



Power of humanity

Council of Delegates of the International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

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**COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Antalya, Turkey
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**REPORT OF THE
JOINT COMMISSION OF THE EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND**

Document prepared by the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund

Geneva, September 2017

REPORT 2015-2017

Joint Commission of the EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND

1. INTRODUCTION

The Empress Shôken Fund was established in 1912 when HM The Empress Shôken donated 100,000 Japanese yen and created an international fund to increase the peacetime activities of all National Societies, broadening the role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent beyond its wartime activities.

In 1934, a second gift from HM The Empress Kojun and HM The Dowager Empress Teimei of Japan increased the Fund to 200,000 Japanese yen.

Over the years, due to the generous contributions of the Japanese Imperial Household and the Japanese Red Cross Society, the value of the Fund's capital constantly grew. To date (June 2017), the total capital stands at 16,225,287 Swiss francs.

The Fund operates as an endowment fund distributing annual grants for the implementation of National Societies' projects which contribute to their development.

The purpose of the Fund is to support National Society peacetime activities in the areas of disaster preparedness, health, youth, blood, first aid and rescue, social welfare and the dissemination of the humanitarian ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

On 11 April, each year - the anniversary of the death of the Empress - the Joint Commission announces the allocation of grants to National Societies. The Fund receives approximately 30 requests per year. The Joint Commission aims to distribute CHF 300 000 to National Societies every year. The Joint Commission continues to stress the importance of good quality, well presented submissions which emphasize the sustainability of the projects, and which are consistent with the criteria and regulations of the Fund. The Joint Commission encourages National Societies to contact the country and regional delegations of the International Federation and ICRC for support when preparing their submissions.

2. THE JOINT COMMISSION

The Fund is administered by the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund which decides on the annual allocation of grants and oversees the financial management of the Fund.

The Joint Commission continues to meet annually under the chairmanship of the ICRC, with secretariat support and day-to-day management provided by the International Federation. The Joint Commission is chaired by Mr. Melchior de Muralt. Other members of the Commission include Mr. Roger Bracke, and Mr. Andrew Rizk from the International Federation, Mr. Emmanuel Séité, and Ms. Christine Zaninetti from the ICRC. The secretariat function of the Joint Commission is managed by the Global Innovation team, headed by Mr Shaun Hazeldine.

3. FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE FUND

The value of the Fund at 1 August 2017 was 16.3 million Swiss Francs. Interest from income and unrealized gains on investments totalled 143,401 Swiss Francs in 2015 and 481,489 Swiss Francs in 2016.

4. REPORTS ON THE GRANTS ALLOCATED IN 2014 AND 2015

In 2014, grants were allocated to projects in Chile, Comoros, Egypt, Honduras, Ireland and Serbia. These are snapshots of the projects selected:

- Chile: Cooperate with professional centres and staff to build skills of people with disabilities through establishing an income generating catering service;
- Comoros: Supporting volunteer mobilization country-wide (across 3 islands), by training youth leaders and coordinators to set up local youth clubs and organize self-sustaining youth activities;
- Egypt: Aims to train its volunteers in sign language, provide first aid training to deaf and mute disabled people;
- Honduras: Increasing its impact among vulnerable groups by promoting respect for human dignity and behavioural change with the aim to reduce the risk factors among young vulnerable groups;
- Ireland: Community-based health and first aid programme will be extended to Limerick prison;
- Serbia: Training Red Cross volunteer educators in 20 municipalities to organize interactive meetings and workshops from kindergarten to secondary schools, to prevent children from becoming victims of human trafficking.

Examples of achievements through the projects include:

- 264 volunteers have been trained in peer education, leadership, educational norms, safe access, safe school, sexual and reproductive health, and drug prevention through the Honduras Red Cross to reduce youth violence;
- An extension of the Irish Red Cross volunteer inmate programme in two prisons, that has now been successfully embedded into healthcare and education activities within the prisons;
- A national anti-trafficking project was implemented successfully through the Serbian Red Cross, training 100 young educators across 35 local branches targeting children and young people.

In 2015, grants were allocated to projects in Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Laos, Moldova, Montenegro, Nigeria, Suriname and Timor Leste,. These are snapshots of the projects supported:

- Cape Verde: Supporting young children affected by the Fogo volcano eruption through the Red Cross Society of Cape Verde;
- Costa Rica: Promoting and strengthening community development in Tirrases, with a focus on the development of youth social skills and community health training through the Costa Rican Red Cross;
- Laos: First aid training and emergency ambulance response development with the Laos Red Cross;
- Moldova: Supporting the Moldova Red Cross Society on programmes focused on prevention of violence against children;
- Montenegro: Assisting the Montenegro Red Cross to strengthen their psychological support programmes following disasters; Nigeria: Working with the Nigerian Red Cross to provide first aid for communities prone to road traffic accidents;

- Suriname: Supporting the road safety programme of the Suriname Red Cross
- Timor Leste: Supporting the Timor Leste Red Cross in building a sustainable organization through fundraising development;

5. GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2016-2017

During 2016 and 2017, there were two rounds of distributions of the Empress Shôken Fund (the 95th and 96th distributions) to 19 National Societies totalling 582,546 Swiss francs as detailed below.

95th Distribution – 2016

Region/ National Society	Programme/project	Grant allocation (CHF)
<i>Africa</i>		
Gabon	Volunteers in action through community-based health and first aid to improve access to healthcare of the rural population in 5 provinces.	13,747
Kenya	Supporting youth participation in decision making by enhancing the understanding of youth committees' role and responsibility and enabling them to play a more effective and efficient role in the Kenya Red Cross.	27,608
<i>Americas</i>		
Colombia	Natural disaster risk reduction through resilience building and climate change adaptation in 14 communities affected by El Niño.	29,940
Ecuador	Campaign on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STI) among young university students in the cities of Quito and Guayaquil.	28,840
Paraguay	"Creating more together": improving the organizational and management capacities of youth volunteers by training them at branch and sub-branch level	27,010
<i>Europe</i>		
Albania	Promotion of humanitarian values in Albanian society by increasing knowledge about the Red Cross and mobilizing young people as connectors with the community.	17,281
<i>Asia Pacific</i>		
Malaysia	Strengthening the capacity of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in emergency preparedness and response by training a Rapid Deployment Squad and by purchasing proper equipment.	28,290
Mongolia	Prevention of domestic accidents and disaster risk reduction, focusing on young families and their children	31,850

Samoa	Addressing community vulnerability in health, livelihood, and social welfare and reducing the impact of climate change through awareness programmes, mainstreaming gender-based violence, and promoting social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace. <i>*The NS declined the grant due to lack of capacity to implement the project</i>	29,998
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>		
Morocco	Addressing basic needs of homeless people and contributing to their social inclusion by equipping a Red Crescent centre to host them.	23,936
	Total for 2016	258,500

96th Distribution – 2017

Region/ National Society	Programme/project	Grant allocation (CHF)
<i>Africa</i>		
Chad	Strengthening resilience through the “Mother’s Club” approach in the peripheries of the city of N'Djamena	19,574
Guinea	Project to build on the practical experiences of the Guinean Red Cross in the response to the Ebola Virus (MVE) epidemic in Guinea.	30,000
Swaziland	Water and sanitation in communities affected by drought	27,431
Togo	Youth community mobilization to promote blood donation in Togo.	27,964
<i>Americas</i>		
Antigua and Barbuda	Rebuilding the foundation: expanding the reach of the National Society - promoting and strengthening relationships with the community	23,723
Argentina	First aid course management platform	28,380

Nicaragua	Community volunteers committed to helping older adults to promote active and healthy ageing and relieving isolation and loneliness	22,264
<i>Asia and Pacific</i>		
Cambodia	Cambodian Red Cross Youth activity on disability inclusion and promoting road safety	25,093
Philippines	Red Cross 143 volunteering programme: volunteer development for community resilience building	20,670
<i>Europe</i>		
Croatia	Free loan of medical and orthopaedic aids	22,522
Georgia	Youth practising active citizenship	28,210
Kyrgyzstan	Promotion of safe behaviour among pedestrians and drivers	20,265
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>		
Lebanon	Dissemination of humanitarian values and principles	27,950
	TOTAL for 2017	324,046