

## FRC-Helpers! for classes at upper stage comprehensive schools

Starting video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlqhGUVYAu4&feature=youtu.be>

Prezi: <https://prezi.com/view/JqCtAkdK0UnMKKhI99Yr/>

Kahoot: <https://create.kahoot.it/>

- Open Prezi and Kahoot-game before students come to the class. Prezi zooms in on pictures and videos automatically.

\* Additions suitable for older students.

\*\* If a delegate connection is agreed for the school, don't go through these.

### 1. Symbol



*Question:* Have you ever seen any of these three symbols? [Go to the picture](#). For example on first aid kits, ambulances, TV, collection boxes, ads, campaigns, concerts, etc.

*Question:* Why are there three different symbols?

- ☐ The Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Crystal; the cross comes from the Swiss flag (Henry Dunant was Swiss), but it is often linked with religion, even though the organisation's operations are based on helping, rather than any religion. This is why some countries use the crescent as a symbol. Countries can freely decide which symbol to use, and the Crystal was

created as a more neutral alternative.

[Go to the picture](#)



National Red Cross and Red Crescent symbols from Somalia, Argentina, Syria, and the Philippines.

[Go to the pictures](#)

This symbol is intended to work as a **protection symbol**, and that's why it is placed in visible places, such as the roofs of rescue vehicles and hospitals, and on protective vests. Those who wear this symbol are protected by international law. If you hurt someone protected by the symbol, you will be prosecuted in an international war crimes trial. (\* *Question:* What does it actually mean to end up in a war crimes trial and how does it work? What do we know about current war practices?)

A person protected by this symbol is never armed and is always there to help.

Picture 1: Volunteers of the Syrian Red Crescent and an employee of the International Red Cross.

Picture 2: A relief-ship loaded with medical equipment in Libya.



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## 2. Where did the helping begin?



The Red Cross was founded when the Swiss Henry Dunant travelled in the war zone of northern Italy in 1859. He recruited volunteers to help the victims of the war, and founded a hospital in a church. He wanted to help the wounded **regardless of the side they were on**, and some years later, the Red Cross committee met for the first time.

Later, a convention was signed in Geneva, Switzerland, by almost every country in the world, an international agreement on humanitarian right through which the signatory states agreed to respect human life. This created an organisation aimed only to help the victims of war and protect civilians. The organisation soon began its operations in many countries, helping victims of not only war but also major disasters, as well as preventing epidemics.

Today, the primary task is worldwide aid work and securing lasting peace (**impartiality** and **humanity**). The Red Cross helps those who need help the most, supports cooperation among all peoples, and protects human dignity and life.

You can also show a video which explains the history.

**Video:** Story of an Idea; **Only watch until 02:45** (stop the video at the mention of the ICRC and the cross on the video).  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QeKVtWrELYI>

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### *Finland 140*

There have been organised helpers in Finland for 140 years: The Association for the Treatment of the Wounded and Sick Soldiers was founded in 1877. At first, the organisation concentrated solely on helping soldiers during war, but as wars ended, the focus shifted towards development aid as well.

*Question:* What or who could there be in the pictures?

Picture 1: Nurses during the Finnish Civil War.

Picture 2: First aid competition in 1968.

Picture 3: Mannerheim meeting a disabled person with a service dog.





The earliest first aid courses were organised for police and railroad workers already in 1885. Treatment skills and preparation for injuries were taught to anyone for 3 Finnish marks at the Helsinki railway station.

Nowadays, there are first aid groups, with a total of 3,000 members, in almost all of the 500 branches. They support the authorities in case of major disasters and patrol in various events, for example. The first aid groups are a large part of Finland's preparation for disasters and accidents.

**Video:** 140 years of helpers

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0yEk\\_GIZKQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0yEk_GIZKQ)

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The American Red Cross donated bicycles for nurses at the Finnish Red Cross to enable them to take care of their work (picture 1). Similarly, the FRC supports local volunteers elsewhere in the world.

After health training in Zimbabwe, the FRC gave out bikes to the trained volunteers so they could move between villages and teach about malaria and HIV, for example (picture 2). Depending on the situation, Finland has been both a receiver of help and a helper.

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*The principles*

*Question:* What could these words mean?

The Red Cross and Red Crescent have *seven principles* which form the foundation for all their operations. This is to ensure uniform and fair help everywhere around the world. Above all else, the Red Cross is a preparedness organisation.

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### 3. The Finnish Red Cross now

*Question:* Wat does 'preparedness' mean?

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUqa-bIYQml>

The Red Cross is a fully independent organisation, but it is always subject to the relevant legislation in its operating country. There can only be **one Red Cross or Red Crescent per country (unity and independence)**. All operations are based on **voluntary helping** and a strong worldwide aid network. Joint agreements may refer to the agreement between a branch of the Red Cross with a local store on the availability of food even in the middle of the night in case of a fire, for example.

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**Districts and branches**

Picture/map of the branches. There are 12 districts and 493 branches in Finland (If there is a local branch in the area of the school, you can talk about its operations here).

In Finland, the operations consist of peacetime aid. The branches have their own preparedness plans, which support national preparedness for disasters and help to react quickly in case of accidents, for example. There are a total of 272 emergency groups, or groups which are ready to help whenever needed, in Finland. The groups can also give emotional support, for example.

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### *Operations*



The operations are run mainly by volunteers around the country.

- Blood Service (blood donation)
- First aid groups (1) and ski slope volunteers (7)
- Voluntary Rescue Service (6)
- Friend visitor activities (2 & 9)
- Emotional support groups for crises (e.g. major accidents)
- Reception centre operations (leisure activities, language clubs, etc.) (5)
- Supporting multicultural activities (8)
- Homework help groups and Reddie Kids clubs for children
- Youth Shelters (Helsinki region, Turku, Tampere) (4)
- Kontti stores, which employ the long-term unemployed (3)

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### *First aid volunteers*

Before the video: First aid volunteers operate at festivals and various events, such as the end of the school year and the new year, when there are many people out and about with intoxicants.

*Question:* Have you seen volunteers at festivals?

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVYZ8l6XqEU> 1:21 min

## Voluntary service in Finland

*Question:* What does voluntary service mean? What could it be in Finland?

Or around the world?

☐ A volunteer is a person working of their own will.

There are a total of approximately 16,000 volunteers operating in various tasks in Finland. Most of these are involved in first aid groups, friend visitor operations, and search and rescue work. Volunteer activities can include building a Minecraft server or being a box collector, for example.



The server is built and moderated by young Red Cross volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome! Further information: <https://rednet.punainenristi.fi/sparra>. The game can be found at 'sparra.net9.fi'.

☐ The Minecraft operations aim to reach young people and offer them a free place to play and talk with other young people. The server also gives information and a chance to participate in the Red Cross activities.

(All volunteer activities are listed at <https://www.redcross.fi/get-involved>).

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## Youth Shelters

*Question:* When could someone need help?

In addition to accidents, people may need help in many kinds of stages of life. This is where emergency youth shelters can help.

**Video** (only if a shelter is located in the town/city):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9G9-WAACGxw> 1:27 min

There are shelters in Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Turku, and Tampere, and they are always open. The shelters can also be called even if the nearest one is far away. Volunteers give practical help at the shelters, and the workers help the young people in problematic situations.

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## The Sekasin chat



The shelters also cooperate with the Finnish Association for Mental Health in the Sekasin chat, which is open on working days from 7 am to midnight, and on weekends from 3 pm to midnight. There is

always a volunteer ready to listen and to help with anything weighing the participant's mind, always with strict confidence. There are no forbidden topics or feelings in the chat.

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*Disaster Relief Fund*



*Question:* If you donate money in a collection box, where does it end up?

☐ The Disaster Relief Fund collects funds through box collection and campaigns, for example. The funds can be sent immediately to those who need them, in Finland or abroad.

*Question:* Why is it important to have such a fund?

Without the Disaster Relief Fund, reacting quickly would not be possible. At least 85% of the funds go directly to those who need them; the maximum allowed amount of collection fees is 15%. A new collection can be set up quickly when necessary, but there are also campaigns, of which probably the best known is Hunger Day.

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*Question:* Can you think of a situation in Finland where the Disaster Relief Fund could be needed?

**The video** shows an example of the use of the Disaster Relief Fund in Finland: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5Exu->

[FIYh4&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5Exu-) 00:40

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#### 4. Helpers around the world

Every country in the world has signed the Geneva convention and Red Cross operations are active in 190 countries, including North Korea, for example. This is only made possible by the principle of **neutrality**.

Go to the map

The red dots on the map signify the number of volunteers in each country. India, for example, has a significantly higher population than Finland, and therefore many more volunteers. Other large dots: Iran, China, Japan, Indonesia, and Burundi and Nigeria in Africa. They are all connected by the principles of the Red Cross.

If the class is interested in more detailed numbers, click to open the map: <http://data.ifrc.org/fdrs/overview/map>



Some countries need more help than others. Development cooperation is long-term work in areas with severe drought or infectious diseases, for example. (A map with all current targets of help is available in the upper right corner of the Red Cross website <https://www.redcross.fi/> )

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*Before: Cooperation*

☐ The Red Cross acts **before** the disaster by training the locals, building weather-resistant housing and farming, mapping the risks, and anticipating and preparing for them.

Picture 1: The Red Cross has taught new farming techniques in Mozambique. Picture 2: The Kenyan Red Cross giving out clean water in dry areas. Picture 3: A volunteer helping an injured person in Kenya. Picture 4: The locals being trained in health issues, including hygiene, in Mozambique.



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*The journey of a hospital*

Disaster relief also covers material help. For example, an entire hospital can be shipped out quickly from Finland to those who need it. **Help is only sent out when a local Red Cross or Red Crescent has requested it.**

Picture 1: The field hospital packed at the Kalkku logistics centre. Picture 2: The hospital being moved onto a plane. Picture 3: The hospital being unloaded in Haiti. Picture 4: The hospital being set up. Picture 5: The complete field hospital in Haiti. Picture 6: The operating room of the field hospital.

As soon as the hospital has been shipped out, a new one is packed in Kalkku, Tampere, in case of further need.



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*During*

*Question:* What could disasters around the world be?

- ☐ The word 'disaster' refers to sudden happenings, including natural disasters like floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and drought. The Asia and Pacific region has the most natural disasters (earthquakes and floods).

*Question:* What other disasters can you think of?

- ☐ E.g. conflicts and war, refugee crises. Open the [Risk Zones](#) application and present its idea: you can show earthquake regions, for example.

**During** a disaster: people who are injured or ill are helped by opening hospitals, distributing food and clothing, organising logistics, and supporting the local authorities and volunteers.

*Question:* Where could these pictures be taken? What is happening in them? Who are in the pictures?



Picture 1 was taken in Nepal. Volunteers help to build stronger residential buildings, for example, after earthquakes.

Picture 2 shows flooding in Kenya. Picture 3 is taken in Haiti after an earthquake, with volunteers searching through the ruins for people.

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*\*\* After*

The helpers will stay in the disaster area even after the worst time. The locals are taught to prepare for the future, and together with them, hospitals, schools, and residential buildings are built.

Watch a video on practical work helping the local people in Nepal after an earthquake. The aim is always to make the community independent after the disasters (Petra now works at the FRC Headquarters in Helsinki. The Finnish Red Cross employs people in Finland as well as abroad).

**Video:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z\\_cAWrTB3xg&list=PLd8ziwoPNU8IOvEoYSvwy7\\_D7FyeYC\\_nz&index=8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_cAWrTB3xg&list=PLd8ziwoPNU8IOvEoYSvwy7_D7FyeYC_nz&index=8) 3 min

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*\*\* What would you take with you?*

*Question:* What would you take with you if you only had ten seconds to leave? Have the students talk to a pair for one minute. You can ask for some answers to be said to everyone, and think about what is important to whom.

*\*\* Tracing loved ones: Italy and the Tracing Bus*



Disasters don't always mean natural disasters: they can also include conflicts and war. Massive numbers of people have fled war zones, and sometimes family members are separated from each other. The Red Cross also helps to reunite families and look for missing people. On the video, the Red Cross donated talk time to the refugees for contacting their family members.

*The video is in Italian, but here's a summary:*

The Dutch Red Cross launched a project called the Tracing Bus, which allows people who have arrived in the country to make a three-minute phone call back home. The callers talked to family members and loved ones, with whom many had not spoken in months. They said that things are ok, and got the chance to exchange news of what had happened. The most important phrase in any of the calls was 'everything is alright'.

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bxQ8qAXbLo> 3 min

*Question:* Why is this done? Why is it important? What does a person need?

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## 5. What do you remember?

**Before Kahoot:** A picture from Solferino, where Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers from around the world met in 2009.

**Kahoot game:** FRC Helpers!

Reserve approximately ten minutes for the game. You can

give the best player or pair a small prize, such as a 'Summer Rubber,' key chain, or badge.

## 6. Thank you!

If your local branch organises operations suitable for young people, you can write about it on the blackboard. *This must be known in advance!* Instruct those interested to contact their local branch and to find future trainings at <https://www.redcross.fi/>

If you have social media -cards, give them out to the students and encourage them to follow us on social media.

Finally, put on this video as the class leaves: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7MyEtf7OIA> The video is from Solferino, where Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers from around the world met in 2017.

### Sources (pictures etc.)

Finnish Red Cross

1. Ibrahim Malla and IFRC

2. The Finnish Red Cross, Marianna Miettinen-Fosser, and Matti Toivonen

3. Pasi Leino, Jani Rutanen, Esa Kyyrö, Hanna Linnakko, Leena Koskela, Sari Parjanen, Maria Santto, Jarkko Mikkonen, Timo Wilderness, Miisa Kaartinen, and Altti Näsi

4. IFRC, David Chancellor, Jonathan Kalan, Brendan Bannon, Zara Järvinen, Jarkko Mikkonen, Ari Räsänen, Maria Santto, Asko Salmi, Aapo Huhta, Eric Quintero, Niklas Meltio, Mirva Helenius, and the Italian Red Cross

5. Marko Kokic

6. The Italian Red Cross – Croce Rossa Italiana