

CZECH



Background

The Czechoslovak Red Cross was founded by the President of the Republic Mr. T. G. Masaryk on February 6, 1919. He also nominated his daughter Dr. Alice G. Masaryková as the first President of the Red Cross. She presided over this organization until World War II.

Upon the dissolution of the Republic in 1993 an independent organization of the Czech Red Cross was created, which was recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva on 26. 3. 1993 and was accepted as a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva on 25. 10. 1993.

Basic Mission

The Czech Red Cross is the National Society of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on the territory of the Czech Republic. It respects the 7 fundamental principles of the Red Cross Movement:

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



Organizational Structure

With almost 300,000 members, the Czech Red Cross is one of the largest organizations in the Czech Republic. Members are associated in 5,291 local Branches within the whole territory of the Czech Republic. Local Branches are composed of local groups, most have their own offices.

*Zdenko VLK, D.M., CzRC President
awarding voluntary blood donors*

Involvement in the International Movement

The Czech Red Cross develops relations with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Working contacts with the Regional Delegation of the International Federation in Budapest and individual National Societies are also very important.

Humanitarian Relief

Between the years 1993 and 1995 humanitarian relief totaling 4,200,000 Czech crowns was provided to Ex-Yugoslavia, Ukraine, Belarus and Rwanda. They have also organized camps for children of war threatened territories.

Tracing Service

Each year more than 12,000 letters about tracing missing persons, and the whereabouts of missing next of kin are received. Further enquiries on the whereabouts of soldiers graves are also received and dealt with.

Non Remunerated Blood Donation

The Czech Red Cross provides awards to blood donors, promotes publicity of non remunerated blood donation and the recruitment of donors. During 1994 the Prof. MUDr. Jan Jánský medal was awarded to 21,416 donors for non-remunerated blood donations ranging from ten to forty.

First Aid Training

Recently 1,131 new paramedical workers of the Czech Red Cross were recruited. These workers provide paramedical First Aid to almost 60,000 citizens every year.



Providing First Aid after a traffic accident

Voluntary Home Help

Home help nurses of the Czech Red Cross provide free aid amongst 7,000 of the old, ill and physically handicapped and immobile citizens. More than 600 new home care nurses are trained each year, along with retraining of 4,600 acting home care nurses.

Social Activities

Most of the local Branches of the Czech Red Cross run clothing centres for citizens in need. In the towns of Olomouc and Chomutov there are social homes providing refuge for unmarried mothers and other needy citizens. In Klatovy, Louny and Litoměřice there are hostels for homeless persons. In Karviná there is an institutional facility providing medical and social care.

Summer Camps for Children

Camps are organized for children who live in environmentally polluted areas. Each year more than 500 recreation stays, with an average of 10 days per stay, are organized for almost 25,000 children.

Summer Recovery Camps for Children with Disabilities

The aim is to improve the physical fitness and strength of these children. More than 5,000 children, variously diagnosed with orthopaedic defects, allergies, asthma, epilepsy, enuresis and diabetes, recover in these camps every year. During 1994, 800 of these children were able to enjoy their stay at a sea-side resort.

The Charlotte G. Masaryková Sanatorium for Children in Bukovany



The sanatorium was founded in 1931 as a facility of the Czechoslovak Red Cross. Since 1994 it has been run by the Czech Red Cross. Its capacity is 120 beds. 800 children come here every year.

The Charlotte G. Masaryková Sanatorium for children in Bukovany

Voluntary nurses

The activities of the Czech Red Cross voluntary nurses are based on the Geneva Conventions, Additional Protocols and the bylaw of the then Czechoslovak Red Cross. Last year 1,125 new voluntary nurses were educated. The total number of nurses on file is 32,782.



Czech Red Cross Youth

This is a special component—an independent movement within the framework of the Czech Red Cross associated with children and youth. Their programme is an important part of the Czech Red Cross Society. It concentrates on: *Training of first aid to children, youth and teachers of paramedical workers.* Every year about 30,000 young paramedical workers are educated. Each year a further 1,200 teachers are also trained.

"Help-Trans"—help in motion

The aim is to enable physically handicapped citizens to participate in common activities for which they need assistance. Currently these activities are available in 8 districts.

HIV-AIDS and life for everyone

This comprises of a sex education programme concentrating on the prevention of the spread of HIV-AIDS. During the last year, 10 seminars were organized, in which 180 instructors participated.



CzRC Youth learning First Aid

Water Life Saving Service



It is a very special component of the Czech Red Cross with an exclusive mission. The basis of the activities are a precautionary life saving service. For example, in 1994, 815 adult members and 661 youth members made up the Water Life Saving Service. These volunteers worked 30,835 hours monitoring activities at water recreational facilities in the Czech Republic.



Aid was provided to 4,050 persons. There were 333 interventions in the water and 91 on the shore last year, all of which undoubtedly helped to save lives.

Czech Red Cross Home Care Service —ALICE

This agency service offers standard and special services. Professional nurses provide care for patients discharged from hospital treatment and to sick persons being treated at home. These agencies have already been established in 28 district towns to-date.

Czech Red Cross Press

Red Cross Newsletter

This is a bi-monthly bulletin established in 1994. It provides information about the activities of the Czech Red Cross Society, partner organizations in the world, activities of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Health

This coloured monthly magazine is co-edited by the Czech Red Cross for all who want to live healthy lives and be informed about news concerning cures, treatments, medicine and a healthy life style.

Help us to help

The Czech Red Cross wants to continue in all these established activities, both to maintain and enlarge them. Therefore we respectfully ask you to donate some financial amount, from your heart, towards humanitarian relief and for the implementation of the Czech Red Cross programmes.

Become sponsors of the Czech Red Cross Activities!

All funds received will be used for the programmes outlined. Complete accounts will be published. More details concerning sponsorship, membership in the Czech Red Cross, or non remunerated blood donations can be obtained at the Headquarters of the Czech Red Cross, Praha 1, Thunovská 18, Tel.: 24510347

**We thank you for all your help
on behalf of those who need it most!**

**Account number: 7334-011/0100, VS 692
KB Praha 1, Karmelitská ulice**

On the cover:
Bosnia and Herzegovina—another life saved

Photo: **H. P. Laiho**,
International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies

THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found.

Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being.
It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all people.

Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.
It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

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

Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary Service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any country. It must be open to all.
It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,
in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

THE THREE COMPONENTS OF THE MOVEMENT

International Committee of the Red Cross



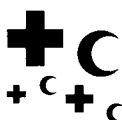
The ICRC was created in 1863 and is the founding body of the Movement. As a neutral and independent humanitarian institution, it acts throughout the world, either on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions, to protect and assist victims of armed conflict and its direct results. This may involve caring for the war-wounded, visiting prisoners of war and security detainees, restoring contact between separated families, protecting the civilian population or providing food and other assistance to conflict victims. It also promotes and monitors the application of International Humanitarian Law.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



The Federation works throughout the world to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote all humanitarian activities carried out by its member National Societies to prevent and alleviate human suffering. Founded in 1919, the Federation coordinates international assistance to victims of natural disasters and to the victims of man-made disasters outside conflict areas. It also helps National Societies plan and implement disaster-preparedness programmes and long-term projects designed to reduce vulnerability and contribute to sustainable development.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



The National Societies embody the work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in more than 160 countries. National Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities in their own countries and provide a range of services from disaster relief, health and social assistance to first-aid courses. During wartime, National Societies support the army medical services. All recognised National Societies are members of the Federation.