No.	2018 No.
The average number of volunteers working for the Irish Red Cross Society during the year was as follows:		
National Services	2,800	3,200
	2,800	3,200
Directors expenses:		
Expenses incurred by directors and reimbursed by the Irish Red Cross Society	6	6
Directors' indemnity insurance cover cost	5	2
Total	11	8
Number of directors receiving expenses	12	9

- 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 (2018: € NIL).

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

7 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold / Leasehold Premises & Land €'000	Ambulance Sea Rescue & Equipment €'000	Fixtures Fittings & Equipment €'000	Computer Equipment €'000	Total €'000
Cost					
At 1 January 2019	3,318	7,275	662	729	11,984
Additions	174	1,016	5	35	1,230
Disposals and write-offs	–	(503)	(60)	(2)	(565)
At 31 December 2019	3,492	7,788	607	762	12,649
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2019	753	4,540	531	631	6,455
Charge for the year	68	463	23	49	603
On disposals	–	(359)	(29)	(1)	(389)
At 31 December 2019	821	4,644	525	679	6,669
Net Book Value					
At 31 December 2019	2,671	3,144	82	83	5,980
At 31 December 2018	2,565	2,735	131	98	5,529

- 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 six 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

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Uniforms	90	75
Manuals	23	39
Other	–	15
Total	113	129

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

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

9 Receivables: (Amounts falling due within one year)

	Notes	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Trade receivables		132	118
Amounts owed by related party	18	11	22
Accrued income		–	42
Prepayments		350	192
Total		493	374

10 Cash & Cash Equivalents

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Cash at bank and on hand	3,394	3,411
Prize bonds	2	2
Total	3,396	3,413

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

11 Payables: (Amounts falling due within one year)

	Notes	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Trade payables		219	191
Accruals		263	274
Other payables		67	72
Deferred Income	11 (i)	28	17
Bank loans	13	76	63
Total		653	617

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

11 (i) Deferred Income

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Opening balance	17	78
Amounts received	512	441
Amounts released	(501)	(502)
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>

- Included within other payables is an amount for PAYE/PRSI of €55,000 (2018: €61,000).
- All deferred income as at 31 December 2019 relates to amounts received in advance of entitlement in respect of training courses.

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

	Notes	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Bank Loans	13	230	224
Other Payables		4	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>234</b>	<b>228</b>

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

13 Bank Loans

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
<b>Current</b>		
Bank Loans	76	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>63</b>

**Non-current**

Bank loans due 2–5 years	160	129
Bank loans due > 5 years	70	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>224</b>

- 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 €115,874 (2018: €132,000) at the financial year end date.
- The current APR applying to this loan is 5.65% and the term is 10 years to be repaid by the 28th June 2027.
- There is a loan secured over a first legal mortgage/charge over the leasehold interest in the property at Unit 11, Tracklands Business Park, Ennis Co Clare registered in the name of the Irish Red Cross which is carried in the Balance Sheet at €289,377 (2018:€295,000) at the financial year end date.
- The current interest rate applying to this loan is 4.81% and the term is 12 years. This loan will be repaid by the 19th April 2030.
- 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 €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.

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

14 Movement in Funds

	At start of year 2019 €'000	Incoming Resource 2019 €'000	Outgoing Resource 2019 €'000	Transfers between funds €'000	At end of year 2019 €'000
Restricted Funds	1,029	1,884	(1,877)	(148)	888
Unrestricted Funds	5,378	3,618	(3,991)	1,141	6,146
Designated Funds	2,193	1,962	(1,101)	(993)	2,061
Total	8,600	7,464	(6,969)	0	9,095

- 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.
- There was a restricted grant of €150k received for the purchase of ambulances. The ambulances are for the general use of the Society and therefore have been included as a transfer from restricted funds.
- 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 2019 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2019 €'000	Designated Funds 2019 €'000	At end of year 2019 €'000	At end of year 2018 €'000
Tangible Fixed Assets	–	5,980	–	5,980	5,529
Current Assets	896	1,045	2,061	4,002	3,916
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(8)	(645)	–	(653)	(617)
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year	–	(234)	–	(234)	(228)
Total	888	6,146	2,061	9,095	8,600

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

14 (b) Analysis of Restricted Funds

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2019 €'000	Restricted Funds 2018 €'000
Appeal –Tsunami		27	28
Bangladesh		–	3
Gaza		5	5
India		–	1
Indonesia Emergency		93	91
International Response Fund		2	–
Cyclone Idai		13	–
Migration Crisis		3	37
Myanmar		–	11
Nepal	(i)	192	272
Pakistan		3	3
Philippines		33	33
Sierra Leone		2	2
Somalia		4	4
Southern Africa		5	4
Sudan		4	4
Brazil		1	–
Syria		75	21
Yemen		57	79
Canon H&SC Fund		42	70
Carers Courses & Alarms for the Aged		5	8
Floods Fund		34	35
IRC – Irish Refugee Protection		4	50
National Humanitarian Fund		–	3
Restricted Funds in Areas & Branches	(ii)	284	265
Total		888	1,029

(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 Projects	€'000
Ambulance/Motor Vehicles	116
Ambulance Equipment	59
Health & Social Care	26
Buildings	24
Training	32
Youth	27
	284

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

15 Net Incoming / (Outgoing) resources for the year

	2019	2018
	€'000	€'000
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources for the year is stated after charging / (crediting):</b>		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	603	576
Loss / (Profit) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	148	(22)
Auditors' remuneration	62	74

- As explained in Note 6, members of the board of directors do not receive remuneration for their services as directors.
- While the Society is a charity and does not incur corporation tax, it does remit significant payroll taxes and incurs a significant cost in irrecoverable VAT.

16 Taxation

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

17 Commitments

(a) Capital Commitments

At 31 December 2019, the Society had not entered into contracts for the construction or purchase of properties (2018: €Nil).

(b) Operating Lease Commitments

At 31 December 2019 annual commitments under operating leases were as follows:

The amount payable within the next 12 months on leases expiring:	Property	Total	Total
	€'000	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Within one year	63	63	93
In two to five years	32	32	74
After five years	11	11	11
<b>Total</b>	106	106	178

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

Notes to the  
Financial  
Statements  
(continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019

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 (2018: €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 €37,164 to the Society during the year (2018: €120,633) and the salaries relate to delegates in the field. There is an amount due to the Society at year-end of €10,984 (2018: €22,000).

During the year, the Irish Red Cross Society reimbursed expenses to Director's amounting to €5,515 (2018: €6,018).

19 Post Balance Sheet events

On 31 December 2019, China alerted the World Health Organisation (WHO) to several cases of an unusual respiratory infection in Wuhan, in the central Hubei province. In February 2020, the WHO officially named this new Coronavirus 'COVID-19' and on 11 March 2020 they declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic.

The first confirmed case in Ireland was reported on 29 February 2020. The Government announced the closure of all schools and childcare facilities on 12 March 2020. Further closures to sporting events, cultural events, hospitality and retail outlets and restrictions on mass gatherings were announced as Ireland implemented the delay phase of the strategy against the virus.

The effect of this on the National Society has been the suspension of all events where Volunteers offer clinical coverage and our first aid training courses. We continue to provide some services in compliance with the advice given by the relevant authorities. The Society has also transitioned its staff to remote working where possible. Some reduction in income has been experienced in the period from 13 March 2020. We continue to work with our staff, funding agencies and suppliers while reviewing and considering the options available under any Government support schemes in particular the COVID-19 Stability Fund for Community and Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprises from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The Society reviews its current operations and financial position on an ongoing basis and we are taking the necessary steps where required to ensure we are in a position to provide our services. A review of the management accounts since year end indicates we are adequately funded.

At the date of signing these financial statements the long-term impact of the pandemic is not known. Since 18 May 2020, the Government began a phased approach to easing the imposed restrictions which in turn will involve an easing of the restrictions on our services.

Other than the possible impact of COVID-19, there have been no significant events since the financial year end.

20 Contingent Liabilities

At 31 December 2019, the Society did not have any contingent liabilities (2018: €Nil).

21 Financial Instruments

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
<hr/>		
Financial Assets		
Financial assets that are measured at amortised at cost	3,539	3,553
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,539</b>	<b>3,553</b>
<hr/>		
Financial Liabilities		
Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost	596	554
<b>Total</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>554</b>

- 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 July 2020.

