

# 2017 ACTIVITY REPORT



**368**  
**MILLION**  
SEK RAISED

**22**  
**APPEALS**  
FOR DISASTER  
RELIEF

**17**  
**MILLION**  
VOLUNTEERS  
AROUND THE WORLD

 **RödaKorset**

# 2017



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### Swedish Red Cross Activity report 2017

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**Cover photo:** The pump in the new well was celebrated with great joy in the village of Chaung Ma Gyi in Myanmar.



## From Malmö to Yemen – on the scene everywhere

At the Red Cross we are dedicated and committed to working with and for our fellow human beings. During the year we continued to support people in crisis, including strengthening operations at our centres for victims of war and torture. We also took important steps in our emergency preparedness efforts in Sweden.

The Red Cross works to ensure that people and communities affected by crises and disasters can rebuild their lives. Our activities span a wide range of areas. In 2017, 20-year old Idman in Rinkeby attended language training with volunteer Marita. Now Idman dreams of attending a university. Twelve-year-old Hampus in Malmö collected cans to recycle them and donate the deposit refund to support people in Somalia. And Katarina is a nurse who went off to war-torn Yemen to take care of patients injured in one of the worst humanitarian crises right now.

During the year a journey began to strengthen our disaster preparedness, both locally and nationally. The Red Cross was quickly on the scene when the attack occurred on Drottninggatan in Stockholm in April. We gave support to frightened and overwrought people, opened meeting places for those who could not get home, and had a presence in the city for several days afterwards.

In 2017, the Red Cross raised SEK 368 million from the public, companies and organisations, an increase of SEK 48 million compared with the previous year. Contributions from Sida and other public bodies, as well as revenue from the sale of real estate and membership subscrip-

tions, provided an additional SEK 321 million. Total income was SEK 688 million. This money enabled many crucial initiatives – and they are needed! Today more than 135 million people around the world need humanitarian aid. There is also a great need for support in Sweden. The Red Cross is able, unlike any other organisation, to access vulnerable people - sometimes in the most inaccessible places.

2017 was a year of change and developments, but our mission remained the same. Our core principles guide us in daily life, where humanity and volunteering are more important than ever. We can be found in conflict-torn communities, or where disaster has struck. We can be found along the refugee route, handing out food, water and supplies. We can be found at the treatment centre, caring for victims of severe trauma. We make sure that families are reunited. We are on the scene at the town square, providing first aid to someone who has fainted. We are the Swedish Red Cross.

Thank you for your support – it allows us to continue to fight to ensure that no one is ever alone in a disaster.

Margareta Wahlström, president  
Anna Ernestam, acting secretary general



**65 million**  
refugees around  
the world.



**135 million**  
people need  
humanitarian aid



**191 countries**  
The Red Cross saves  
lives and gives hope  
everywhere

# The year in brief

2017 was a year of turmoil in many parts of the world. The mission of the Red Cross to aid people in vulnerable situations became even more relevant. We continued our work in war-torn, conflict-ridden areas, where Syria war our largest area of operations. We contributed our expertise relating to water, sanitation and gender in a number of locations recovering from disasters. In Sweden, we focused on strengthening our emergency preparedness and efforts.

We are pleased to see increased willingness to support the Red Cross! Monthly donations are becoming increasingly popular and we have raised more funds. Clearly more and more people believe in our motto: Nobody should be left alone in a disaster.



**368 million**  
SEK raised

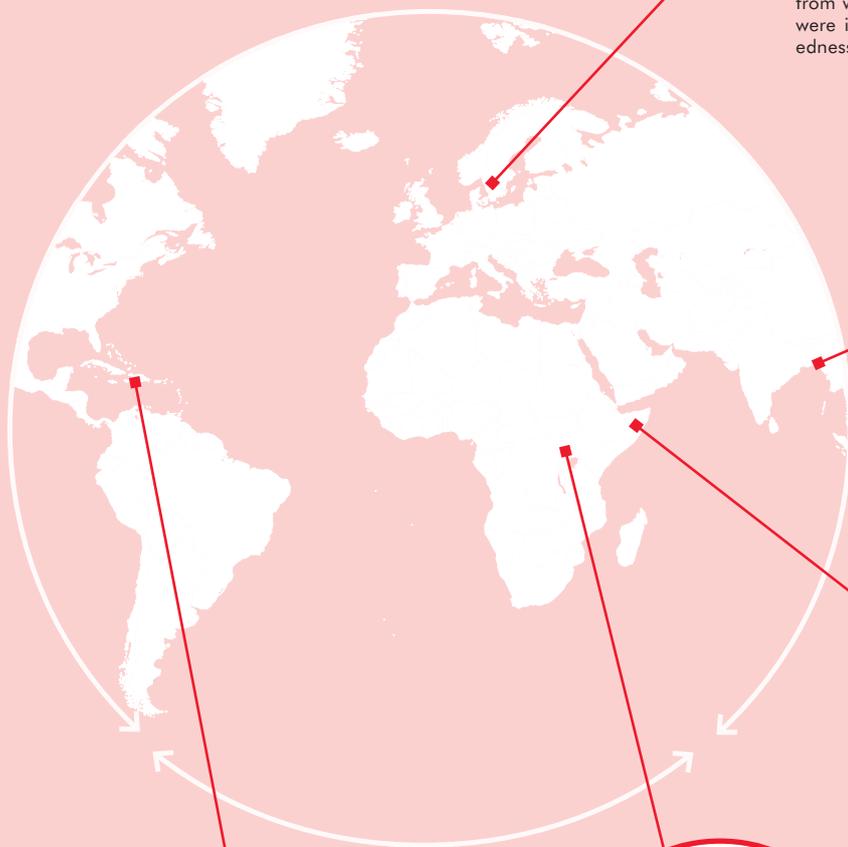


**22 appeals**  
for disaster relief received  
support



**89,260**  
monthly donors

# 2017



➔ **SWEDEN**

We continued to focus on providing support to asylum seekers and new arrivals, as well as on providing care for victims of war and survivors of trauma. We helped reunite families who had fled from war-torn countries. During the year efforts were initiated to strengthen emergency preparedness in Sweden. Read more on page 28.



➔ **SOUTH ASIA**

Severe flooding affected 40 million people in the region. The Red Cross was on the scene to provide aid to flood victims in countries such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar. Another major focus was the ongoing refugee crisis in Bangladesh after hundreds of thousands of people fled from Myanmar in 2017. Read more on page 14.



➔ **HORN OF AFRICA AND YEMEN**

For years, East Africa and Yemen have been affected by famine caused by drought and conflicts. The situation worsened in 2017 and more than 50 million people urgently needed food, water and medicine. The Swedish Red Cross contributed SEK 40 million to prevent starvation in the region. Read more on page 10.



➔ **CARIBBEAN**

The hurricane season began in June and battered the Caribbean islands. The Red Cross helped hurricane victims on the islands of Dominica, St Kitts and Antigua. Hurricanes recur every year, but their strength has increased in recent years. Read more on page 18.



➔ **UGANDA**

Since violence broke out once again in 2013, more than four million people from South Sudan have been forced to leave their homes. In 2017 many of them fled to Uganda. A major initiative during the year involved ensuring that refugees had access to clean water. A water treatment plant was set up by the Nile River that could provide 40,000 people with clean water daily. Read more on page 22.

# We are the world's foremost relief organisation

The Red Cross is on the scene before, during and after disasters to help victims and strengthen community resilience. The Swedish Red Cross is one of 191 national societies in a worldwide movement.

## Our mission

To prevent and alleviate human suffering, protect life and health, and ensure respect for the value of every human being.

## Our vision

Nobody should be left alone in a disaster.

## Our objectives 2016–2019

- ➔ The Red Cross efficiently reaches out to meet the needs of people during times of crisis and adversity.
- ➔ The Red Cross effectively strengthens the resilience of people and communities in the face of crises and helps them to recover when the worst is over.
- ➔ The Red Cross effectively helps to reduce the risk of people and communities being affected by crises and disasters.

## How do we work to meet these objectives?

- ➔ We act decisively as fellow human beings in a united organisation.
- ➔ We prevent and alleviate suffering for people affected by crisis and disaster, both domestically and internationally.
- ➔ We reinforce the resilience of people and communities in the face of crisis, and help them recover when the worst is over.
- ➔ We take a goal-oriented approach to reduce the risk of crises and disasters occurring.
- ➔ We exert influence on decision-makers when we consider it to be necessary to defend vulnerable people and to ensure respect for international law.

## Special areas of expertise

The Swedish Red Cross has particular expertise within:



### Water and sanitation

We are one of Sweden's leading experts on water and sanitation during humanitarian crises. The organisation has broad expertise and the capacity to provide swift support in times of crisis.



### Gender and diversity

In order for our work to be effective, we must take into account people's different circumstances, needs and capacities. Gender and diversity are key concepts for us. There is great expertise within the organisation regarding this issue.



### Health

The Red Cross has extensive expertise in health-promoting operations, both in Sweden and internationally. For example, we have a pool of specially trained medical workers who can be rapidly deployed to disaster areas when needed.



# SEVEN CORE PRINCIPLES

Wherever in the world we operate, we follow the core principles of the Red Cross. They guide us in our work, in everything from local dilemmas to striking a balance in major international disasters.

## HUMANITY

The Red Cross works to prevent and alleviate human suffering, to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the value of every human being.

## IMPARTIALITY

The Red Cross helps those in need irrespective of nationality, ethnicity, religious belief, social class or political opinion.

## NEUTRALITY

The Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

## INDEPENDENCE

The Red Cross acts independently, even when the national societies have an auxiliary role to their governments within the humanitarian area.

## VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The Red Cross is a voluntary relief organisation not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

## UNITY

Only one Red Cross society is permitted in each country. It must be open to all and carry out its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

## UNIVERSALITY

The Red Cross national societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other.

# Our international operations 2017

The international activities of the Swedish Red Cross are aimed at assisting people affected by crisis, war, conflict and natural disaster. We responded to 22 appeals for disaster relief in 2017. We support long-term operation in 20 countries.

On the following pages we present a selection of our extensive operations over the past year. In particular, we highlight our work with water supply in disasters, one of our areas of expertise.

 DOMINICA, ST KITTS AND ANTIGUA

 PERU

## OUR INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT



**The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Committee (ICRC)** is an impartial, neutral and independent organisation whose mission is to protect the victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence to provide them with assistance. The ICRC directs and coordinates the relief assistance provided by the Red Cross and Red Crescent movements at the site of the disaster. It promotes and strengthens humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



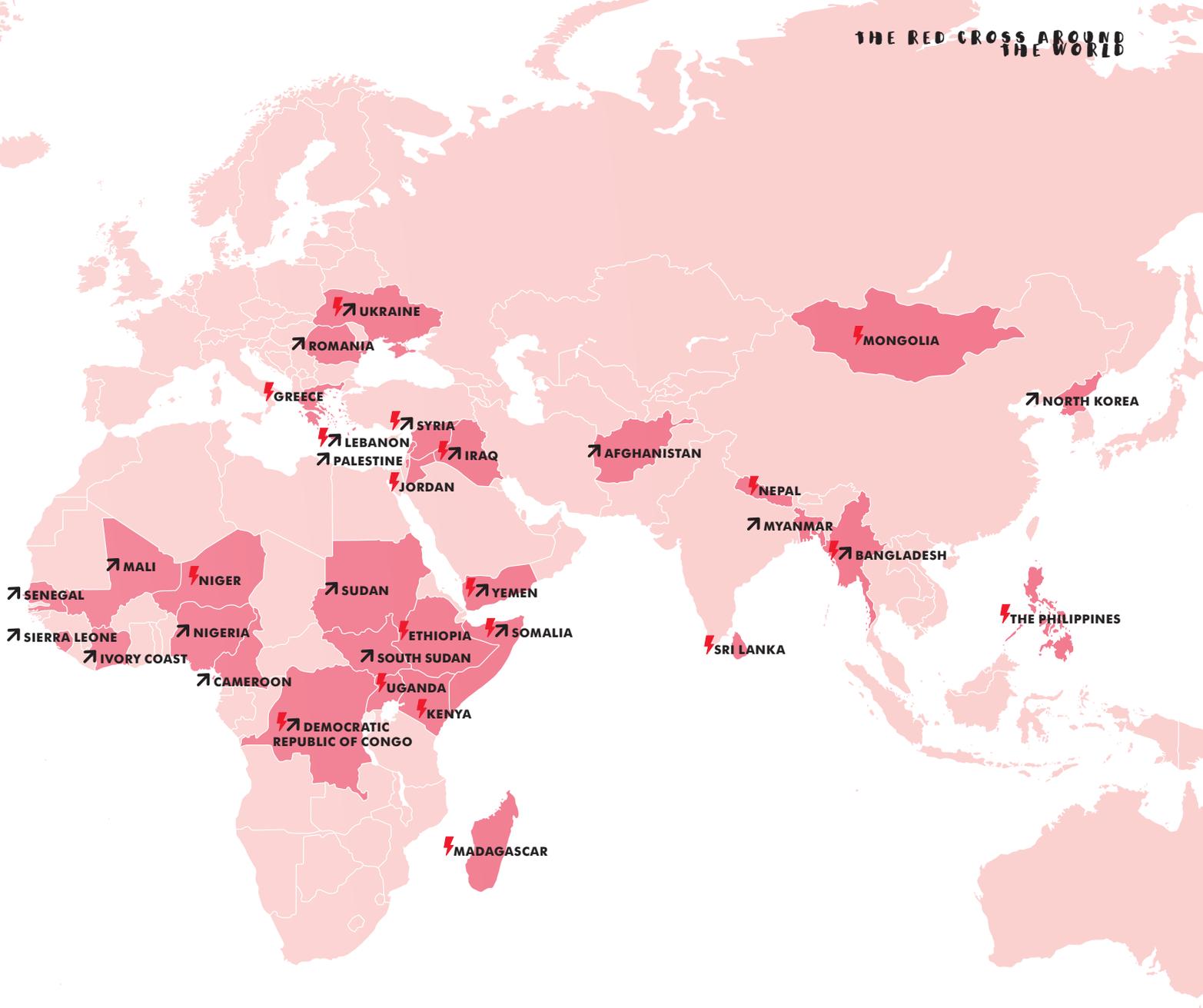
**National Red Cross and Red Crescent societies** are in 191 countries, including Sweden. **Röda Korset** The societies fulfil a support function for national authorities in the humanitarian field and offer disaster relief, health programmes and social operations. In times of war and conflict, national societies assist the affected civilian population and, where suitable, also support the medical units of the armed forces.



**The vision of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote all forms of humanitarian activities by its members, the national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. The IFRC directs and coordinates the international aid operations conducted in natural, health and technical disasters and in refugee situations. The IFRC represents the member societies in the international arena and promotes cooperation between societies. The IFRC was founded in 1919.

**The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference** is the movement's highest decision-making body and is one of the world's most important humanitarian forums. It brings together the entire movement and the 196 states signatory to the Geneva conventions on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The conference convenes as a rule every four years in Geneva to make decisions on matters of common interest.





**!** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement spans 191 countries. The map shows the Swedish Red Cross initiatives in 2017.

## **PLANNED INITIATIVES**

The Red Cross provides assistance to people both before and during crises, as well as in the recovery work when the worst is over. We strive to strengthen the resilience of people and communities in the face of crises. We have 20 long-term collaborations around the world. One example is the Democratic Republic of Congo, where 40,000 children received polio vaccine in 2017.

## **EMERGENCY RELIEF**

When crises and disasters strike, a fast response is crucial. The Red Cross responded to 22 appeals for disaster relief in 2017. The appeals come from our sister societies around the world and we respond where we see that we can do the most good. One example is the emergency relief we provided to several of the Caribbean islands during hurricane season.



Red Cross nurse  
Katarina Öberg.

## WARS AND CONFLICTS

### Katarina saves lives in the Yemen war

Yemen became the world's worst humanitarian crisis in 2017. Katarina Öberg worked there as a nurse for the Red Cross. She describes a war-torn country where nearly 80 percent of the population need emergency aid.



**YEMEN IS LOCATED AT THE FAR** south of the Arabian Peninsula and borders Saudi Arabia and Oman. One of the poorest countries in the middle east, it has been besieged by war since 2015. The conflict affects the lives of the population in every conceivable way. There is no clean water, food, fuel, or medicine, and it is difficult for people to travel and move freely in the community.

Civilians suffer from direct attacks, as well as from the destruction of the infrastructure, such as power grids, water systems and health clinics. An overwhelming 80 percent of the population of 29 million need humanitarian aid.

#### **Hospitals attacked**

The laws of war are clear. Civilians, hospitals,

ambulances and medical personnel must not be attacked. Nevertheless, it has occurred repeatedly in Yemen. Over 160 attacks on medical facilities have been reported since 2015.

Katarina Öberg is a nurse who worked in Yemen in 2017.

“It is a frightening development. Life in Yemen is extremely uncertain. It affects those of us who work there, but even more so, the population. Many people experience a physical fear of becoming victims of this conflict.

Only half of the countries medical clinics are operational because of the attacks, but also because of the lack of personnel, medicine and fuel. And at the same time that fewer and fewer places can provide care, the needs are tremendous.

In the fall of 2017 Yemen was hit by the worst cholera outbreak in modern times. Thousands of people died and at the end of the year more than one million were infected.

#### **Food and medicine shortage**

As part of the conflict in Yemen, the Saudi-led coalition imposed severe restrictions on imports during the year, which meant that Yemen received only 30 percent of the medicine it needed, and few people who were ill were allowed to leave the country. The restrictions have also led to a shortage of fuel that affects the entire society; for example, water treatment plants and water pumps are unable to operate.

[READ MORE](#) ➔

Food prices have also risen drastically due to the blockade and many Yemenites can no longer afford to buy the food they need. Over 8 million people are suffering from acute food shortages and are at risk of starvation.

### Prevent cholera

The Red Cross is there, throughout the country. Aid includes international personnel, Yemenite volunteers and assistance to local medical services. To prevent cholera, 300,000 people have received information on how the disease is spread and how to avoid infection.

The Red Cross also provides vital necessities such as food, medicine and clean water. While humanitarian aid is vital, and more is needed, it is also important to point out that a political solution is required to solve the situation.

– I really feel for the Yemeni people. It's a country where you meet the most humble people who really just want to lead their simple lives and who are now suffering so terribly. It's heartbreaking. It's difficult to see people suffering and there is such a huge shortage of basic help," says Katarina Öberg. ■

“ It's a country where you meet the most humble people who really just want to lead their simple lives and who are now suffering so terribly. It's heartbreaking.

- Katarina Öberg, nurse

### Many of the injured in Mosul are children

Mosul in Iraq was hit hard by war in 2017. The Red Cross was there to help vulnerable people with water, food and warm blankets. And with medical care.

Red Cross nurse Fredrik Runsköld worked with a surgical team at Al-Shekan hospital, just 40 kilometres from the front, taking care of patients injured in the conflict. Everyone in need received help, regardless of whether they were military or civilian. That is one of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross - to act impartially.

Every day Fredrik and his team performed five to six surgeries. Most of the injuries were caused by bombs, followed by gunshot wounds from snipers. Many patients were children.

“The kids are the hardest part of this job. Sometimes I wonder how they endure everything they've experienced,” says Fredrik.

But in the middle of this difficult task there are also glimmers of happiness, according to Fredrik. He remembers in particular a seven-year-old girl whose house had been hit by a grenade. They were forced to amputate her legs and the little finger on one hand, but a few weeks later she was playing again.

“The resilience of children is just amazing,” says Fredrik.



“Sometimes I wonder how they endure everything they've experienced,” says Fredrik Runsköld, a Red Cross nurse working outside war-battered Mosul in Iraq.



### Health care in the firing line

Even wars have laws. People who are wounded or ill have the right to receive care in armed conflicts. Medical workers and healthcare facilities may not be attacked, either. These laws of war are clearly stated in what is also known as international humanitarian law.

In many areas with ongoing armed conflicts, the reality is completely different – medical workers and facilities are repeatedly attacked. In Yemen, for example, over 170 hospitals, ambulances and medical workers have been attacked since 2015.

“Medical care is increasingly in the line of fire and this is unacceptable. Each and every attack against a medical clinic, hospital, or ambulance is one too many, and this must stop. At the Red Cross we will continue our work helping the victims of war, but protection of medical care must be improved,” says Melker Måbeck, International Director of the Swedish Red Cross.

The Red Cross urges all parties in armed conflicts to do more to protect health care.

# WARS AND CONFLICTS: HOW THE RED CROSS HELPS



**23,000**  
volunteers made sure that vulnerable people in Afghanistan received aid



**200,000**  
people in South Sudan received monthly food rations



**300,000**  
people in Syria received help with medicine and medical care

## What does the Red Cross do?

➔ **The Red Cross aids both the sick and the wounded**, providing medical care to both the military and civilians, in wars and armed conflicts. Attacking people, vehicles, or buildings carrying the protective emblem of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement is prohibited. The Geneva conventions, the basis of international humanitarian law, describe how the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and the Red Crystal provide protection, and how they may be used

➔ **Neutrality is one of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross.** It means that we always remain neutral in conflicts concerning political, racial, religious or ideological issues. Neutrality promotes confidence in the Red Cross and offers a unique opportunity to aid vulnerable people, even in areas with serious conflicts, where few other international organisations are given access.

## FACTS:

### WARS AND CONFLICTS

Civilians are always hardest hit in wars and conflicts. The wars in Syria, Iraq and Yemen were the conflicts with the most civilian casualties in 2017.

Of the 65 million refugees worldwide right now, the majority fled because of wars and conflicts.

Today, more and more conflicts take place within the borders of countries and not between sovereign states.

The current trend is towards more conflicts arising in urban environments - in cities and other densely populated areas.

## FOCUS: Africa | Middle East





Most of the refugees fleeing from the violence in Myanmar are women and children.

## ON THE RUN

# Women's safety is taken seriously

The largest refugee camp in the world quickly grew up in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, in the fall of 2017. Hundreds of thousands of people fled across the border from the violence in neighbouring Myanmar. Most of them were women with children. The Red Cross pays special attention to the specific needs of women in its initiatives.



The families in the refugee camp sleep in simple tents made of bamboo poles with a tarpaulin roof.

## 99 Women's safety and specific needs are as important as food and water.

- Hanna Persson, gender expert at the Red Cross

dered, they have been subjected to sexual violence and their homes have been burned to the ground. The need for care, both physical and psychological, is enormous.

The majority are women with children. Ismat Arcas is one of them. She fled with her two children when her husband was killed. Now they live under a tarpaulin. There is absolutely no privacy and Ismat says that she hopes to get more bamboo poles so she can create walls and try to make some kind of home.

"But I can't leave the tent, or someone might come and take the children. I sleep poorly. I'm alone and afraid of what will happen to my children, and to me.

### Women's tent becomes a free zone

There are thousands of women just like Ismat in the refugee camp. Women who recently became widows and who must struggle twice as hard as previously to make a life for themselves and their children. At the same time they must take care of their own worries and fears. All too often, being a woman in a refugee camp means living in constant fear of being personally subjected to violence. Women avoid taking showers and going to the latrine as long as possible for fear of being attacked.

Just below the hill where Ismat lives the Red Cross has a women's tent.

"Only women are welcome here, they can speak undisturbed here," says Eliza Cheung from the Red Cross, whose job entails meeting the needs of the women in the camp.

About 15 women are sitting in a circle on bamboo mats that are rolled out on the ground. There is no furniture to sit on, or any other furnishing. Eliza leads the conversation with the help of an interpreter and asks whether any of the women has been able to shower since coming to the camp. They all shake their heads to say no. They explain that they often go to the latrines in a group, preferably when it is dark and fewer people are out.

"We would feel safer if we had flashlights," says one of the women.

Eliza makes a note of this. The Red Cross should be able to help with that.

Several of the women say they have nightmares almost every night, and that they are extremely tired. Eliza initiates a discussion about weight and taking care of oneself. She demonstrates a simple relaxation exercise. The women seem a bit hesitant, but ultimately they all dare to try it and close their eyes. They follow Eliza's guidance for a few minutes. When they open their eyes again, both the intensive discussions about nightmares and the somewhat cautious mood have been replaced by a more peaceful atmosphere.

"Let this be your homework! When we meet again in three days, let's see if it helped you to sleep better," says Eliza as she ends the meeting.

### Increased support for women

In the late fall of 2017 the Red Cross increased its aid to Bangladesh to be able to meet the enormous need for assistance, with a focus on women's needs. Hanna Persson is an advisor in gender and diversity issues:

"Based on requests from the women in the refugee camp we designed a special independence kit that we hand out. The kit includes washable menstrual pads, a change of clothes and a solar flashlight.

Other initiatives that make it easier for women to live a more secure life in the refugee camp include separate food lines for women, babysitting and locking showers. Hanna points out that vulnerability varies among different groups of women, who have different needs in humanitarian disasters.

"We must take this into consideration to be able to deliver the most effective aid possible. In supporting the refugees from Myanmar, meeting the specific needs and safety of the women are as important as meeting their needs for food and water. It can also save lives. ■

**THE SPRAWLING REFUGEE** camp is located one hour by car from Cox's Bazar, a sleepy beach town by the Indian Ocean. Almost the entire surface of the rolling countryside is covered by makeshift tents and sheds surrounded by muddy paths and roads. At the end of August, people began to arrive after fleeing from the violence that had erupted in Rakhine State in Myanmar. Ever since then the flow of refugees crossing the border into Bangladesh has continued.

People arrive on foot, often without having a chance to bring anything with them from home. They lack food, shelter, clean water and security.

Many have experienced horrific atrocities. They have seen their family members mur-

“Quality of life is not just a matter of having food and water, but also of feeling good.”  
- Mayar Ali, volunteer

**65 million**  
refugees around the world.



Mayar Ali is a volunteer in a refugee camp in Iraq.

### “It feels great to be able to help”

The Hassansham refugee camp is located in northern Iraq. The camp is now home to many people who fled from Mosul. Mayar Ali, age 21, works as a volunteer in the refugee camp.

“The camps are like prisons. People have fled to escape from the bombing and now they are closed in here. Quality of life is not just a matter of having food and water, but also of feeling good.

Mayar’s task is to educate groups of refugee women so that they can help to spread information about health, hygiene and sanitation. Diseases can easily spread in the camp because of the crowded living conditions and the shortage of both water and toilets. Mayar’s help is meaningful - including for Mayar.

“It makes me happy to hear that the wom-

en will miss me when the education program is over. Or when new groups say they’ve heard good things about me. That makes me proud. It feels great to be able to help!

Many children in the camp are alone.

“Even if they say they are OK, I can see that they are not doing well. It’s the same for adults who have lost family members.

Nevertheless, Mayar encounters both hope and tremendous patience.

“Some of them have walked over dead bodies and others have seen their family members killed. All of them have been forced to flee. And despite this they can actually joke around and laugh. I don’t think I could ever have managed to go through what they’ve done,” says Mayar.

### Increased support for female refugees

The majority of refugees worldwide are women and children. The Red Cross has a gender and diversity perspective in its initiatives to ensure that all people receive the help they need. Initiatives to ensure that the needs of women in refugee camps include are:

➔ **Installation of lighting for toilets and showers**, which are located at the edge of refugee camps in an effort to reduce attacks.

➔ **Food distribution** is organised separately for men and women to reduce the risk that women will be pushed out of the way, or need to worry about being sexually harassed. Women who are older, have disabilities, or have small children are given priority.

➔ **Meeting places** for women are arranged where they can share experiences and receive support. Babysitting is offered.

➔ **Independence kits** are distributed, with everything from menstrual pads to flashlights and a change of clothing.



Independence kit for female refugees.



In September the first aid convoy in three years reached Deir Ez Zor in Syria.

### Refugees in their own country

The war in Syria was into its sixth year in 2017. The Red Cross is one of only a handful of organisations that can work across the front lines and with brood access into the country.

The embattled cities of Raqqa, Deir Ez Zor and Mayadin were destroyed during the year. The Red Cross expanded support in the area to assist the many thousands of people who were forced to flee from their homes.

In September we arrived with the first aid convoy to reach Deir Ez Zor in three years.

Food and medicine were delivered to 80,000 people; after that we were able to reach the city with more convoys.

Each month Red Cross employees and volunteers reach 4.5 million vulnerable people in war-ravaged Syria. Aid includes food, water, sanitation, medical care, first aid, shelter and psychosocial support.

Our employees and volunteers risk their lives daily to ensure that the aid arrives at its destination.

# ON THE RUN

## HOW THE RED CROSS HELPS



**101,400**

food packages have been handed out in the refugee camps in Bangladesh



**700,000**

refugees from Myanmar were vaccinated against contagious diseases



**40,000**

refugees who returned to Syria have received helped finding support

### What does the Red Cross do?

- ➔ **The Red Cross has** always taken care of the needs of refugees. We are right there along the entire refugee route, because nobody should be left alone in a disaster.
- ➔ **The Red Cross is there** in refugee camps around the world. We provide refugees with care, food, water and shelter.
- ➔ **We help** with infrastructure in refugee camps, including water treatment plants and building wells.
- ➔ **When family members** are separated we assist with research to trace relatives and reunite families.

### FACTS: REFUGEES

There are 65 million people around the world who are fleeing from crises, wars, conflicts and natural disasters.

An estimated 250 million people are migrating; they have left their homes to find work or to start a better life somewhere else.

In 2017 the refugee camp in Bangladesh became the largest in the world when 700,000 people fled from the violence in Myanmar.

Two million people are fleeing from conflict-battered South Sudan.

Severe armed conflicts have plagued the Democratic Republic of Congo for many years. In 2017, thousands of people were forced to flee from their homes every day. In all, 4.5 million people are living as internal refugees.

### FOCUS: Middle East | Asia | Africa





Trevor Jean Baptiste and his son Kamal outside the ruins of their home in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

## **NATURAL DISASTERS**

# **Devastating hurricanes strike in the Caribbean**

The powerful hurricanes Irma and Maria pounded the Caribbean islands in the autumn of 2017. Hundreds of thousands of people were affected when houses and roads were destroyed, the power grid was down and an acute shortage of food and water arose. The Red Cross was soon on the scene to help people in need.



**ONE OF THE MANY PEOPLE** whose lives were turned upside down by Hurricane Maria was Trevor Jean Baptiste on the island of Dominica.

“It was horrible. I thought we were going to die.”

In the middle of September the Category 5 Hurricane barreled towards the tiny island of Dominica in the Caribbean. Trevor Jean and his family were in the middle of the storm.

“I’ve experienced storms before, but never anything like this,” he says.

When the hurricane struck, they took refuge in the top storey of their house. They could hear the water flooding the lower storey. Sud-



Red Cross aid arrives at its destination.

“ During the hurricane and the first hours afterwards, the focus is on saving lives.

- Michaela Friberg Storey, head of international operations at the Swedish Red Cross

denly the wall where the family had taken shelter collapsed. Trevor Jean reacted quickly.

“We hid in a small space under a stairway. I tried to protect my children with a table, but they still got soaked,” he says.

Trevor Jean, his wife, their newborn daughter Dinaiah and two-year old son Kamal managed to survive, but their home and family business lay in ruins.

**Two hurricanes in one week**

Just one week before Hurricane Maria struck, Hurricane Irma had created its own path of destruction through the Caribbean. And while so many people were still vulnerable in the aftermath of Irma, they were now forced to deal with a new natural disaster. Dominica was one of the islands most severely affected. Electricity and water services were down, trees had fallen and large areas were flooded. More than 90 percent of all roofs on the island were destroyed.

The Red Cross was soon on the scene to help Trevor Jean and others in need. In the most acute phase, we distributed clean water, blankets and tarpaulins so that people would not have to sleep out in the open. Adults and children who were separated during the storm

received help to find one another again.

The high level of preparedness of the Red Cross enabled rapid deployment of aid to Dominica, and such is the case worldwide. Thousands of volunteers are on the scene, saving lives, by warning at an early stage - and often evacuating - residents of risk zones when a storm threatens to make landfall.

**The first hours are critical**

Once disaster has struck, the aim is to help people get away from flooding and collapsed buildings, provide first aid and psychosocial support, and distribute food, blankets and clean water.

“During the hurricane and the first hours afterwards, it’s a matter of saving lives,” says Michaela Friberg Storey, head of international operations at the Red Cross.

Once the most dramatic phase is over, the laborious effort to rebuild the community begins, at the same time that the humanitarian needs remain. People need somewhere to live, the risk of contagious diseases increases and entire societal structures may need to be rebuilt.

“The Red Cross remains on the scene to help people to return to their normal lives,” says Michaela Storey Friberg. ■

### Their house was covered in mud

In May, heavy rains fell in Sri Lanka, causing many people to flee from their homes. The heavy precipitation triggered mudslides and flooding in the southwestern districts of Galle, Matara and Ratnapura. At least 200 people died in the disaster, and 150,000 were affected. Red Cross rescue boats helped thousands of people who were stranded in trees and on roofs. Clean water was distributed and first aid was offered.

Many families fled to temporary camps. Galapati and his family had to quickly evacuate to a nearby school when their home was flooded by mud and debris.

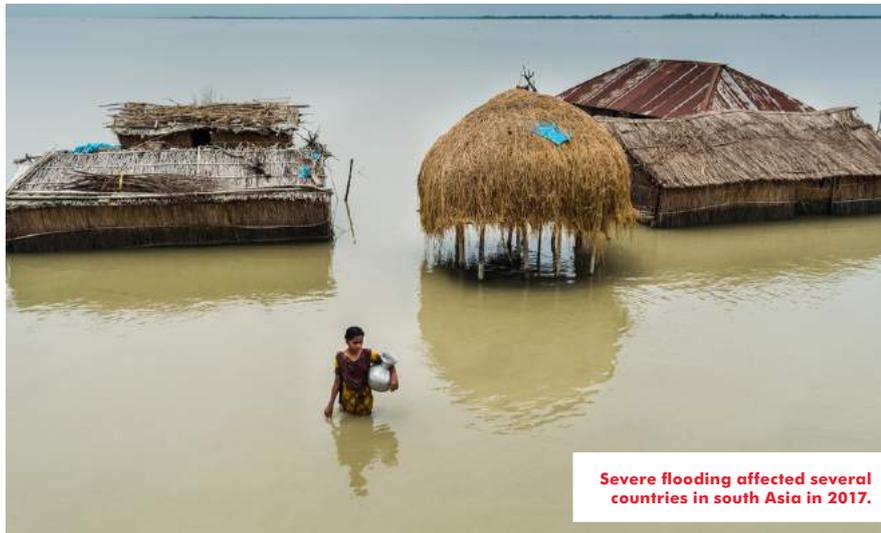
“The Red Cross saw to it that we received food and clothing. We lived in the school for a whole week, until we could see that the water level had receded. When we came home, everything was covered in mud and most of our belongings were destroyed. The Red Cross helped us with supplies and money to be able to move back home,” he says.



Galapati and his sister together with Red Cross disaster management advisor Olle Castell.

## ” The Red Cross saw to it that we received food and clothing.

- Galapati, landslide victim in Sri Lanka



Severe flooding affected several countries in south Asia in 2017.

### Major flooding in Asia

In the fall of 2017, south Asia was hit by massive flooding. In all, 900 people died and almost 40 million were affected, four times more than the entire population of Sweden.

The Red Cross was on the scene with employees and 2,000 volunteers to save lives and to help those in need. We participated in search and rescue operations and helped to evacuate people who were stranded.

The roads were often washed out, leaving only boats as a means of transportation to reach cut-off villages. Food and clean water were distributed and those who were forced to leave their homes received shelter.

### What do you do when an earthquake strikes?

Disasters like earthquakes can be life-threatening. Remaining calm and knowing what to do will increase the chance of survival. The Red Cross educates people in disaster-prone areas to prepare them for natural disasters. Do you know how to protect yourself in case of an earthquake? Read our advice - it can save lives!

#### Are you indoors?

- ➔ Stay inside and wait out the earthquake. Stairwells are weak points and elevators often cease to function. In addition, you could be injured by glass and other falling material if you run outside.
- ➔ Seek shelter under a sturdy piece of furniture. If the furniture moves, try to move with the furniture to stay protected.
- ➔ If there is nothing to protect you in the room, stay close to an interior wall. Do not lie underneath windows.
- ➔ Protect your head from falling objects.

#### Are you outdoors?

- ➔ Try to reach an open area.
- ➔ Watch out for falling objects such as glass.
- ➔ Be alert for downed power lines.
- ➔ Do not go back inside buildings until the authorities on the scenes give the “all clear” signal.
- ➔ If the earthquake occurs in the vicinity of water, get to higher ground to avoid a possible tsunami.



“Hide under a piece of furniture!” In Nepal the Red Cross teaches children how to protect themselves in the event of an earthquake.

# NATURAL DISASTERS: HOW THE RED CROSS HELPS



**7,084**

families in Nepal received food and shelter after being affected by flooding.



**15,000**

bales of hay were distributed in Mongolia as fodder for livestock that were threatened by starvation because of severe winter weather



**5,000**

families that survived the hurricanes on the island of Dominica received help rebuilding their destroyed homes

## What does the Red Cross do?

- ➔ **When natural disaster strikes**, the Red Cross is quickly on the scene to provide emergency assistance to victims. Evacuation, medical care, or food and shelter may all be needed.
- ➔ **When electrical power is lost and infrastructure** breaks down, an acute shortage of clean water and functioning toilets arises. Water and sanitation issues are almost always part of disaster work for the Red Cross.
- ➔ **People who are prepared** fare better when natural disaster strikes. The Red Cross educates people and communities in countries vulnerable to natural disasters so they know what to do in the event of a crisis.
- ➔ **The Red Cross** remains on the scene as long the need persists. Rebuilding a community after a natural disaster is a time-consuming process.

## FACTS: NATURAL DISASTERS

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. The most vulnerable communities are at the highest risk of being severely affected. There is increased risk of inadequate access to food and water, poverty, instability and conflicts.

Asia is the continent at greatest risk. Nearly half of all natural disasters occur here.

Large areas of Africa experienced severe drought in 2017 and 50 million people were in urgent need of food, water and medical care. The situation is could become even more dire in 2018.

## FOCUS: Africa | Asia | Caribbean





## **THEME: CLEAN WATER**

### **How to make dirty Nile River water potable**

About one million refugees from the war in South Sudan live in northern Uganda. Access to water is vital and can quickly become scarce in the refugee camps, especially when the drought hits. The Red Cross helps to clean the water from the Nile River so that it becomes potable.



**DURING THE PAST YEAR**, 350,000 people fled from South Sudan across the border to Uganda. As a result, one million people are now crowded into overflowing refugee camps, especially in northern Uganda.

“As far as the eye can see, there are simple huts, many of them just poles and tarpaulins. Many of those who live here will not be able to return home in the foreseeable future,” says Tomas Årlemo, a Red Cross expert in water and sanitation.

During a visit to the “Rhino” refugee camp Tomas saw that the water shortage in the area could soon lead to a disaster.

“One of the water treatment plants got its water from the Enyau river. We saw how the water level dropped, at the same time that more and more refugees arrived. The water shortage and extremely poor sanitary conditions entail an impending risk for a cholera outbreak,” he says.

Together with the Red Cross in Uganda, Tomas started a process that is a well-established concept within the Red Cross. The request for aid was formulated and sent to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in Geneva. Next, a request went out to all national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies that have the necessary expertise.

### 15 litres per day

The Swedish Red Cross is recognised for its skills in water issues and can quickly provide expertise and equipment when needed. On very short notice a complete unit for water treatment can be set up during an operation. Once on the scene, 600,000 litres of water can be treated daily, thereby providing 40,000 people with 15 litres of water per person and day. That amount is considered to be the minimum necessary daily requirement for a human being. In Sweden, one person consumes an average of 150 litres of water daily.

“Each person needs water to drink, for cooking and washing dishes, to take care of personal hygiene and to wash their clothes. Without water to wash hands after toilet visits and before meals, for example, there is a risk of spreading various types of diseases,” says Tomas.

One of the worst waterborne diseases is cholera, which can be compared to a severe stomach illness. Without care, dehydration can cause death, since the body does not retain any foods or liquids.

“Once Sweden decides to help with water treatment, things happen quickly. Trained personnel can travel within a couple of days. The actual facility is sent from Vienna, since our work treating the water is a collaboration with the Austrian and German Red Cross.

“Negotiations with landowners and the local authorities account for much of the preliminary work, and would be just about impossible if we didn’t collaborate with the local Red Cross,” says Tomas.

In addition, local contractors with machinery needs to be engaged for site work.

“For example, we had to build a new road to get down to the river at the site by the Nile River that was chosen, where the water supply is plentiful,” says Tomas.

And the large water treatment plant, which weighs almost 25 tonnes, had to be transported 600 kilometres on bad roads, from the airport in Entebbe, Uganda where it was flown in from Austria.

### Chlorine and handwashing

While waiting for the water treatment plant to arrive, chlorine tablets can be distributed to purify household water. Information is also crucial – the importance of handwashing after toilet visits, for example.

Tomas Årlemo stresses the importance of working with local Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, as well as with the local population.

“The local Red Cross and their volunteers always work hardest, and know the local scene best, it would be impossible without them.

After one week of assembly work the new water treatment plant by the Nile was commissioned and started to deliver clean water, even more than had been promised. An impressive 800,000 litres per day are being pumped out now, supplying over 53,000 people with water every day.

“Some days, when there are plenty of tanker trucks, we deliver over one million litres of clean water to the refugee camps,” says Tomas.

How the water issues will be solved after the initial disaster phase is determined at an early stage. For Uganda, the water issue is a constant challenge, and considering the large number of refugees the water treatment plant will remain where it was built and Uganda’s Red Cross will take over its operation.

“There are more and more people and they will need clean water for a long time to come,” says Tomas. ■

“ Without water to wash hands after toilet visits and before meals, for example, there is a risk of spreading various types of diseases.

- Tomas Årlemo, water expert at the Red Cross



**Tomas Årlemo is a water expert at the Red Cross and assists when building water treatment plants in disaster areas.**

## The struggle against cholera in Yemen

Apart from the news headlines, the war in Yemen has been raging since 2014. Even before the battles, it was one of the poorest countries in the world. Now we can see just what the conflict and the prolonged blockade have done to the inhabitants of the country: The largest outbreak of cholera in modern times, seven million people suffering from an acute food shortage and 16 million people without access to clean water. It is the largest humanitarian disaster in the world.

Over the past year, the Red Cross has supplied three million people with clean water. We can be found in hospitals all over the country, treating severe cases of cholera. To prevent infection, people are being taught how cholera is spread and how to avoid it – so far, 300,000 people have been reached. In addition, food, medicine and other supplies are being distributed to a population that lacks everything.

“Every day we save lives,” says Gabriel Karlsson, the Swedish Red Cross networking coordinator in Yemen.



Bayan and her mother Mishair Abdullah in Yemen received help with care from the Red Cross in 2017.



People in Ethiopia are leaving their farms and homes to find food and water.

## When the water came to Sorto

No rain and poor harvests hit Ethiopia hard. Many people are undernourished because of the shortage of food and clean water. Cholera and diarrhoea are spread.

Sometimes it is difficult for the Red Cross to reach out to vulnerable families in remote areas. To ensure that the village of Sorto would get clean water, the farmer Yonas Bade decided to build his own road during the year.

“I used my donkey and my cart to move stones and build a narrow road. I convinced others to help me. And ultimately the Red Cross tank truck was able to get through.

Yonas raises corn and sweet potatoes, but the harvests in recent years have been much too small to meet the family’s needs.

“Before we could eat three meals a day, now there is only enough food for one meal,” he says.

Now the truck brings water every four days. Since Yonas has a large family with ten children, they receive 60 litres each time. This amount can be compared with Sweden, where one person consumes an average of 150 litres per day.

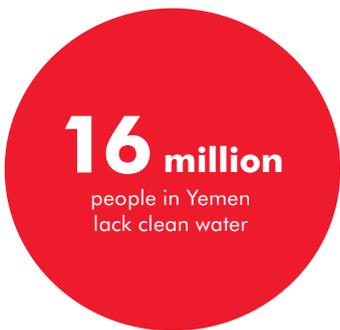
In addition to distributing water, the Red Cross is also working to better prepare people for disasters such as drought and famine. Poor families learn how to make honey and raise fruit to get a regular income. Knowledge about health issues is spread to reduce the risk of contagious diseases.

Today Yonas Bade is a Red Cross volunteer. He organises the villagers to ensure the distribution of the water.

“It’s my job to help others.”



Amar Ahmad Abdullah and his family have to manage on 50 litres of water daily. The average Swede uses 150 litres per day.



## Vital water in war-scarred Iraq

The water system in Mosul was completely destroyed during the war. The 86 water tankers that the Red Cross placed out around the city’s neighbourhoods serve as a lifeline for the many residents, especially when the temperature is up around 50 degrees C (122 F).

“We are grateful for the water, but the quantity is not enough. There are five people in our family. This 50 litres per day is supposed to be enough to drink, wash dishes, wash clothing, shower, cook and other purposes,” says Amar Ahmad Abdullah, father of three.

Mosul is Iraq’s second largest city and was hard hit by the war. ISIS terrorists captured the city in June 2014 and it took three years

to defeat them. The majority of the population of over one million fled from the city.

“People are still leaving, but now because there is no water or electricity,” says Amar.

The water tankers are a temporary solution while waiting for repairs to the infrastructure, which was totally destroyed. But first the mines and ammunition have to be cleared and the security situation in Mosul is still unstable.

The Red Cross is flexible and offers technically sustainable solutions to ensure access to water where it is needed most, in close collaboration with local authorities. Providing the civilian population with life-saving help is the top priority for the Red Cross.

# CLEAN WATER: HOW THE RED CROSS HELPS



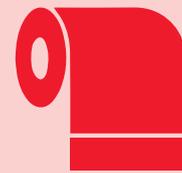
**1 million**

litres of water distributed to refugees from Myanmar



**2,500**

schoolchildren in war-ravaged Mosul, Iraq, received clean drinking water daily



**1.5 million**

people have been trained in water, sanitation and waste management

## What does the Red Cross do?

➔ **During disasters** and crises shortages of drinking water and toilets cause major problems. Consequently, water and sanitation issues are almost always part of disaster work for the Red Cross.

➔ **Sanitation is just as** important as water. When sanitation is poor the risk of spreading diseases is high. Consequently, our goal is to ensure that there are latrines on site, along with functioning drains and the opportunity to wash hands.

➔ **Our specially trained** delegates teach people about the importance of good sanitation and hygiene.

## FACTS: CLEAN WATER

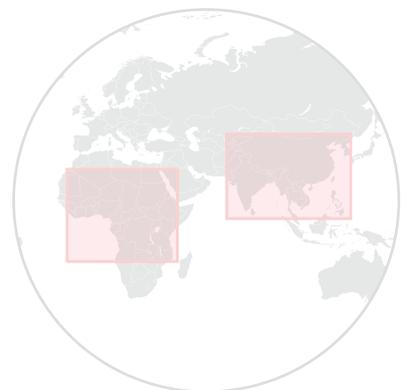
According to the UN access to water and sanitation equipment are fundamental human rights.

Over 800 million people worldwide do not have access to clean water. Over half of them live in Africa south of the Sahara or in Asia.

Each year millions of people are affected by cholera, a disease that can rapidly lead to life-threatening injuries. Cholera is spread via dirty water.

Every day 1,000 children die from waterborne diseases.

## FOCUS: Africa | Asia



# Our national operations 2017

The Red Cross can be found throughout Sweden. Many of our initiatives in 2017 focused on people seeking asylum in Sweden from wars, conflicts and persecution. Our work includes tracing lost family members and reuniting families, promoting health, and social services such as treatment of injured and traumatised victims of wars. We are part of Sweden's emergency preparedness system and provide humanitarian support, first aid and practical assistance in crises.



## THE RED CROSS IN SWEDEN



**The Swedish Red Cross** is a non-profit organisation that was founded 1865. We are the humanitarian volunteer organisation in Sweden with over 30,000 volunteers in 839 local societies, Red Cross branches, scattered across the entire country. We fulfil a support function for national authorities in the humanitarian field and offer disaster relief, health programmes and social operations. The Swedish Red Cross, which is a member organisation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, holds a General Assembly every four years. At the end of 2017 the Swedish Red Cross had 119,600 members.

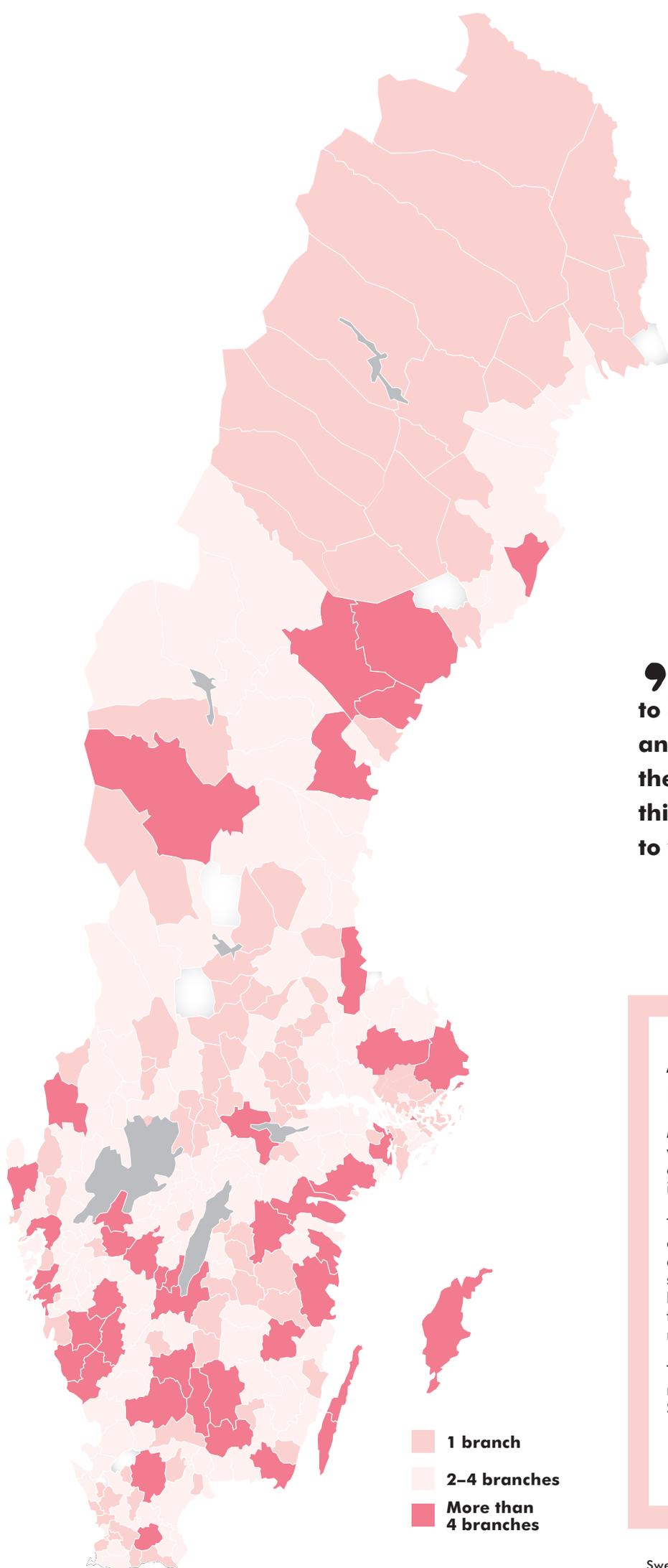
**The Red Cross Community College** is located in Skärholmen and offers courses with an international focus in fields such as documentary filmmaking, human rights, leadership and sustainability.



**The Red Cross Youth Federation** operates independently and has 23 local societies all over Sweden. The Federation, which focuses on young people up to the age of 31 years, aims to provide security to children and young people, as well as assistance to help them succeed at school and meaningful after-school activities. Young migrants are an important target group.



**The Red Cross University College** was founded in 1867 and was the first secular nursing school in Sweden. Since its inception the university college has trained nurses, providing them with skills to prepare them for global work, while also contributing to the development of health care in Sweden. The principal is the Red Cross Home Foundation, which is administered by the Swedish Red Cross. The school is located in Flemingsberg.



1 branch  
 2-4 branches  
 More than 4 branches

**” Most of all, we get to know one another, and we always know that there are people who are thinking of us and want to visit us every week.**

- Hamid, who arrived unaccompanied from Afghanistan and is a participant in the Red Cross Youth Federation’s “kompisgrupp” (friends group) in Värmdö

### ACTIVITIES FROM NORTH TO SOUTH

More than 30,000 volunteers are involved with the Swedish Red Cross all over the country. They are organised into 839 local societies (branches).

The societies engage in a variety of activities, based on local needs. Such activities include visiting detainees in shelters and institutions, assisting as hospital hosts, arranging social activities, creating meeting places and running second-hand stores.

The Red Cross has offices and treatment centres in many locations in Sweden.



The terror attack on Drottninggatan shocked Sweden. The Red Cross was quickly on the scene and stayed for several days to provide humanitarian support.

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## Humanitarian support in crises

The Red Cross is part of Sweden's emergency preparedness system. This means that we are ready to respond to societal crises. In 2017 several important steps were taken towards strengthening the Red Cross as an emergency preparedness and disaster management organisation.

**Security and support on Drottninggatan**

During the terror attack on Drottninggatan in Stockholm on 7 April 2017, five people were killed and many were injured. The Red Cross quickly arrived downtown to provide support on the scene to people who were frightened and in shock.

Already at an early stage after a truck drove into Åhléns, a department store in downtown Stockholm, the Red Cross heard from the medical coordinator that a crisis support leader was needed. A total of 85 volunteers provided crisis support after the attack.

A crisis centre opened close to Drottninggatan where people could go for support after having witnessed the attack. Many found a shoulder to lean on, others received help contacting family members, and overnight accommodation was arranged for people who could not get home.

The Red Cross also opened several of its meeting places for people who could not get home when all public transportation was cancelled.

“It’s amazing to see how strong we are together. In the midst of the darkness one thing is certain - in Sweden you will find people with compassion and who know how to take charge in a crisis,” says Ylva Jonsson Strömberg, head of disaster management at the Swedish Red Cross.

The day after the attack Annika Andersson was one of the many Red Cross volunteers at Sergels Torg.

“When we arrived in the morning it was extremely calm and quiet. No one was in a hurry; everyone paused to take in the scene and reflect on what had happened. It felt good to be able to convey a sense of security the way we do. People came up to us and thanked us for being there,” she recalled.



In all, 85 crisis supporters were on the scene after that Drottninggatan attack.



**HI THERE, YLVA!**

Ylva Jonsson Strömberg, head of disaster management at the Swedish Red Cross, explains how the organisation will strengthen its emergency preparedness.

**What is the role of the Red Cross in a societal crisis?**

We are part of Sweden’s defence and emergency preparedness system and provide support to the authorities in crises. Red Cross activities are a complement to the activities of the authorities and municipalities; we coordinate our efforts with them, but we can also act independently.

**How?**

In many crises and disruptions in society there is a gap between the help that society offers and the help that people need. Red Cross volunteers can offer humanitarian support, first aid and practical assistance to people affected in a crisis and their families.

**What happened in 2017?**

Our volunteers have been active at several serious events. During the year we provided crisis support and first aid after the terror attack in Stockholm. We were also on the scene of a bus accident in Sveg, a Nazi

demonstration in Gothenburg and a school shooting in Stockholm.

**What will happen moving forward?**

We know that the need for crisis support, first aid and coordination of volunteers is great in the event of a major societal crisis and we strive to have emergency preparedness organised in all municipalities. Today we can offer such services in about half of Sweden’s municipalities, so we will intensify our efforts to achieve local preparedness!

**How will the Red Cross do this?**

We will recruit and train more volunteers. Our goal is to have 20,000 people who are ready to respond to a crisis by 2025.

**Why does the Red Cross do this?**

No one should feel alone in a serious event or crisis. That is a fundamental component of the mission of the Red Cross to prevent and alleviate human suffering – in daily life, as well as in a crisis or war.



**85**

crisis supporters were on the scene after the terror attack on Drottninggatan



**15,200**

people received training in first aid



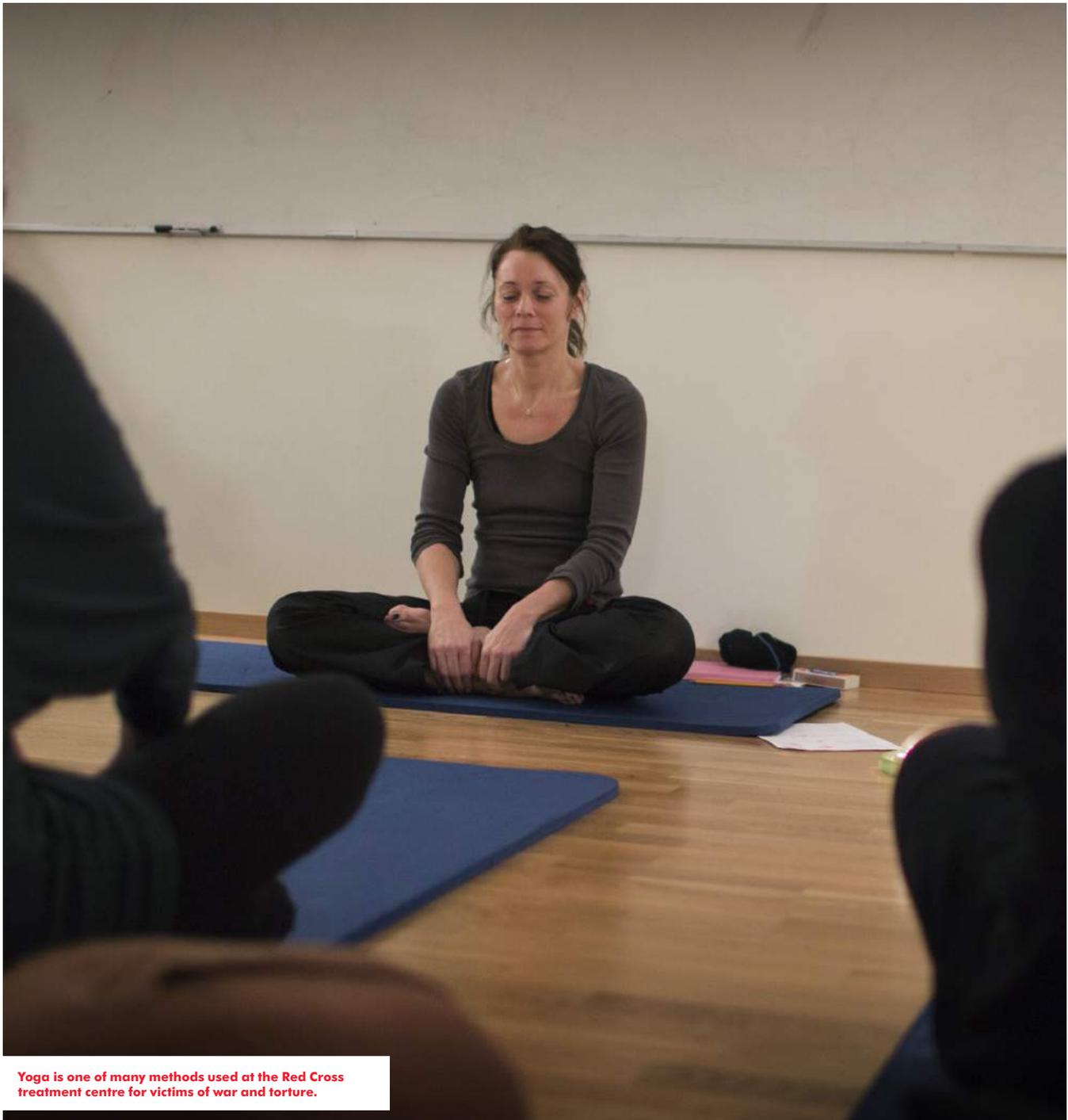
**140**

trained crisis supporters were ready to respond

**How do you prepare for a crisis?**

Swedes are not particularly well-prepared for societal crises such as major flooding or power cuts. Read our tips to increase your preparedness! Make sure you have the following at home:

- ➔ **Battery-operated radio**
- ➔ **Paraffin (kerosene) lamp** and fuel
- ➔ **Matches**
- ➔ **Stearin candles and tealights**
- ➔ **Flashlight** and extra batteries
- ➔ **Buckets** to fill with water
- ➔ **Household first aid kit** with the essentials
- ➔ **Hand crank charger** for mobile phones
- ➔ **Extra heater** that runs on e.g. paraffin (kerosene)
- ➔ **Sleeping bag**, blankets and warm clothing
- ➔ **Hygiene items** that work without water, e.g. wet wipes
- ➔ **Camping kitchen** and fuel
- ➔ **Food** that can survive at room temperature
- ➔ **Cash**
- ➔ **Telephone list** of important numbers



Yoga is one of many methods used at the Red Cross treatment centre for victims of war and torture.

## **RIGHT TO CARE**

### **Protection, care and tracing family members**

The need for support is great among people fleeing from war, conflict and persecution. Treatment of trauma and torture victims, help tracing family members and reuniting them once found, as well as support for people who need protection are just some of the Red Cross activities for which demand has been strong in 2017.

**Reuniting families**

Every day people lose contact with each other in connection with armed conflicts, refugee situations, or disasters. The Red Cross works to help people to find each other again. In order to trace lost relatives we cooperate with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, which spans the entire world.

In 2017, it was young unaccompanied persons from Afghanistan in particular who received assistance tracing close family mem-

bers who had disappeared.

The number of cases increased three-fold between 2015 and 2016, contributing to long case administration times. Although the number declined slightly in 2017, there were long queues, and extra resources have therefore been committed to this activity. Digital development is in progress to improve efficiency. A total of 1,073 cases were handled in 2017, of which 151 ended on a positive note.



**The Hussein family is one of many that received help to reunite after having been separated while fleeing from their home.**



**Water gymnastics makes a difference for patients at our treatment centres.**

**Expanded support to children and young people**

For more than 30 years the Red Cross has provided treatment for victims of war and torture. In 2017 we expanded operations at our treatment centres so that more children and young people with traumatic experiences from wars and fleeing from their homes receive support and care. There is a mobile treatment team for adolescents in Västra Götaland, and in Uppsala a programme is being developed for trauma therapy for children below the age of 13.

The existing activities for adults were strengthened during the year, partly by establishing outposts of the centres in Umeå and Luleå, which often entail a long journey for patients.

A total of 18,529 hours of treatment were provided in 2017.



**519**

patients received help through the Red Cross care service



**899**

people received help to be able to travel to be reunited with their families



**2,003**

patients received care at our treatment centres



In Södertälje, the Red Cross offers people an opportunity to release their inner artist. Creativity abounds inside the "Skaparverkstan" workshop.

# HEALTH AND PARTICIPATION

## Compassion in words and deeds

All over Sweden the Red Cross works with health-promoting activities to counteract involuntary isolation and to strengthen physical, mental and social well-being. By offering meeting places for people we strengthen participation in society. We provide psychosocial support to strengthen the ability of individuals to deal with stressful events.



**Eric Röst, Max Al-Jashaami and Tove Kopperdal.**

**“Without you I would have gone insane”**

Sitting in detainment is tough. Max Al-Jashaami, age 25, knows that for a fact. Even though the time detained by the Swedish Migration Agency is supposed to be as short as possible, he was held for six months. Visits from the Red Cross helped him to tolerate it.

“It was a horrible, terrible period. I didn’t live. If I hadn’t been able to receive visitors I would have gone insane.

Max wound up in detainment after refusing the Swedish Migration Agency’s offer of a ticket back to his native country, Iraq, from which he had fled to find security in Sweden. Returning was inconceivable.

“I couldn’t go back,” he says. “There is no safety there.

Red Cross Volunteers have been visiting people in detainment for 20 years. The aim is to counter the isolation and offer humanitarian support.

“We encounter all kinds of emotions. Many are sad, frustrated and angry. Some have suicidal thoughts. “Our role is often just to be there and listen,” says Tove Kopperdal, a Red Cross volunteer.

When we listen to the frustration and the anger the emotions often transition into a kind of calm state,” says another volunteer, Eric Röst.

They have visited detainees together for many years. They communicate in Swedish, English and have learned a variety of greeting phrases in every language.

“But just as often we communicate without words. It can be a supportive hand on a shoulder, or by sitting next to each other and laughing at the same movie. It is also an encounter that can mean a lot to someone,” says Eric.

**Mountains, friends and volunteering**

“These people probably never would have met otherwise.” Swedish-born and new arrivals. Now they stood side by side and helped one another to climb a mountain, explains Åsa Norin in the network Friend in Umeå, which arranged hikes in the Västerbotten mountains in the summer of 2017, using support from the Red Cross.

The initiative is one of many that was arranged around the country during the year, with the purpose of promoting the integration of asylum seekers and new arrivals in Sweden.

In Örebro, new arrivals were offered mentorship, in Gävle the focus was on children and the Red Cross Youth Federation ar-

anged “friend groups” for young people.

“Most of all we get to know each other, and we know the entire time that there are people who are thinking about us and who want to visit us every week,” says Hamid, who arrived unaccompanied from Afghanistan and belongs to a “friends group” in Värmdö.

The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) contributed SEK 15 million to the initiative.

A total of 52,000 people participated in the various activities in 95 municipalities. In all, 3,000 volunteers were involved, including 765 who were new in 2017.



**Hiking in the mountains was a new experience for several of the participants in the Friend in Umeå’s summer outing.**



**52,000**

asylum seekers and new arrivals participated in our countrywide integration initiative



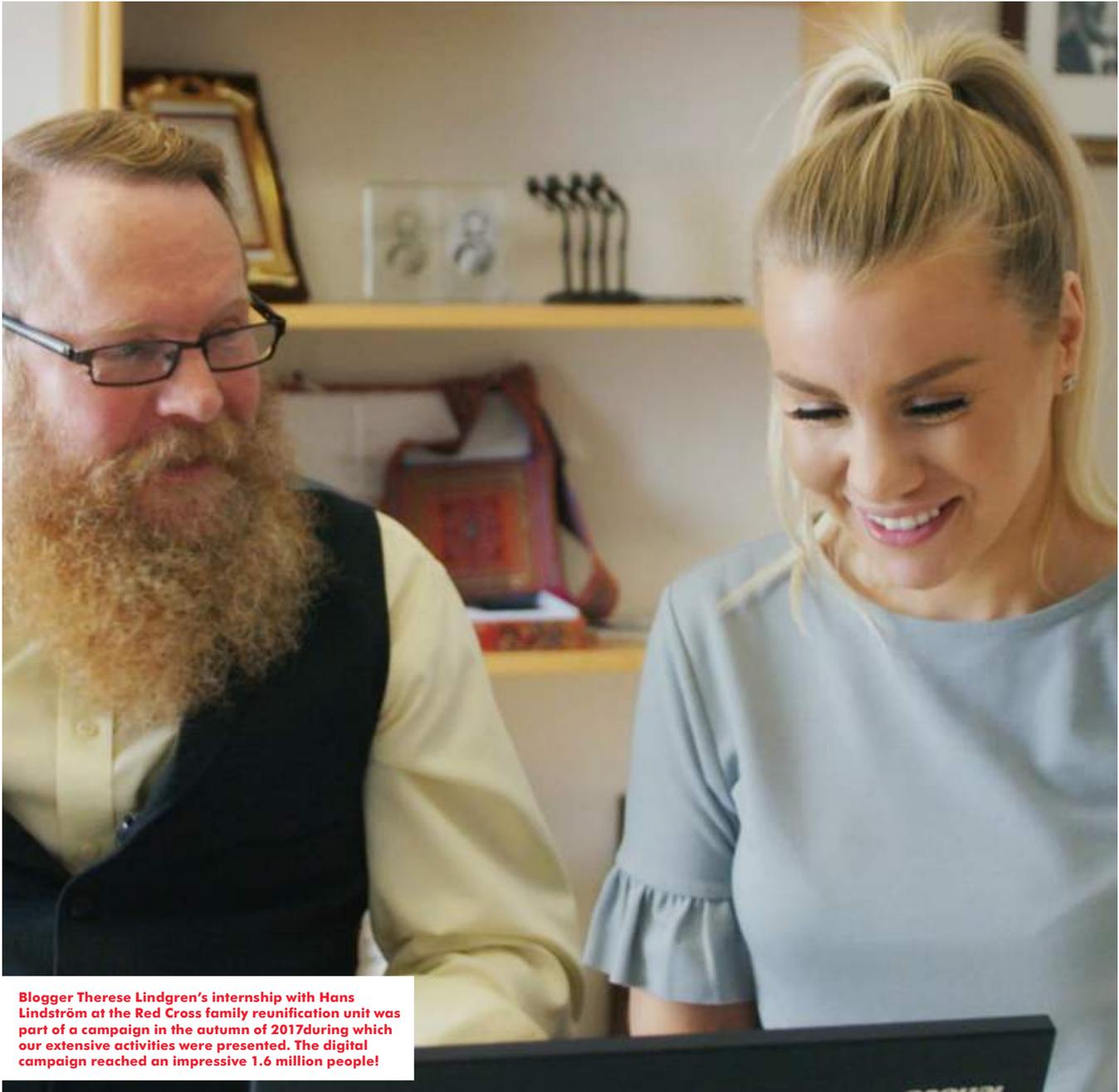
**131**

local societies in the country had activities for unaccompanied youth



**32,000**

volunteers worked for the Red Cross all over the country in 2017



**Blogger Therese Lindgren's internship with Hans Lindström at the Red Cross family reunification unit was part of a campaign in the autumn of 2017 during which our extensive activities were presented. The digital campaign reached an impressive 1.6 million people!**

## **KNOWLEDGE AND INFLUENCE**

### **Let families live together!**

The Red Cross endeavours to shape opinion and influence decision-makers on matters concerning respect for the dignity of every person in humanitarian crises. We also spread knowledge about our work and the situation in disasters. The temporary asylum act and the right of family reunification were two issues that received attention during the year.

## TWO IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ISSUES 2017

### ➔ The temporary asylum act

The Red Cross constantly points to the consequences we encounter daily in our activities – ranging from families that cannot be reunited and residence permits with expiration dates, to groups who no longer receive protection in Sweden since the adoption of the temporary asylum act of 2015.

In April 2017, an open letter was written to the delegates at the Social Democratic Party conference. In this letter we identified three serious consequences of the temporary law: the right to family reunification is jeopardised, uncertainty contributes to greater mental illness and more people are forced to make potentially fatal journeys to reach Europe and Sweden.

We have highlighted our position by assisting with two government inquiries and have successfully pursued asylum and family re-

unification cases. The issue was raised with the Minister of Migration, Heléne Fritzon, and we stressed the importance of evaluating the consequences of the temporary law and intend to conduct our own evaluation of it.

We encounter desperate young people who are at risk of deportation to unsafe and conflict-ridden countries. With regard to Afghanistan, we have pursued the issue of a complete halt to forced deportations to the country due to the severe conflict. This has been presented to the former Minister for Migration, Morgan Johansson, to Heléne Fritzon and to the director general of the Swedish Migration Agency, Mikael Ribbenvik.

Increased mental illness was a major issue during the year where we actively pursued advocacy and held discussions with authorities and ministries concerned.

### ➔ International humanitarian law

The principal reason why human vulnerability and suffering are so widespread in present-day conflicts is inadequate respect for the laws of war, international humanitarian law. This was our main theme at the Politicians week in Almedalen. Under the slogan “Even wars have rules” we highlighted the issue in seminars, interviews and bilateral meetings. Our booth was filled by an exhibit showcasing the laws of war.



Our Almedalen week 2017 message was visible on white shirts all around Visby.



The consequences of the temporary asylum law are an important influence issue for the Red Cross.

### HOW DO WE EXERT OUR INFLUENCE?

- ➔ **We strive to ensure that** decision-makers and opinion-shapers always respond by focusing on people in vulnerable situations and with full respect for humanitarian principles. We focus on the Government, political parties, departments and authorities, and cooperate with other organisations and stakeholders.
- ➔ **The Red Cross is often in demand as experts.** We publish reports, render opinions on official inquiries sent for comment, issue press releases, author opinion pieces and editorials, and participate in discussions and debates. The fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement govern how we exert influence.
- ➔ **In 2017** a new strategy to influence decision-makers was formulated to strengthen these efforts.

### HOW DO WE SPREAD KNOWLEDGE?

- ➔ **Because of the unique presence of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement in 191 countries,** we have extensive knowledge of the situation in ongoing crises and conflicts.
- ➔ **To increase knowledge among** the general public about our activities and the importance of supporting people in crisis, we engage in a variety of initiatives.
- ➔ **The Red Cross website** is updated with relevant information about our contributions around the world, we communicate via social media and our magazine, Henry, and we are visible in the media.



There are 40 first aid groups in Sweden, ready to respond in the event of a crisis.

## First aid saves lives

One of the most fundamental tasks of the Red Cross is to provide and teach first aid. Our volunteers around the world are ready to save lives in war and conflicts as well as disasters and accidents.

- ➔ In 2017 there were 40 first aid groups in Sweden and an initiative to establish more was launched.
- ➔ Local resources were trained to educate others about first aid and how to save the lives of fellow human beings locally.
- ➔ In all, 15,200 people received first aid training and new arrivals were a prioritised group during the year.
- ➔ The Red Cross also offers first aid training to companies and organisations.

The humanitarian mission of the Red Cross is to prevent and relieve human suffering. Our task is to collaborate with authorities in connection with accidents, crises and disasters in a supportive and complementary role. However, we do not wait for the authorities to call us. If we see that somebody needs support, we act. The ability to give first aid represents important knowledge in such a situation.

### On the scene of the terror tack

In 2017 we were on the scene at concerts and sport events, like the Lidingöloppet running race. An important major initiative was carried out after the April terror attack on Drottninggatan in Stockholm. By quickly responding, people who were injured and in shock could receive help and counselling from volunteers in the city. ■



### Download our app:

Red Cross First Aid.  
Available for iOS and Android.

## HOW FIRST AID WORKS

### 1. Does the person react?

If a person collapses, shake their shoulders gently and try to make contact.



### 2. Is the person breathing?

Gently tilt the head back – look, listen and feel for breaths.

➔ If you can feel normal breathing – roll the person onto their side and dial 112.

➔ If the person is not breathing or is breathing abnormally, dial 112. If possible, ask somebody to bring a defibrillator. Start CPR as described below.



### 3. Do 30 chest compressions

Push firmly downwards in the middle of the chest and then release. Push hard and fast 30 times.



### 4. Give 2 rescue breaths

Tilt the person's head back and lift the lower jaw. Close the person's nostrils with the thumb and index finger. Seal your lips around the person's mouth and blow - make sure the chest rises. Blow another breath.



### 5. Continue alternating between 30 chest compressions and two rescue breaths

If you are more than one, alternate every 2 minutes. If someone brought a defibrillator, let one person start it as instructed while another continues with CPR while the defibrillator is being turned on.

### 6. Continue until

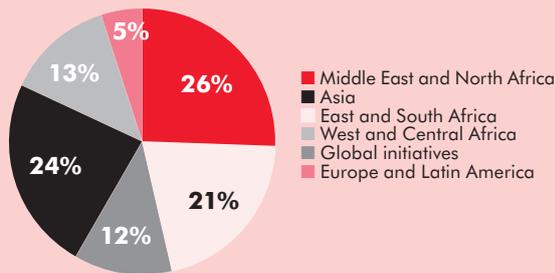
- the person shows signs of life
- an ambulance or rescue staff takes over
- somebody else takes over

# How the money is used<sup>1</sup>

## EXPENSES | SEK 1,028 MILLION

### INTERNATIONAL WORK

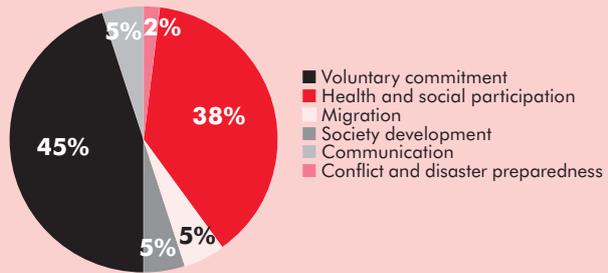
SEK 326 million went to international initiatives in 2017. The Syrian crisis was the single largest area of operations, with costs of SEK 41 million. Emergency operations were also carried out in countries such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Kenya and Somalia.



**SEK 326 MILLION**

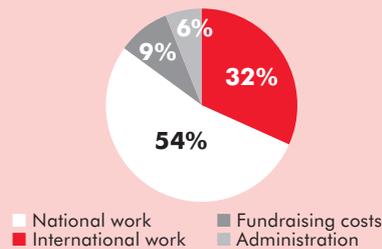
### NATIONAL WORK

SEK 556 million went to national initiatives in 2017. The largest area of operations was Voluntary commitment (SEK 252 million), which includes all work related to the humanitarian efforts of our 32,000 volunteers. To meet the growing need, the area of operations Treatment for victims of war and torture was expanded, resulting in increased costs (SEK 76 million).



**SEK 556 MILLION**

### BREAKDOWN OF COSTS



### FUNDRAISING COSTS

Fundraising costs totalled SEK 87 million. During the year initiatives were carried out to increase digital efficiency and to recruit monthly donors, as well as campaigns to increase revenue and strengthen our transparency regarding our reporting of earnings.

**SEK 89 MILLION**

### ADMINISTRATION

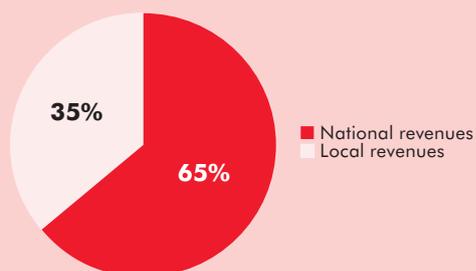
Administration costs for member processing totalled SEK 40 million. This mainly includes costs for member processing, management, the Governing Board, the General Assembly, auditing and planning, monitoring and quality insurance in accordance with guidelines and legal requirements.

**SEK 57 MILLION**

## REVENUES | SEK 1,028 MILLION

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

Just over one third of the revenue for operations comes via the Red Cross local societies around the country, from local fundraising and sales.



### BREAKDOWN OF REVENUE TYPES

Contributions, primarily from municipalities, county councils and the Swedish state, represent the largest revenue type for the operation. Donations from private donors and companies comprise about one third of revenues.



<sup>1</sup> The costs and revenues presented above concern both the Swedish Red Cross and the local societies. The Swedish Red Cross Annual Report 2017 presents only the figures for the Swedish Red Cross nationally.

# Thank you for all your contributions!

Our sponsors, corporate partners and donors make it possible for the Red Cross to do its job helping vulnerable people. Below we present a selection of the support we received during the year! Read more about how our operations are financed in the 2017 Red Cross Annual Report.

**5.5 SEK million**

was contributed by the H&M Foundation to the Red Cross in 2017. A meaningful contribution to our work both nationally and internationally!

## Seven million in recycling deposit refunds!

The ICA supermarket chain has contributed to Red Cross operations in various ways during the year. With great commitment to social issues, initiatives to support our operations were carried out both centrally and at the individual merchant level. ICA customers contributed SEK 7.6 million in deposit refunds through the Red Cross button on the recycling machine. New record!

During the year, ICA Supermarkets encouraged local involvement between merchants and the Red Cross local societies. The campaign was called "A good deed" and produced SEK 3.7 million. Thank you so much!



ICA's deposit refund button on the recycling machine gave the Red Cross SEK 7.6 million!



Family evenings, discussions and games. The meeting place in Tynnered is for everyone in the area.

## Meeting place in Tynnered

Thanks to valuable support from Svenska Postkodlotteriet, an important meeting place was created in Tynnered, Gothenburg. Local residents can meet here and discuss plans for how they envisage their neighbourhood. The meeting place has been operated for three years in cooperation with Save the Children. Beginning in 2018, the operation

is being run by a newly started Red Cross society that collaborates with the neighbourhood administration, housing companies, and other local parties.

Svenska Postkodlotteriet and all of its lottery ticket buyers contributed an extremely valuable SEK 25 million in basic support to the Red Cross in 2017.



Zozan Hussein and other Red Cross recruiters do an important job to increase support for the Red Cross from private individuals. At the end of 2017 we had 89,260 monthly donors! The increase in revenues was 18 percent.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ICA



Swedavia  
Airports

H&M FOUNDATION

Arlanda Express | Bokningsbolaget | BR | Canon | Danone | Efva Attling | Euroflorist | Hertz  
Humanfonden | innocent | JM | KFX HR-partner | Krafringen | Linklaters | Preem | Ramlösa | SJ  
Skanska | Toyota Material Handling | Veidekke | Viking Line | Wallenius Lines

**We would like to thank all Red Cross disaster partners who contribute  
their dedication and knowledge in societal crises in Sweden.**

Arlanda | Hertz | Landvetter Airport | Preem | Radisson Hotell | SJ | Svensk Krisledning



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