

ICRC OPERATIONS IN 2015 – A FEW FACTS, FIGURES AND RESULTS

PRESENCE

In 2015, the ICRC was present in more than **80 countries** through delegations, sub-delegations, offices and missions. Its delegations and missions were distributed throughout the world as follows:

Africa	31
Americas	15
Asia and the Pacific	19
Europe and Central Asia	18
Near and Middle East	10

PERSONNEL

The average number of ICRC staff in 2015 was as follows:

Headquarters	969
Field: mobile staff	
- Mobile staff	1,964
- National Society staff	103
- Resident staff on temporary mission	40
Field: resident staff	11,430
Field: total	13,537
Final total	14,506

FINANCE

ICRC expenditure in 2015			
In million	CHF	USD	EUR
Headquarters	202.2	209.8	188.2
Field	1,412.6	1,465.7	1,314.7
The sub-total comes to CHF 1,614.8 million, from which field overheads (CHF 85.9 million) must be deducted in order to reach the final total.			
Final total	1,528.9	1,586.3	1,422.9

Exchange rates: USD 1.00 = CHF 0.9638; EUR 1.00 = CHF 1.0745

15 largest operations in 2015 in terms of expenditure			
In million	CHF	USD	EUR
1 Syrian Arab Republic	137.5	142.6	127.9
2 South Sudan	137.4	142.6	127.9
3 Iraq	106.6	110.6	99.2
4 Afghanistan	81.0	84.0	75.4
5 Somalia	63.2	65.6	58.8
6 Congo, Democratic Republic of the	60.8	63.0	56.6
7 Nigeria	59.3	61.5	55.2
8 Israel and the Occupied Territories	52.1	54.1	48.5
9 Ukraine	49.7	51.6	46.3
10 Yemen	49.4	51.3	46.0
11 Lebanon	41.8	43.3	38.9
12 Mali	37.5	38.9	34.9
13 Central African Republic	36.1	37.5	33.6
14 Jordan	31.3	32.5	29.2
15 Colombia	27.4	28.5	25.5

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VISITS TO DETAINEES

ICRC delegates visited **928,812 detainees** held in **1,596 places of detention** in **96 contexts**; they included detainees held by or in relation to the decisions of 4 international courts/tribunals. A total of **25,734 detainees** were monitored individually (951 women; 1,306 minors), of whom 16,660 detainees (704 women; 1,172 minors) were registered and visited for the first time in 2015.

The ICRC issued **15,923** detention attestations.

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

The ICRC collected **129,778** and distributed **106,108 RCMs**, enabling members of families separated as a result of armed conflict, unrest, migration or other circumstances to exchange news. Of these messages, 20,558 were collected from and 10,685 distributed to detainees. The ICRC facilitated **479,358 phone and video calls** between family members, and made **33,405 phone calls** to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained

relative visited by its delegates. With support provided by the ICRC, **11,501 detainees** were visited by their families.

The ICRC established the whereabouts of **4,798 people** for whom tracing requests had been filed by their families. Its family-links website (familylinks.icrc.org) listed the names of **46,979 people** in a bid to reconnect them with their relatives. A total of **1,074 people** (including minors – see below) were reunited with their families. At the end of the year, the ICRC was still taking action to locate **63,110 people** (6,135 women; 8,904 minors at the time of disappearance) at the request of their families.

The ICRC registered **3,809 unaccompanied minors/separated children** (1,348 girls), including **450 demobilized children** (50 girls). Once their families had been located and with the agreement of the children and their relatives, it organized the reunification of **968 children** (256 girls) with their families. By the end of the year, the cases of **3,219 unaccompanied minors/separated children** (including 196 demobilized children) were still

being handled, which involved tracing their relatives, maintaining contacts between the children and their families, organizing family reunification and/or identifying other long-term solutions for the children concerned.

The ICRC organized the transfer or repatriation of **1,121 people**, including **73 detainees** after their release. It also organized the transfer or repatriation of **3,167 sets of human remains**. It relayed 1,775 official documents of various types between family members across borders and front lines. ICRC-issued travel documents enabled 4,741 people to return to their home countries or to settle in a host country.

A total of 1,041,893 people contacted ICRC offices worldwide for services or advice regarding issues related to protection and family links.

ASSISTANCE

ICRC assistance programmes were carried out by **69 delegations** and regional delegations. The bulk of the work was carried out in the 15 largest operations (see above).

ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES

In 2015, the ICRC purchased or received as in-kind contributions the following assistance supplies:		
Relief items		CHF 210 million
Top 10 distributed items		
Food parcel (5 people/1 month)	1,875,386 parcels	
Food parcel – individual (1 person/1 month)	564,850 parcels	
Kitchen set	401,551 sets	
Rice	32,475,958 kilograms	
Hygiene parcel (5 people/1 month)	561,248 parcels	
Blanket	2,433,064 units	
Sorghum	13,206,615 kilograms	
Tarpaulin	381,101 units	
Matting	680,903 units	
Beans	12,296,970 kilograms	
Medical and physical rehabilitation items		CHF 48 million
Water and habitat items		CHF 41 million
	TOTAL	CHF 299 million
		USD 310 million
		EUR 278 million

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ECONOMIC SECURITY

During the year, ICRC activities to ensure economic security, often implemented together with National Societies, directly benefited individuals, households and communities in **67 countries** worldwide. Some **13,097,863 people** (residents, IDPs, returnees, refugees – in many cases, people living in rural areas and/or areas difficult to reach owing to insecurity and/or lack of infrastructure – and people deprived of their freedom) received aid in the form of **food**, and **5,608,435** in the form of **essential household items**. Approximately **87%** and **77%** of the beneficiaries of food and essential household items, respectively, were **IDPs**. Some **87,863 people** were given **vouchers** that they could exchange for basic commodities or services. Around **793,655 people** received **cash** for pursuing micro-economic initiatives, in exchange for their work on community projects, or as relief assistance. At least **3,303,943 people** benefited from **productive inputs**, such as seed, tools or equipment, which they used to spur food production or generate income. Assistance in the form of **services and training** – for instance, animal vaccination campaigns or skills training – helped some **1,635,149 people** boost their livelihood opportunities.

WATER AND HABITAT

In 2015, ICRC engineers and technicians, often with local authorities and communities, built or rehabilitated water-supply, sanitation and other infrastructure in **53 countries**. This work translated to clean drinking water, reduced health risks or generally better living conditions for **31,026,588 civilians** (residents,

IDPs, returnees, refugees); similar projects in places of detention benefited **353,242 detainees**.

HEALTH-CARE SERVICES

During the year, the ICRC supported – regularly or on an ad hoc basis – **476 hospitals** in 29 countries. Statistics were available for 166 of these hospitals, where **48,115 weapon-wounded** and **98,491 non-weapon-wounded surgical patients** were admitted, and **132,312 operations** were performed. Some **351,124 other patients** were also admitted, including **153,622 women and girls** receiving gynaecological/obstetric care. Some **1,864,063 people** were treated as **outpatients**, and **8,992 people** had their treatment paid for by the ICRC. The ICRC supported **148 first-aid posts** located near combat zones, which provided emergency treatment, mainly for weapon-wounded patients.

Community health programmes were implemented in **26 countries**, in many cases with the help of National Societies. The ICRC supported **286 primary-health-care centres** (covering an estimated population of 4,667,904 people, on average), where **2,879,051 curative consultations** (children: 47%; women: 33%) and **232,752 ante/post-natal consultations** were carried out.

Health activities for people deprived of their freedom were conducted in 52 countries.

CARE FOR THE DISABLED

A total of **371,884 people** (including 73,097 women and 130,566 children) received physical rehabilitation services through **129 projects** (including physical rehabilitation centres, component factories and training institutions) supported by the ICRC in **32 contexts**. A total of **9,155 new patients** were fitted with **prostheses** and **44,226** with **orthoses**. ICRC-supported projects produced and delivered **20,872 prostheses** (of which 5,841 were for mine victims) and **88,856 orthoses** (of which 348 were for mine victims). In addition, **5,648 wheelchairs** and tricycles were distributed, most of them locally manufactured. Training for local staff was a priority in order to ensure sustainable services for patients.

WEAPON CONTAMINATION

The ICRC carried out activities for people living in weapon-contaminated areas in **35 contexts**. These included mine-risk education sessions, collecting and analysing data on mine-related incidents and contaminated areas, clearance activities and training for local actors. The ICRC also worked with the UN and NGOs to further develop and strengthen international mine-action standards and coordination.

FORENSIC SERVICES

The ICRC offered forensic assistance in more than **69 countries** to help ensure the proper and dignified management of human remains and to help prevent and resolve cases of missing persons. Activities consisted primarily of promoting and supporting the implementation of best practices for the collection, analysis and management of forensic data and for the recovery, management and identification of human remains in the context of armed conflict, other situations of violence, natural disasters or other circumstances, such as shipwrecks involving migrants. Training and dissemination activities were conducted to build local/regional capacities to address the problem and to raise general awareness of the issue.

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

In the vast majority of the countries where it operates, the ICRC does so in partnership with host National Societies (National Societies working in their own countries) and with the support of National Societies working internationally. The ICRC also contributes to the overall strengthening of National Societies' capacities to carry out their own activities.

In 2015, direct cash transfers to boost National Societies' capacities to provide emergency responses amounted to **CHF 42 million**. Total ICRC investment in overall capacity building amounted to **CHF 84 million**.

In November, the Tuvalu Red Cross Society was recognized by the ICRC Assembly as the Movement's 190th National Society.

STATE PARTICIPATION IN IHL TREATIES AND DOMESTIC IMPLEMENTATION

The ICRC continued to pursue active dialogue with national authorities worldwide in order to promote ratification of/accession to IHL treaties and their domestic implementation. It provided legal and technical advice to governments, and encouraged and supported them in their endeavours to establish interministerial committees entrusted with the national implementation of IHL.

In 2015, one new national IHL committee was created (in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), bringing the total number worldwide to **108**. Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic also reactivated their respective committees, albeit with some modifications in composition.

The ICRC organized, or contributed to, 37 regional events related to IHL and its integration into domestic law, which were attended by some **1,500 people** from 140 countries.

This work contributed to **69 ratifications of IHL treaties** (including one of Additional Protocol II, and four of Additional Protocol III) by 46 countries. In addition, 23 countries adopted **39 pieces of domestic legislation** to implement various IHL treaties, and many others prepared draft laws on related topics.

RELATIONS WITH WEAPON BEARERS

Throughout the year, ICRC delegates met with various weapon bearers present in conflict zones, from members of the military and the police to paramilitary units, armed groups and staff of private military companies.

- ▶ Specialized ICRC delegates conducted or took part in over **1,570 courses, workshops, round-tables and exercises** involving some **203,000 military, security and police personnel** in 165 countries.
- ▶ Specialized delegates in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America represented the ICRC and observed the implementation of IHL or international human rights law during some 70 international military exercises.
- ▶ Over 80 general and senior officers from 62 countries attended the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations in Algiers, Algeria.
- ▶ The ICRC engaged in dialogue with approximately 100 armed groups or coalitions of armed groups in about 25 countries. It tried to establish a dialogue with other armed groups elsewhere, amidst numerous challenges.

RELATIONS WITH ACADEMIC CIRCLES

The ICRC interacted with over **600 universities** in more than **120 countries**, providing support for IHL teaching, humanitarian policy and related activities. Outside the classroom, individual professors participated in the development, implementation and promotion of IHL. Over 70 ICRC delegations and missions provided training for university lecturers, co-organized seminars, supported student competitions and/or stimulated academic debate on humanitarian law, policy and related issues.

Notably, the ICRC organized or co-organized:

- ▶ 7 regional and international IHL training seminars for academics (1 in Africa; 1 in the Americas; 2 in Asia and the Pacific; 1 in Europe and Central Asia; 2 in the Near and Middle East), involving over 200 professors, lecturers and graduate students
- ▶ 4 regional IHL competitions for students (2 in Africa; 2 in Asia and the Pacific), involving some 150 students and lecturers
- ▶ the annual Jean-Pictet Competition on IHL, involving around 170 students from around the world

In addition:

- ▶ the *International Review of the Red Cross*, a peer-reviewed

academic journal published by the ICRC and Cambridge University Press, produced 4 issues on key law and policy themes: scope of the law in armed conflict, sexual violence in armed conflict, and generating respect for the law;

- ▶ **10,000 copies** of the journal were printed, with selected articles translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish, and distributed in 75 countries around the world; the main readership of the journal includes lawyers, military experts, academics, humanitarian practitioners and policy-makers;
- ▶ ICRC headquarters received 165 groups totaling about **4,470 people** (university students: 63%; National Society staff and volunteers: 11%; representatives of the diplomatic community: 6%; members of armed forces: 10%; the private sector: 6%; secondary school and vocational training students: 2%; and NGOs and religious groups: 2%).

LAW AND POLICY CONFERENCES

The ICRC acted as a convener of public debates and conferences on IHL and humanitarian policy. Red Cross Red Crescent actors, and members of aid, diplomatic and academic circles, reflected on solutions to current challenges and sought to identify ways to improve humanitarian action.

Among these events were:

- ▶ a conference cycle on “principles guiding humanitarian action” – comprising 13 events organized in cooperation with various partners – which gathered around **1,700 participants** in five countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- ▶ 4 thematic conferences related to the aforementioned conference cycle, held at the Humanitarium at the ICRC’s headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, gathering an additional 650 on-site participants.

Throughout the year, the Humanitarium hosted a total of **12 public conferences** on international law and policy, bringing together **2,250 diplomats, humanitarians and academics** based in Geneva.

The events reached a global audience through live webcasts, video summaries, conference reports and other online resources.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

In 2015, the ICRC’s humanitarian concerns and activities continued to be widely covered by the media worldwide. According to the Factiva database, which compiles data on print and online media, the ICRC was mentioned in media sources about **15,000 times**.

The ICRC produced 32 new print or electronic publications and over 150 audiovisual products, including 25 video news items. Media usage of ICRC video news releases increased by 60%. ICRC news material was carried by over **940 channels** worldwide.

The ICRC distributed some **405,500 publications** and copies of films from Geneva to clients all over the world.

Interest in the ICRC’s social media platforms grew significantly: the number of “likes” for its Facebook page reached 1 million; the number of followers on its six main Twitter accounts reached 525,000; and its videos were viewed over 1.3 million times on YouTube. The ICRC website received some **4.3 million visits** in total.

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION MANAGEMENT AND MULTILINGUAL COMMUNICATION

The ICRC’s Archive and Information Management Division managed more than 20 linear kilometres of archival records and a collection of over 30,000 books and articles, 400 journals, 825,000 photos (including 128,000 in digital format), about 6,500 films comprising around 2,000 hours of video footage, and 10,000 digital sound files. In 2015, it received 2,300 visitors, and handled over 2,100 requests from victims of past armed conflicts and more than 2,600 requests from National Societies, NGOs, academia, government departments and the media.

To support the opening of the ICRC’s 1966–75 archives to the public, the Division published the inventory of some 19,000 files from this period in paper and digital form.

More than 10 million words were translated, edited and proofread by translators and editors working for or contracted by the ICRC through its language service. In addition, 1.5 million words were processed in the lead-up to and during the Movement’s 2015 Council of Delegates and the 32nd International Conference.