



International Geneva
Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies | IFRC

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

Founded in Geneva in 1919, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation, comprising 190 member Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies, a secretariat in Geneva, 5 regional offices and more than 60 delegations strategically located to support activities around the world. Its stated mission is to provide assistance without discrimination regarding nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions and thus to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Humanitarian relief assistance and disaster response
- Disaster preparedness
- Health and community care
- Development
- Capacity-building

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The International Federation works to coordinate activities between national societies on an international scale. The main part of its activities concern disaster response, bringing emergency relief to refugees and victims of poverty and various disasters such as droughts, earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, or famine. The emergency phase of a relief operation aims to provide life-saving assistance, with shelter, water, food and basic healthcare at the centre as immediate needs, along with first aid and epidemic control when necessary. The International Federation also has more permanent healthcare activities, such as programmes in health promotion and prevention, addressing stigma, providing psychosocial care and enabling community empowerment. Disaster preparedness, development, social mobilisation and the community-based approach are at the core of the International Federation's policy on health.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

The general assembly is the highest decision-making body of the International Federation. It meets every two years and comprises representatives from all member national societies. The governing board meets twice a year and has the authority to make certain decisions between general assemblies. It is comprised of a president, five vice presidents, of which four represent the regions and one is the president/vice-president of the Swiss Red Cross, as

well as 20 elected representatives from national society members. The current president of the International Federation is Francesco Rocca. The Secretary General is Elhadj As Sy. The International Federation's 190 national societies represent 17 million volunteers of which approximately half are youth volunteers.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

Contributions from the national societies make up the majority of the International Federation budget. It also conducts appeals, especially in the case of unforeseen relief operations, to attract donations from national societies, governments, corporations and individuals. Total expenditure in 2016 was CHF 365.4 million, of which 21% were spent in the area of health.

PUBLICATIONS

See: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/>

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