A self-portrayal of the Red Cross

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

With 191 national societies the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the largest humanitarian organisation in the world. The German Red Cross is part of this global community, having provided comprehensive aid for more than 150 years for people in conflict situations, disasters and health or social emergency situations, solely based on their level of need.

Under the banner of humanity, we campaign for life, health, welfare, protection, peaceful coexistence and the dignity of all human beings. Our idea is borne worldwide by over 100 million volunteers and members. Approximately four million members are active in Germany alone. The GRC, in its capacity as the National Red Cross Society and the umbrella organisation of the free welfare care system, is committed to the seven principles of the Red Cross:

- humanity,
- impartiality,
- neutrality,
- independence,
- the voluntary basis,
- unity and universality.

Areas of work

In its capacity as the National Society and humanitarian organisation the GRC observes extensive national tasks. These include the following:

- rescue services and first aid,
- health services, including a blood donation service,
- aid for the elderly, including care and a visiting service,
- aid for children, young people and families
- a tracing service and
- the Youth Red Cross.

The GRC is also operational worldwide in the field of humanitarian aid - both in acute emergency situations (disaster relief) and in long-term development cooperation projects. The GRC is currently working in about 50 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. The aid projects abroad are focused on:

- disaster relief and disaster reduction,
- the supply of drinking water,
- basic health,
- fighting epidemics, including HIV/AIDS and Ebola,
- fighting poverty,
- rehabilitation and reconstruction.
The federal structure of the GRC

The German Red Cross has a federal structure. It consists of the federal organisation (GRC National Headquarters) and its member societies (19 state societies and the nursing association) and their respective member societies (almost 500 branch societies, 32 nursing associations and more than 4,500 local societies).