Annual Report 2016
International Cooperation
Last year alone, 65 million people were forced to leave their homes – as many as in the Second World War – due to armed conflicts or lack of prospects. This is an unmistakeable sign that the international community can no longer cope with the global challenges of our time. Diplomatic efforts to stem worldwide conflicts are ineffective or take too long.

International humanitarian law, which is supposed to guarantee the observance of basic rules even in war, is often ignored in conflicts. Hospitals are no longer safe places, but are deliberately targeted. Torture and acts of terror against the civilian population are used as means of warfare while the international community looks on, powerless. International criminal jurisdiction is losing acceptance. Respect for human rights appears to be declining worldwide, so that more and more often we hear of a “post-human rights” era.

The World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016 as well as the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants in New York in September 2016 only partly fulfilled the expectations placed on them. Growing populism and national self-interest in many parts of the world, and in contrast to this, global challenges such as climate change and migration are further signs that multilateralism with its international conventions is experiencing an existential crisis. Accelerated efforts to repatriate asylum seekers and tying development cooperation to measures for migration control are no solutions.

The long-term development cooperation of the Red Cross offers people in need future prospects in their country of origin. Global challenges require global answers. Answers that the Red Cross movement, with its 17.5 million helpers in 190 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provide on a daily basis around the world: through protection in conflict zones, dissemination of international humanitarian law, with medical support and the distribution of aid supplies as well as sustainable reconstruction following natural disasters. “Aus Liebe zum Menschen.”

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We help people in need while following our basic principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, unity, voluntary service, independence and universality.

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1 Source: UNHCR Global Trends – Forced Displacement in 2015 (appeared 06/16)
Crisis of multilateral relationships
How, therefore, are the findings of the Syrian doctor to be interpreted? ICRC human rights expert, Vincent Bernard sees many reasons: “We are dealing with a crisis of multilateral relationships. Conflicts like the one in Syria are prolonged because the international system is not able to provide peace. The longer such a conflict lasts, the more we observe a downward spiral of war crimes, retribution, hate and inhumanity on all sides.”

In addition, this is aggravated by the public staging of war crimes. “Armed groups deliberately carry out their crimes against humanity and try to be highly visible in order to foster the impression that international humanitarian law is irrelevant.”

International humanitarian law is contemporary
The cornerstone of the Geneva Conventions date back to the year 1949. Even today, they have not lost their validity. “International humanitarian law is still contemporary, it has been continually developed, we have more legal instruments and a better understanding of conflict dynamics than ever,” explains the human rights expert.

However, the world has so far not found a way to overcome the gap between the reality in conflict zones and the theoretical protection by international humanitarian law. Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, Kate Gilmore, commented at the Humanitarian Congress in Vienna: “If we are not able to save humankind from hell, we all have a big problem. We need selfless and courageous leadership in the world and a civilian society that fights for these rights!”

War Without Limits?
Respect for international humanitarian law is crumbling – with dramatic consequences for the civilian population.

International humanitarian law is a myth. In Syria, it is broken every day and trampled on. Women and children are abused, medical personnel die at their place of work in a hail of bombs, prisoners disappear,” said Syrian doctor Zedoun Al-Zoubi in his devastating summary at the Humanitarian Congress in Vienna.

Confidence in life-saving protection
A look at Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen or Nigeria also makes us fear that the protection mechanism is no longer effective. But especially in conflict zones, people trust that wars have limits, as documented by the study, “People on War” of the ICRC. “About half of those surveyed are convinced that the Geneva Conventions prevent something even worse.”

What international humanitarian law can attain is shown by the Ottawa Convention regarding the prohibition of land mines. It has been in effect since 1999, and since then the number of land mine victims has decreased drastically: Instead of 20,000, it is now about 3,000 people who are injured or killed each year by land mines.

Geneva Conventions
Wars have limits, and they have been set by the four Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols for more than 60 years. The agreements signed on August 12th, 1949 watch over human dignity in armed conflicts and form the backbone of international humanitarian law to this day.
A young country in crisis

Destroyed villages, fleeing families, traumatised children; almost six years after its independence, South Sudan is facing a disaster. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is providing effective aid.

In the last few years, the conflict has spread and all the other problems of South Sudan have intensified: the economic crisis, the poor infrastructure, the epidemics. The most precarious is the food situation. Almost one million people are facing starvation and approximately 3.6 million are undernourished. The result of this development is a massive refugee movement where approximately 1.8 million people are internally displaced and 1.3 million have left the country. A total of about 6 million people are reliant on humanitarian aid.

Neutrality principle
With its neutrality, the Red Cross has access to those affected most of the time. “Red Cross volunteers were onsite during the fighting in the capital city Juba and were able to rescue injured people and take them to hospitals”, remembers Bernhard Helmberger who has coordinated the projects of the Austrian Red Cross in South Sudan for more than five years. “To us, it makes no difference whether we face a refugee from Uganda, a South Sudanese who has returned home after decades or a refugee family fleeing from war or starvation from the neighbouring region. To us, they are people in need and our aid is according to the need”, emphasises Helmberger.

Help from local volunteers
In spite of difficult conditions, the local volunteers are extremely motivated to help in their communities. “Working with the Red Cross gives them the opportunity to actively improve the situation”, says Helmberger, as he describes his experiences. “They reach their project sites after long drives on barely passable roads through the bush where they mix cement in 40 degree weather in order to repair the platform of a well.” The aim is not only to establish a water supply, but also to avoid illnesses through hygiene training.

Cholera prevention
In numerous parts of the country, there are breakouts of cholera every year during the rainy season. In order to prevent the spread of the disease, clean drinking water is important. “On the whole, the cholera epidemic this year was worse than in the past few years”, says Helmberger. “In addition, aid was hampered because of the fighting in Juba.” Nevertheless, the timely Red Cross intervention helped keep the countrywide number of persons affected by the epidemic to a minimum.

A call for a political solution
The Red Cross will remain in South Sudan and work with the local colleagues, because there is no foreseeable end to the conflict. Lasting peace must come from politics. For those suffering from war and hunger, the presence of Red Cross workers during conflict means more than help to survive: It also means hope that they are not forgotten by the rest of the world.

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4 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
»We are not able to mobilise compassion any more.»

Multilateralism is in a crisis, warns Antonio Donini. Is humanitarian aid going down the drain together with multilateralism?

Since the end of WWII, multilateralism has been a core principle of foreign politics: states have joint agendas on international issues which are inclusive of smaller states. Without multilateral cooperation, many agreements and institutions would not be possible: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Refugee Convention, the UN, the European institutions and international humanitarian law.

Is multilateral cooperation now coming to an end and with what consequences?
ANTONIO DONINI: Like in the 1930s, national ideologies and interests are experiencing a revival. Multilateral cooperation has lost a great deal of significance. This makes tackling armed conflicts much more difficult. They last longer, and humanitarian aid is hampered. Today, there are a whole string of zones with no human rights.

Perhaps our values are not as universal as we believe?
The core concept of international humanitarian law resonates in all cultures. All societies have rules about what is allowed in war and what is not. But their codification comes with western “baggage”. Humanitarianism came into being at the same time as western imperialism and globalisation. Now, the West is in decline, other regions are booming. The world is becoming multipolar. Ideas from one pole do not get along with those from other poles.

Are there different understandings of universality?
Our version of humanitarian aid rests on universal, individual rights: Protection and help for individuals. Far Eastern values emphasise the collective more strongly. This is a completely different way to look at a society and to organise it. We are still preaching our own values. This becomes unacceptable for others, particularly when we do not adhere to them ourselves, as in the recent refugee crisis. That encourages others to say: We no longer believe in your system, in your values!

Does that also apply to humanitarian aid?
It gets involved in things that are not humanitarian. The idea of political coherence (all policy areas are responsible for development) means that humanitarian concerns are subordinated to political interests. Instrumentalisation has reached an unprecedented level.

What would make sense to new humanitarian actors from other poles?
Somebody said: “A hungry child knows no politics.” Everybody understands that. That’s a possible starting point for a dialogue.

Are there any other parallels to the 1930s?
The crisis of common values, the rivalry of opinions, that was similar then. NGOs should take the responsibility in this crisis to raise their voices. Instead they are becoming more and more technocratic and bureaucratic. We have lost the ability to mobilise compassion.

Personal details
Antonio Donini is an expert on humanitarian aid and migration. He is a research associate at the Global Migration Centre in Geneva and senior researcher at the Tufts University in Boston.
With its long-term development programmes, Austrian Red Cross supports its partners mainly in disaster preparedness and social inclusion. The Red Cross societies in Ukraine and Belarus train their staff and volunteers in first aid, psychosocial support and crisis communication, while in Serbia and in Macedonia – which was affected by floods in August 2016 – schools prepare for natural disasters. A network of 50 organisations in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia and Serbia strengthen their advocacy activities for inclusion of the elderly in their respective countries.

### Programme Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Description</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>Total Budget in €</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent counselling, support and customised therapy for children with disabilities</td>
<td>Belarus RC</td>
<td>Red Cross contributions, donations</td>
<td>10,040</td>
<td>10/2015–9/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of sustainable homecare services in three communities</td>
<td>Macedonian RC</td>
<td>Red Cross contributions, Italian RC</td>
<td>76,640</td>
<td>3/2015–2/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash transfers to flood-affected households and disaster preparedness</td>
<td>Macedonian RC</td>
<td>ADA, donations</td>
<td>588,800</td>
<td>8/2016–12/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for refugees in transit</td>
<td>IFRC, Macedonian RC</td>
<td>Red Cross contributions, donations, other institutional private funds</td>
<td>671,260</td>
<td>9/2015–4/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster preparedness for schools and communities in the Large Morava river basin</td>
<td>Serbian RC</td>
<td>Neighbour in Need, donations</td>
<td>218,500</td>
<td>11/2015–12/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening Serbian Red Cross blood donor recruitment</td>
<td>Serbian RC</td>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>55,200</td>
<td>9/2016–9/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening NGO networks for inclusion of elderly people in the Western Balkans</td>
<td>Macedonian RC, Montenegro RC, Serbian RC, other partners</td>
<td>ADA, DG Europeaid, Red Cross contributions, donations</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>9/2015–12/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supermarket and pharmacy vouchers for displaced and returnees</td>
<td>Ukrainian RC</td>
<td>Red Cross contributions, Liechtenstein RC</td>
<td>166,420</td>
<td>9/2015–3/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening the disaster management capacity of the Belarus and Ukrainian Red Cross Societies</td>
<td>Bulgarian RC, Danish RC, Italian RC, Ukrainian RC, Belarusian RC, University of Innsbruck, other partners</td>
<td>DG ECHO, Red Cross contributions</td>
<td>623,000</td>
<td>11/2014–10/2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 2,540,190

Drought, food crisis and conflict characterise the situation in the Horn of Africa and South Sudan; malnutrition and lack of drinking water weaken humans and their livestock, making them more susceptible to diseases. Currently more than 11 million people are reliant on humanitarian aid. In Ethiopia, Austrian Red Cross supports communities with sustainable sources of safe drinking water, hygiene promotion and sanitation – as well as seed/food distributions during periods of drought. In South Sudan, famine is caused by conflict and displacement. The Austrian Red Cross works with its partner Red Cross society in food security, water and health – and supplies water for displaced South Sudanese in Uganda.

<table>
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<th>TOTAL BUDGET IN €</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water, hygiene and sanitation in West Arsi</td>
<td>Ethiopian RC, Swiss RC, Spanish RC</td>
<td>ADA, EDF, Red Cross contributions, Regional government via RC, Regional Branch Upper Austria, Swiss RC, Spanish RC, donations</td>
<td>857,040</td>
<td>1/2013 - 12/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, hygiene and sanitation</td>
<td>Red Cross Society of Eritrea, IFRC</td>
<td>Red Cross contributions, Netherlands RC</td>
<td>48,130</td>
<td>10/2014 - 12/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political dialogue</td>
<td>Horizont 3000, Kenya RC</td>
<td>ADA, Red Cross contributions</td>
<td>44,980</td>
<td>12/2014 - 11/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of Red Cross ambulance service</td>
<td>RC Regional Branch Styria, Rwandan RC</td>
<td>Red Cross contributions, Regional government via RC, Regional Branch Styria, Red Cross contributions</td>
<td>20,380</td>
<td>4/2016 - 3/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier Communities II</td>
<td>Finnish RC, South Sudan RC</td>
<td>ADA, Red Cross contributions, Finnish RC</td>
<td>447,790</td>
<td>1/2016 - 3/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier Communities I</td>
<td>Finnish RC, South Sudan RC</td>
<td>Finnish RC, City of Vienna</td>
<td>255,460</td>
<td>1/2015 - 7/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Building water, hygiene and sanitation</td>
<td>South Sudan RC</td>
<td>Red Cross contributions, Netherlands RC, donations</td>
<td>31,030</td>
<td>7/2015 - 12/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>5,048,560</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Disaster preparedness continues to be the Austrian Red Cross partnership focus in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. This means strengthening local Red Cross capacities, regional exchange, networking with authorities and other organisations but also working with more than 30 communities to reduce risks and prepare emergency plans. In addition to preparing for future disasters, Red Cross volunteers now also look at community problems with health services, economic access and infrastructure.

In Armenia, refugees from Azerbaijan and recently from Syria are vulnerable groups that receive support with housing, their job search, and access to medical services from the Red Cross to help them integrate into Armenian society.

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency relief (food, kitchen sets, medicine, hygiene), psycho-social support and integration of refugees and displaced</td>
<td>Armenian RC</td>
<td>Red Cross contributions, Medicor Foundation, DG Europeaid, Neighbour in Need, Swiss RC, donations</td>
<td>1,043,180</td>
<td>12/2014–11/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building safe and resilient communities 2: disaster preparedness in 32 communities</td>
<td>Armenian RC, Azerbaijan Red Crescent, Georgia RC</td>
<td>ADA, Red Cross contributions, Swiss RC</td>
<td>1,900,000</td>
<td>12/2015–11/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Forum East 2: supranational network for climate change adaptation</td>
<td>Armenian RC, Georgia RC, Belarus RC, NECU, EcoContact</td>
<td>DG Europeaid, ADA, Red Cross contributions</td>
<td>1,437,500</td>
<td>1/2015–6/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4,380,680</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The focus of Austrian Red Cross disaster management in 2016 was on support to conflict-affected persons in Syria and neighbouring countries as well as to refugees and migrants on the Mediterranean route and those stranded in camps in Northern Greece. Another important set of activities was relief in Haiti after Hurricane Matthew hit in September 2016 and rehabilitation in Nepal after the 2015 earthquakes.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AID FOR REFUGEES</td>
<td>Support for refugees on the migration routes to Europe: life-saving measures and the most needed relief items, especially for water and hygiene in refugee camps in Northern Greece</td>
<td>IFRC, Greek RC</td>
<td>DG ECHO, donations</td>
<td>1,056,910</td>
<td>12/2015–3/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAITI</td>
<td>Emergency relief in water and hygiene after hurricane Matthew</td>
<td>Italian RC, IFRC</td>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>250,080</td>
<td>1/2015–10/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEPAL</td>
<td>Relief and reconstruction after the heavy earthquakes in Nepal in April and May 2015, including trainings for masons and carpenters plus water, sanitation and disaster preparedness activities</td>
<td>IFRC, Nepalese RC, Swiss RC</td>
<td>ADA, Red Cross contributions, Neighbour in Need, donations, IFRC, ÖJRK</td>
<td>5,802,890</td>
<td>4/2015–12/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINES</td>
<td>Rehabilitation activities in shelter, water and disaster preparedness after Typhoon Haiyan</td>
<td>German Red Cross, Spanish RC, IFRC, Philippine RC</td>
<td>German Red Cross, donations</td>
<td>1,790,650</td>
<td>1/2014–12/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH SUDAN/UGANDA</td>
<td>Support for internally displaced persons and refugees with food and safe drinking water</td>
<td>ICRC, IFRC, Uganda RC</td>
<td>ICRC, ADA, donations</td>
<td>376,860</td>
<td>1/2016–8/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYRIA, IRAQ &amp; NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES</td>
<td>Support for conflict-affected persons, internally displaced and refugees by the Red Cross/Red Crescent, especially with health services, food and most needed relief items</td>
<td>Syrian Red Crescent, Iraqi Red Crescent, Lebanese RC, ICRC, IFRC</td>
<td>ADA, ICRC, Caritas Osterreich, Diakonie Osterreich, French Red Cross, Regional government via RC Regional Branch Vorarlberg, RC Regional Branch Vorarlberg, Neighbour in Need, Red Cross contributions, other institutional private funds, donations</td>
<td>6,214,770</td>
<td>8/2012–3/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKRAINE</td>
<td>Support for persons in Eastern Ukraine with relief items and medical services, especially in non-government controlled areas</td>
<td>ICRC</td>
<td>ADA, Red Cross contributions</td>
<td>1,016,390</td>
<td>1/2016–12/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORLDWIDE RESEARCH PROJECTS</td>
<td>Research projects for global improvement of humanitarian aid, including cartography and sanitation</td>
<td>Universität f Bodenkultur, Austrian Red Cross, other Non-RC-partners</td>
<td>Red Cross contributions, other EU contributions, FFG, donations</td>
<td>130,270</td>
<td>5/2016–4/2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** | **17,336,290** |
**Utilisation of Funds**

1. Services for statutory aims
   - Disaster relief management: 6,107,971
   - Rehabilitation: 1,096,416
   - Development cooperation: 3,903,949
   - Project support and advocacy: 572,542

2. Fundraising and administration costs: 383,280

Total: 12,064,158

**Funding Sources**

1. Donations
   - Unallocated: 189,338
   - Earmarked: 1,990,586
   - Project donations from foundations: 1,454,854

2. Red Cross contributions: 3,196,082

3. Project financing by the public sector: 5,233,298

Total: 12,064,158

The Red Cross Aid was financed by:
### Funding Sources

1. **Donations**
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     - B 189,338
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     - B 1,990,586
   - Project donations from foundations: B 1,454,854

2. **Red Cross contributions**: B 3,196,082

3. **Project financing by the public sector**: B 5,233,298

**Total**: B 12,064,158

### Geographic Distribution

#### Europe | total € 4,729,413
- **Macedonia** (€ 1,058,731)
- **Europe supranational** (€ 843,114)
- **Greece** (€ 673,898)
- **Armenia** (€ 569,877)
- **South Caucasus Region** (€ 486,837)
- **Ukraine** (€ 325,675)
- **Romania** (€ 209,300)
- **Serbia** (€ 170,057)
- **Hungary** (€ 157,000)
- **Italy** (€ 84,272)
- **Georgia** (€ 62,554)
- **Montenegro** (€ 37,126)
- **Croatia** (€ 23,133)
- **South Eastern Europe Region** (€ 11,444)
- **Belarus** (€ 11,046)
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (€ 5,349)

#### Asia | total € 3,426,435
- **Syria** (€ 1,170,212)
- **Nepal** (€ 555,507)
- **Lebanon** (€ 547,516)
- **Iraq** (€ 507,227)
- **Philippines** (€ 445,214)
- **Laos** (€ 155,250)
- **Vietnam** (€ 18,308)
- **Jordan** (€ 11,725)
- **North Korea** (€ 10,240)
- **Myanmar** (€ 5,236)

#### Africa | total € 2,781,148
- **Ethiopia** (€ 1,450,289)
- **South Sudan** (€ 535,075)
- **Kenya** (€ 344,788)
- **Africa supranational** (€ 288,599)
- **Eastern Africa Region** (€ 158,701)
- **Rwanda** (€ 3,696)
- **South Eastern Europe Region** (€ 11,444)

#### Americas | total € 104,533
- **Haiti** (€ 101,754)
- **Ecuador** (€ 2,779)

#### Supranational | total € 1,022,629
A GOOD IDEA IS ALWAYS EXCITING, EVEN IF IT IS AN OLD ONE

The worldwide Red Cross and Red Crescent movement today has grown to 190 National Societies – one of them is the Austrian Red Cross. Millions of staff and volunteers work in 190 countries of the most varied social and cultural backgrounds. “Aus Liebe zum Menschen”

www.redcross.at