

A portrait of the Swiss Red Cross

The Swiss Red Cross (SRC) is the National Red Cross Society of Switzerland and has its headquarters in Bern. It was founded in 1866 by General Guillaume Henri Dufour and the federal councillor Jakob Dubs. The SRC is the oldest and largest humanitarian organization in the country. It is a member of the worldwide Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The basic precept of this movement is to help people in need.

No other relief organization combines such a wide variety of strengths in the health, integration and rescue sectors as the Swiss Red Cross. The SRC Group comprises 24 cantonal associations, five rescue organizations, two institutions, the SRC Headquarters, and the Secretariat of the cantonal associations.

The SRC and its members are supported by around 50,000 volunteers. Although their help is unremunerated, it is nevertheless invaluable.

The SRC and its staff, members and volunteers are committed to helping people in Switzerland in three key sectors: health, integration, and rescue. In addition, the SRC is continually developing its skills in voluntary work, youth work, and training.

In other countries the SRC focuses on disaster relief operations, reconstruction, and development cooperation. These activities are mainly carried out in areas that have been devastated by war and natural disasters and where health care is far from adequate to meet the needs.

In both its national and international activities the SRC is guided by the seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality. They were first defined by the founder of the Red Cross, Henry Dunant (1828–1910).

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Red Cross cantonal associations



24 cantonal associations

Assistance services, health promotion and integration for the population of the various cantons

www.redcross.ch

SRC rescue organizations



Swiss First Aid Association

First aid in the event of accidents or sudden illness

www.samariter.ch



Swiss Air-Rescue (Rega)

Air rescue within Switzerland or abroad

www.rega.ch



Swiss Life-Saving Association

Accident prevention and life-saving on and in water

www.slrg.ch



Swiss Association for Search and Rescue Dogs (REDOG)

Training and deployment of search and rescue dog teams

www.redog.ch



Swiss Army Medical Association

Training outside the military service for members of the medical services of the army and the civil defence corps

www.smsv.ch

The institutions of the SRC



SRC Blood Transfusion Service

Nationwide supplier of blood products

www.blutspende.ch



SRC Humanitarian Foundation

Support for Red Cross projects

www.hs-srk.ch