

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent

■ Read the passage and answer the questions below.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is an international humanitarian movement with approximately 97 million volunteers, members and staff **worldwide** which was founded to protect human life and health, to ensure respect for all human beings, and to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

The movement consists of several distinct organizations that are legally independent from each other, but are united through common basic principles, objectives, symbols, statutes and governing organisations. The movement's parts are:

*The International **Committee** of the Red Cross (ICRC):* a private humanitarian institution founded in 1863 in Geneva, Switzerland, by Henry Dunant and Gustave Moynier. Its 25-member committee has a unique authority under international humanitarian law to protect the life and dignity of the victims of international and internal armed conflicts.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC): founded in 1919, today it coordinates activities between the 188 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies **within** the Movement. On an international level, the Federation leads and organizes, in **close** cooperation with the National Societies, **relief** missions responding to large-scale emergencies. The International Federation Secretariat is based in Geneva, Switzerland. National Red

Cross and Red Crescent Societies exist in **nearly** every country in the world. Each entity works in its home country according to the principles of international humanitarian law and the statutes of the international Movement. In many countries, they are **tightly** linked to the respective national healthcare system by providing emergency medical services.



close: *stretta*
committee: *comitato*
nearly: *quasi*
relief: *soccorsi*
tightly: *strettamente*
within: *all'interno di*
worldwide: *in tutto il mondo*

1. What is the purpose of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies?
2. How is the movement organised?
3. Which part of the movement is the oldest?
4. When and where was the ICRC founded?
5. How many members does the committee consist of?
6. When was the IFRC founded?
7. What is the IFRC's function?
8. How many Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are there at a national level?