

FACTS ON DOMINICA RED CROSS SOCIETY

NAME:	Dominica Red Cross Society
Location:	Federation Drive, Goodwill, Commonwealth of Dominica
Population (Number of Volunteers)	*255 Active members*
Mission:	To render voluntary service in accordance with Internationals Humanitarian Law, with the objective of preventing and alleviating human suffering, and to promote respect, mutual understanding, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all people.
President:	Mr. Reginald M. Winston
Vice President:	Mr. MacDonald Thomas
Director General:	Mrs. Sandra Charter-Rolle
KEY DATES	
28th January, 1958	Branch of the British Red Cross
28th September, 1981	A declaration of succession to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 was signed
7th March, 1983	Recognized as a National Society
15th March, 1989	Recognized by the ICRC (International Committee of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies)
21st October, 1989	Recognized by the IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies)
Honorary Members	1958-1990- Gertrude Davis 1958-1993- Beryl Harris 1961-1990- Celia Fadelle 1965-1986- Rosalind Volney

	<p>1974-1989- V. Alix-Boyd 1958-1994- Lorna Robinson 1965-1992- Dorothy Griffin 1965-1992- Keith Robinson</p>
<p>Past Presidents & Director Generals</p>	<p>President: Mr. Masterville Doctrove Dr. Peter Bellot Mrs. Ophela Olivaccee- Marie Mr. Phillip White</p> <p>Director General: Mrs. Celia Fadelle Mrs. Kathleen Pinard-Bryne</p>
<p>Administrative Division (Red Cross Branches) 8 Branches</p>	<p>Goodwill (Roseau) Penville Portsmouth LaPlaine Grand Fond Good Hope Marigot Delices</p>

History

The Formation of the IFRC

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) was founded in **1919** in Paris in the aftermath of World War I. The war had shown a need for close cooperation between Red Cross Societies, which, through their humanitarian activities on behalf of prisoners of war and combatants, had attracted millions of volunteers and built a large body of expertise. A devastated Europe could not afford to lose such a resource.

It was Henry Davison, president of the American Red Cross War Committee, who proposed forming a federation of these National Societies. An international medical conference initiated by Davison resulted in the birth of the League of Red Cross Societies, which was renamed in October 1983 to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and then in November 1991 to become the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The first objective of the IFRC was to improve the health of people in countries that had suffered greatly during the four years of war. Its goals were “to strengthen and unite, for health activities, already-existing Red Cross Societies and to promote the creation of new Societies”

There were five founding member Societies: Britain, France, Italy, Japan and the United States. This number has grown over the years and there are now 190 recognized National Societies – one in almost every country in the world.

The Birth of an Idea

The Red Cross idea was born in 1859, when Henry Dunant, a young Swiss man, came upon the scene of a bloody battle in Solferino, Italy, between the armies of imperial Austria and the Franco-Sardinian alliance. Some 40,000 men lay dead or dying on the battlefield and the wounded were lacking medical attention.

Dunant organized local people to bind the soldiers' wounds and to feed and comfort them. On his return, he called for the creation of national relief societies to assist those wounded in war and pointed the way to the future Geneva Conventions.

“Would there not be some means, during a period of peace and calm, of forming relief societies whose object would be to have the wounded cared for in time of war by enthusiastic, devoted volunteers, fully qualified for the task?” he wrote.

The Red Cross was born in 1863 when five Geneva men, including Dunant, set up the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, later to become the International Committee of the Red Cross. Its emblem was a red cross on a white background: the inverse of the Swiss flag. The following year, 12 governments adopted the first Geneva Convention; a milestone in the history of humanity, offering care for the wounded, and defining medical services as “neutral” on the battlefield.

Henry Dunant – the destiny of the Red Cross

Jean-Henry Dunant was born on 8 May 1828 in Geneva to a middle-class Calvinist family. His early initiatives included participating in the creation of the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) in 1852 and the World Alliance of YMCAs in 1855.

NB. World Red Cross Day is Celebrated on 8th May, which is the birth date of founder Jean-Henry Dunant.