

## **German Red Cross – North-Rhine regional association**

### **The regional association at a glance**

The North-Rhine regional association of the German Red Cross is part of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement founded in 1863 by the Swiss national Henry Dunant. More than 125 million people worldwide belong to these organizations, which indiscriminately help victims of conflicts and catastrophes as well as other people in need, based solely on their measure of need.

Over 15,000 volunteers lend their support to the Red Cross in the North-Rhine region. Together with other full-time employees, they not only ensure effective disaster relief, but also provide the elderly with company through the visitor's service or dedicate their time to refugee or youth work, just to name a few examples. Spreading awareness of international humanitarian laws also constitutes an important part of their tasks. The North-Rhine regional association of the Red Cross is emphatically dedicated to the seven fundamental principles of the German Red Cross: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality.

### **Data and facts**

The North-Rhine regional association of the German Red Cross is divided into 30 local chapters and 152 local associations. Children and youths from the ages of six to 27 participate in the Youth Red Cross.

The North-Rhine regional association of the German Red Cross is the umbrella association for the existing German Red Cross local chapters and associations in its area. As the head association, it is responsible for ensuring that the breakdown of its responsibilities neither violates any laws nor endangers important interests of the German Red Cross.

The German Red Cross' North-Rhine regional association has a total of 313,753 members. Among them are 292,078 sustaining members who support the association's work through regular membership fees, as well as 15,559 volunteers who donate their time, knowledge and experience. Full-time employees also work for the local chapters and the national association.

### **Self-concept**

As the head organization for free welfare work, national aid and youth organizations, the German Red Cross North-Rhine regional association assumes responsibility for a number of areas important to society – from caring for the elderly to child and youth work through to disaster relief and foreign aid. In all of our areas of activity, we follow the principle of helping others to help themselves. This means that our involvement serves to support people in determining and taking responsibility for their own needs. It is very important to us that we help people and operate economically in doing so. This is why modern management methods were introduced in the North-Rhine regional association - one of the first Red Cross chapters to do so. The primary goal is to achieve the largest possible impact with the available financial donations and public allowances.

### **Donations and finances**

Donations and membership fees play a significant role in ensuring continued operations at the German Red Cross. The federal government, states and municipalities also earmark considerable funds for public interest projects. Red Cross operations are also financed in part by compensation from social and health insurance funds.