



Red Cross volunteers training water purification in Kalkku. (Joonas Brandt).

The mission of the Finnish Red Cross

The Finnish Red Cross is an organisation that supports the authorities and is subject to public law. The special legal status is governed by the Act on the Finnish Red Cross (238/2000) and the Presidential Decree on the Finnish Red Cross (827/2017). The mission of the Finnish Red Cross is to support and assist national authorities in times of both peace and war and during armed conflicts in order to promote human well-being. The organisation has made cooperation contracts with various ministries (e.g. Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health), the National Emergency Supply Agency and the Finnish Immigration Service.

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Volunteers at the heart of the activities

Red Cross volunteers are there to help alleviate human suffering, no matter where disaster strikes. 20,966 volunteers participate in Finnish Red Cross volunteer activities in local branches, of whom 3,515 are under the age of 29 ([Tilastokirja 2020](#)).

Volunteer activities are aimed at helping and supporting people in strengthening their health and well-being and promoting human values and the willingness to help. Volunteers can

- work in a group, on their own or as a one-off on site
- work online
- contribute by donating
- work as influencers.

More information on volunteering:

- [Oma Punainen Risti](https://punainenristi.fi/oma) punainenristi.fi/oma.
- [The Rednet website](https://rednet.punainenristi.fi) for volunteers rednet.punainenristi.fi

Nation-wide operations

The local branch represents the organisation locally. Branches mainly base their activities on volunteer activities. The most important tasks of the branch are to promote the Red Cross values and organisational preparedness locally by responding to local emergencies, for example. The organisation has 442 local branches (the CRM register 31.5.2021). In order to support the branches and organise regional activities, the country is divided into 12 districts. On a national level, the activities are supported and coordinated by the headquarters.

The supreme authority lies with the General Assembly, which consists of the members and meets every three years. The General Assembly selects the board and other elected officials for the organization.

The mission and vision of the organisation is also achieved in institutions: youth shelters, the Blood Service and Kontti. In addition to this, the organisation owns Punainen Risti Ensiaapu Oy and maintains reception centres.

Chair: Elli Aaltonen (2020–)
Secretary General: Kristiina Kumpula (2004–)

FINNISH RED CROSS NUMBERS

Total number of members (CRM 31.12.2020)	73,449
Youth members = below the age of 29 (CRM 31.12.2020)	3,915
Disaster relief fund proceeds 2020	MEUR 13.69
Hunger Day proceeds 2020	MEUR 2.07
Blood donations 2020	188,294
Volunteer training participants 2020	41,166
First aid course customers 2020	88,655
Number of people with an OMA Punainen Risti profile (OMA 7.6.2021)	15,244
Volunteers in friend visitor activities 2020	6,380
Customers of friend visitor activities 2020	17,227
Number of youth shelter customers at shelters and online 2020	6,134
Number of volunteers in first-aid groups 2020	2,691
Number of people who had received help at emergency first aid 2020	3,020
Number of people helped by voluntary rescue services 2020 (OHTO)	4,159
Number of volunteers in FRC emergency teams 2020 (OHTO)	3,921
Emergencies, psychosocial support and emergency care, number of people helped 2020 (OHTO)	2,186
Disaster relief fund domestic aid, number of people helped (number of cases) in 2020 (report maintained by headquarters)	1,241 (159)
Number of customers at Kontti 2020	1.00 million
International aid workers 2020	168

Instructions and guidance for the operations

The **rules** of the organisation govern the activities of the Finnish Red Cross. The General Assembly of the Finnish Red Cross approved new rules for the organisation on 11.6.2017. The rules were issued by Presidential Decree (827/2017) on 1.12.2017.

The **strategy** approved by the General Assembly specifies strategic focus areas and the supporting activities for the next term. Based on this strategy, the board of the organisation approves the three-year **action plan**, which is specified by the board each year. Volunteer activities are governed by the **volunteering policy** (2008), which determines the rights and responsibilities of the volunteers and the organisation, among other things. The staff and the volunteers are also governed by the **ethical instructions** as well as the **code of conduct** (2016). With the help of these policies and instructions, the organisation wants to ensure a safe and good operating environment for volunteers, people in need of help and staff. To support this, the organisation has put a **policy and instructions against sexual harassment** (2020) as well as instructions on **safe operating environments for minors** (2014) and an **equality plan** (2016) in place. The various volunteer programmes and forms of activities are guided by programme-specific policies; **first aid policy** (2009), **health and well-being policy** (2008), **school cooperation policy** (2014), **youth policy** (2020) and **international aid work policy** (2015). The organisation is a large training provider as it trains roughly 60,000 volunteers annually. The development and organisation of volunteer training is governed by the **volunteer training policy** (2010) and the **trainer instructions** (2014). The organisation's risk management is guided by the **risk management policy** (2015).

To support the administration, planning and reporting of activities

Recording signatories in the register is the statutory duty of the Finnish Red Cross. The Finnish Red Cross register of signatories corresponds to the Register of Associations maintained by the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland. The basic information of the branch and details of the signatories are reported on the **J1** form. Information on the branch's other elected officials and contact people are reported on the **J2** form. The currency and validity of the information is very important, because the branch's **registration document**, which is provided by the headquarters, is based on the information given on the J1 form.

Reporting is centred around the **annual report** and **statistics of activities**. Statistics provided by branches are used to collate national information on the scope of training and activities.

The activities and operations of the organisation is funded by membership fees, wills and other donations as well as through investments. In addition to this, various ministries and other parties (e.g. the Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations) fund the activities through project and general subsidies. International and national aid work performed by the organisation is implemented with funds from the Disaster relief fund, e.g. proceeds from Hunger Day and other collections. The Disaster relief fund is managed as a fund separated from the other finances of the organisation, and its use is governed by separate instructions. In addition to the Disaster relief fund, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) are the most prominent financiers of international aid work.

Key instructions and forms

The Rednet Osastotoimisto (branch office) contains instructions, forms and general advice on operations, such as information on the organisation's **insurance policies**, **introduction materials for key volunteers**, tips on thanking and **instructions on recognition**, **the volunteer's path** and age-specific youth activity paths, **social media guidelines**, tips on **organising accessible activities**, **instructions in the event of violent or threatening situations**, **preparedness planning instructions and forms** and **domestic assistance instructions**, etc.