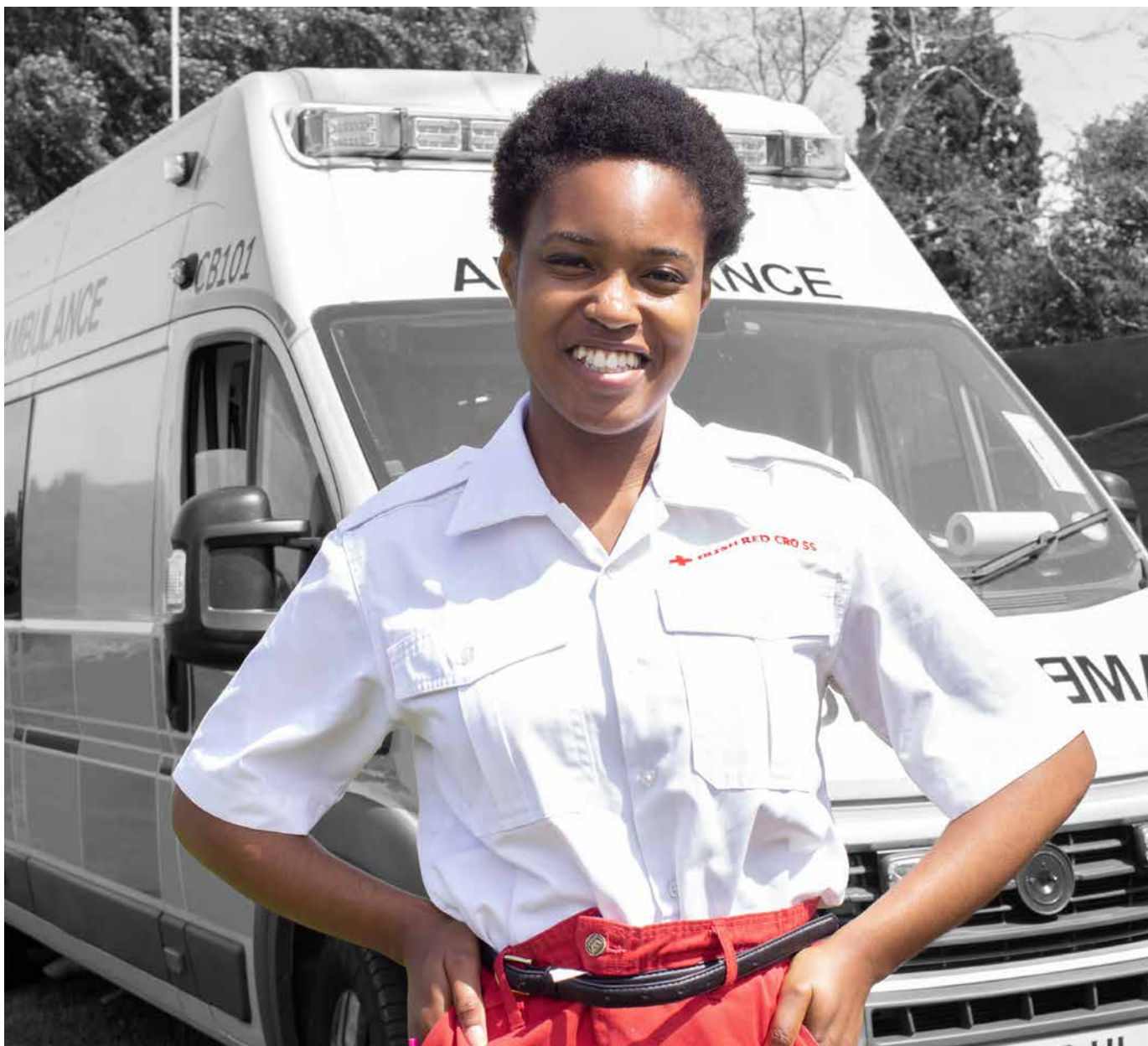


Act Today Shape Tomorrow



Crois Dhearg na hÉireann
Irish Red Cross

Annual Report 2023



ACT TODAY SHAPE TOMORROW

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On 6th February a devastating series of earthquakes hit southeast Türkiye and northern Syria, causing immense devastation and widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure.
Photo Credit: IFRC

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The Irish Red Cross at a glance

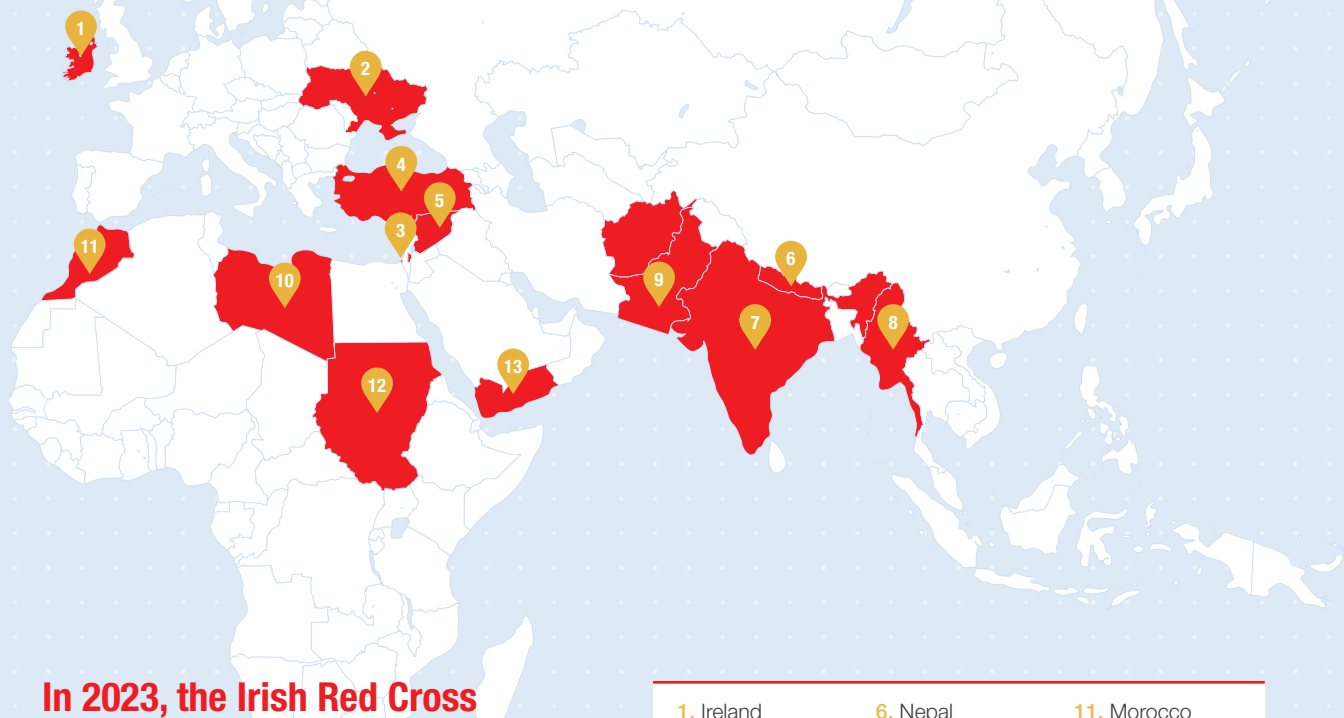
The Irish Red Cross saves lives and builds capacity and resilience within communities at home and abroad to enable them to respond effectively to emergencies and disasters.

As well as supporting the response to humanitarian crises around the world, we are involved on a daily basis in many aspects of local and regional community life through the work of more than 3,000 volunteers in 73 branches across Ireland.

Irish Red Cross has a network of 3,000 volunteers in 73 branches across Ireland.



Where we work



In 2023, the Irish Red Cross provided life-saving relief and unwavering support in 13 countries.

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Ireland | 6. Nepal | 11. Morocco |
| 2. Ukraine | 7. India | 12. Sudan |
| 3. Gaza | 8. Myanmar | 13. Yemen |
| 4. Türkiye | 9. Pakistan | |
| 5. Syria | 10. Libya | |



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.

What we do



Emergency response

Helping those who are most vulnerable to prepare for, withstand, and recover from emergencies, at home and abroad.



Restoring families

Reuniting families who have been separated by war, forced migration or other circumstances.



International programmes

Supporting recovery and longer-term development by providing specialist personnel and delegates or financial assistance in cooperation with Red Cross and Red Crescent partners.



First aid and ambulance services

Providing first aid and ambulance services at events and incidents throughout the country, including mountain and lake rescue.



International humanitarian law

Disseminating the principles of international humanitarian law to ensure respect for the laws of armed conflict.



Healthy communities

Provide community-based healthcare and mental wellbeing programmes to communities and the prison population.

In the aftermath of the flooding resulting from Storm Daniel in Libya in September 2013, the Irish Red Cross contributed €100,000 to support the response of the Libyan Red Crescent and Red Cross in providing emergency shelter, psychosocial support, healthcare, clean water and food to the affected communities.
Photo credit: Libyan Red Crescent



Community support

Supporting older people and isolated members of our community – assisting with the delivery of food and medicine and transport for hospital appointments.



Training

Delivering first aid and psychological first aid training.



Youth

Providing interactive and educational opportunities for our youth members.



Migration-related support

Supporting refugees, both locally and nationally, who are in need of access to basic public services, housing supports and health-related assistance.

**Volunteers at the Blackwater Valley
Opera Festival in Lismore 2023.**



How we work

Our values and the way that we work in the Irish Red Cross are informed by the seven fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement which we apply in the following ways:

Humanity

We act in order to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

Impartiality

We have systems in place to ensure we deliver our support based on people's needs alone and we prioritise the most vulnerable at all times.

Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, we do not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

While auxiliary in the humanitarian services of the Irish state, we resist any interference - be it political, ideological or economic - capable of diverting us from embodying the principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality.

Voluntary Service

We are a voluntary-led organisation, not prompted in any manner by desire for private gain. The principle of voluntary service represents the common motivation uniting all those working within the Irish Red Cross (both volunteers and staff), i.e. a desire to help others. It is both a source of inspiration and a statement of solidarity. Payment of costs incurred by our volunteers in fulfilling their volunteer roles and/or paying of salaries to our employees in exchange for their work is legitimate within the scope of this principle.

Unity

As the sole Red Cross and Red Crescent Society in Ireland we are open to all and we seek to carry on our humanitarian work throughout the Republic of Ireland. We do not discriminate when recruiting volunteers and staff. We ensure our membership includes a broad spectrum of people across the population so that our humanitarian assistance is delivered to all people, by all people.

Universality

We recognise and accept our responsibilities and duties as a member of the world-wide International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We support each other's development and work together in partnership and solidarity during disasters, for the benefit of all.

These values inform everything about how we work internally within the organisation and our members, staff and board. They guide our choices, decisions and priorities.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The Irish Red Cross is a part 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 in each country, of which the Irish Red Cross is one of 191 around the globe.

The ICRC, the IFRC and the 191 National Societies are independent bodies. Each has its own individual legal status and exercises no authority over the others.

All National Societies, including the Irish Red Cross 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 army medical services where appropriate.

The whole movement is made up of approximately 16 million volunteers, members and staff worldwide, making it the world's largest humanitarian network. The movement is neutral and impartial, providing protection and assistance to people affected by disasters and conflicts.

The entire movement is guided by the seven Red Cross and Red Crescent principles as noted previously.

More details about the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies can be found in our Governance section.

In mid-May, Irish Red Cross International Programme Manager, Anna Marie O'Carroll, undertook a week-long field visit to Nepal. Since 2019, together with Nepal Red Cross, the Irish Red Cross has been supporting livelihood interventions in the Myagdi district.



Strategic Focus

The organisation's strategic plan, 'Act Today, Shape Tomorrow', has shaped the Irish Red Cross between 2019 and to its completion in December 2024. The strategy's focus has been to strengthen the organisation's position as a leading humanitarian organisation, providing key services and support to vulnerable people and communities in Ireland and abroad.

This Annual Report details the progress made in 2023 under the five themes set out in the strategic plan:



Support



We want our volunteer members to have the best possible experience of being a member, so that they feel part of a positive organisation which makes a difference to people's lives and strengthens communities.

The year 2023 proved to be a transition year for the organisation as it emerged from two global crises which had proven to have a very significant impact on what we prioritised and how we worked, namely the Covid pandemic (2020 – 2022) and the war in Ukraine (2022 to date). The work of our volunteers and members was inhibited and transferred online (in as much as was possible) by the former and greatly enhanced due to the manifest needs of the refugees from Ukraine by the latter. Many of the planned enhancements to our member supports that had been detailed in our strategy inevitably had to be postponed until 2023.

During 2023, we rebuilt and expanded the staff team available to support the work of our members and volunteers. We initiated an innovative new 'Branch Engagement and Outreach' pilot programme; and we reinvigorated our first aid and training programme getting back up to pre-Covid levels of activities. All of this helped to significantly advance our members' awareness of being part of an important, highly relevant organisation.

Readiness



Our second strategic theme is that our organisation is ready and prepared to respond to situations of emergency and disaster at home and abroad and to enable the communities we work with put in place their own resilience plans. In 2023, we dealt with six emergency crises, one of which was domestic (the flooding in Midleton and other areas as a result of Storm Babet). In addition some key strategic achievements were: rebuilding our first aid training programme to pre-Covid levels by year end, including providing it to corporates and the public using a social enterprise model; doubling our capacity to work with migrants and displaced people arriving and staying in Ireland; and developing a new public affairs and communications workstream to engage communities and the public around the complexities of enforced migration.

Standards



We are in the business of saving lives and alleviating human suffering. Our third strategic theme is to ensure we have the capacity to maintain compliance with the relevant regulatory and statutory requirements via our volunteer leaders and staff.

In 2023, as we continued to respond to the largest influx of refugees Ireland has ever experienced, as well as other emergencies and needs, performing to the highest standards became more important than ever. We maintained our full compliance with the Charity Regulator's Governance Code and continued our voluntary compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for financial and activity reporting. Additionally, we conducted a full review of our compliance with the Charity Regulator's Principles for Fundraising and maintained our compliance.

Reflecting the importance of high standards of accountability, transparency and risk management to the organisation, the one-person senior management role of Head of Compliance and Legal at the start of the year expanded to a team of five by the year's end with the addition of: two new Compliance Officer roles, a new role of a dedicated Safeguarding Manager and another new role of HR Manager.

Membership



Our fourth strategic theme is to expand the Irish Red Cross membership and become a more responsive and effective organisation, geared to meet the demands and opportunities of being a volunteer and member-led organisation.

We were delighted to welcome hundreds of new members during the year, attracted by the high-profile work being done to support the humanitarian needs of refugees, communities and (through our auxiliary role to the state) the Government. We focused on building and expanding our membership, supported by the addition of two new 'Branch Outreach and Engagement Officer' roles.

Sustainability



Our fifth theme is to ensure that we have the financial, people and technology resources in place to enable us to achieve the ambitions set out in the strategy.

2023 was the second year in a row in which Irish Red Cross experienced a high public profile as a result of our work assisting Ukrainian refugees and also our work in supporting the Storm Babet flooding emergency. As a result of this elevated profile, donations continue to exceed our expectations. Our focus now is on maintaining those relationships for the future.

The hugely expanded work programme meant continued pressure and intensity in the work. During the year the organisation doubled its staff cohort to 110 which added significant bandwidth to the team. During this time it also became clear that the IRC's information and communications (ICT) systems and processes were in need of updating to keep in line with current challenges. By year's end an investment budget had been approved by the board for a significant multi-year digital transformation which will commence in 2024.

Chair and Secretary General Statement

As we reflect on the year that was, 2023 stands out as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Irish Red Cross to uphold humanitarian values in the face of adversity. In a year marked by unprecedented crises, the Irish Red Cross stood firm in its commitment to alleviate human suffering and uphold the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.



“ *The overwhelming support from the Irish public to all of our appeals underscores our unique role as the “always there” humanitarian organisation.*

Pat Carey | Chair



“ *Together, we have demonstrated the power of humanity to make a difference in the lives of millions, embodying the spirit of compassion and solidarity that defines the Irish Red Cross.*

Deirdre Garvey | Secretary General

The challenges of the year were immense, spanning conflicts, extreme weather events and global disasters, all of which exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and heightened humanitarian demands on a global scale.

As the world witnessed a surge in human suffering, with 362 million individuals requiring humanitarian assistance by year's end, the Irish Red Cross intensified its support to the Red Cross and Red Crescent network. The dire conflict in Gaza and the loss of so many civilian lives shocked the world and continues to do so. We immediately focused on delivering life-saving humanitarian aid to this emerging crisis as well as the crises in Türkiye, Syria, Morocco, Libya and Sudan and the ongoing situation in Ukraine. Through collaborative efforts with our partners, and as a result of donations from the Irish public, we aimed to mitigate vulnerabilities and enhance resilience at the community level, addressing both immediate needs and long-term challenges.

As always, the Irish public has supported the Irish Red Cross in our emergency efforts, with significant donations throughout the year. Our Gaza appeal, for example raised more than €600,000 alone in 2023. Due to challenges in getting aid delivered to those who needed it within the year, these donations will continue to support the Palestinian Red Crescent as they continue to provide critical emergency, life-saving support to the people in the Gaza Strip.

The overwhelming support from the Irish public to all of our appeals underscores our unique role as the “always there” humanitarian organisation, capable of providing rapid and practical support to those in need, both at home and abroad.

As conflict continued to wreak havoc globally, millions were displaced throughout the year. Within our mandate as an auxiliary to the Irish Government, the Irish Red Cross played a pivotal role in providing support to vulnerable groups, including refugees. Since 2015, we have facilitated the resettlement of refugees into Ireland, ensuring their safe transition and integration into Irish communities. In 2022, this work expanded to include spontaneous arrivals from Ukraine with Temporary Protection status. Our work in 2023 to support people displaced by war and conflict (primarily Ukraine but also Yemen and other places) continued to grow.



In November 2023 the Irish Red Cross international team conducted an initial scoping mission to Kyiv, Ukraine. The purpose of this visit was to discuss with the Ukrainian Red Cross and other key International Red Cross movement partners the ongoing situation and plans to support in 2024.

Throughout the year our Migration Services team delivered ongoing professional wraparound support to those fleeing war, facilitating their placement with host families in locations in every county in Ireland, and providing ongoing assistance to restore family links and aid family reunification. This involved intense casework to provide both a compassionate and professional matching service between host pledgers and beneficiaries, from primary engagement to placement and beyond, helping people transition safely and effectively into their new Irish communities. We were also proud to participate in the Safe Homes project, an EU-wide research study that examined the effectiveness and benefits of host-accommodation programmes for refugees. The research demonstrated that Ireland has the largest host-accommodation programme in the nine countries studied – and this is entirely down to the incredible generosity, compassion and welcome of thousands of Irish families and communities around the country.

Our volunteers worked tirelessly across three key strands of our volunteer-delivered work – Community Support, First Aid (Units) and Youth – delivering vital services and programmes to communities across Ireland. With more than 3,000 volunteers in 73 branches, our activities ranged from first aid and rescue services to community support, youth programmes and fundraising initiatives. We also undertook national initiatives, such as the National Volunteer Awards, Humanitarian Awards and Community-Based Health and First Aid in Prisons programme, demonstrating our commitment to serving the diverse needs of Irish society.

Throughout the year our fundraising team worked tirelessly to develop capacity to respond rapidly to global and domestic events while also focusing on strategic income acquisition. Highlights included the establishment of a community-based fundraising programme to support local fundraising efforts and enhance our organisational resilience.

The financial results for the year can be read in detail and they paint a picture that is similar to the narrative in these

pages, of an Irish Red Cross significantly expended and ever more relevant and needed in Ireland as well as internationally. It is important to note up front that while the financial results show an overall deficit of €2.82m for the year, we stress that this is a technicality arising from how and when we report income received. This recorded deficit for 2024 arises solely in our Restricted Funds but it is actually already fully funded as a result of the incredible response of the Irish people to our Ukraine appeal in 2022 when €42m was raised, reported on and only partially spent in 2022. Due to the duration of the war and its impact, the complete expenditure of these funds is happening according to a plan that runs from 2022 through 2026. It thus appears in 2023 in our accounts as an apparent deficit. But a better and ultimately more accurate appreciation of our financial result for 2023 can be seen in the fact that our unrestricted income for the year saw a surplus of €645k. This is being used for the organisation's growing programmes that are required in response to the increased needs we are experiencing.

In addition to the delivery of an expanded programme of work, in 2023 the organisation itself benefited from a long-awaited and badly needed focus on its operational capacity. A five-year organisational change programme was instigated by the board of directors through its creation of an 'Investment, Growth and Sustainability' fund and the first steps towards a Digital Transformation were taken by the year's end. During the year the staff cohort increased and the additional team members are focused on providing enhanced supports and services to volunteers and members, undertaking enhanced oversight and compliance work, as well as delivering front line services directly to refugees and others in need.

As we look back on the challenges and achievements of the year, we extend our deepest gratitude to our members and volunteers, staff, donors and partners for their unwavering support and dedication. Together, we have demonstrated the power of humanity to make a difference in the lives of millions, embodying the spirit of compassion and solidarity that defines the Irish Red Cross.

Ráiteas an Chathaoirligh agus an Ard-Rúnaí

Agus muid ag machnamh ar an mbliain a bhí againn, is léiriú iontach í an bhliain 2023 ar thiomantas diongbháilte Chros Dhearg na hÉireann seasamh le luachanna daonnúla i bhfianaise na ndeacrachtaí. I mbliain ina raibh géarchéimeanna nach bhfacthas a leithéid riamh cheana, sheas Cros Dhearg na hÉireann an fód maidir lena tiomantas fulaingt an duine a mhaolú agus seasamh le prionsabail na daonnachta, na neamhchlaontachta, na neodrachta, an neamhspleáchais, na seirbhíse deonaí, na haontachta agus na huilíochta.



“ Cuireann an tacaíocht ollmhór ó phobal na hÉireann do na hachainí go léir béim ar an ról uathúil atá againn mar eagraíocht dhaonnúil a bhíonn “ann i gcónaí”, atá in ann tacaíocht thapa phraiticiúil a chur ar fáil dóibhsean atá i ngátar, sa bhaile agus thar lear araon.

Pat Carey | Chathaoirligh



“ Agus muid ag breathnú siar ar dhúshláin agus ar éachtaí na bliana, gabhaimid buíochas ó chroí leis na baill agus leis na hoibrithe deonacha, leis an bhfoireann, le deontóirí agus leis na comhpháirtithe as a dtacaíocht agus a ndúthracht sheasmhach.

Deirdre Garvey | Ard-Rúnaí

Bhain dúshláin ollmhóra leis an mbliain, idir choinbhleachtaí, theagmhais adhaimsire agus tubaistí domhanda, agus ghéaraigh siad go léir na leochaileachtaí a bhí ann cheana agus chuir siad le héilimh dhaonnúla ar scála domhanda.

De réir mar a tháinig borradh faoin bhfulaingt dhaonna, agus 362 milliún duine ag éileamh cúnamh daonnúil faoi dheireadh na bliana, chuir Cros Dhearg na hÉireann go mór lena tacaíocht do líonra na Croise Deirge agus an Chorráin Dheirge. Chuir an choimhlint uafásach i nGaza agus gur cailleadh an oiread sin sibhialtaigh uafás ar an saol mór. Dhírigh muid láithreach ar chabhair dhaonnúil tarrthála a thabhairt le linn na géarchéime seo atá ag teacht chun cinn chomh maith leis na géarchéimeanna sa Tuirc, sa tSiria, i Maracó, sa Libia agus sa tSúdáin agus ar an staid leanúnach san Úcráin. Trí iarrachtaí comhoibriúchá lenár gcomhpháirtithe, agus mar thoradh ar shíntiúis ó phobal na hÉireann, bhí sé mar aidhm againn leochaileachtaí a mhaolú agus teacht aniar a fheabhsú ag leibhéal an phobail, agus aghaidh a thabhairt ar riachtanais láithreacha agus ar dhúshláin fhadtéarmacha araon.

Mar is gnáth, thacaigh pobal na hÉireann le Cros Dhearg na hÉireann lenár n-iarrachtaí éigeandála, agus tugadh síntiúis shuntasacha i rith na bliana. Bailíodh níos mó ná €600,000 in 2023 leis an Achainí do Gaza amháin. Mar thoradh ar na dúshláin a bhain le cúnamh a fháil dóibhsean a raibh sé ag teastáil uathu i rith na bliana, leanfar ar aghaidh leis na tabhartais sin chun tacú le Corrán Dearth na Palaistíne agus iad ag leanúint orthu ag cur tacaíocht éigeandála chriticiúil, tarrthála ar fáil do na daoine i Stráice Gaza.

Cuireann an tacaíocht ollmhór ó phobal na hÉireann do na hachainí go léir béim ar an ról uathúil atá againn mar eagraíocht dhaonnúil a bhíonn “ann i gcónaí”, atá in ann tacaíocht thapa phraiticiúil a chur ar fáil dóibhsean atá i ngátar, sa bhaile agus thar lear araon.

De réir mar a lean an choimhlint ar aghaidh ar fud an domhain, díláithríodh na milliúin i rith na bliana. Laistigh dár sainordú mar chúntóir do Rialtas na hÉireann, bhí ról lárnach ag Cros Dhearg na hÉireann maidir le tacaíocht a chur ar fáil do ghrúpaí leochaileacha, dídeanaithe san áireamh. Ó 2015 i leith, chabhraigh muid le hathlonnú dídeanaithe go hÉirinn, agus chinntigh muid go raibh aistriú sábháilte acu agus go ndearnadh imeascadh go maith i bpobail Éireannacha. In 2022, leathnaíodh an obair sin chun stádas Cosanta Sealadaí a cheadú maidir le daoine a tháinig go spontáineach ón Úcráin. Leanadh ar aghaidh leis an obair in 2023 chun tacú le daoine atá díláithrithe de bharr cogaidh agus coinbhleachta (Úcráin go príomha ach freisin Éimin agus áiteanna eile).



Irish Red Cross staff pictured on the steps of Irish Red Cross HQ on International Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on May 8th.
Photo credit: Irish Red Cross

I rith na bliana, chuir an fhoireann Seirbhísí Imirce tacaíocht ghairmiúil leanúnach ar fáil dóibhsean a bhí ag teitheadh ón gcogadh, agus cabhraíodh le socrúcháin le teaghlaigh óstacha in áiteanna i ngach contae in Éirinn, agus cuireadh cúnamh leanúnach ar fáil chun teaghlaigh a thabhairt ar ais le chéile. I measc na hoibre sin, bhí cásobair dhian le déanamh chun seirbhís meaitseála atruach agus ghairmiúil a chur ar fáil idir na hóstaigh agus na tairbhíthe, idir rannpháirtíocht phríomhúil agus socrúchán agus cabhrú le daoine aistriú go sábháilte agus go héifeachtach ina bpobal nua in Éirinn. Bhí bród orainn freisin páirt a ghlacadh sa tionscadal Safe Homes, taighde a tugadh faoi ar fud an Aontais agus a scrúdaigh éifeachtacht agus tairbhí na gclár cóiríochta óstaigh do dhéanaithe. Léirigh an taighde gur in Éirinn atá an clár cóiríochta-óstach is mó sna naoi dtír a ndearnadh staidéar orthu – agus is é flaithiúlacht, comhbhá agus fáilte na mílte teaghlach agus na bpobal ar fud na tíre is cúis leis sin.

D'oibrigh na hoibrithe deonacha go dian dícheallach thar thrí phríomhshnáithe na hoibre deonai – Tacaíocht Phobail, Garchabhair (Aonaid) agus an Óige – cuireadh seirbhísí agus clár rithábachtacha ar fáil do phobail ar fud na hÉireann. Agus níos mó ná 3,000 oibrí deonach againn i 73 brainse, i measc ár gcuid gníomhaíochtaí bhí seirbhísí garchabhrach agus tarthála agus tacaíocht phobail, clár óige agus tionscnaimh tiomsaithe airgid. Thug muid faoi thionscnaimh náisiúnta freisin, amhail Gradaim Náisiúnta na nOibrithe Deonacha, Gradaim Dhaonnúla agus clár Sláinte Phobalbhunaithe agus Garchabhrach sna Príosúin, a léiríonn ár dtiomantas freastal ar riachtanais éagsúla shochaí na hÉireann.

I rith na bliana, d'oibrigh an fhoireann tiomsaithe airgid go dian dícheallach chun cumas a fhorbairt freagairt go tapa d'imeachtaí domhanda agus intíre agus ag an am céanna díriú ar ioncam straitéiseach a fháil. I measc na mbuaicphointí bhí bunú clár tiomsaithe airgid pobalbhunaithe chun tacú le hiarrachtaí áitiúla airgead a bhaillú agus chun feabhas a chur ar theacht aniar na heagraíochta.

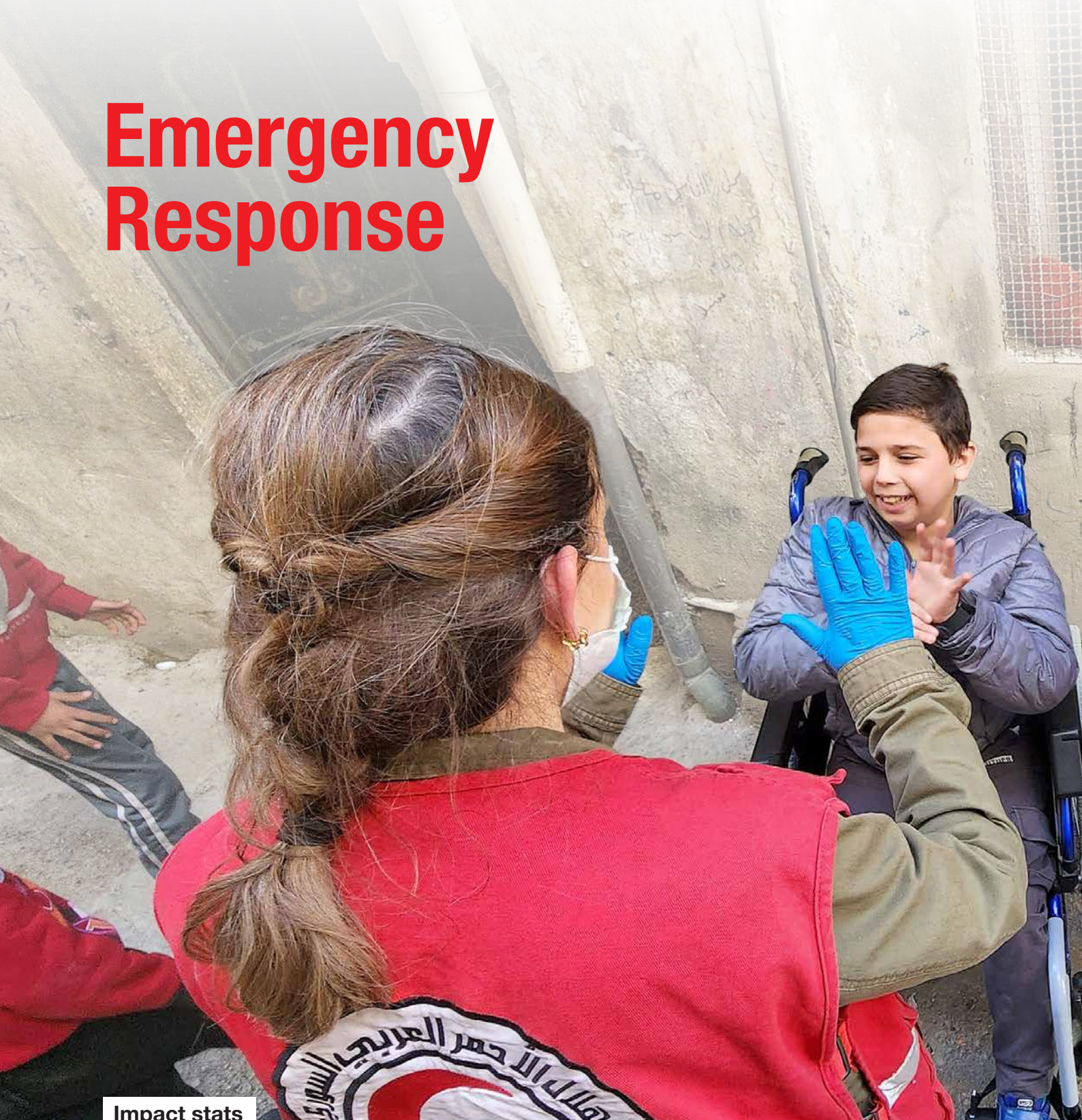
Is féidir torthaí airgeadais na bliana a léamh go mion agus is ionann an léargas a thugtar iontu agus an méid atá sna leathanaigh seo, is é sin go raibh an-chuid ar bun ag Cros Dhearg na hÉireann agus go bhfuil sí ag éirí níos ábhartha agus níos ábhartha agus ag teastáil in Éirinn agus go

hidirnáisiúnta. Tá sé tábhachtach a thabhairt faoi deara, cé go léiríonn na torthaí airgeadais easnamh foriomlán €2.82m don bhliain, is mar thoradh ar phointe teicniúil é sin a bhaineann leis an gcaoi agus leis an uair a dtuairiscímid ioncam a fuarthas. Is sna Cistí Srianata amháin a thagann an t-easnamh taifeadta seo don bhliain 2024 chun cinn ach tá sé maoinithe go hiomlán cheana féin mar thoradh ar fhreagra mhuintir na hÉireann ar an achainí don Úcráin in 2022 nuair a bailíodh €42m, a tuairiscíodh air agus nár caitheadh ach go páirteach in 2022. Mar gheall ar fhad an chogaidh agus a thionchar, tá caiteachas iomlán na gcistí seo ag tarlú de réir plean a mhairfidh ó 2022 go 2026. Dá bhrí sin, léirítear é inár gcuntais don bhliain 2023 ina easnamh dealraitheach. Ach is féidir tuiscint níos fearr agus níos cruinne ar ár dtoradh airgeadais don bhliain 2023 a fheiceáil ó tharla go raibh barrachas € 645k ann inár n-ioncam neamhshrianata don bhliain. Úsáidtear é sin le haghaidh clár na heagraíochta atá ag teastáil mar fhreagairt ar na riachtanais mhéadaithe atá againn.

Chomh maith le clár oibre leathnaithe a chur ar fáil, bhain an eagraíocht féin tairbhe sa bhliain 2023 as fócas ar a cumas oibriúcháin, fócas lena rabhthas ag súil le fada agus lena raibh géarghá. Chuir an bord stiúrthóirí tús le clár um athrú eagraíochtúil cúig bliana trí chiste 'Infheistíocht, Fás agus Inbhuanaitheacht' a chruthú agus glacadh na chéad chéimeanna i dtreo Claochlú Digiteach faoi dheireadh na bliana. I rith na bliana tháinig méadú ar an gcóhórt foirne agus tá na baill foirne bhreise dírithe ar thacaíochtaí feabhsaithe agus seirbhísí a chur ar fáil d'oibrithe deonacha agus do bhaill, ar thabhairt faoi obair maoirseachta agus comhlíontachta níos fearr, chomh maith le seirbhísí túsline a sheachadadh go díreach do dhéanaithe agus do dhaoine eile atá i ngátar.

Agus muid ag breathnú siar ar dhúshláin agus ar éachtaí na bliana, gabhaimid buíochas ó chroí leis na baill agus leis na hoibrithe deonacha, leis an bhfoireann, le deontóirí agus leis na comhpháirtithe as a dtacaíocht agus a ndúthracht sheasmhach. D'oibrigh muid le chéile chun cumhacht an chine dhaonna a léiriú agus difríocht a dhéanamh i saol na milliún duine. Léiríodh spiorad na comhbhá agus na dlúthpháirtíochta in obair Chros Dhearg na hÉireann.

Emergency Response

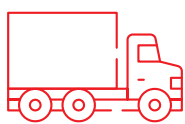


Impact stats



362m

individuals required humanitarian assistance marking a 32% increase from 2022



3,503

trucks of humanitarian aid were distributed by Red Crescent staff and volunteers in Gaza



€1.6m

allocated to support the Red Crescent Earthquake Emergency Relief efforts in Türkiye and Syria



In a year marked by unprecedented crises including conflicts, extreme weather events and global disasters, 2023 witnessed a surge in human suffering and heightened humanitarian demands. Existing vulnerabilities, particularly in complex emergencies and fragile contexts, became further entrenched. By the year's end, 362 million individuals required humanitarian assistance, marking a 32% increase from the previous year (Global Humanitarian Overview, 2023).

Syrian Arab Red Crescent support 14-year-old Hassan. Following the Syrian earthquake, Hassan and his family received temporary shelter helping them to recover. Hassan received a wheelchair for the first time since losing the ability to walk at age 6.
Photo credit: Syrian Arab Red Crescent



€100,000

allocated to support the response of the Red Crescent and Red Cross in the aftermath of the devastating flooding in Libya



€245,000

was allocated to support the aftermath of the flooding in Morocco



€20,000

provided to enable Sudanese Red Crescent Society



€7.4m

distributed to small business owners with premises damaged by Storm Babet

Emergency Response (continued)

In response to these escalating needs, the Irish Red Cross intensified its support to the Red Cross and Red Crescent network, aiming to mitigate vulnerabilities and deliver life-saving humanitarian aid to emerging crises such as those in Gaza, Türkiye, Syria, Morocco, Libya, and Sudan and the ongoing situation in Ukraine. Collaborative efforts with partners continued to focus on long-term programmes aimed at enhancing resilience at community level.

Ireland

Severe Flooding Events

Ireland experienced severe flooding events during the period of 17th of October to 13th November 2023 as a result of the multiple storms that occurred during this time – including Storm Babet, Storm Ciaran and Storm Debi. Heavy rainfall from these storms caused widespread flooding across the country. The town of Midleton, Co Cork was badly affected, as well as areas such as Carlingford, Co Louth, Cork City and Clarinbridge, Co Galway.

The Irish Red Cross was tasked with administering the Business Flood Relief Scheme, funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Launched in November 2023, the scheme received 349 applications. Due to the scale and complexity of the claims, this scheme is still being administered and, so far, €7.4m has been paid in claims between 240 eligible applicants.



Bettystown Flooding Response

The Community Support operational team field-tested a ‘RED Team response’ when responding to the flooding in the Village Estate, Bettystown, Co Meath. This process follows two key concepts:

- Escalation of response from branch level to national level and vice versa.
- Increasing local capacity in a timely manner, as and when required.

Definition of RED:

R – Respond: An assessment team is deployed to the crisis location to observe and advise the response lead. It is recommended this team is comprised of experienced members preferably trained in psychosocial support and emergency response.

E – Evaluation: Once onsite the assessment team engages those impacted by the crisis to evaluate local needs and verify the support required.

D – Deploy: The evaluation is reviewed by the response lead, who then advises the local response team of the resources available. The response team deploys these resources to those impacted by the crisis.

This process proved very effective in managing the Flood Response in Bettystown.

Number of people supported

Adults	34
Children	8
Newborn	1
Total	43

Total Cost of Response

	Value
Vouchers	€2,300.00
Mileage	€256.15
Volunteer subsistence	€20.00
Utility assistance payment	€500.00
Total	€3,076.15

Midleton in East Cork was badly affected by Storm Babet on 17th and 18th October 2023, with hundreds of homes and businesses flooded.
Photo credit: Damien Rytel via PA Explore

Gaza

The current crisis in Gaza which began on 7th October 2023, is unfolding within the broader context of 56 years of occupation, 16 years of closure, and recurrent rounds of hostilities between Israel and Gaza-based armed groups.

In the heart of Gaza, scenes of devastation paint a stark picture of the toll exacted by this crisis. The staggering loss of life, mounting injuries and the mass displacement of its people underscore the severity of this humanitarian catastrophe.

Funding from the Irish Red Cross supported the co-ordination of:

- 3,503 trucks stocked with vital medical supplies, sustenance, and hygiene essentials reached Gaza's shores, delivered by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) by year-end
- Emergency medical care to approximately 15,000 injured people
- Relief items to internally displaced families in temporary shelters and at PRCS hospitals
- Provision of food parcels, milk, blankets, mattresses, water as well as some hygiene kits, kitchen sets and baby necessities.

The Irish public donated more than €600,000 to the Irish Red Cross Gaza appeal between October and December alone - of which €200,000 was allocated immediately to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in support of their on-going life-saving work. While aid restrictions hamper efforts to support the most vulnerable, the remaining funds raised through our Gaza appeal continue to support the Palestinian Red Crescent provide:

- Critical emergency, life-saving support to the people in the Gaza Strip
- The reception and distribution of life-saving aid, such as food, water, medicine, non-food items and other emergency items
- The continuation of the functioning of emergency medical services
- Support to public hospitals
- Health and mental health and psychosocial support services
- Public health messaging.



Life in Gaza under pause:
Scenes of destruction in the town of Khuza'a east of the city of Khan Yunis, south of the Gaza Strip, on November 25, 2023.
Photo Credit: ICRC



CASE STUDY

AMR ALI

Palestinian Red Crescent
Volunteer Diary from inside Gaza

“It’s very bad for the children. They are afraid and don’t know what is happening or why it’s happening. I try to play with them, and I make loud noises to distract them from what’s happening outside.”

Every day, Amr would normally wake up knowing he first must secure food and water for himself and his family. Then, he heads to work. Amr Ali is a media officer at the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS). Like every other citizen in Gaza, he also struggles to protect his family and make decisions regarding what to do next, or how to act, in the ongoing armed violence.

As part of his job, Amr documents PRCS’s activities, such as the emergency response and the distribution of food, water and relief items.

“I was talking to some people who are currently taking shelter in the PRCS building,” said Amr via WhatsApp messages. “They asked me, What should we do? Where should we go, and how can we protect our children?” I couldn’t answer them because I have the same questions.”

Amr has heard stories from friends, of them forced to walk for hours from Gaza City, in the north, to the south of the Gaza Strip, of how there were explosions along the way, and how they had to turn back the first time they tried to flee. “My friend’s sister was terrified, and she was unable to move at the time. He had to help her walk while also helping his three young children,” Amr said. The whole family eventually made it.

Due to the conflict, Amr also left the north with his family, and temporarily moved to his brother’s house in Khan Yunis, where 30 other people were also staying. He doesn’t know anything about the current state of his home, and the last update he received was a picture showing that his house was partially damaged. However, it’s not his house he’s most concerned about, it’s the children.

“It’s very bad for the children,” he said. “They are afraid and don’t know what is happening or why it’s happening. I try to play with them, and I make loud noises to distract them from what’s happening outside.”

“A few days ago, my kid asked me to make him a sandwich, because he was starving. I couldn’t make him anything because we had no flour, no bread and no biscuits” he said. “I feel like a useless father who cannot do the simplest thing for his son.”

And like many caught up in the crisis, Amr has fallen out of touch. The destruction of infrastructure and the ensuing communications blackouts has made communication nearly impossible — even for a communications specialist like Amr. Recent attempts to reach out to Amr to check up on him and request some of his photographic work in Gaza were unsuccessful. Amr’s situation is playing out in homes across the Gaza Strip, as food and water become scarcer, and infections are on the rise. Ongoing fighting has left families struggling with what to do next.

FROM Palestinian Red Crescent.
Photo source: Palestinian Red Crescent Society

Türkiye-Syria Earthquakes

On 6th February a devastating series of earthquakes hit southeast Türkiye and northern Syria, causing immense devastation and widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure. Across the two countries, some 17 million people were directly affected by the disaster which also resulted in unprecedented loss of life. The earthquakes hit communities at the peak of winter, leaving hundreds of thousands of people exposed to harsh winter conditions.

Red Crescent emergency teams in both Türkiye and Syria responded immediately with more than 80,000 Turkish Red Crescent and Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers supporting people impacted by the earthquake. During the first few weeks, humanitarian needs were predominately tied to search and rescue efforts, as well as to the delivery of immediate life-saving assistance. Financial support through cash and vouchers helped many families recover alongside providing opportunities for income and the rebuilding of businesses.

In 2023, in Türkiye alone, the Red Cross and Red Crescent network has provided:

- More than 11 million relief items, including kitchen and other housing sets, blankets, food parcels, hygiene kits, dignity kits, clothing and baby items
- More than 400 million hot meals
- Shelter for thousands of people, including 2,880 shelter containers
- Health care through mobile clinics for more than 47,000 people
- Mental health and psychosocial support to more than 200,000 people
- Cash and vouchers to more than 460,000 families.



In Türkiye and Syria, Red Crescent teams rescued and provided first aid to people after buildings collapsed due to the earthquake.
Photo credit: IFRC

Emergency Response (continued)



The long-lasting psychological impacts brought on by the earthquakes – including trauma, anxiety and depression – means access to mental health and psychosocial support continue to be essential. In Türkiye, child-friendly spaces and psychosocial teams continue to treat children like seven-year-old Eylül (pictured) by providing a safe space to play and decompress from their experience during the earthquake.

Photo credit: IFRC



Following the earthquake in Syria, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent provided food and other support to communities displaced by the earthquake.

Photo credit: Syrian Arab Red Crescent

In Syria, many of those affected by the earthquake were already contending with compounded crises following more than a decade of conflict and economic crisis.

Red Crescent staff and volunteers reached 3.5 million people and provided different assistance from including food and water to shelter, healthcare and mental health support to the affected population.

- 6.8 million people received medical services
- 33.4k families received cash assistance
- 15.8million people were provided with relief to meet their basic needs.

As of the end of 2023, the Irish Red Cross allocated €1.6m to support the Red Crescent earthquake emergency relief in Türkiye and Syria. This included the provision of:

- 250 Family Tents
- 200 Winterisation Kits
- 500 Household Kits.

The remaining funds of more than €1 million are being used to provide cash and livelihood support that will help the most vulnerable and severely affected individuals and families get back on their feet and recover.

Morocco and Libya

Responding to Twin Tragedies in North Africa

In September, within days of one another, both Morocco and Libya suffered two major disasters. The first was a powerful 6.8 magnitude earthquake in Morocco followed by unprecedented flooding in Libya's northeast, the humanitarian consequences of both events leading to thousands of tragic deaths and injuries.

On 8th September a devastating earthquake struck the regions of High Atlas and Marrakesh, in central Morocco. Most families lost everything – their homes, livelihoods and all personal belongings. In the immediate aftermath of the quake, Morocco Red Crescent teams were on the ground supporting with search and rescue and providing help to affected people.

Since the earthquake struck, hundreds of supply trucks full of tents, blankets, mattresses, clothes and food have been dispatched to the earthquake-affected provinces.

Funding provided by the Irish Red Cross supported the distribution of:

- 350 Winterised Family Kits
- 1,000 Shelter Kits
- 1,500 Dignity Kits
- 1,500 Hygiene Kits.



Nezha and her three children, including daughter Yasmine (13), pictured here, were sleeping when the earthquake struck. They all managed to escape the house to seek refuge in the street. Tragically, Nezha lost 7 members of her family including her grandmother, grandfather, aunt and cousin.

Photo credit: IFRC

Storm Daniel which hit Libya on 10th of September brought strong winds and heavy rainfall which led to massive flooding resulting in loss of life and severe impacts to infrastructure. Libyan Red Crescent teams and volunteers were first on the ground, evacuating people and providing first aid and search and rescue. In the aftermath of the devastating flooding, the Irish Red Cross contributed €100,000 to support the response of the Red Crescent and Red Cross in providing emergency shelter, psychosocial support, healthcare, clean water and food to the affected communities.

Sudan Clashes

An Escalating Humanitarian Crisis

On 15th April, fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces broke out in the capital, Khartoum and spread rapidly across the country. More than 1,000 people have died and hundreds of thousands of people are internally displaced or have fled across borders to neighbouring countries to escape the violence. Humanitarian needs across Sudan were already at record levels before April 2023, with 15.8 million people in desperate need.

Since the beginning of the conflict, the Sudanese Red Crescent has been at the forefront of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's efforts, providing critical and lifesaving support to those affected. The Irish Red Cross provided €20,000 to support the response of the Sudanese Red Crescent to continue delivering essential humanitarian assistance to the most affected.



Sudanese Red Crescent volunteer nurse Wajdan Hassam Ahmed holding a young child during a visit to a camp for internally displaced persons in Port Sudan, Sudan.

Photo Credit: ICRC

Refugees and Displaced People - Migration



Impact stats



10,019
Ukrainians

were supported through
pledged accommodation
in 2023



3,955
hosts

The Irish Red Cross and our hosting
partners facilitated 3,955 hosts to
provide accommodation for 10,019
people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine



22
people

The Irish Red Cross supported
22 people in Ireland to reunite with
66 family members as part of our
Restoring Family Links Programme

The Irish Red Cross is tasked under its mandate as an auxiliary to the Irish Government to provide humanitarian supports to vulnerable groups. Under this remit we co-ordinate offers of support and facilitate the placement of refugees into accommodation pledged for this purpose.



Marie, a pledger from Sligo is photographer with Liubov who had to flee the conflict in Ukraine and has taken up the pledge in Marie's home.
Photo credit: Irish Red Cross



6,239
participants

The Ukraine Community Centre supported 6,239 participants by providing 1,314 classes



181
Programme Refugees

were supported by the Irish Red Cross Resettlement team in the year, all of whom were from Afghanistan

Migration Services

The Irish Red Cross Migration Services team delivers direct and professional wraparound supports to those fleeing war in their country. We provide experienced matching services between pledgers and beneficiaries, from primary engagement to placement and beyond, helping clients transition safely and effectively into their new Irish communities.

The lion's share of this work in 2023 focused on matching Ukrainian refugees with hosts. In addition, we provided this type of support for refugees from Afghanistan and Syria.

Support for the Ukrainian Population in Ireland

Ukrainian Host Accommodation Programme

Throughout the year, the Irish Red Cross continued to respond to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. Our response has involved providing humanitarian assistance both in Ireland and internationally, as well as in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

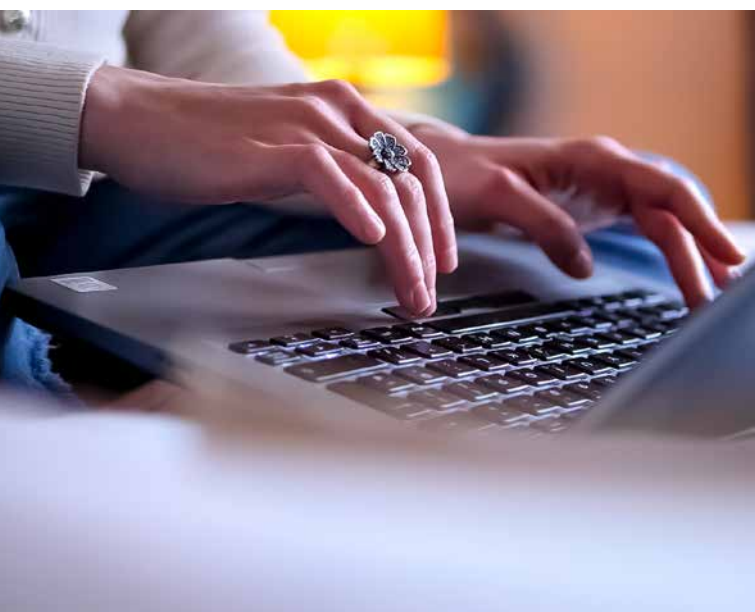
In Ireland, Irish Red Cross volunteers continued to provide emergency assistance to Ukrainians as they arrived including support with transport, signposting, hygiene,

welcome packs and voucher support. We also provide ongoing support to people devastated by the conflict as they settle into their new lives here in Ireland.

Our Pledge Accommodation programme was significantly expanded during the year and the Irish Red Cross formed a partnership with three other organisations to provide a streamlined and expanded pledge service. Thousands of people around Ireland have generously opened their homes and provided a warm welcome and safe home to Ukrainians. This generosity has been invaluable and has shown Ireland at its best.

Our Pledged Accommodation programme continues to receive offers of accommodation from around the country via our Register of Pledges. We and our partners – Helping Irish Hosts, International Organisation for Migration and Peter Mc Verry Trust – worked together throughout 2023, with welcome support from Local Authorities to place Ukrainians with these hosts. During 2023, this programme facilitated 3,955 hosts to provide accommodation for 10,019 people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. This is critical humanitarian support facilitated by the Irish Red Cross and drawing on the generosity of thousands of Irish households across the country.

Our volunteers and staff also provided invaluable support to Ukrainians, enabling them to settle and integrate into Irish society and find their way. At a very practical level, this support involves transporting newly-arrived families and individuals to their host family in Ireland.



CASE STUDY

The Kikvidze family
Ukrainians in Ireland



The Kikvidze family from Kharkiv found themselves in Ireland and had to start anew. Ireland and its residents welcomed the family with hospitality and provided them with everything they needed. Now, Dmytro and Anastassia Kikvidze have their small business, a translation agency and continue to work on integrating into Irish society.

“Thanks to the Irish Red Cross and Youssef, in particular, who is an extremely considerate and thoughtful person, we’ve had the opportunity to move from a very rural area to a wonderful town with infrastructure and transportation. This allowed us to actively pursue our development and integration into society.”

But at a social level, this support helps newly-arrived families to know where to engage with schools, medical services, every day shopping and so on – critical supports that many of us take for granted but are completely new when you arrive in a new country and have the experience of conflict behind you.

The overall Pledge Programme since the beginning of the crisis has seen 16,478 Ukrainians being supported in 6,424 homes. This programme is largely supported by, and implemented in collaboration with, the Irish Government DCEDIY.

The conflict in Ukraine continues. It has dramatically changed the lives of millions of people and has had a devastating impact on individual lives that we can never measure. Ireland has recognised this suffering and continues to respond generously.

Safe Homes Project

The Pledge Accommodation approach has provided a critical response to movement of people affected by the conflict in Ukraine and it is important that we assess its impact and learn from it. The Safe Homes project is an international research project initiated by the EU Home Commission, funded by the EU’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AIMF) and managed by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). It runs from mid-2023 to mid-2024 and involves Red Cross national societies in nine EU countries, namely Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Ireland.

The project offered an opportunity for collective reflection on the use of hosting people from Ukraine in private homes as a tool to address emergency displacement, while collecting lessons learned and good practices for future use. The final report and findings will be published in mid-2024 and will be available on the Irish Red Cross website.

From a survey undertaken in 2023 with Irish hosts, it was found that:

- 92% of hosts found their experience hosting to be ‘good’ or ‘better than expected’
- 76% would recommend hosting to a friend
- 80% of guests reported being ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with their experience in pledged accommodation
- 74% describe the relationship with their host as ‘friendly and supportive’ and ‘familial’.

Refugees and Displaced People - Migration (continued)

Ukrainian Community Support Programme ('Svitlo')

In addition to our Pledge Programme, we have developed and provided a programme of additional supports to strengthen the Irish national response for people displaced due to the Ukraine conflict.

The Ukrainian Community Support Programme (or 'Svitlo' which means 'light' in Ukrainian) was developed to tackle a number of issues in relation to Ukrainians who have resettled in Ireland, including limited engagement from Ukrainians with Irish social and community groups and the impact of post-traumatic stress disorder on Ukrainians in Ireland and awareness levels of how many Ukrainians are making positive contributions to Ireland's social and economic fabric.

The project which began in 2023 and is set to roll out until 2025, has four main pillars:

1. Mental health supports for Ukrainians and mental health professionals
2. Community engagement
3. Communications and advocacy
4. Ancillary support to the Irish Red Cross Migration department.

A special emphasis has been placed on providing assistance to children to enable their access to education via transport and school supplies. We have also supported the Ukraine Community Centre in Rathmines providing a range of valuable supports, including English classes, employment support, intercultural activities and fostering community connections.

The overall goal is to provide relevant and appropriate services to refugees and vulnerable migrants so they are able to access basic services, integrate, and live life to their full potential as well as build an understanding of the needs and experiences of refugees, migrants and host communities in Ireland.

The following is a collation of some of the work of the programme in 2023:

Ukraine Community Centre supported 6,239 participants by providing 1,314 classes. Activities include free English classes, employment support and intercultural activities, fostering community connections. We prioritised mental and physical well-being through yoga, dance and art therapy sessions, catering to all age groups from teenagers to young children. Our community initiatives, such as gardening projects and legal clinics, further strengthen bonds and provide essential support.

Relief and schools supplies – relates to hygiene parcels, welcome kits and back-to-school kits as requested by local branches.



Pictured at the launch of InnerLight in August 24 is Deirdre Garvey, Director General Irish Red Cross with members from children's choir 'Ukraine Forever'. Featuring images of acclaimed photographer Alan Compton was a powerful exhibition on displaced Ukrainians launched at Pearse Station. The project was co-ordinated by the Irish Red Cross, Fighting Words and Ukrainian Action in Ireland.



Pictured at the first anniversary of the Ukraine Community Centre in Rathmines in November are (left to right): Olha Khoroshevska (Ukraine Community Centre Manager), Olha Chekmaieva (Irish Red Cross Communications Officer) and Ielizaveta Karamushka (Ukrainian Action in Ireland Director). Photo credit: Tony Gavin

Mental health support activities – developed from scratch a new PTSD programme delivered in Ukrainian-by-Ukrainian psychotherapists. Completed a series of 10 therapeutic sessions for the first cohort of 20 clients. The results say a very positive impact and reduction of symptoms. Facilitated wellness group sessions in Rathmines also saw very positive results and an extensive online grief counselling training (40 hrs) was translated and available for circulation in 2024.

Local branch supported activities – mainly related to activities in the Waterford branch. This approach will be expanded to other branches, through the Branch Outreach and Engagement officers, in 2024.

English Classes and Good Bike Project – provided English classes to approximately 400 students per week and approximately 100 bikes being repaired and distributed monthly nationwide per month.



Paul McQuaid (right) of River Cycles, Usher's Island, Dublin and Liam O'Dwyer Irish Red Cross International and Migration Adviser present the 2,000th bike repaired to Ukrainian refugee, Karina Tarasova on July 23.

Ancillary support for accommodation costs – relates to emergency accommodation for families when needed and for local links related to transportation costs.

Communications and awareness raising activities – proved very successful with the high-profile *Inner Light* or 'Svitlo' exhibition and associated publication. We also helped raise awareness of positive integration stories across the country.

Svitlo Financial Support to Ukrainians:

- €124k to fund Irish Red Cross volunteers supporting migrants arriving through ports and airports
- €700k to fund Ukrainian support through Rathmines community centre, distribution of rehabilitated bicycles, provision of English classes and public awareness activities
- €157k cash assistance, voucher assistance and in kind assistance (hygiene kits and school bags, etc.)
- €106k – development and start-up of mental health therapy support

- €64k – emergency accommodation, local links and pledged accommodation rehabilitation.

Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP)

Established in 2015, we work with the Irish Government to help fulfil its EU commitments to facilitate the resettlement and integration of Programme Refugees under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP). Amid a continued housing crisis in Ireland, the Irish Red Cross has been able to source housing via the establishment and management of the Irish Red Cross Register of Pledges which fronts, promotes and manages public goodwill in the form of offers of accommodation and services. The Irish Red Cross delivers direct assistance to families and individuals through the provision of housing in addition to providing casework services offering wraparound supports to refugees promoting engagement with education, training, employment, social protection and health services and liaising with the wider Government-led resettlement programming across Ireland.

Throughout the year, the Irish Red Cross sourced housing through generous pledges of accommodation from the public. Critical support has been provided to refugees with necessary paper and administrative work to assist with their engagement with relevant government services and life in Ireland. A key element is to support their integration, development and resettlement to ensure they have every opportunity to re-establish their lives here in Ireland in a safe and productive environment. Where necessary, Irish Red Cross has extended support to families and individuals who are more vulnerable or exhibiting additional needs. A range of further supports are provided, as appropriate to the family or individual, and include the provision of employment training and language development, school enrolment and education, and enable mainstream integration such as with benefit transfers and HAP for those who qualify. The support has been delivered in cooperation with several partners including the Irish Refugee Council, Friends of Ascend CLG and the Irish Red Cross Family Links Programme.

A total of 181 Programme Refugees were supported by the Irish Red Cross Resettlement team in the year, all of whom were from Afghanistan.

- 93 new referrals of which 34 were new referrals directly from IRPP
- 21 new referrals of IRPP Programme Refugees through Friends of Ascend
- 20 from other organisations
- 18 direct requests from Programme Refugees
- Continuing work with 88 referrals from 2022.



CASE STUDY

Abdul Wahid Safi

“Before the Taliban arrived in Kabul, I had planned so many things. I just finished construction of my house in Kabul, I was purchasing the required stuff for my house. I spent a lot of money refurbishing my house, changing the design entirely and painting the walls, but I never got to spend time in the house as I fled my homeland.”

The Irish Red Cross placed Abdul Wahid Safi, his wife Najiba and two young sons into a two-bedroom free pledge in May 2022, which had been pledged by Kennedy Wilson Properties. The family are originally from Afghanistan. The IRC provided full professional casework support to help this family move to their new home and supported them with everything they needed to successfully integrate into their new life in Ireland. Abdul is working full-time and the two boys are happy in school. Najiba, Abdul's wife, engaged with the IRC Indeed Project (Language/Skills/Livelihoods) in 2023 and successfully moved from having no English at all to A1 Elementary level, which allows her to comfortably engage with everyday activities in her neighbourhood and her children's

education. Abdul was an Afghan Advocate and women's rights activist in Kabul. He arrived with his family to Ireland in August 2021.

Abdul is now working in Dublin as an interpreter, and as he obtained a taxi licence in October 2023, is employed part-time as a taxi driver.

The family have joined in with local community initiatives including book reading clubs, parents groups and the summer party in their complex with their neighbours. They have successfully transitioned from free accommodation to a sustainable HAP placement.

Community Sponsorship Programme

Community Sponsorship is an approach that enables communities to welcome and support a migrant family who are in need of protection. The approach is essentially about volunteerism in the community, giving an opportunity and a structure for people concerned with the migration crisis and who wish to become part of a practical response.

Community Sponsorship Ireland (CSI) was piloted in 2018 and with successful results, the programme formally launched in 2019, enabling groups of people within their towns, villages and parishes across Ireland, to sponsor a Syrian refugee family (identified by the UNHCR and subsequently interviewed and invited to resettle in Ireland

by the IRPP in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

A Community Sponsorship Group (CSG) provides both financial and in-kind support to a family and, as a principle of the programme, empowers them to independence over an 18-month integration period.

In addition to playing a role to support the IRPP with oversight of CSI, the Irish Red Cross is the appointed Regional Support Organisation for nine counties; Kildare, Wicklow, Meath, Westmeath, Offaly, Longford, Roscommon, Mayo and Galway. The Irish Red Cross promotes and mobilises groups within its region, providing the necessary training, advice, guidance and support throughout the whole CSI journey.

Key elements to the training and formation of groups include:

- Foundations and principles of Community Sponsorship Ireland
- Forming a group – dynamics, utilising skills and communication
- Fundraising, accommodation, settlement plan
- Cultural competency – expectations, unconscious bias, trauma-informed approach
- Family arrival and welcome; Integration – empowering independence.

The arrival of families in Ireland is organised and authorised by Government and CSI provides the necessary support with communities to ensure families are received and supported. A total number of 23 individuals were authorised/welcome in 2023 in the Irish Red Cross areas and were facilitated by community sponsorship groups. In support of ongoing groups/families and in preparation for new arrivals, the Irish Red Cross has worked closely with 14 Community Sponsorship Groups, and supported the establishment of a further 10 groups, and has provided a range of engagements with communities to raise awareness of the programme. In response, and reflecting the generosity of people across Ireland, the Irish Red Cross has received 77 expressions of interest in the year to form new groups and provide practical support to migrants in need of protection.

Restoring Family Links and Family Reunification



Conflict and disaster separate families, leading to years of uncertainty about the fate of a relative. Under the Restoring Family Links (RFL) Programme, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the respective national Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in each country locate people, exchange messages, reunite families and clarify the fate of missing persons.

Throughout the year Restoring Family Links (RFL) and Family Reunification (FR) staff maintained contact with ICRC delegations worldwide and sister National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on tracing and family reunification cases. Irish Red Cross supported 22 people in Ireland to reunite with 66 family members from Syria, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Somalia, Palestine, Malawi, Zimbabwe, DRC, Eritrea, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, India and Ukraine.

CASE STUDY

Community Sponsorship Group – Joyce Country

Joyce Country Le Chéile Community Sponsorship Group welcomed a family of five Syrians on 14th November 2023. The family have lived in Lebanon for the past number of years and have now resettled in their new home in Clonbur, Co Galway thanks to CSI.

Joyce Country Le Chéile Community Sponsorship Group comprises 14 motivated individuals who came together in October 2021. Living in a rural, close-knit community they were all accustomed to the concept of forming committees to achieve local projects (such as fundraising and installing a children's public playground). They were connected by family ties and friendship and all had the common goal to welcome and support a refugee family - to plan and execute fundraising initiatives, secure private rental accommodation and complete a settlement plan that detailed how they would support the family's integration, particularly in a rural setting.

The group were able to support the family in accessing schools, English language classes, obtaining PPS numbers and permits as well as more psychosocial supports. The family regularly attend the park runs, local GAA matches and share baked goods at the local church. The family are very happy in their new home and are making future plans.

Refugees and Displaced People - Migration (continued)

The team continued to work closely with ICRC's Mission in London on capacity-building services and engaged with international colleagues on service practices associated with worldwide conflict-related contexts. At home, the RFL/FR department continued to engage with service users through outreach to some Direct Provision centres, providing tracing requests, requests for ICRC Emergency Travel Documents and Family Reunification Travel Assistance.

The Family Reunification Travel Assistance Programme continued to assist individuals who had been granted family reunification permission from the Irish authorities to travel to Ireland. We saw a sharp increase in requests for assistance through this programme which we offer with our partners, the International Organisation for Migration.

Most of the tracing cases filed in the year related to Somalia, mainly from unaccompanied minors referred to the Irish Red Cross by Tusla. The second largest group related to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Cases continued to be filed by nationals of Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria, among others. Some cases relating to the early stages of the Syrian conflict remained open at the end of the year. Operational restrictions in Eritrea obliged the ICRC to cease its operations in the country which meant that all tracing cases opened by Eritrean nationals in Ireland, seeking news of family members in the country, had to be closed.

Some of the year's highlights included the successful restoration of contact with family members by nationals of Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. In connection with the Russia-Ukraine conflict the Central Tracing Agency Bureau (CTAB) confirmed that sought persons in three cases are on Russian Detention Lists and their relatives who fled to Ireland can exchange letters with them in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. The CTAB's role is to act as a neutral intermediary between parties and alleviate the suffering of families who remain without news of loved ones because of the conflict, either because they had fallen into enemy hands or because they fled their homes and lost contact.

Stats:

Tracing requests

- Cases opened: 45
- Cases closed: 147

Family Reunification Travel Assistance Programme

- 40 new cases were initiated for 159 beneficiaries.

Cases from:

- Ukraine, Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Sudan, Botswana, Bangladesh, DRC, Guinea, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Palestine, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Sierra Leone and India
- 22 displaced people in Ireland were reunited with 66 family members from: Syria, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Somalia, Palestine, Malawi, Zimbabwe, DRC, Eritrea, Pakistan, Sierra Leone.

CASE STUDY

Anas



Anas (45) left Syria with his wife and children on 3rd November 2012, and made his way to Lebanon to escape the ongoing war. After seven years in Lebanon, and because of the worsening conditions for migrants there, the family took a decision to leave for Europe seeking a better life. It was decided that Anas would make the journey alone, with his family to follow. He left Lebanon in July 2019 and made the arduous journey through several countries, facing extreme hardship on land and sea, eventually arriving in Ireland.

Delighted to have survived the journey, he sought international protection in January 2020 just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Due to the pandemic, the process to seek international protection was extremely slow but Anas took this opportunity to learn English and apply for a work permit which he received nine months later. He sought employment first working in warehousing and then as a chef, but disaster struck when restaurants were forced to close. Anas continued to study while he waited to obtain his right to reside in Ireland. He found the process hard and suffered mental anguish as he was desperately concerned about the well-being of his family in Lebanon who were experiencing racial discrimination and the deteriorating security and economic conditions. They only had contact through WhatsApp calls and his family suffered a lot because of the separation.

Photo shows the joyous moment at Dublin Airport when Anas was reunited with this family on 22nd June 2023 after four long years apart.

In November 2021, Anas received the good news that he received refugee status and could now apply for family reunification for his family to join him in Ireland. Anas made an application for family reunification and this permission was granted in January 2023. Needing assistance with the costs and logistical arrangements of getting them to Ireland, Anas approached the Irish Red Cross for assistance through their Travel Assistance Programme in February 2023. On 22nd June 2023, after almost four years apart, Anas was finally reunited with his wife and children in Ireland. With a joyous scene on their arrival at Dublin Airport, Anas said:

“I am so grateful to the Irish Red Cross and IOM for making it possible for me and my family to reunite in Ireland. I will never forget your efforts and assistance.”

National Services



Impact stats



152 people

Irish Red Cross Psychological First Aid Trainers trained 152 people in 2023



2,000

Irish Red Cross Units supported more than 2,000 events nationwide

Our National Services include the programmes, activities and training delivered by our volunteers and staff all over Ireland. This voluntary work is divided into three strands – Community Support, First Aid (Units), and Youth. Each strand is headed by a volunteer taking on the leadership role of National Director, who reports directly to the Board of Directors.



Pictured are members of the Glen of Imaal Wicklow Mountain Rescue team: (L-R): Diarmaid Scully; Andrea Bland; and Linda Strahan.



3,500

individuals trained in essential first aid training



271

First Aid Response courses given, 76 Cardiac First Response Community courses given and 93 Cardiac First Response Advanced courses given

National Services (continued)

More than 3,000 volunteers in 73 branches were involved in a wide range of activities in 2023, including first aid cover, rescue services, community support, youth programmes and fundraising activities.

There are also a number of areas of national work that span all three strands, or that do not relate to any specific strand. These are – the Humanitarian Awards, the National Volunteer Awards, the Community-Based Health and First Aid in Prisons programme, and the administration of Emergency Flood Support Schemes.

Community Support

Introduction by Aiden Lonergan, National Director of Community Support (voluntary position)

The presence of Irish Red Cross branches is relevant now more than ever. There has been an increase in arrival of people to Ireland seeking protection and our Irish Red Cross volunteers continue to respond to meet their needs. This support ranges from assistance with accommodation and transport, to the provision of essential welfare packs. Our volunteers help where they can.

2023 saw the return and development of programmes that COVID-19 had restricted. These programmes include the Skin Camouflage and Therapeutic Care clinics.

In addition, the skills and knowledge of our Psychological First Aid training continues to equip our volunteers to respond to the needs of the many we provide assistance too. For example, at short notice, volunteers responded to the needs of those affected by flooding at the end of the year, providing basic psychological support along with practical assistance and reassurance.

As I look to 2024, I see our volunteers building on our services while also trying to attract new volunteers to help improve our capacity.

I wish to thank all of our volunteers and their families for their time and commitments during 2023 and above all for putting our seven fundamental principles into action.

Psychological First Aid Training

The Irish Red Cross Psychological First Aid (PFA) training is designed to prepare Red Cross staff, volunteers and members of the public to apply psychological first aid to various vulnerable groups, in the aftermath of a crisis event.



Three of our National Services team members, Alina Piskaryova, Modest Berestov, and Kristiana Smirnova and Audrey Moore who successfully completed the Psychological First Aid Training of Trainers in October 2023.

Training covers the following modules:

- What PFA is and is not
- Place of PFA in overall response
- Who, when and where of PFA
- Action principles: Prepare, Look, Listen and Link
- Good communication skills
- People who likely need special attention
- Adapting PFA to the local context
- Caring for yourself and your team members.

We are delighted to say that throughout 2023:

- Our Irish Red Cross Psychological First Aid Trainers trained 152 people in 2023.
- 8 new Psychological First Aid Trainers were trained in 2023.

We hope in 2024 to expand our trainer list so that our pledge to train all Red Cross members in PFA can be achieved.

Skin Camouflage Service



The Irish Red Cross run a voluntary skin camouflage service. The skin camouflage is the application of specialised cover creams to improve the appearance of scarring, tattoos and some disfiguring skin conditions.

The Irish Red Cross Community Support Skin Camouflage service began to once again take appointments for the first time in more than four years. Two clinics were held in Crumlin and seven clients were successfully treated through the two dates. The service resumed in Cork and Donegal in October.

Therapeutic Care Service



I National Training Centre Kilbehenny Class December 2023.

Another programme that suffered a decline throughout Covid19 was our Therapeutic Hand-care programme which involves Irish Red Cross Volunteers being trained to give a hand massage and manicure to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, day care centres and people in their own homes.

The treatment is a way to communicate care through touch and the fact that a Hand-care Volunteer spends time with a patient can often be the most valuable aspect of the service.

A group of 12 people were trained in Cork. We are hoping to expand this service in 2024.



I Pictured are unit volunteers at the Maynooth University Hub 2023.

Maynooth University Hub 2023

The Maynooth support team, led by lead volunteer Frank Kelly, were present at Maynooth campus every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the summer of 2023 to help support the 700+ international protection refugees that were offered housing and support in the area.

Irish Red Cross volunteers worked together with the residential support team at Maynooth Campus to run medical clinics to investigate the needs of the service users staying there. People were given tailored medical supports and/or prescription services. New mothers, for example, were offered support and practical items such as nappies, formula, clothing and other essential items.

Voucher Distribution

Vouchers are distributed on behalf of the Svitlo project to aid Ukrainian beneficiaries. Throughout the year, the Irish Red Cross distributed 2,395 €50 vouchers, which was a financial support of €119,750 to the community.

The vouchers distributed were for Pennys, Dunnes, Aldi, Lidl and Supervalu.

In addition, vouchers were distributed to those arriving from Gaza. A total of 39 €50 vouchers were distributed in late 2023.

Units (First Aid)

Introduction by Tony Lawlor, *National Director of Units (voluntary position)*



I Pictured are unit volunteers at Longitude festival July 2023

My volunteer role relates principally to adult uniformed Irish Red Cross members who provided local event cover in 2023 and assisted state services in support roles and major emergencies.

2023 was a busy year with more than 2,000 events logged by Irish Red Cross Units, including sporting events, motor racing, equestrian cover and music festivals.

National Services (continued)

The Irish Red Cross received funding for three new ambulances and an assisted minibus under the CLAR 2023 scheme. The Irish Red Cross Lough Corrib/Mask Lake Rescue Team bases in Connemara received approval from the CLAR scheme for a lake rescue 4x4 crew-cab. We also began developing a new app for use on all Irish Red Cross vehicles, replacing paper logbooks.

In relation to a range of on-going cooperation measures with the National Ambulance Service/HSE, the Irish Red Cross provided 25 ambulances and transported 17 patients to other care centres arising from the fire at Wexford General Hospital in March. In November, patients were evacuated from the Midleton Community Hospital by the Irish Red Cross and other agencies to other care centres in Cork due to extreme flooding in the area.

As a Recognised Institute (RI) approved by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC), we've orchestrated a strength of country-wide achievement. More than 2,100 individuals have secured a PHECC-approved certificate as confirmation of proficiency. We've also ignited the potential of 250 branch members through immersive instructor training, fuelling their passion to lead with expertise and impact. Together, we're committed to emergency care education, setting a vibrant standard that resonates across the county.

First aid training is a core service of the global Red Cross, and in 2023, the Irish Red Cross secured talent to continue to enhance our reach and impact – both volunteers and staff. A number of Ukrainians also joined as volunteers of the Irish Red Cross. We successfully recruited an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) from within our branches, who is now an employee while continuing to be an active volunteer. With more than 12 years of membership experience they bring a positive impact to our quality assurance and focus on continuous improvement and positive learner outcomes.

We also welcomed a manager with 15 years of education experience, including 12 years of leading first aid training initiatives with a National Red Cross Society. With their wealth of knowledge, we are in a position to build on the empowerment of communities with life-saving skills and knowledge.

Irish Red Cross training welcomes the opportunities of 2024 with a plan to continue to increase our reach of people trained in life saving skills supporting community preparedness and resilience. We intend to maximise our strength of first aid learning techniques, our use of technology and our commitment to enhance our support of neurodivergence.



Irish Red Cross Limerick unit photographed at Point to Point Event, Askeaton, Co Limerick.



Unit volunteers pictured with broadcaster Ray D'Arcy. Volunteers were pictured while providing medical cover at the Beat the Train Race in aid of Down Syndrome Waterford November 2023.

CASE STUDY

Kathy Fulcher



In July 2023, Kathy Fulcher, an Irish Red Cross member, was travelling to Malahide Castle to provide first aid cover for a concert when she came across a member of the public suffering from cardiac arrest. Kathy immediately requested emergency assistance, as well as a defibrillator and commenced CPR. She was instrumental in resuscitating the person with Garda and Irish Rail staff assistance until the arrival of the paramedics. The person was transported to hospital where they were recovering well.

Kathy's life-saving actions demonstrate the value of early recognition of cardiac arrest, early CPR and defibrillation.

First Aid Training – 2023

In 2023, the Irish Red Cross empowered 3,500 individuals across the country with essential first aid training, equipping them with vital knowledge and skills to save a life. The training extended to members of the public, employees, and dedicated Irish Red Cross members, fostering resilience within local communities.

As a Recognised Institute (RI) approved by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC), we've orchestrated a strength of country-wide achievement. More than 2,100 individuals have secured a PHECC-approved certificate as confirmation of proficiency. We've also ignited the potential of 250 branch members through immersive instructor training, fuelling their passion to lead with expertise and impact. Together, we're committed to emergency care education, setting a vibrant standard that resonates across the country.

We are proud to highlight the expansive reach of the Irish Red Cross's educational learning. Throughout the past year, we've provided a countrywide schedule of courses, including 271 First Aid Response, 76 Cardiac First Response Community and 93 Cardiac First Response Advanced.

Committed to accessibility and in recognition of the evolving digital landscape, we continue to embrace innovation by offering facilitated online learning experiences. Through these virtual platforms, we've empowered 300 individuals to gain essential skills in Paediatric First Aid and Emergency First Aid, ensuring that our educational resources are readily available to all, regardless of geographic location or circumstance.

Our Recognised Institute status includes the training, qualification and development of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Emergency First Responders (EFRs). Throughout 2023, we sustained our positive local impact with a strong cohort of nationally trained EMTs and EFRs.

Dedicated to inclusivity and empowerment, the Irish Red Cross has initiated accessible training, developing materials for Ukrainian arrivals to learn essential first aid skills. Inspired by their newfound knowledge, a number of individuals have become active volunteers as Irish Red Cross members enhancing local community preparedness and resilience.

The Irish Red Cross believes first aid is a life skill for all, with accessible learning across the country - we are here for those who want to learn.

Youth

Introduction from National Director for Youth John Healy (volunteer)

I was appointed as National Director of Youth in September of 2023. I joined the Irish Red Cross as a 15-year-old, and, ten years later, I am delighted at the prospect of giving back to an organisation that has offered me so much. I am also excited at the prospect of developing our services for our youth members and our younger beneficiaries.

Youth in the Irish Red Cross forms a substantial part of our membership – young people bring their energy and enthusiasm to drive positive change in the society.

National Services (continued)

In addition, the Irish Red Cross supports many young people as beneficiaries. I have reflected on some of the achievements and progress of the Irish Red Cross Youth in the year 2023 below.



Pictured are youth volunteers participating at the Gerry Moyne National Youth Challenge in April 2023.

Youth Challenge

In April, the Irish Red Cross hosted our annual Gerry Moyne National Youth Challenge, which is a day out for our young volunteers to keep them engaged and give them the opportunity to meet young people from other branches around the country.

We had an attendance on the day of 101 members participating in the challenge for the first time since Covid. Branch members came from all across Ireland including: Dundalk, Cobh, Clonakilty, Terenure, Rathmines, Tallaght, Mallow, Muff and North Clare with an age range of 4-25.

Dublin Pride Parade



Winter Genockey on the Irish Red Cross float the Dublin Pride Parade.

Joined by our Secretary General, Deirdre Garvey, our young volunteers and staff members took part in the 2023 Dublin Pride Parade. Our annual participation in the parade is a chance to demonstrate our inclusivity as an organisation, encouraging members of the LGBTI+ community to get involved in volunteering in a safe and welcoming space. The Irish Red Cross is committed to spreading the community's knowledge and understanding, which is why we launched our award-winning LGBTI+ Allies programme in 2018. Youth Working Group volunteer, Elayna Watters,

presented Deirdre Garvey with a beautiful model of Toots Malahide Road Train as a souvenir of the day.

International Youth Camps

During the summer of 2023, two of our volunteers, Elayna and Sarah represented Irish Red Cross Youth at the 11th International Peace Camp run by the German Red Cross in Germany.

The two weeks involved examining topics including human rights, international humanitarian law, peace and climate change. Participants had a chance to make friends from all over the world, to explore Germany and to design and develop their own projects based on the camp themes.

Our Irish Red Cross Youth members Chukwuemeka and Kristis represented us at the International Friendship Camp in Langenlois, Austria, hosted by the Austrian Red Cross. The camp is an annual event that brings young people who are involved in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at local and national levels around the world. Young volunteers come together to work on relevant topics, exchange ideas and opinions, share our experiences and discuss cultural perspectives.



Irish Red Cross Youth was honoured to have been invited by the Embassy of Switzerland in Ireland to celebrate Swiss National Day. National Youth Representative, Ryan Hayes (far right), attended on our behalf and met with the Ambassador of Switzerland, Dr. Benedict Gubler (centre) and his wife, Clethe Gubler (left).

2023 European Youth Co-Operation

In early 2023, National Youth Working Group member, Elayna Watters, and National Youth Representative, Ryan Hayes, attended the European Youth Cooperation (EYN) Meeting in Braga, Portugal, representing the Irish Red Cross. They were welcomed by the national governance from the IFRC including Birgitte Bischoff Ebbeson, the Regional Director of Europe for the IFRC.

Ryan and Elayna cast Ireland's first vote at the conference for the election of the new European Youth Co-ordination Committee (EYCC) and the appointment of the new chair. The meaning, priorities and use of the EYN were discussed

along with the needs of young people, the position of the youth structure in our society, what could be improved in the network and what the achievements of the youth structures in our national societies have been.

Our delegates, Ryan and Elayna, attended workshops on 'Youth and Innovation', 'Mental Health Manifesto', 'Humanitarian Diplomacy' and 'Youth in Conflict'. The outputs of ECM 2023 included an external and internal document, the Braga Declaration and a document for the new Coordination Committee. The declaration was accepted unanimously.

Swiss Embassy Visit

In late 2023 we were honoured to have been invited by the Embassy of Switzerland in Ireland to celebrate Swiss National Day. National Youth Representative, Ryan Hayes, attended on our behalf and met with the Ambassador of Switzerland, Dr Benedict Gubler, and his wife, Clethe Gubler, to discuss our work. The embassy sponsors the publication of our Different Feathers series of books, which teach young children about topics such as migration, inclusion and gender identity.

Youth Leadership Weekend

Irish Red Cross Youth Leaders and structure members from around Ireland came together for the Youth Leadership Weekend to network, develop their leadership skills and plan for their youth groups for 2023/2024. Our participants took part in a workshop on the Youth Structure including getting feedback from volunteers on the ground about the type of structure that serves them best.

Workshops on our programmes were carried out. Some of the programme discussions included: Positive Images and Different Feathers – our programme that promotes positive attitudes towards migrants and also covers disability and gender issues; OPTIONS – our Irish Red Cross youth personal development award programme for youth members which develops their skills and links to the Gaisce Award; and the Fundamental Principles – a programme which contextualises the Seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross for our youth members.

In the coming year, we will continue to explore opportunities to integrate youth activities with our broader agenda, including training initiatives and national events. Our aim is not only to nurture a new generation of compassionate leaders but also to harness their energy and enthusiasm. We can empower young people not only to become skilled first responders but also passionate advocates for community welfare and humanitarian principles.

Creeslough Tragedy

In late 2022, the Irish Red Cross Creeslough Community Support Fund was established as an immediate humanitarian response to the human tragedy that arose following a fatal explosion in the village of Creeslough, County Donegal on 7th October 2022. Ten people died in the explosion and a number were injured. The explosion demolished a shop, filling station and a block of apartments. Many individuals and families were rendered homeless and others lost their jobs – some permanently. The village was closed to all traffic for six weeks, disrupting the lives of all residents and businesses, who experienced widespread travel and transport difficulties.

The Irish Red Cross Creeslough Appeal raised €1,906,349 from a range of corporate, community, individual donors and events to provide financial humanitarian aid to those impacted by the tragedy, with a particular emphasis on support for bereaved families and those injured.

Between late 2022 and early 2024, €1,762,203 has been disbursed in direct ex-gratia support to those impacted by the tragedy and in indirect support costs. This comprised emergency payments in the initial phase and transitioned to a structured payment phase in mid-2023 including payment of calculated lumpsums to particular beneficiary groups (bereaved families; injured individuals; those made homeless and those who lost apartments).

An Oversight Committee, established in late 2022, provided the governance framework and was chaired by the National Treasurer of the IRC Board of directors and included a community representative and an independent financial advisor among other board and management personnel. It oversaw the expenditure of the funds and sought and received the approval of the IRC board for the final distribution framework in mid 2023, which was subsequently used to shape all expenditure from the fund.

As of end 2023, using the expenditure framework approved by the board of directors, all of the funds have been distributed apart from a sum of €144,146 remaining. This was ear-marked in the initial fundraising appeal for medium/longer-term community-wide support, which was one of the stated objectives when the appeal was made. During 2023, the Irish Red Cross actively engaged with local community organisations to develop a plan for expenditure of these funds in a flexible way that recognises emerging need in the community as a result of the tragedy. The Irish Red Cross is committed to ensuring that the final community support phase is community-led, focusing on priorities identified by the community during several consultations, with flexibility to respond to emerging issues identified by the community. It is envisaged that this expenditure will be completed in 2024 and the fund closed.

National Services (continued)

National Volunteer Awards



Pictured with Chairperson Pat Carey and Director General Deirdre Garvey are members of the Ballieborough Branch who received the award for Branch of the Year at the 2023 National Volunteer Awards.

The 2023 National Volunteer Awards, organised by the Irish Red Cross Volunteer Support and Development Working Group, was held in November in Croke Park, Dublin.

The event recognised the excellent humanitarian work that the Irish Red Cross volunteers carry out within their communities around the country. It is a chance for our volunteers to be recognised for their contribution to improving the lives of people in their communities and their dedication to Irish Red Cross.

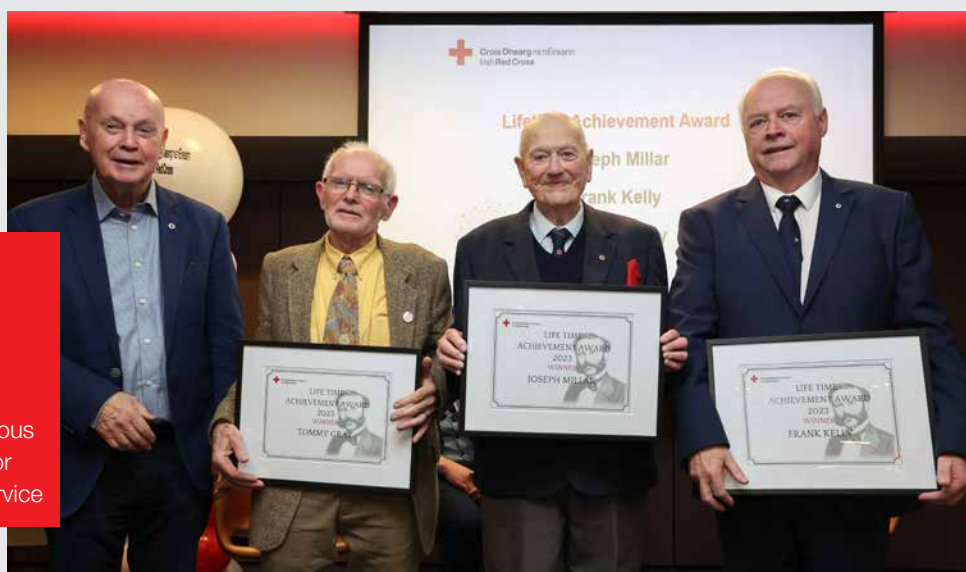
The awards were hosted by broadcaster and Virgin TV weatherman, Deric Ó h'Artagáin, who welcomed an excited crowd to the awards and who kept the ceremony moving along.

Awards were made in nine categories, reflecting the variety of humanitarian roles and services fulfilled by Irish Red Cross volunteers. The selection committee for the awards met in October to create a shortlist of applicants who were then considered by the judging panel.

CASE STUDY

Joseph Millar

Fingal man wins prestigious Irish Red Cross award for 72 years of voluntary service



Joseph Millar, an Irish Red Cross volunteer with the Malahide Balbriggan Branch of the organisation, picked up a 'Lifetime Achievement' award at the 2023 Irish Red Cross National Volunteer Awards alongside two others - Tommy Gray and Frank Kelly.

Joseph joined the Irish Red Cross in 1951 and is the organisation's longest serving member.

In his 72 years of service to the organisation, Joseph has dedicated his time to providing humanitarian assistance in Ireland and supporting the organisation's response to various crises in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Syria. Most recently, he was one of the first people to volunteer at Dublin Airport to support Ukrainian refugees in 2022.

Pictured are the recipients of Lifetime Achievement Awards with: (left to right) Chairperson Pat Carey; Tommy Gray; Joseph Millar; and Frank Kelly

He has upheld the values and principles of the Red Cross throughout his time with the organisation and is deeply embedded in the local community in Dublin Fingal and within the structures of the Irish Red Cross. His wife, son, nephew and grandnephew are all active members within the organisation.

Earlier in 2023, Joseph was also awarded the 70-Year Service Award and Medal. This is the very first time that an active serving member of the Irish Red Cross has received this specially commissioned award.

The National Volunteer Awards 2023 Winners were:

- Paul Conway, Santry Branch – Unit Member of the Year
- Frank Kelly, Greystones/Delgany Branch – Community Support Volunteer of the Year
- Brian Nugent, Portlaw Branch – Instructor of the Year
- Shelton Abbey – Special Status Award
- Bailieborough Branch – Branch of the Year
- Fina Eccleston, Portlaw Branch – Young Volunteer of the Year
- Emily O'Halloran, Bailieborough Branch – Volunteer of the Year
- Artem Kvashyn, Galway City Branch – Newcomer of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Awards –
 - Joseph Millar, Malahide/Balbriggan Branch
 - Frank Kelly, Greystones/Delgany Branch
 - Tommy Grey, West Limerick Branch

Humanitarian Awards

The annual Irish Red Cross Humanitarian Awards were held in April 2023. The prestigious awards honoured nominated humanitarians from outside the Irish Red Cross

community. Finalists across five categories, in addition to a Lifetime Achievement Award, were identified following an open nominations process from the public. The aim of the Awards is to highlight the efforts of those who have given a voice and action to humanitarian issues by improving lives and reducing suffering. The winners of each category for 2023 were:

- **Lifetime Achievement** - Mary Lawlor, United Nations Special Rapporteur
- **Young Humanitarian** - Ruby O'Kelly
- **Innovation for Change Award** - Rajat Maheshwar
- **Journalism Excellence** - Noteworthy.ie journalists Maria Delaney, Geela Garcia and Louise Lawless
- **Corporate Impact Award** - Revolut for its Ukraine Appeal

The judging panel for the awards were: Vivienne Flood, Head of Public Affairs for RTÉ; Derry Grey, Partner in BDO; Daire Keogh President of DCU; Olha Khoroshevska of Ukrainian Action in Ireland; Fiach Mac Conghail, CEO of Digital Hub; Olivia Mitchell, Vice Chair, Irish Red Cross; Felix O'Regan, Board Member Irish Red Cross and Chloe Walsh, Irish Red Cross Youth Volunteer.



Pictured are (L-R) Louise Lawless and Maria Delaney who alongside their colleague Geela Garcia (not pictured) won the award for Journalism Excellence for their investigation on exploitation of migrant fishers.

Photo Credit: Louise O'Sullivan



Rajat Maheshwari winner of the Innovation for Change Category with his wife Manali and daughter Reva.

Picture credit: Lorraine O'Sullivan

Community-Based Health and First Aid in Prison

Ireland was the first country in the world to implement the Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) programme in a prison setting in 2009. The goal of this innovative programme is to train inmate Irish Red Cross volunteers to fill a community health gap between the formal prison health structures and the prisoners in their cells.

Each year, groups of inmate volunteers are recruited in all 14 prisons in the state. Their aim is to identify the main issues in their prison community and develop projects aimed at improving those issues. To date, more than 2,000 prisoners have been trained in CBHFA in Irish prisons. These volunteers have contributed greatly to the improved health and well-being of the prison population. The programme has also provided opportunities for volunteer inmates to develop a skillset that can be practically applied upon release.

The partnership includes the Irish Prison Services, as well as the Probation Service, which has allowed for opportunities for volunteers upon release, to facilitate elements of the programme in the wider community amongst other 'at-risk' groups. This has meant that those under the supervision of the Probation Service can benefit from the peer education provided by these trained volunteers in topics such as violence prevention, overdose prevention and relapse prevention.

Facts and Figures

- 139 in-mate volunteers completed the CBHFA programme in 2023
- 14 cycles of CBHFA were rolled out (one in each prison in the state)
- 14 first aid training courses completed within the prisons
- 122 inmate volunteers who graduated from CBHFA in Justice in previous years continued to volunteer during 2023
- In-mate volunteers represented approximately 5% of the prison population in 2023
- Relapse prevention courses were rolled out in two prisons as a pilot in 2023. The aim of this workshop is for inmate volunteers to assist those in recovery to maintain a drug-free status or reduce their use
- Volunteers in five prisons facilitated smoking cessation workshops for those interested in quitting
- Expansion of partnerships within the probation service was achieved in 2023 to include Galway, Cork, Dublin, Westmeath, Longford and Sligo
- 11 violence prevention workshops facilitated with the probation service and community organisations
- 15 overdose prevention workshops facilitated to the probation service and community organisations
- 2 relapse prevention workshops completed in the wider community in 2023.

CASE STUDY

The Community-Based Health and First Aid Programme has worked closely with the Irish Prison Service's psychology team over the years to provide information and education on mental health to Irish Red Cross volunteers in prison. As a result, volunteers in every prison have created dozens of mental health-related projects in their own prison communities. Mental health and wellbeing have continued to be a high-priority concern for people in custody. The project work completed by the Irish Red Cross volunteers in partnership with the psychology teams have helped hundreds of prisoners around the country.

Due to concerns over a rise in self-harming and suicide attempts in prisons during 2023, volunteers developed an 'Every Life Matters' campaign, which was rolled out in all prisons. The campaign included developing and disseminating information booklets to every prisoner on emotional dysregulation. Podcasts were also developed for the Prisoner TV Channel as a way to reach prisoners who do not currently engage with services due to mental health difficulties.

The booklets included information on suicide and self-harm, understanding emotional regulation, coping strategies, as well as supports that are available in prison. Included in this list of supports were details about Irish Red Cross volunteers in their prison. The Irish Red Cross volunteers can provide further information from the prison psychology team and help signpost prisoners to receive further support from relevant services.

'Every Life Matters' Campaign

Community-Based Health in Prisons – Global Programme 2023

The Irish Red Cross has built up extensive experience and knowledge with 15 years' experience of implementing Community-Based Health in Prisons. Ireland was the first country in the world, through its national society, to introduce prisoners as peer health educator Red Cross volunteers.

Significant international interest has led to the ICRC and IFRC in Geneva asking Irish Red Cross to take the global lead and form a Global Hub/Centre of Excellence for Community-Based Health in Detention in 2022.

Strategic planning meetings between the three parts of the movement led to an agreement to begin a pilot project in 2023. The purpose of this global project is to promote, train and support community-based health as an approach to improve health and safety in other jurisdictions through Red Cross/Red Crescent and Detention Authority partnerships supported by the ICRC and IFRC.

Throughout year the global project has focused on putting key structures in place, including the establishment of a Global Hub Steering Group between the Irish Red Cross, ICRC and IFRC to meet at regular intervals to monitor progress, advise and approve actions. Pilot projects were agreed with ICRC, IFRC and the Field for training and implementation in Columbia and Honduras. In-country visits took place in 2023 to assist in pilot project planning and selection of Implementation Teams.

A mapping exercise of Detention Health activities in Europe is being undertaken, and support has been provided to several EU national Red Cross societies, RCRC societies within the European region in liaison with the EU regional office in Brussels. Training and implementation methodologies and tools are also being developed to support pilot projects.

Flood Relief Schemes

As part of our auxiliary role to Government, the Irish Red Cross administers the Emergency Business Flood Relief Scheme on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The purpose of these schemes is to provide a once-off ex-gratia contribution to small businesses and community, voluntary and sporting bodies affected by significant flooding events, who through no fault of their own could not secure flood insurance.

In 2023, three programmes were rolled out in response to flooding emergencies. A total of €7.4 million was paid out to 240 eligible applicants in Cork, Louth and Galway in the largest roll-out of the scheme in its existence following multiple storms in November, including Storm Babet.

Due to the scale and complexity of the claims, this scheme is still being administered. In June, €5,000 was paid out to one eligible applicant following flooding in Kerry and Wexford, and €23,273 was paid out to seven eligible applicants in Donegal following significant floods in July.



The Irish Red Cross administers the Emergency Business Flood Relief Scheme on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Pictured: Mידelton, Co Cork post Storm Babet. Photo credit: Damien Rytel via PA Explore

International Work



Impact stats

Myanmar



79

volunteers supported 200 families in the region through the provision of emergency kits, including personal hygiene items, mosquito nets, tarpaulins, health supplies, as well as clean water and food

Nepal



800

people supported in expansion of economic development programme, with an emphasis on supporting smallholder farmers, in particular women and people with disabilities



Globally, 2023 continued to be marred by more than 100 armed conflicts, many of which have created desperate humanitarian crises. This included conflicts which dominated headlines, such as Ukraine and Gaza, and less publicised crises from Yemen to Myanmar, and the Democratic Republic of Congo to Sudan.

The UN estimated that two billion people, a quarter of the world's population, now live in conflict-affected areas.

Yemen



102,602

health consultations in 9 Irish Red Cross supported primary health care centres

Ukraine



€4.8m

allocated to support the work of Irish Red Cross partners in the area

International Work (continued)

Once again, conflict increasingly took place in populated urban areas, placing civilians at the heart of conflict zones. Civilians continued to bear the heaviest burden - an estimated 90 per cent of casualties in wars today are civilians. The consequences of urban warfare were seen beyond the immediate direct effects of death and injury, to indirect effects as vital infrastructure was destroyed with devastating consequences for civilian populations.

Myanmar

Armed conflict intensified and spread across most of Myanmar in 2023, driving new levels of widespread displacement and increasing the already fragile humanitarian situation. In early May, the humanitarian situation deepened for those already facing challenges because of ongoing conflict, when Cyclone Mocha made landfall in Rakhine bringing intense winds, heavy rains, flash floods and landslides. The cyclone affected around three million people causing significant damage and widespread destruction to homes, livelihoods, hospitals, transport infrastructure, power and water services.

Critical infrastructure, including water systems, sanitation facilities, hospitals, clinics, schools and transportation networks have suffered severe damage or complete destruction. Livelihoods were disrupted, with the loss of livestock and floods impacting croplands.

Myanmar Red Cross Society mobilised their staff and volunteers for rescue operations, the clearing of debris, provision of first aid and the distribution of relief items.

Since October 2023, the situation has further deteriorated with hostilities expanding throughout the country. This intensification has unfortunately led to a dramatic increase in civilian casualties, adding more hardship to highly vulnerable communities struggling to meet their basic needs, against the backdrop of increasing restrictions on access to humanitarian assistance. Nevertheless, teams at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), including Irish Red Cross delegate Julia Murphy, continued to carry out activities, which are lifesaving, dignity-preserving and essential for the affected population.

Julia began her work as a delegate with the ICRC in Maungdaw, located in northern Rakhine State in March 2023. Working first as Protection Team Leader in Rakhine covering restoring family links (separation due to conflict, detention and migration), supporting released detainees and their safe return home, and following up on other protection concerns including weapon contamination; she is now Deputy Protection Coordinator in Yangon managing the Protection of the Civilian Population (PCP) file, with the main focus being on upholding the safety and dignity of civilians affected by armed conflict and other forms of violence throughout Myanmar.



Following Cyclone Mocha, Myanmar Red Cross volunteers provided emergency kits to affected communities in Rakhine State. Relief provided included personal hygiene items, mosquito nets, tarpaulins, health supplies, as well as clean water and food.
Photo Credit: Myanmar Red Cross

Supporting Communities and Enhancing Livelihoods

Throughout 2023, Irish Red Cross in collaboration with Nepal Red Cross, and supported by Irish Aid, continued its support to increase the economic security and resilience of vulnerable and marginalised people in Myagdi District. This year, the programme was expanded to provide support to four new communities targeting at least 800 people with an emphasis on supporting small hold farmers, in particular women and people with disabilities. Integrating climate concerns into programmes by increasing farmers' capacity to better adopt sustainable climate-smart agricultural practices and techniques was also introduced.

Facts and Figures

- 16 thematic groups of climate-smart and high-value cash crop farming were formed comprising 562 farmers
- In order to increase farmers awareness to the benefits of climate-smart agriculture, 31 exposure and exchange visits to model climate-smart farms were organised
- 181 smallholder farmers, including 78 females, received training on how to adopt climate-smart agricultural techniques so as to reduce their vulnerability to climate change
- In order to determine quality of soil, tests were conducted with 228 households to improve the quality of their crops
- More than 10,000 different varieties of plants were distributed to farmers.



The poor, often ethnic minorities who depend on natural resources are at increased risk of the impacts of climate change. This increased vulnerability is driven by existing deficiencies in food availability, the ownership of smaller-sized land and lower financial capacity to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change.

Photo Credit: Irish Red Cross



CASE STUDY

Manamaya

Kiwi farming and independent income thanks to Red Cross supports

As a young widow, Manamaya Paija faced the daunting task of single-handedly raising her three daughters and one son. With insufficient resources and weak finances, the journey was difficult. Yet, she refused to succumb to despair. Despite the challenges, she remained dedicated in her resolve to provide a better future for her children.

Once her children had reached adulthood, Manamaya faced a difficult decision: to send her son abroad for employment to support their livelihood, while her three daughters settled into their married lives in their husbands' homes. Manamaya found it challenging to send her son abroad, but it was a necessity in order to support himself and the family's livelihood.

She found the time after her son's departure to be lonely and difficult as a 43-year-old widow. Sometimes she sold potatoes in the neighbourhood market to make ends meet; sometimes she borrowed from her neighbours to settle her difficulties. She always wanted to earn a good income by doing something herself, but she didn't know how. When she heard about the livelihood programme of the Red Cross, which provides support for high-value crop farming in the community, she was curious.

Uncertain about which crop would thrive in her area and whether she could manage it, she ventured to a community meeting held by the Red Cross, a 30-minute walk from her home. It was there that she was enlightened about the programme and became interested in kiwi farming.

Within a few days of registering her name, she received training on kiwi farming from the District Agriculture Knowledge Center organised by the Red Cross, followed by the distribution of plants. She planted 15 plants of kiwi on her land. She also informed her son living abroad about it. "He expressed his desire to return to his homeland if kiwi farming becomes successful."

She expresses her happiness about having started farming. She says, "In 2-4 years, kiwi will bring in good income, and I also hope that my son living abroad will return home."

Yemen

Improving Access to Health Services

Nine years into the conflict in Yemen, violence and economic hardship has exhausted people's capacity to cope and has brought all essential services close to their breaking point.

With more than 20 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, the country's fragile health system is severely overburdened. Along with disease outbreaks, shortages of healthcare workers, funds and medicines are accelerating Yemen's deepening health crisis.

The major challenge throughout 2023 has been supporting the functionality of the public health system with many health facilities having been destroyed or damaged. In the facilities that remain, access to essential medicines and treatment has been limited. Gaps such as these in health care services have grave impacts for the most vulnerable, especially women and children.

The Irish Red Cross has been supporting the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement response to the humanitarian impacts of conflict in Yemen for years. This continued throughout 2023 whereby in partnership with Norwegian Red Cross, we provided funding to improve access to quality health care services for vulnerable populations in Yemen.

Facts and Figures

- The project supports nine primary health care centres (five in the north and four in south Yemen) with materials, medicines and medical supplies
- 102,602 health consultations (56% female) were carried out in nine Red Cross-supported primary healthcare centres
- First aid training was provided to 250 Yemeni Red Crescent volunteers, 921 community members and 96 students that included 24 with hearing impairments.



Manamaya Paija pictured at her kiwi farm.
Photo Credit: Irish Red Cross



First aid training with Yemen Red Crescent is critical as nearly 20 people die every day from treatable wounds and illnesses since medication is unaffordable for average citizens.
Photo Credit: Norwegian Red Cross

Ukraine Conflict

The international armed conflict in Ukraine continues to this day, inflicting a devastating toll on the lives of millions of people inside and outside the country. Throughout 2023, fighting and hostilities continued to destroy parts of Ukraine and cause extensive damage to critical infrastructure and essential services such as energy, water and heating systems. As hostilities rage on, humanitarian conditions remain dire inside Ukraine, where some 40 per cent of the population need humanitarian and protection support. Millions of people have crossed borders from Ukraine into neighbouring countries and beyond. Most of these individuals have been displaced for nearly two years, and the gaps in meeting their needs are increasing.

This year, the Irish Red Cross maintained its focus on providing essential humanitarian aid to address a spectrum of needs in Ukraine and neighbouring nations. A total of €4.8 million was allocated this year to support the endeavours of Red Cross partners, including the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, the IFRC, Polish Red Cross and Romanian Red Cross. Additionally, the Irish Red Cross collaborated with University College Dublin for Emergency Medical Science on the Ukraine Trauma Project, delivering advanced training to medical personnel on techniques to manage severe traumatic injuries, particularly severe haemorrhage. Over the course of the year, 105 paramedics and medical professionals received training and were equipped with emergency medical kits.

Extending life-saving services during the winter months is imperative due to the harsh conditions and increased vulnerabilities faced by the affected population. As part of our emergency response for the winter months, and to address the unique challenges posed by the low temperatures, Irish Red Cross also provided four Mobile Heating Units equipped with generators to Ukrainian Red Cross. These units serve as multi-functional hubs, offering the affected population access to not just heating but relief items, food, first aid and a range of other services.

In addition, Irish Red Cross pledged €1.5m to the Red Cross Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance Programme that provides financial assistance to people impacted by the conflict in Ukraine. This support was delivered via pre-paid cash cards or through Moneygram. While the amount of financial assistance provided varied by country, in Ukraine, participants received €240 per person across three months.

Irish Red Cross financial support – Ukraine

In 2022, an unprecedented €42 million was raised by the public and the Irish Red Cross for the emergency appeal supporting those affected by the conflict in Ukraine. An additional €921k was raised in 2023, bringing this total to €42.92 million. The table on page 51 outlines how the funds were allocated in 2023 as we continue to implement our multi-year spending plans.

Of the original €42 million raised, as detailed in our 2022 annual report, €38.4 million was allocated for a multi-year programme:

- €34.4 million to support people affected by the conflict in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.
- €4 million to support people displaced by the conflict in Ireland.

These allocations were made after deducting bank/online payment fees, other direct costs, and a seven percent charge for managing and ensuring accountability of the programmes.

The funds raised in 2023 are allocated to the ongoing programmes both in Ukraine and also domestically in Ireland (after similar costs are deducted).

The table on page 51 shows the updated status of fund allocation as of the end of 2023, along with plans for the remaining expenditure.



In November, staff from Irish Red Cross HQ met with Ukrainian Red Cross staff and volunteers and visited one of their regional warehouses in Kiev. The Red Cross warehouse which stores humanitarian aid such as food parcels, generators, hygienic parcels, kitchen sets and sleeping kits is key to helping people impacted by the crisis in Ukraine.

Photo credit: Irish Red Cross

Breakdown of expenditure of Ukraine Crisis Appeal funds

Ireland:	€4.5m
Expenditure in 2022 (detailed in our 2022 annual report at redcross.ie)	€1.1m
Expenditure in 2023 funded the following:	€1.15m
- Supporting Ukrainians arriving through ports and airports - €124k - Community engagement including: Ukrainian community centre, distribution of rehabilitated bicycles, provision of English classes and public awareness activities - €700k - Cash assistance, voucher assistance and in kind assistance (hygiene kits and school bags, etc.) - €157k - Development and start-up of mental health therapy support - €106k - Wrap around auxiliary supports for those in pledge accommodation programme and other emergency accommodation and volunteer-led community transport for Ukrainians - €64k	
Allocated by the Board for expenditure in 2024 and 2025:	€2.25m
- Community engagement through our Branch Outreach and Engagement programme; including first aid, psychological first aid, youth programmes, social activities and transport – with/via branches and volunteers. - Continuing activities in Ukraine Community Centre in Rathmines, Dublin. - Continuing vouchers and cash assistance for specific vulnerable cases. - Strengthening and building on the success of Therapeutic support for PTSD symptoms to individuals in the Ukrainian language plus other Ukrainian language mental health support proposals. There is a special focus on scaling up Psychological First Aid in Ukrainian language. - Continuing communications campaigns to raise awareness towards the needs and challenges of Ukrainians in Ireland	
International:	€34.4m
Expenditure in 2022 (detailed in the 2022 annual report on redcross.ie)	€19.4m
Expenditure in 2023 funded the following:	€4.8m
- Multi-purpose Cash Programme for Ukrainians without a livelihood or in emergency need - €1.5m - Emergency Response - €500k - Protection, Gender & Inclusion - €60k - Polish Red Cross Social Integration Programme - €600k - Medical Training in field-hospital medical techniques (partnership with UCD) - €150k - Winterisation Assistance Programme - €1.5m €0.5m general contribution.	
Allocated for expenditure planned for 2024 – 2026 is to continue the roll out of the programmes now embedded at end 2023:	€10.2m
- Ukraine Trauma Project. - Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). - Community Centres inside Ukraine. - National Society Development of the Ukraine Red Cross. - Supporting local National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies to provide both relief and recovery programming.	
The budget is allocated across 2024 – 2025 as follows: €5m in 2024 and €5.2m in 2025.	

International Work (continued)



CASE STUDY

Larysa and Volodymyr

Larysa and Volodymyr are two courageous individuals who fled their home to find safety in Romania. The couple, both 75, left everything behind to escape the escalating conflict in Ukraine. They arrived in Bucharest on 14th December 2022, where their grandchildren had already sought refuge before them.

“We came to Romania because our nerves could not take the situation that was developing in our country, in our cities,” says Larysa.

“My husband had just had an operation for cancer. We were very depressed,” she said. Once in Romania “at the beginning, for a week, we were afraid of every noise – even the sirens. Because at home we often heard explosions in the neighbouring town.”

Since 24th February 2022, more than 5.4 million border crossings of people from Ukraine have been recorded in Romania and nearly 80,000 people displaced from Ukraine are currently residing in Romania. The situation for people presents substantial challenges due to the country's difficult socio-economic context coupled with lack of affordable housing and rising cost of living across the country.

Despite the challenges, Larysa and Volodymyr received support from the Romanian Red Cross. “We received financial support in two instalments of €120,” shares Volodymyr. “We spent it on food and medicine, which we really needed.”

As they adapt to their new reality, Larysa and Volodymyr continue to long for their home and the loved ones they left behind. For now, they patiently await the day they can return.

Funding received from the Irish Red Cross enabled Romania Red Cross to reach 2,280 vulnerable households with vital cash assistance to meet their urgent needs.

Facts and Figures

10 million people have had to leave their homes to seek safety elsewhere: Some 3.7 million people are internally displaced inside Ukraine. There are 6.3 million people who have fled from Ukraine and now live in other parts of the world. This is about 25% of the population.

In addition to those who have had to flee, millions more have been affected in the hardest hit areas inside Ukraine, where essential services are difficult to access. There are shortages of food, water and medicine with people trapped under regular bombardment. Around 55% of the population in hardest hit districts (oblasts) require urgent unmet needs, with only 23% having access to humanitarian assistance.

The Irish Red Cross support to the International Ukraine Crisis operation included:

- Providing cash assistance to vulnerable households affected by the conflict
- Delivering vital relief items like food, hygiene parcels, blankets and sleeping kits
- Supporting a gender-based violence awareness campaign and training staff and volunteers in protection, gender and inclusion
- Remodelling vehicles to carry generators, fuel cans, fire hydrants etc.
- Providing training in advanced lifesaving interventions to medical personnel in the management of severe haemorrhage to 105 participants. In addition, 100 emergency medical kits were supplied.

Increasing Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

Against the challenging environment of the high level of worldwide conflict in 2023, raising awareness of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) remains as important as ever. Within this, the Irish Red Cross remained committed to disseminating IHL, focusing on highlighting the effects of urban warfare on civilians as a priority.

Throughout the year, Irish Red Cross continued to engage both within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement on key thematic areas, and externally with key stakeholders on IHL including with academia, government authorities, and the humanitarian and development sector. It continued to advocate for the protection of civilians in armed conflict in all of its work.

—In March, Irish Red Cross held its 7th Edition of the Corn Adomnáin IHL Competition for law students around Ireland. A record number of 15 teams applied, with 27

students participating on the day from nine different institutions. The competition was held in University College Dublin and addressed different topics arising from the consequences of urban warfare. Judges participating on the day included members of the Irish Defence Forces, Department of Foreign Affairs, members of the judiciary and academic experts.

The competition remains an important way to engage with academia and other experts in IHL, and to highlight its importance amongst Ireland's future lawyers and practitioners.

Irish Red Cross also organised an IHL Conference in the Mansion House Dublin in October. The conference was titled "War in Cities: exploring the devastating humanitarian consequences of urban warfare" and included speakers from the humanitarian sector, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and the Irish Defence Forces. Attendees also included representatives across government departments, academia, the legal sector and others. A roundtable discussion was held in the afternoon with speakers from the conference to discuss emerging areas of focus in IHL, and the role Irish Red Cross can play. A joint Op-ed between Irish Red Cross and ICRC was published in the Irish Independent relating to urban warfare and the conference.



Winners of Corn Adomnáin 2024, University College Dublin team Donna Parau, Moyinoluwa Adelakun, and Alanna Grogan with their academic lead Dr Amrei Muller (left).



Pictured left to right: Noreen Gumbo, Head of Humanitarian Programmes for Trócaire; Pat Carey, Irish Red Cross Chair; Michiel Hofman, Senior Humanitarian Specialist with Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF); Deirdre Garvey, Secretary General of Irish Red Cross; Réiseal Ní Chéilleachair, Head of International Advocacy at Concern.

Fundraising



Pictured are the Irish Red Cross fundraising team at the Charities Institute Ireland Awards. The team won Fundraising Campaign of the Year and Fundraising Team of the year 2023.

Impact stats



€10.23m

The Irish Red Cross raised €10.23 million across all fundraising activities throughout the year



€7.95m

was raised through specific purpose appeals – the most significant income raised was for the Türkiye and Syria crisis – the appeal raised €2.9 million



The Irish Red Cross Fundraising team was publicly recognised by Charities Institute Ireland, which awarded the team with two prizes including Fundraising Campaign of the Year and Fundraising Team of the year

Fundraising (continued)

The Irish Red Cross raised €10.23 million through fundraising activities throughout 2023. The breakdown is outlined in the Fundraising Overview graph below.

Throughout 2023, the Irish Red Cross continued to develop and expand its fundraising programme while simultaneously responding to major international crises in Türkiye (Turkey), Syria, Morocco, Libya and Gaza. The overwhelming support from the Irish public for these incidents illustrated the unique fundraising role that the Irish Red Cross plays in the face of disaster or conflict.

This support also served to underscore our position as the only humanitarian organisation in Ireland that is “always there” to provide rapid and practical support to those in need in every country in the world. In an effort to build on this trust and recognition, the fundraising team worked throughout the year to develop its capacity to rapidly and effectively respond to global and domestic events as they occurred.

Beyond its dedicated response to emergency events, the Irish Red Cross fundraising team also worked to refine its focus on the strategic acquisition of income that is of vital importance to the Irish Red Cross as an organisation. Among the 2023 highlights in this core area of work was the establishment of a community-based fundraising programme that will enable the Irish Red Cross Head Office to support third-party public fundraising efforts and will assist the organisation’s network of 73 branches to develop their own capacity to raise funds at local level.

Other 2023 developments included the March re-launch of the Irish Red Cross website, expanded engagement with supporting digital communications and fundraising platforms, ongoing refinement of our donor care and stewardship programmes, the expansion of our corporate

engagement capacity and the ongoing development of the Irish Red Cross’s Direct Response Television (DRTV) Programme.

With regard to the governance of Irish Red Cross fundraising, the Irish Red Cross also engaged in a thorough review to ensure full compliance with the Charities Regulator Authority (CRA) guidelines and updated its existing Ethical Fundraising Policy.

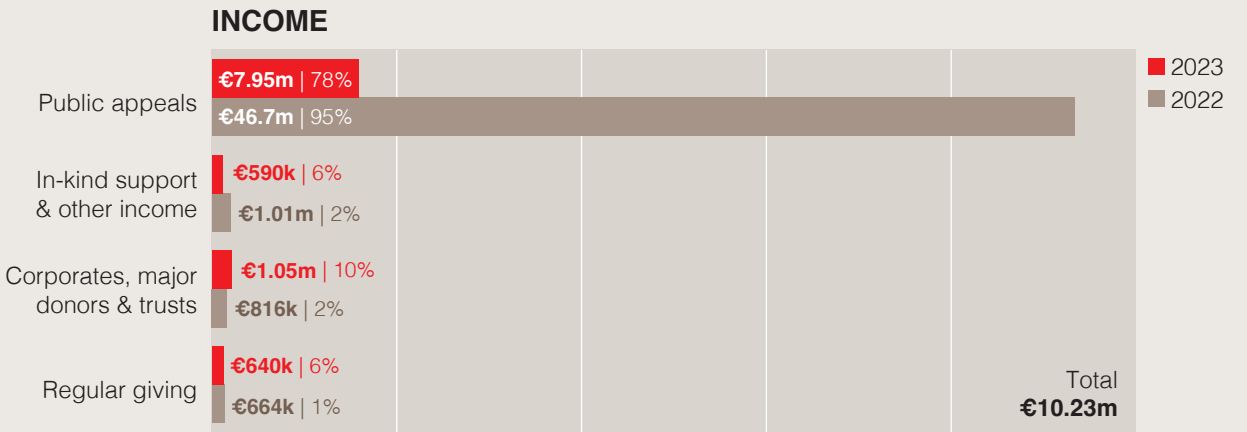


Ruby O'Kelly who won the Young Humanitarian of the Year in 2023 speaking at the Irish Red Cross Summer Gathering that took place in LinkedIn offices in Dublin. Picture credit: Damian Eagers

Türkiye and Syria Appeal

On 6th February, a series of earthquakes killed over 55,000 people in Türkiye (Turkey) and Syria – resulting in the worst natural disaster the region has seen in 20 years. The Irish Red Cross responded immediately with an emergency fundraising campaign that raised €2,990,180 from a mix of public support and corporate donations from long-standing partners such as An Post, Tesco, Musgrave and others. For details on the impact of this support please refer to page 19 in our Emergency Work Section.

Fundraising Overview



Morocco and Libya

A 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit Morocco on 8th September, killing and injuring thousands of people and causing widespread destruction. The Irish Red Cross responded immediately by issuing a public fundraising appeal in aid of the Moroccan Red Crescent Society (MRCS). Through this appeal, Irish Red Cross raised €574,244 in support of the MRCS to meet the immediate and early recovery needs of 500,000 affected people. Days later on 10th September in Libya, Storm Daniel made landfall – bringing severe weather conditions, including strong winds and torrential rainfall that affected several areas in the country. Following the storm, massive flooding killed more than 4,300 people while upwards of 50,000 families were left without essential services such as health and sanitation facilities, schooling or a safe water supply. Once again, the Irish Red Cross fundraising team worked to drive public support for those in need – raising €197,286 in support for Libyan Red Crescent teams on the ground.

Gaza

In October, in response to the current conflict in the region, the Irish Red Cross scaled up its ongoing appeal in response to the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The Irish Red Cross engaged directly with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society – raising €634,304 for the provision of emergency items including medical aid and equipment, water, food, transport of the wounded and shelter.

Creel Slough

In the autumn of 2022, the Irish Red Cross was directly engaged with the tragedy that so severely impacted the Donegal community of Creel Slough. In addition to the ongoing localised support provided to the community by Irish Red Cross staff and volunteers, the Irish Red Cross fundraising team continued to encourage the provision of public and corporate donations which resulted in €1.88m raised up until the end of 2023 alone. The detail of the allocation of this income can be found on section 2, on page 39.

Unrestricted Income

Irish Red Cross works tirelessly to engage with private and public donors to secure support for all of its activities. Throughout 2023, this support was realised through donations that were restricted to the specific fundraising appeals listed above as well as to critically important “unrestricted” support that enables the IRC’s daily operations in Ireland and abroad.

This support contributed to the crucial strategic growth of Irish Red Cross programmes at home and abroad. (For more details refer to page 73, Finance Section). This success was driven in part by the ongoing and effective strategic engagement of the fundraising team via scheduled appeals, events such as the annual Irish Red Cross Humanitarian Awards, major donor, legacy and corporate solicitations, DRTV, social media and other activities.



Royal College of Surgeons students taking part in a bucket collection for the Irish Red Cross outside the St Stephen's Green Shopping Centre.



In November 2023 the Benefact Trust committed to an additional €25,000 to support the Ukraine Community Centre in Rathmines. Pictured are (L-R) Scott Hayes (Head of Relationship Management, Ecclesiastical Insurance), Helen Gray (Director, Benefact Trust), Olha Khoroshevska (Manager, Ukraine Community Centre Rathmines), Deirdre Garvey (Secretary General of the Irish Red Cross), Charlie Lamson (Head of Fundraising, Irish Red Cross) and David Kenealy (Operations Manager – National Services, Irish Red Cross).

Fundraising (continued)

Awards

Following the overwhelming success of the 2022 Ukraine Crisis Appeal, the Irish Red Cross Fundraising team was publicly recognised by Charities Institute Ireland, which awarded the team with two prizes including Fundraising Campaign of the Year and Fundraising Team of the year.

Looking Ahead to 2024

As the organisation looks forward to 2024, a key objective of the fundraising team will be to ensure the long-term stability and growth of the of the Irish Red Cross programme. In 2023, the Irish Red Cross expanded significantly as it responded to the influx of forced migrants arriving in Ireland because of conflicts in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria and elsewhere.

Irish Red Cross anticipates that the need for this support will continue while additional challenges, such as incidents of climate-related flooding, will impact communities across the island. To address these challenges, the fundraising team will continue to explore options for expanding its capacity to engage with donors while improving internal

efficiency wherever possible. The fundraising team will also work closely with Irish Red Cross programme teams to capture impact data and stories of Irish Red Cross volunteer and staff efforts that will strengthen the case for support among new and existing donors. Further attention will also be given to capturing domestic stories of volunteer activities and support.

Additional developments in 2024 will include: the introduction of a dedicated Grants Co-ordinator who will oversee the development of a centralised and transparent organisational structure to identify and respond to grant opportunities as well as ensure the management of all secured grant agreements; and an ongoing effort to improve efficiency and capacity to effectively monitor returns on investment and further improve our donor engagement processes.

Finally, to ensure we build strategically upon the significant successes of 2022 and 2023, in 2024 the Irish Red Cross fundraising programme will develop a multi-year strategic approach that is tied directly to the organisation's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan.



Pictured at the Christmas gathering are Deirdre Garvey, Director General, with James Lafferty from the Clare branch of the Irish Red Cross, Michael Walsh and Chloe Walsh.

Corporate Supporters 2023

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of private companies, trusts and foundations, religious orders, community and education groups, and others. We would like to thank each of the organisations that supported the Irish Red Cross's mission to identify and deliver humanitarian assistance to those that need it most throughout the year.

- Abbott Diagnostics
- Adstock Property Holdings Ltd
- Aiken Promotions
- An Post
- Applegreen
- Arup
- Association of Ukrainians in Ireland
- Auctioneers and Valuers Institute of Ireland
- Avolon Aerospace Leasing Limited
- Ballydaniel Consulting Limited
- Balmoral International Land Holdings plc
- Bank of Ireland
- Benefact Trust
- Bewley's Limited
- British Red Cross
- Carbery Group
- Castlehyde Stud
- Charities Aid Foundation
- Charles McCann Charitable Foundation
- CPL Resources
- Data Solutions Limited
- Digital Hub
- DMG Media Ireland
- Dole Ireland Limited
- Donnybrook Fair
- Dun Laoghaire Golf Club
- Ecclesiastical
- ElectricAid
- Energy Services Union
- Engineering Ireland
- Fighting Words
- Fit.ie
- Food-Bridge Limited
- Fórsa
- Frank Keane BMW
- Genius Juniors
- Grant Thornton
- Harry Crosbie
- Helping Irish Hosts
- Horizon Therapeutics
- Iarnrod Eireann
- International Hotel
- International Organisation for Migration
- Irish Nurses & Midwives Organisation
- Irish Refugee Council
- Irving Oil
- Kelly Timber Group Limited
- Kennedy Wilson
- Kilmahuddrick Holdings Unlimited
- Kirby Group Engineering
- LOTTOLAND
- Mediation Ireland
- Microsoft
- Musgrave Charitable Trust
- Musgrave Group
- Orlette Limited
- PayPal Giving Fund Ireland
- Peter McVerry Trust
- Positive Equity Ltd
- Procter & Gamble
- Punks Listen
- Rathmines Ukraine Community Centre
- Revolut Limited
- Ross Burns
- Royal City of Dublin Hospital Trust
- Shamrock Gift Company
- Smurfit Kappa Foundation
- St Angela's College
- St Clare's Comprehensive
- Teamwork
- Tesco Ireland
- The Abbey Hotel Donegal
- The Community Foundation for Ireland
- The Good Bike Project
- The Goodman Foundation
- The Irish Online Giving Foundation
- The UK Online Giving Foundation
- Ukraine Civil Society Response Forum
- Ukraine Lawyers Group
- Ukrainian Action in Ireland
- Vicar Street
- Vodafone Ireland Foundation

Looking Ahead



Pictured at the first anniversary of Ukraine Community Centre Rathmines are (l-r) Larysa Gerasko, Madam Ambassador of Ukraine to Ireland with Director General Deirdre Garvey and members of the choir "Ukrainian Soul" who performed on the day.

2024 is the final year of our five-year strategy. It is a year to take stock of the tremendous changes that have taken place in the context in which the organisation does its work over the course of the strategy's implementation. And it is the year where we engage in a deep consultation exercise to inform the development and planning associated with a new strategy that will guide our work from 2025 to 2030.



Looking Ahead (continued)

The continued success of our programmes, our increased profile and reputation and the addition of key new roles with huge experience equips us to enter 2024 at pace. The year will embed the nascent organisational change programme that was introduced in 2023. With that will come a newly upgraded financial IT accounting and reporting system in the first instance, which will in turn empower and support our branches to focus on the impact of the work their volunteers do.

If 2023 was a year of transition, reassessment and laying the groundwork for organisational change and transformation, the year 2024 will be the year of marked improvement in how we focus on and articulate our impact. At the start of 2023, we saw the commencement of a new permanent Secretary General, Deirdre Garvey, and at the start of 2024 we see an almost transformed senior leadership team leading changed respective teams which are all fully committed to supporting the board, the members and our beneficiaries to maximise the mission and purpose of the Irish Red Cross.

For 2024, the top priority focus projects across all of the work in our detailed operations plan have been identified as:

1. New Strategy Development – prioritising involvement of our members and stakeholders in its development.
2. Re-connection with and rejuvenation of our volunteer-delivered programmes and improving integration with staff-delivered programmes (i.e. ‘head office’).
3. Growing membership numbers across all cohorts of membership, age brackets and activities.
4. Internal and external communications – building on the enhanced public profile to inform people ever more about what the IRC does on the island of Ireland.
5. Articulating our ‘auxiliary role’, and engaging government officials and other stakeholders around that.
6. Developing and clarifying our value and contribution in the ‘national emergency and preparedness’ ecosystem.
7. Digital Transformation: deliver a new finance system and finance accountability and reporting supports for head office and branches. Initiate a wider ‘CRM-replacement’ programme as part of a multi-year transition.
8. Access new funding streams and grow existing ones.

9. Track our progress (develop and implement a new measurement and evaluation system).
10. Onboarding, integration and embedding all of the new staff (so that the ‘whole’ is greater than the sum of its parts), ensuring a collective enhanced and integrated suite of services for branches and members.

The plan for our work in 2024, which will incorporate the above, is summarised within our strategy’s five themes as follows:

Theme 1 – Sustainability



We want to ensure that we have the finance, people and technology resources in place to enable us to achieve the ambitions set out in our strategy.

Goal 1: Increase fundraising, grant and earned income

Goal 2: Manage resources more effectively

Goal 3: Build a ‘People and Culture’ focus

Theme 2 – Support



We want to design and implement better supports for our beneficiaries and members. We want our stakeholders to have the best possible experience of the Irish Red Cross so that they see us as a positive organisation that they are part of, which is making a difference to people’s lives and strengthening communities.

Goal 4: Strengthen support for members at branch and area level

Goal 5: Develop and strengthen Irish Red Cross’s international programme and IHL agenda

Goal 6: Build our capacity to welcome migrants and provide support to help vulnerable people reach the services they most need and provide clear guidance and pathways to our migration services

Goal 7: Implement and develop our Restoring Family Links programme

Theme 3 – Readiness



We went to ensure that our organisation is ready and prepared to respond to situations of emergency and disaster at home and abroad and to enable the communities we work with put in place their own resilience plans.

Goal 8: Increase the number of trained people available to provide local humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable including first-aid and emergency medical care

Goal 9: Have access to appropriate equipment, vehicles and facilities

Theme 4 – Standards



We save lives. Therefore, we want to ensure that we have the capacity in place to maintain compliance with the relevant regulatory and statutory requirements via our volunteers, leaders and staff

Goal 10: Ensure the Irish Red Cross has the capacity and systems in place to meet CRA governance standards, PHECC regulations and other compliance requirements

Goal 11: Develop a policy to increase environmental sustainability in our work

Theme 5 – Membership



We want to expand the Irish Red Cross membership and become a more responsible and effective organisation, geared to meet the demands and opportunities of being a volunteer and member-led organisation.

Goal 12: Ensure the Irish Red Cross is easy to join and renew membership and smart at using technology

Goal 13: Be a top choice organisation for people seeking to volunteer

Goal 14: Plan and deliver a national recruitment and enrolment strategy for members.

Governance, Management, and Finances



Evgen Varava, the head of Emergency Response Team in Vyshgorod, Ukraine, showing a bombed building in February 2023.



Organisational Structure and Procedures

Legal Status

The Irish Red Cross Society is officially recognised by the State, under the Red Cross Acts 1938 to 1954, as a voluntary aid society in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and as the only National Red Cross in Ireland. It is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal. As the organisation is not constituted as a company, it does not make returns to the Companies Registration Office pursuant to the Companies Act 2014. The Society is a registered charity with the Charities Regulator in Ireland (RCN 20005184). The Society also has charitable tax exemption status from Revenue (CHY3950).

The principal objective of the Irish Red Cross in its humanitarian activity is to prevent and alleviate suffering with complete impartiality, making no discrimination as to nationality, race, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, language, class or political opinions. The Society has an important role as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field and has a duty to consider seriously any request of the public authorities to carry out humanitarian activities falling within its mandate.

The President of Ireland is the Honorary President of the Irish Red Cross Society, pursuant to Article 10 of the Irish Red Cross Constitution and in accordance with the Red Cross Act, 1944.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

As the Red Cross National Society in Ireland, the Irish Red Cross is also part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which is the world's largest humanitarian network, comprising more than 16 million volunteers in 191 countries worldwide. The Movement comprises the National Societies in countries around the world, along with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The work of the ICRC is based on the Geneva Conventions of 1949, their Additional Protocols, its Statutes – and those of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – and the resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC is an independent, neutral organisation ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. It takes action in response to emergencies and at the same time promotes respect for international humanitarian law and its implementation in national law. The Irish Red Cross Society was recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 2 November 1939.

The IFRC acts before, during and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people. As an international membership organisation, IFRC unites the 191 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies and supports them through a global secretariat. The Irish Red Cross Society became a member of the IFRC on 24 November 1945.

The IFRC is present in virtually every community on earth. It reaches approximately 160 million people every year through long-term services, development programmes and disaster response as well as working to improve global humanitarian standards and persuade leaders to act in the interests of vulnerable people. The strength of the IFRC and the RCRC Movement lies in its volunteer network, unparalleled community-based expertise and its independence and neutrality.

Structure and Management

The Irish Red Cross Society is a membership organisation. Our members give their time on a voluntary basis and operate through a network of volunteer-led and run branches. At the end of 2023, there were 73 branches organised into 23 areas. Areas fall into one of four regions (West, South, Dublin-Mid-Leinster and Dublin North-East).

There are key volunteer roles in place throughout the organisation, facilitating the work at branch, area and regional levels. At a national level, there are a number of key volunteer operational leadership roles. The National Director of Units, supported by Regional and Area Directors of Units, directs the activities of our uniformed members as they provide first aid services across the country; the National Director of Community Support fills the equivalent leadership role in the volunteer network for community support services; and the National Director of Youth leads the youth volunteer organisation. Each branch and area has committees in place to manage operations locally.

The member network is supported in its operations by a staffed secretariat which, in addition to providing supports for members and branches, rolls out a programme of national and international services directly led and delivered by staff.

All staff report through a management structure to the Secretary General, who in turn is accountable to the board through the Chair. The Senior Management Team, as of 31st December 2023, comprised the Secretary General, and Heads of Finance, National Services, International and Migration, Fundraising, and Compliance and Legal Affairs. The Secretary General as at 31st December 2023 was Deirdre Garvey. Profiles of the current Senior Management Team are available on the Irish Red Cross website.

The organisation has a written Constitution and Operating Rules, which are publicly available on our website.

General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest deliberative authority of the Irish Red Cross. The composition of the General Assembly is set out in Article 12 of the Irish Red Cross Constitution and a minimum of 75% of General Assembly members are elected through the area structures, ensuring close ties with the membership throughout the country. Up to 10% of General Assembly members are appointed by Government. Chairs of working groups or committees who are not members of the General Assembly are invited to attend the assembly with observer status. The General Assembly's powers and responsibilities are set out in Article 13 of the Constitution, one of which is to elect the members to the Board of Directors. It meets in ordinary session at least twice every year. In 2023, it met in May and November. The Chair and Vice Chair of the General Assembly are the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board. During 2023, the Chair of the Board was Mr. Pat Carey, and the Vice Chair was Ms. Olivia Mitchell.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is elected by the General Assembly and is vested with all the powers necessary to carry out the aims of the Irish Red Cross. The Board of Directors are the trustees of the charity and carry the legal responsibility under charity law for the organisation's activities. These can be summarised as: ensuring proper systems, processes and procedures are in place that result in the organisation meeting its charitable purpose; being accountable to the public; and being run in an effective and efficient manner in accordance with best governance principles as outlined in the Charity Regulator's Governance Code. They are all volunteers and do not receive any pay for their work as board members, but out of pocket expenses incurred while fulfilling their board member (charity trustee) responsibilities may be reimbursed. The composition (Article 17) and powers (Article 19) of the Board are set out in the organisation's Constitution.

There are 14 members of the Board, and recruitment is through the mechanisms set out in the Constitution and Rules. Article 17 provides that the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary and eight other members are elected from the General Assembly membership; there are also two external board members (non-General Assembly) who are nominated by the Chairperson in consultation with the Board of Directors for their specific competencies, expertise and interest in the Irish Red Cross.

The organisation's governing documents also provide for a Nomination Committee which has a role in proposing candidates for Chairperson, selecting some members of the General Assembly, and other matters delegated to it by the Board or General Assembly, such as succession planning.

The Board of Directors met eight times in 2023. The Secretary General attends meetings of the Board of Directors but is not a member of the Board. Profiles of our board members are available on the Irish Red Cross website. The organisation has a written policy on conflicts of interest that all board members sign up to. Conflicts of interest is also a standing item on the agenda for every board meeting. The organisation has policies on the rotation and terms of board members.

Committees and Working Groups

The organisation has a variety of working groups, advisory groups and committees which focus on particular themes or areas of work. These groups generally have a board liaison person and are supported in their work by a named role in the secretariat. In total, 85 individuals were giving their time voluntarily to these groups; most people only contribute to one group, but some sit on a number of groups. As at 31st December 2023, two people sat on four groups, three sat on three groups and twelve sat on two groups. During 2023, the following such structures were in place:

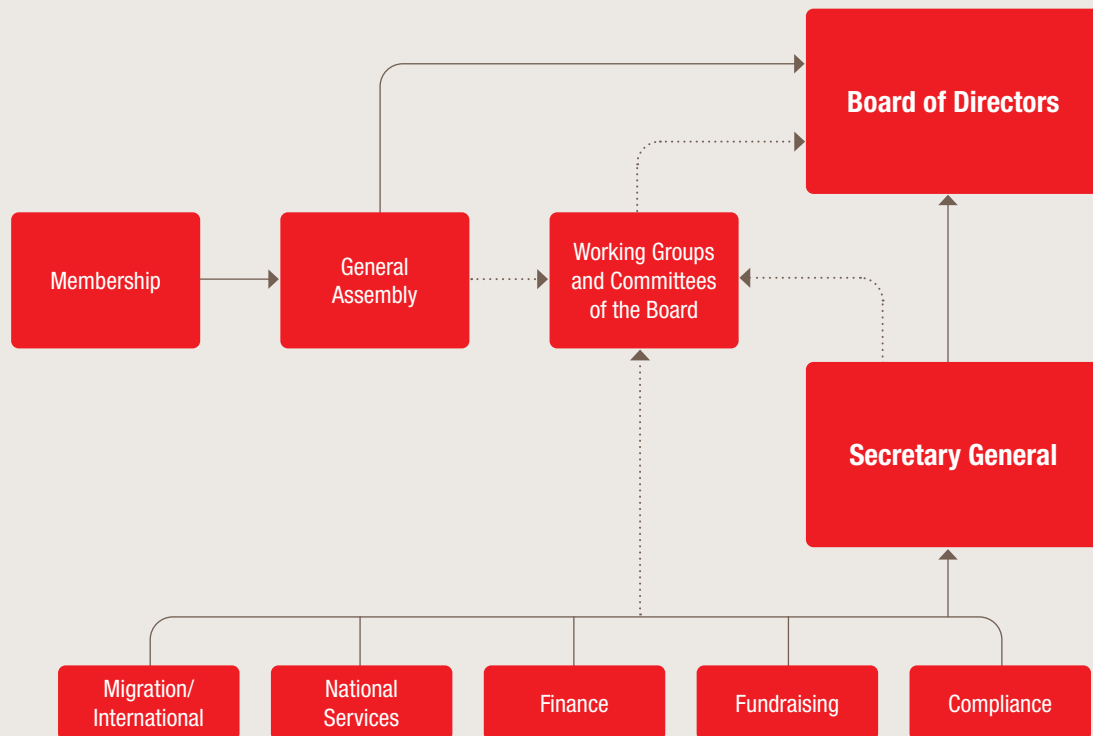
Committees supporting the governance responsibilities of the board:

- **Governance Committee.** The Governance Committee is Chaired by the National Secretary, who is also a member of the board. There are 9 other members of the committee and the committee met 5 times in 2023. The committee includes rule arbitration/interpretation in its functions pursuant to the operating rules. Other activities the committee engaged in 2023 included review of the organisation's submission in relation to the Governance Code, analysis on area and branch structure, and recommending changes to the Constitution and Rules to the Board and General Assembly.
- **Finance Working Group (FWG).** The FWG is Chaired by the National Treasurer, who is also a member of the board. There are 7 other members of the group and the group met 7 times in 2023. The group has functions related to finance set out in the Constitution and Rules. During 2023, the group also worked on supporting and training branch and area office holders, particularly in the area of financial returns.

Governance, Management, and Finances (continued)

- **Membership and Disciplinary Committee (MDC).** The MDC is Chaired by an external independent expert and established pursuant to Article 25 of the Constitution. There are 14 other members drawn from both internal and external sources and the committee has functions set out in the Constitution and Rules. The committee meets only when there are live issues before it, or if there are other items that require its input such as the induction of new members. In the context of live issues, the board referred one matter to the MDC in 2023, and the group also met twice for training and induction of new members.
 - **National Safeguarding Committee (NSC).** The NSC is Chaired by a member with expert knowledge and is established pursuant to Article 26 of the Constitution. There are 6 other members of the committee, and the committee has specific functions set out in the Constitution. The group met 7 times in 2023.
 - **Audit and Risk Committee (ARC).** The ARC is Chaired by a member of the board and has 3 other members with expert knowledge, all external to the organisation. The committee has functions in relation to audit set out in the Constitution and Rules and also works on risk management. The committee met 7 times in 2023.
 - **Training Working Group (TWG).** The TWG is Chaired by the National Director of Units and has 8 other members. The group focuses on developing and delivering training across the organisation, with a particular emphasis on training courses accredited by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC). The group met 7 times in 2023.
 - **Quality Assurance Committee (QAC).** The QAC is Chaired by a member with expert knowledge and has 2 other members. The group focuses on the quality assurance of courses developed and delivered by Irish Red Cross, with a particular emphasis on training courses accredited by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC). The group met 3 times in 2023.
 - **Youth Working Group (YWG).** The YWG is Chaired by the National Director of Youth (NDY) and has 8 other members. The group works on activities related to Irish Red Cross Youth, and met 6 times in 2023.
 - **Community Support Working Group (CSMG).** The CSMG is Chaired by the National Director of Community Support and has 7 other members. The group works on community support activities undertaken through the organisation, like therapeutic hand care and psychological first aid training. The group met twice in 2023.
 - **Health and Safety Committee (HSC).** The HSC is Chaired by a member with expert knowledge and has 4 other members. The group focuses on health and safety in volunteer services and met once in 2023.
 - **International Advisory Group (IAG).** The IAG is Chaired by an external expert and has 8 other members. The group advises on our international activities and met once in 2023.
- Working Groups supporting the operational level delivery of work:
- **Volunteer Development and Support Working Group (VSDWG).** The VSDWG is Chaired by a member with expert knowledge and has 7 other members. The group works on areas relevant to volunteer support, such as membership offerings and officer resources. The group met 6 times in 2023.
 - **Clinical Governance Group (CGG).** The CGG is Chaired by the National Medical Officer and has 9 other members. The group focuses on clinical aspects of our service delivery, particularly in the context of the regulatory environment operated by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC). The group met 5 times in 2023.

Organisational Structure



Decision-making

The organisation has written policies on delegated authorities, through which powers are delegated by the General Assembly or the board to the Secretary General and through the Secretary General to other staff. These policies cover a variety of authorities around staffing, finance and contractual arrangements. In addition, each working group or committee has Terms of Reference set by the board which set out its respective mandate and authority.

Risk Management

The Irish Red Cross has a Risk Management System (RMS) in place which is managed by the secretariat and overseen on behalf of the board by the Audit and Risk Committee. The RMS has four key elements:

1. A Risk Management Policy that sets out the organisation's approach to risk management, details the RMS and provides for roles, responsibilities and annual review timelines.
2. A Risk Register that identifies the current key risks facing the Society and assigns a controlled risk score to each, based on the likelihood and severity of the risk occurring and the controls currently in place. It also provides a risk appetite for each risk.
3. A Risk Management Plan that sets out an owner at Senior Management Team level for each risk, as well as specifying actions to be undertaken within specified timelines, by specified roles or groups, with a focus on mitigating actions to reduce risk.
4. An Internal Audit Plan that sets out a plan for internal audit of key risk areas over the coming year.

The RMS is reviewed during each year to ensure that the risks identified, the organisation's risk appetite, and the mitigation actions remain relevant, and that the organisation can respond effectively to changing circumstances. Risk reporting is on both ARC and board agendas and there is an annual report on risk management goes to the Audit and Risk Committee and then on to the board.

Governance, Management, and Finances (continued)

The key risk areas that the organisation has identified include the following:

- Risks related to misalignment of our activities with the needs of our beneficiaries and our mandate as the Red Cross in Ireland
- Risks related to non-compliance with regulatory frameworks or statutory obligations to which the organisation is subject
- Risks related to breakdowns in governance structures, policy adherence, decision making and accountability structures across the organisation
- Risks related to legacy systems impacting our ability to deliver on our mandate effectively and efficiently
- Risks related to reputational damage arising from negative reporting, whether specifically to do with the Irish Red Cross, or across the charities sector in general

Codes of Practice

The Irish Red Cross is committed to excellence across all areas of our operations. We work to a number of codes and regulatory frameworks to guide our work in this area, including:

- The Charities' Governance Code
- The Charities Regulator's Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Raising Funds from the Public
- The Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messaging
- Guidelines from the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (in the context of our patient care services)
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102) (in relation to financial reporting)

The Irish Red Cross is also subject to audit by funders and key stakeholders such as the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) in relation to our first aid and medical care. Our first aid services were last audited by PHECC in late 2023 and the report is publicly available on PHECC's website.

During 2023, the organisation conducted an internal review of fundraising practices to ensure compliance with good practice in raising funds from the public.

The Irish Red Cross is committed to high levels of transparency, and publishes key documents such as our governing documents, strategic plan, financial reports and key policy documents on the Irish Red Cross website. The Society's financial accounts are prepared according to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) accounting and reporting by charities.

Compliance and Safeguarding

The Irish Red Cross carries out a wide range of activities across communities in Ireland every year – from fundraising, first aid provision and commercial training to community and youth events, support to those arriving from conflict zones and helping reunite family members who have been separated through conflict or migration. In doing so, we are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for everyone who engages with us.

Because we have youth members and regularly engage with young and vulnerable people as part of our work, safeguarding is an important part of our work. In November 2023, we added a National Safeguarding Manager role to provide a specific focus in this area. Processes for safeguarding training and Garda Vetting are built into the Society's membership induction procedures.

With the international armed conflict in Ukraine continuing in 2023, our work with supporting people into accommodation pledged by Irish hosts meant that our National Safeguarding Committee oversaw the Garda Vetting processes for host families for Ukrainian refugees.

The organisation also focuses on compliance in other areas. The organisation added a Head of Compliance and Legal Affairs to the Senior Management team in late 2022 and continued investment in this area in 2023, with four specific new roles created during 2023 added to focus on compliance as it related to pledged accommodation, risk/internal audit, human resources and safeguarding.

Board of Directors

Board meeting attendance record 2023

Name	Role	Term	Attendance
Pat Carey	Chairman	June 2022 – April 2025 (3rd Term)	8/8
Olivia Mitchell	Vice Chairperson	June 2022 – April 2025 (2nd Term)	6/8
Brian Byrne	National Treasurer	June 2022 – April 2025 (3rd Term)	8/8
Ted Noonan	National Secretary	June 2022 – April 2025 (2nd Term)	8/8
Julie O'Brien	Board Member	June 2022 – April 2025 (3rd Term)	6/8
Donal Lawlor	Board Member	June 2022 – April 2025 (2nd Term)	5/8
Martin Long	Board Member	June 2022 – April 2025 (1st Term)	6/8
Will Meegan	Board Member	June 2022 – April 2025 (1st Term)	8/8
Cliona Lehane	Board Member	June 2022 – April 2025 (1st Term)	3/8
Felix O'Regan	Board Member	June 2022 – April 2025 (1st Term)	8/8
Joe Dowling	Board Member	June 2022 – April 2025 (1st Term)	7/8
Alexander Smyth	Board Member	June 2022 – April 2025 (1st Term)	7/8
Cepta Dowling	Board Member	June 2022 – April 2025 (3rd Term)	7/8
Anne-Marie O'Sullivan	Board Member	September 2022 – April 2025 (1st Term)	7/8

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

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

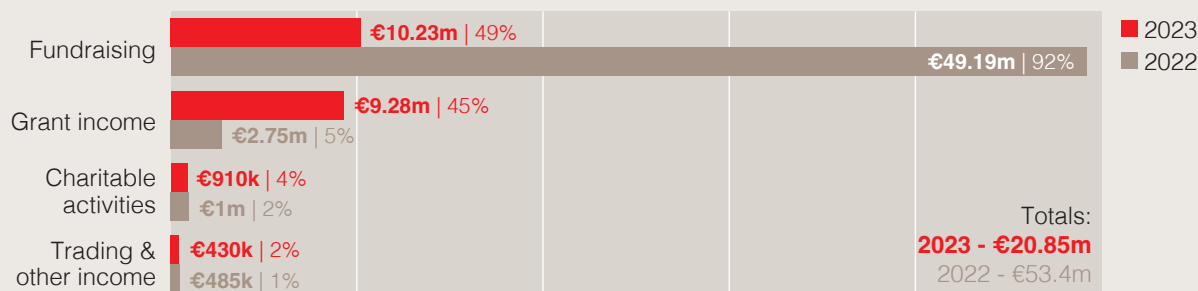
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in operation.

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.

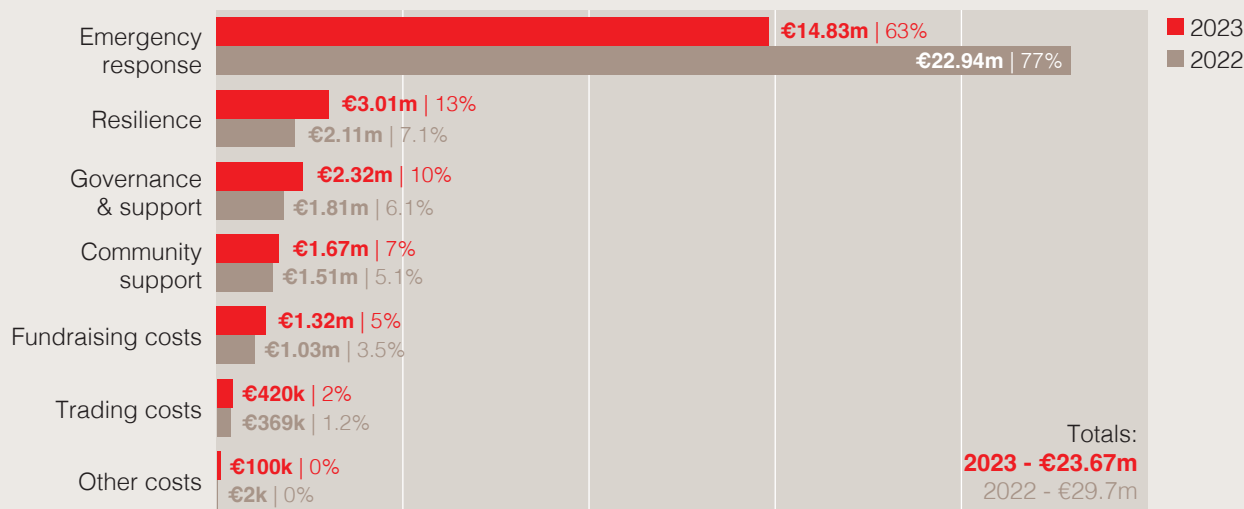
The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 29 June 2024.

The year in numbers

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



* Note: We are reporting a total deficit of €2.82 million for 2023. However, this is solely due to a €3.5 million shortfall in our Restricted Funds. This shortfall is actually covered by money raised in previous years, particularly from the Ukraine appeal in 2022. A better measure of the organisation's financial health is the €645k surplus in our Unrestricted Funds for the year. (Please note that a similar "technical deficit" in Restricted Funds is expected for 2024 and 2025, as we continue to allocate the significant funds raised in 2022 for Ukraine to cover expenses from 2023 to 2025).

Financial Performance

Income

Total income has decreased from €53,441,000 in 2022 to €20,847,000 this year. The primary explanation is that 2022 income was impacted by the significant donations for the Ukraine conflict which represented a large spike in income for the organisation. Income in 2021 was €7,624,000 which places our 2023 income into a different perspective and highlights that there were many emergency appeals also during 2023 which boosted our income figures for the year.

A total of €13,833,000 of our income in 2023 is for those appeals and is treated as restricted income in our Statement of Financial Activities. Expenditure of such income takes place over an extended period (longer than a year) due to the long-term nature of the programmes required to assist in these situations.

Expenditure

2023 expenditure of €23,669,000 is split into restricted and unrestricted categories.

As we continue to spend the restricted funds (for Ukraine primarily) received in 2022 this expenditure forms a significant portion of our costs (€17,300,000) in 2023. And this will continue into 2024 and 2025 as per the expenditure plans (for Ukraine primarily) approved by the board.

Ukrainian-crisis-related expenditure in 2023 is highlighted in Note 5(a) €5,383,000 and Note 5(b) €871,000 of the Financial Statements.

Results

Restricted Fund	(€3,467,000)
Unrestricted Funds	€645,000
Overall for 2023	(€2,822,000)

As noted under the adjacent table, the apparent deficit is actually fully funded by income received in previous years, primarily 2022.

Unrestricted funds are available to be spent as the trustees see fit and we have a surplus for 2023 of €645,000. This surplus primarily accounted for by €356,000 from the 7% fee (for governance, management, quality assurance, oversight and administration costs) applied to restricted income and a further €266,000 surplus in our branch network.

Reserves

To ensure there is funding for working capital, or unexpected expenditure or income shortfalls, our Reserves Policy states that the minimum level of unrestricted operational reserves available to the board for orderly working in the case of sudden changes to income profile is three to six months of expenditure. At year end 2023 the reserves level was €944,000 (2022: €770,000), which represents two months expenditure.

The years 2022 and 2023 transformed the appreciation by the Irish public and the Irish Government for the organisation's work both domestically and abroad. This has resulted in a significantly expanded suite of work programmes for at least the next two years, both nationally and internationally. The increased governance, compliance and risk management associated with this increased scope and scale of work in addition to the new organisational investment and growth plans have driven a review of our Reserves Policy and level of funds therein during 2024 to ensure they are sufficient for the organisation we now are.

During 2023, the Board agreed to engage Goodbody Stockbrokers on how to best manage the funds received and that we are holding for future planned expenditure.

Cashflow

Our net cash outflow from operating activities in 2023 was €3,269,000 (in 2022 this was an inflow of €24,025,000).

This outflow is the expenditure of the funding received in 2022 for Ukraine.

Independent Auditors' Report

to the General Assembly of Irish Red Cross Society

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Irish Red Cross Society (the 'Society') for the financial year ended 31 December 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position, the Cash Flow Statement, and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 1. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council, having regard to the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its net outgoing resources for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', having regard to the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. 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 Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's 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.

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 course of 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 and restrictions on use

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 directors either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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 auditor's 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: <https://iaasa.ie/publications/description-of-the-auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-financial-statements/>. This 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 of the Society, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the General Assembly of the Society those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 Society and the General Assembly of the Society, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

CLA Evelyn Partners (Ireland) Limited

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Paramount Court
Corrig Road
Sandyford Business Park
Dublin 18

23 July 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023
Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2023 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €'000	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
Income & endowments from:					
Donations & Legacies	3 (a)	13,833	5,677	19,510	51,951
Charitable Activities	3 (b)	-	906	906	1,006
Other Trading Activities	3 (c)	-	337	337	322
Investments	3 (d)	-	29	29	16
Other	3 (e)	-	65	65	146
Total income & endowments	3	13,833	7,014	20,847	53,441
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4	60	1,869	1,929	1,499
Charitable Activities	5	17,240	4,500	21,740	28,294
Total expenditure		17,300	6,369	23,669	29,793
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year	15	(3,467)	645	(2,822)	23,648
Transfer between funds	14	468	(468)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(2,999)	177	(2,822)	23,648
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	14	20,831	12,947	33,778	10,130
Total funds carried forward		17,832	13,124	30,956	33,778

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 22 July 2024.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Pat Carey
Chair



Brian Byrne
National Treasurer

The notes on pages 79 to 97 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	7	6,379	6,538
		6,379	6,538
Current assets			
Stocks	8	86	79
Receivables: amounts falling due within one year	9	1,305	265
Cash and cash equivalents	10	24,055	27,755
		25,446	28,099
Current liabilities			
Payables: amounts falling due within one year	11	(811)	(722)
Net current assets		24,635	27,377
Total Assets less current liabilities		31,014	33,915
Payables: amounts falling due in more than one year	12	(58)	(137)
Total net assets		30,956	33,778
Funds:			
Represented by			
Restricted funds	14	17,832	20,831
Unrestricted funds	14	8,043	7,874
Designated funds	14	5,081	5,073
Total funds		30,956	33,778

The financial statements were reviewed by the Board of Directors and approved on 22 July 2024.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Pat Carey
Chair



Brian Byrne
National Treasurer

The notes on pages 79 to 97 form part of these financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities		(3,269)	24,025
Capital expenditure and related grants:			
Payment to acquire fixed assets	7	(456)	(979)
Receipts from sale of fixed assets		100	54
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities			
Loans (repaid) in year		(75)	(48)
Decrease/Increase in cash		(3,700)	23,052
Reconciliation of net cash flow			
(Decrease)/Increase in cash		(3,700)	23,052
Bank balances at beginning of year		27,755	4,703
Cash and cash equivalents	10	24,055	27,755
Reconciliation of net incoming/(outgoing) resources to cash inflow from operating activities		2023€'000	2022€000
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(2,822)	23,648
Depreciation	7	522	579
(Increase)/Decrease in stocks		(7)	7
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables		(1,040)	(60)
(Decrease)/Increase in payables		(10)	(151)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		88	2
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities		(3,269)	24,025

The notes on pages 79 to 97 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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:

(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 financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. Following the Board's review of the Irish Red Cross Society's financial results for the 2023 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:

(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.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

(b) Incoming Resources and Endowments (continued)

- *Commercial Training*
Income from Commercial Training activities is recognised as earned i.e. as the related training services are provided.
- *Donated Goods*
Income from donated goods 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.
- *Donated Services*
Donated services are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts. Resources received from non-exchange transactions for which the entity has benefited include Volunteer services.
- *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.

(c) Resources Expended and Basis of Allocation of Cost

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered 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.

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.

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

(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 Statement of Financial Position. 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% - 10% Straight Line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	10% Straight Line
Computer equipment	20% Straight Line
Mini buses and Vehicles	6% Straight Line

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

(e) Receivables

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

(f) 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.

(g) 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.

(h) Payables

Short term payables are measured at the transaction price.

(i) 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

(j) 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.

(k) Deferred Income

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

(l) 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.

(m) 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.

(n) 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 Activity when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Statement of Financial Position. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Irish Red Cross Society in independently administered funds.

(o) Taxation

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

(p) Value Added Tax

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

(q) 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.

(r) 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 expenditure.

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

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

3. Income and Endowments from

		Restricted Funds 2023 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €'000	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
	Notes				
Donations and legacies	3 (a)	13,833	5,677	19,510	51,951
Charitable activities	3 (b)	-	906	906	1,006
Other Trading Activities	3 (c)	-	337	337	322
Investments	3 (d)	-	29	29	16
All other sources of income	3 (e)	-	65	65	146
Total		13,833	7,014	20,847	53,441

3(a) Donations and Legacies

		Restricted Funds 2023 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €'000	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
	Notes				
Regular Giving		2	638	640	664
Public Appeals and Events		5,454	2,494	7,948	46,695
Tax Efficient Giving		-	485	485	150
Legacies		-	52	52	176
Donations in Kind		-	50	50	692
Corporates, Major Donors and Trusts		-	1,054	1,054	816
Grant Income	3 (a)(i)	8,377	904	9,281	2,758
Total		13,833	5,677	19,510	51,951

Due to the exceptional nature of 2022 donations, which included €42m in restricted income for the Ukraine appeal, income was significantly lower in 2023. Public Appeals and Events in 2023 included €5.5m of restricted income for Turkey/Syria earthquake, Ukraine, Morocco earthquake, Palestine, Libya flood and the explosion in Creeslough.

3(a)(i) Grant Income

Unrestricted Grant Income :

Granting Authority		Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
Department of Defence	Contribution to the Administration costs of Head Office	845	845
Leargas Youth Platform Project	Covid 19 Emergency	-	3
Various County Councils	Various Projects*	19	12
Mountain Rescue Ireland	Mountain Rescue Operations	35	32
Sanofi		5	-
Total unrestricted grant income		904	892

* This income was received from 9 county councils, predominantly for community projects.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

3. Income and Endowments from (continued)

3(a)(i) Grant Income (continued)

Restricted Grant Income :

Granting Authority		Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
Department of Defence	Grant for ICRC Funding	130	130
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	Migration programmes (pledged accommodation, Community sponsorship & Intl Protection)	3,837	1,158
	Staff secondment to DCEDIY	-	3
Irish Prison Service	Prison Programme Community Based Health & First Aid)	279	325
Department of Social Protection	Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived	-	29
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	Scheme of Emergency Relief to Businesses, Voluntary, Community and Sporting Organisations	3,712	105
British Red Cross	Promoting reconciliation and integration through safe mediation (PRISM)	-	19
County Council	Various Projects	26	12
	Development of Glen of Imaal base	-	6
	Purchase of Assets	-	4
	Purchase of Boat	-	-
	Community Support Scheme	13	7
	LEADER Project Ambulance Base and Training	20	-
Health Service Executive	Ambulance upgrade	-	9
	Training equipment	-	2
	PPE	-	10
	Resilience Hardware Upgrade	-	3
Department of Foreign Affairs	Irish Aid Grant: Community Support Fund 04 -23 Supporting our Community Based Livelihood Enhancement project in Nepal	60	-
IFRC	Safe Homes research programme	111	-
Kennedy Wilson	Migration Programme in Ireland	42	-
Community Foundation Ireland	Migration Programme in Ireland	40	-
Pobal	Scheme to Support National Organisations	79	22
SSE Renewables Ireland	Search and Rescue	-	5
National Lottery	Upgrading medical equipment	-	5
	Purchase of minibus	25	5
	Community supports	3	7
		8,377	1,866
Total Grant Funding		9,281	2,758

3. Income and Endowments from (continued)

3(b) Charitable Activities

	Restricted Funds 2023 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €'000	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
Charitable activities				
Training	-	86	86	49
Ambulance duties	-	820	820	918
Community support services	-	-	-	39
Total	-	906	906	1,006

3(c) Other Trading Activities

	Restricted Funds 2023 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €'000	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
Products and Manuals	-	57	57	53
Medical and First Aid Services	-	47	47	47
Training	-	233	233	222
Total	-	337	337	322

All income from trading activities relates to third party activities.

3(d) Investments

	Restricted Funds 2023 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €'000	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
Rental Income	-	29	29	16
Total	-	29	29	16

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.

3(e) All Other Sources of Income

	Restricted Funds 2023 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €'000	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
All other sources of income				
Royalties income	-	65	65	146
Total	-	65	65	146

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

4. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Direct Costs 2023 €'000	Support Costs 2023 €'000	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
Voluntary income	1,319	144	1,463	1,106
Trading activities	420	46	466	393
Total	1,739	190	1,929	1,499

The costs of raising funds increased for 2023 in order to maintain engagement with the influx of new donors received in 2022.

This increase comprises of additional staff, more Direct Response TV and other direct costs.

5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Notes	Direct Costs 2023 €'000	Support Costs 2023 €'000	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
Emergency response and recovery	5 (a)	14,837	1,618	16,455	24,426
Resilience	5 (b)	3,007	328	3,335	2,250
Community Support	5 (c)	1,670	192	1,862	1,616
Other - loss on disposal of fixed assets		88	-	88	2
Total		19,602	2,138	21,740	28,294

5(a) Emergency Response and Recovery

	Direct Costs 2023 €'000	Support Costs 2023 €'000	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
Domestic Emergency	4,762	518	5,280	887
Refugee Resettlement	3,540	386	3,926	1,625
International Project Expenditure Ukraine	4,853	530	5,383	21,334
International Project Expenditure Others	1,682	184	1,866	580
Total	14,837	1,618	16,455	24,426

The significant increase seen in the 'Domestic emergency' expenditure in 2023 over 2022 is as a result of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment funded claims scheme to help small business recover from the flood damage caused by storms Babet, Ciarán and Debi in October 2023. This scheme is administered by the IRC on behalf of the Department.

The significant decrease in the 'international project expenditure Ukraine' in 2023 reflects the transition from the initial emergency phase in 2022 when large amounts of the €42m raised was transferred directly for humanitarian emergency aid abroad, into the support of a smaller number of medium term projects agreed bilaterally between the IRC and the Ukraine Red Cross.

5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities (continued)

5(b) Resilience

	Direct Costs 2023 €'000	Support Costs 2023 €'000	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
Ireland				
Training	282	31	313	540
Membership & volunteer development	241	26	267	149
Youth programmes	108	12	120	64
Unit management	326	35	361	428
Branch operational costs	1,264	139	1,403	1,069
International resilience programme	786	85	871	-
Total	3,007	328	3,335	2,250

5(c) Community Support

	Direct Costs 2023 €'000	Support Costs 2023 €'000	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
Community Support	1,235	140	1,375	1,154
Irish Prison Service	326	37	363	302
Restoring Family Links	109	15	124	160
Total	1,670	192	1,862	1,616

5(d) Governance and Support Costs

Governance costs contained within support costs include the following:

	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
External audit	90	62
Internal audit	10	10
Subscriptions to ICRC & IFRC	286	281
Staff costs	385	172
Other governance costs	228	219
Total	999	744

Staff costs increases in 2023 over 2022 are reflective of the need for investment in support functions for our significantly expanded direct charitable activities. During 2023 we added staff roles in HR, IT, safeguarding, compliance, and communications.

Support costs include the following:

IT equipment, licences and ongoing supports	238	181
Building management services	152	135
Finance & communications functions	829	652
Depreciation	110	100
Total	1,329	1,068
These costs are proportionally allocated against Raising Funds and Charitable Activities expenditure	2,328	1,813

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

6. Employees and Staff Costs

Number of employees	2023 No.	2022 No.
Fundraising	11	10
Finance, IT and admin	12	10
National Services	19	18
Commercial Training	10	9
Community Support	10	3
International Services	6	5
Governance	5	2
Migration Services	24	11
Total	97	68

In addition to the increase in staff in governance and support roles (e.g. compliance, IT and communications) there has been a significant growth in the two departments that work with the Ukrainian community in Ireland. Community support has risen by 7 and migration services has expanded by 13.

6(a) Total Staff Costs

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Wages & salaries	4,002	2,510
Social welfare costs	418	250
Pension costs	149	101
Total	4,569	2,861

6(b) Employee Remuneration

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Employees earned remuneration bands (salaries and any benefits in kind excluding pension contributions) were as follows:		
Band: €110,001 - €120,000	-	1
Band: €100,001 - €110,000	1	-
Band: €90,001 - €100,000	-	-
Band: €80,001 - €90,000	4	-
Band: €70,000 - €80,000	1	3
Total	6	4

The Board of Directors approve salary scales for all staff.

2023 salaries benefitted from the independent benchmarking exercise performed in 2022.

6. Employees and Staff Costs (continued)

6(c) Key Management Remuneration

Key management personnel include senior management and received remuneration of €541,954 (2022: €359,000) in the year. The cost of employer pension contributions for key management in 2022 was €20,000 (2022: €20,000).

6(d) Staff Emoluments and Director's Expenses

	2023 No.	2022 No.
The average number of volunteers working for the Irish Red Cross Society during the year was as follows:		
National Services	3,512	3,007
	3,512	3,007
Directors' expenses:	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Vouched expenses incurred by directors and reimbursed by the Irish Red Cross Society	2	3
Directors' indemnity insurance cover cost	12	11
Total	14	14
	2023 No.	2022 No.
Number of directors receiving expenses	14	14

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 (2022: €NIL).

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

7. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold/ Leasehold Premises and Land €'000	Ambulances Sea Rescue and Equipment €'000	Mini Buses and Vehicles €'000	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment €'000	Computer Equipment €'000	Total €'000
Costs						
At 1 January 2023	4,883	7,281	708	630	824	14,326
Additions	136	228	49	40	3	456
Disposals	-	(534)	-	-	-	(534)
At 31 December 2023	5,019	6,975	757	670	827	14,248
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2023	1,054	5,021	376	574	763	7,788
Charge for the year	97	357	37	12	19	522
On disposals	-	(441)	-	-	-	(441)
At 31 December 2023	1,151	4,937	413	586	782	7,869
Net book value						
At 31 December 2023	3,868	2,038	344	84	45	6,379
At 31 December 2022	3,829	2,260	332	56	61	6,538

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 2 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

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Uniforms	69	63
Manuals	17	16
Total	86	79

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

9. Receivables: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Trade receivables	1,043	93
Amounts owed from related party (note 19)	14	14
Prepayments	248	158
Total	1,305	265

The higher level of trade receivables is reflective of the increased activity with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

10. Cash & Cash Equivalents

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Cash at bank and on hand	24,053	27,753
Prize bonds	2	2
Total	24,055	27,755

Prize bonds have a maturity of less than 90 days.

11. Payables: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Trade payables	328	205
Accruals	209	291
Other payables	146	107
Deferred Income (Note 11(i))	88	79
Bank loans (Note 13)	40	40
Total	811	722

Included within other payables is an amount for PAYE/PRSI of €123,000 (2022: €89,000).

The repayment of trade payables vary between on demand and 90 days. No interest is payable on trade payables.

The terms of accruals are based on the underlying contracts.

Other amounts included within creditors not covered by specific note disclosures are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

11(i) Deferred Income:

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Opening balance	79	106
Amounts received	397	355
Amounts released	(388)	(382)
Total	88	79

Commercial relates to amounts received in advance of entitlement in respect of training courses.

The domestic income is related to funds received from the Kessel provision.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

12. Payables: amounts falling due in more than one year

	Note	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Bank Loans	13	58	133
Other Payables		-	4
Total		58	137

13. Bank Loans

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Current		
Bank Loans	40	40
Total	40	40
Non-current		
Bank Loans due 2-5 Years	58	133
Total	58	133

There is a loan secured via 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 €106,013 (2022: €108,478) at the financial year end date.

The current APR applying to this loan is 5.64% and the term is 10 years to be repaid by the 28th June 2027.

There is a loan secured via 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 €265,090 (2022: € 271,219) at the financial year end date.

The current interest rate applying to this loan is 4.81% and the term is 12 years to 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 €143,429 (2022:€146,719) at the financial year end date.

The current interest rate applying to this loan is 4.95% and the term is 8 years to be repaid by 2027.

14. Movement in Funds

	At start of year 2023 €'000	Incoming Resource 2023 €'000	Outgoing Resource 2023 €'000	Transfers between funds €'000	At end of year 2023 €'000
Restricted Funds	20,831	13,833	(17,300)	468	17,832
Unrestricted Funds	7,874	6,949	(6,369)	(411)	8,043
Designated Funds	5,073	65	-	(57)	5,081
Total	33,778	20,847	(23,669)	-	30,956

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are used for the administration costs of restricted activities in the International division.

The closing unrestricted fund balance of €8m is primarily made up of fixed assets of €6.4m (note 14 (a)).

14. Movement in Funds (continued)

14(a) Analysis of Net Assets

	Restricted Funds 2023 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €'000	Designated Funds 2023 €'000	At end of year 2023 €'000	At end of year 2022 €'000
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	6,379	-	6,379	6,538
Current Assets	17,832	2,533	5,081	25,446	28,099
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-	(811)	-	(811)	(722)
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year	-	(58)	-	(58)	(137)
Total	17,832	8,043	5,081	30,956	33,778

14(b) Analysis of Restricted Funds

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2023 €'000	Restricted Funds 2022 €'000
Palestine		345	-
Indonesia Emergency		12	12
International Response Fund		132	18
Nepal		3	-
Pakistan		-	14
Southern Africa		10	8
Syria		36	24
Yemen		53	46
Canon H&SC Fund		-	3
Floods Fund		20	6
Restricted Funds in Area & Branches	(i)	404	235
Covid 19 Fund		74	98
Hawaii		5	-
Morocco		281	-
Libya		81	-
India		5	-
Turkey/Syria Earthquake 2023		1,129	-
Creelough		102	1,225
Covid 19 Global		-	5
International Development Fund		329	148
Afghanistan		22	17
East Africa		2	5
Ukraine		14,786	18,966
Ethiopia		1	1
Total		17,832	20,831

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

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

14. Movement in Funds (continued)

14(b) Analysis of Restricted Funds (continued)

Restricted Funds in Area & Branches	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Split of Projects:		
Ambulance/Motor Vehicles	179	107
Ambulance Equipment	23	92
Health and Social	155	30
Buildings	28	1
Training	8	4
Youth	11	1
	404	235

Restricted Funds

The income/expenditure in Government programmes within restricted activities that incur costs before income is received is reflected as a transfer between restricted and unrestricted funds.

There is a 7% 'management and administration' charge applied on restricted funds received over €5,000 which covers costs associated with general organisational governance, operational quality and compliance as well as oversight. This relates only to the funds received by the central support office. In 2023 this 'management & Administration' fee totalled €356k which is included in our unrestricted income.

14(c) Analysis of Designated Funds

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Areas & Branches	1,791	1,836
Organisational Investment & Growth Fund	2,910	2,910
Joseph Kessel Fund	380	327
	5,081	5,073

Designated funds

Areas & Branches

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

Organisational Investment & Growth Fund

As noted above in note 14 (b) there is a 7% 'management and administration' charge applied to restricted income. The board decided that in 2022 the €2.9m of 'management and administration' charge applied to the €42m raised for Ukraine appeal was to be transferred from unrestricted funds to designated fund called the 'Investment Growth & Sustainability Fund'. In December 2022, the board approved an initial five-year plan for its allocation. Its purpose is to fund purposeful and planned investment in the organisation's medium-to-long-term sustainability.

14. Movement in Funds (continued)

14(c) Analysis of Designated Funds (continued)

The plan for the growth and investment fund is that it will be spent in the years to 2027 (this will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the annual budget process):

- Completion of a multi-year 'Digital Transformation' that goes beyond ICT equipment and software to include a root and branch review and upgrading of our processes and behaviours and how we use and apply data and information – in our service delivery as well as our oversight, compliance, planning and reporting.
- Development of a robust and agile 'measurement and evaluation' framework, including development of a resourcing framework for it over the long-term.
- Development and implementation of a strategic fundraising review to deliver diversification and growth of our unrestricted funds.
- Investment in significantly stronger communications across the domestic organisation and also outside to stakeholders, funders and beneficiaries to deliver a significantly higher awareness of what the Irish Red Cross does in Ireland.
- A membership recruitment drive designed to increase our volunteers by multiple factors.
- Building our unrestricted reserves levels so as to enhance the organisation's resilience against sudden drops in income for any reason.
- Development and roll out of an enhanced internal audit and risk management system.
- 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.

Joseph Kessel Fund

A designated fund which 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.

15. Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources for the Year

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year is stated after charging/ (crediting):		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	522	579
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	88	2
Auditors' remuneration	90	62

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

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

16. Taxation

The Society, registered charity number 20005184 has charitable tax exemption number CHY3950. Therefore it, is exempt from taxation on Income under Section 207 Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, as it is for charitable purposes.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

17. Commitments

(a) Capital Commitments

At 31 December 2023, the Society had not entered into contracts for the construction or purchase of properties (2022: €Nil).

(b) Operating Lease Commitments

At 31 December 2023 annual commitments under operating leases were as follows:

	Property €'000	Total 2023 €'000	Total 2022 €'000
Within one year	9	9	9
In two to five years	26	26	26
After five years	11	11	11
Total	46	46	46

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

18. Retirement Benefit Obligations

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. The pension entitlements of employees are administrated separately by a pension fund. The defined contribution pension charge for the financial year was €149,131 (2022 :€100,818). The amount outstanding at the financial year end was €NIL (2022 : €NIL).

19. 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 specifically for this purpose from the Department of Defence to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) of €130,000 (2022: €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 €40,927 to the Society during the year (2022: €52,630) and the salaries relate to delegates in the field. There is an amount due to the Society at year-end of €13,704 (2022: €17,414).

During the year, the Irish Red Cross Society reimbursed vouched expenses to Director's amounting to €1,521 (2022: €3,019).

20. Post Balance Sheet events

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

21. Contingent Liabilities

At 31 December 2023, the Society did not have any contingent liabilities (2022: €Nil).

22. Financial Instruments

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Financial assets		
Financial assets that are measured at amortised cost	25,112	27,860
Total	25,112	27,860
Financial liabilities		
Financial Liabilities measured at amortised cost	572	517
Total	572	517

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

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise of trade payables, other payables and bank loans.

23. Approval of Signing of the Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved for signing and authorised for issue by the Board on 22 July 2024.

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Irish Red Cross

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Registered Charity Number: 20005184

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