

Act Today Shape Tomorrow



Crois Dhearg na hÉireann
Irish Red Cross

Annual Report 2023
Summary

OVERVIEW

Founded in 1939, the Irish Red Cross is a humanitarian organisation dedicated to alleviating human suffering, both in Ireland and around the world.

SEVEN FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPALS

Guided by seven fundamental principles, the IRC upholds:

- Humanity
- Impartiality
- Neutrality
- Independence
- Voluntary Service
- Unity
- Universality

The Irish Red Cross focuses on emergency response, community support, migration services, and international aid as part of the global Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which includes 191 National Societies.

In 2023, the IRC responded to multiple global crises, natural disasters, and continued its extensive refugee support programmes, including for displaced Ukrainians, while delivering life-saving assistance in Ireland and abroad.



KEY AREAS OF WORK IN 2023



EMERGENCY RESPONSES

aid to Türkiye, Syria, Libya, Morocco, and Sudan, and Gaza during ongoing conflict.



MIGRATION SERVICES

Facilitated housing for **10,019** Ukrainian refugees in Ireland and supported Afghan and Syrian refugees through resettlement programmes.





NATIONAL SERVICES

With over **3,000 volunteers** in **73 branches**, the IRC supported flood relief efforts, youth programmes, local community initiatives, and attended over **2,000 events** nationwide.



INTERNATIONAL WORK

Addressed humanitarian crises in Ukraine, Yemen, Myanmar, DR Congo, and Sudan, contributing to long-term recovery efforts. Continuous support of livelihood interventions in Nepal's Myagdi district.



FUNDRAISING

€10.23million raised across all fundraising activities throughout 2023.



COMPLIANCE AND GROWTH

Expanded workforce, upgraded technology, ensured regulatory compliance, and launched a five-year transformation plan to boost operational capacity.

HIGHLIGHTED RESPONSES IN 2023

EMERGENCY

- **Gaza Crisis:** Amid escalating violence, Irish Red Cross co-ordinated the delivery of 3,503 trucks carrying humanitarian aid and medical supplies, raising €600,000 for the Palestinian Red Crescent Society.
- **Türkiye-Syria Earthquakes:** Contributed €1.6 million to deliver shelter, food, medical care, and winter kits to affected areas.
- **Libya Flooding:** Donated €100,000 to assist with emergency relief efforts, including clean water, healthcare, and shelter.
- **National Flooding Relief:** Managed the Business Flood Relief Scheme on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment after Ireland experienced severe flooding, particularly during Storm Babet, distributing €7.4 million to affected small businesses.



NATIONAL SERVICES

In Ireland, the IRC's activities included:

- Providing flood relief services in response to Storm Babet and other emergencies.
- Rebuilding pre-COVID levels of first aid training and participation at public events.
- Supporting the community affected by the Creeslough tragedy in Donegal.
- Delivering the *Community-Based Health and First Aid in Prison Programme*, empowering inmates with critical health and mental health skills.

MIGRATION

- **Ongoing Ukraine Support:** The Irish Red Cross allocated €4.8 million to international relief efforts in Ukraine and neighbouring areas, with an additional €1.15 million for domestic support programmes.
- **The Pledge Accommodation Programme** provided housing for 10,019 Ukrainians, with a total of 16,478 Ukrainians placed in 6,424 homes since the conflict began. The Irish Red Cross also continued to support Afghan and Syrian refugees through the Irish Refugee Protection Programme, Community Sponsorship Programme, and Restoring Family Links and Family Reunification efforts.
- Through the **Safe Homes Project**, the Irish Red Cross and its EU partners assessed the effectiveness of host accommodation programmes, with 92% of hosts reporting a positive experience. Additionally, the Irish Red Cross expanded its community support to mental health services, including PTSD programmes and wellness initiatives.

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FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH

The Irish Red Cross reported a total deficit of €2.82 million in 2023 due to timing differences in reporting restricted funds from the successful Ukraine appeal in 2022.

However, unrestricted income saw a surplus of €645,000, which is being used to expand the organization's humanitarian efforts. By year's end, the Irish Red Cross doubled its staff to 110 and launched a multi-year digital transformation to modernize its ICT systems.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2024, the Irish Red Cross will focus on sustainability, expanding its volunteer base, and upgrading its technology to enhance readiness for future crises. It remains committed to long-term recovery efforts in Gaza, Türkiye, Syria, and Ukraine, while continuing its domestic humanitarian work.

The Irish Red Cross acknowledges the unwavering support from its members, volunteers, staff, donors, and partners, ensuring the organization remains a reliable force for humanitarian aid at home and abroad.

