

# IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

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## AUSTRIA

*The Austrian Junior Red Cross has informed us of some of the outstanding work it has accomplished, which we are happy to bring to the attention of our readers.*

The Junior Red Cross in Austria is organized on the basis of school communities, which has enabled it for the past twenty years to achieve noteworthy results in diffusing knowledge of the Geneva Conventions. To begin with, we should mention the seminars for history teachers—meetings which are unique in the Red Cross world. For the past five years, these seminars, organized in co-operation with the ICRC, have served to give teachers at different levels training in Red Cross principles and the Geneva Conventions.

Relief activities assume many forms. A few examples will suffice to indicate the efforts of young people in helping those in need. Since its reorganization in 1948, the Junior Red Cross has devoted itself especially to helping handicapped children, giving care not otherwise provided by public institutions. In co-operation with university children's clinics, treatment centres receive every year some 60 diabetic children, 40 children with asthma, 40 suffering from serious handicaps and 40 with hemophilia. These centres have a total budget of about two million schillings—all of it collected by the Junior Red Cross.

Major relief actions—Vietnam, two million schillings; earthquake in Guatemala, about one million; refugees from Angola, 600,000; earthquake in northern Italy, about four million—provide eloquent testimony to the spirit of self-sacrifice of the young members of the Austrian Junior Red Cross, who also dispatch crateloads of classroom material and first-aid kits—material worth several million schillings—to newly established National Societies all over the world.

The young members also care for elderly, sick and lonely people, for orphans and for needy families.

In addition, the Austrian Junior Red Cross, through the courses it organizes, provides training for young people who will in their turn

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show the spirit of active solidarity which inspires such activities as the following: a programme of school courses for children over the age of 12,<sup>1</sup> in first aid, home nursing and baby care. This teaching is supplemented by sex education. Courses are given in swimming and life-saving, as well as in gymnastics and road safety.

From 1956 to 1975, the following courses were organized:

	Number of courses	Number of participants
First aid (preparatory course) . . . . .	3,974	96,430
„ „ (basic course) . . . . .	6,211	140,208
„ „ (course for teachers) . . . . .	210	4,120
Home nursing . . . . .	2,909	42,367
Mother and child care . . . . .	446	8,059
Swimming . . . . .	7,727	205,021
Life-saving (pupils) . . . . .	3,183	40,595
Life-saving (teachers) . . . . .	140	1,100

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<sup>1</sup> Preparatory courses for children from 12 to 15: four courses of two hours each; basic courses for students from 16 to 20: eight courses of two hours each.