



ICRC operations in 2008: a few facts and figures

PRESENCE

In 2008, 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	28
▶ Asia and the Pacific	15
▶ Europe and the Americas	26
▶ Middle East and North Africa	11

PERSONNEL

The average number of ICRC staff in 2008 was as follows:

▶ Headquarters:	816
Field: expatriates	
<i>Expatriates</i>	1,323
<i>National Society staff</i>	118
<i>National staff on temporary mission</i>	16
Field: national staff	9,512
▶ Field: total ¹	10,969
Final total	11,785

1. This figure does not include an average of 1,130 daily workers hired by the ICRC in the field

FINANCE

▶ ICRC expenditure in 2008				In million
Headquarters	CHF 167.1	USD 154.9	EUR 104.9	
Field	CHF 990.6	USD 918.2	EUR 621.9	

The sub-total comes to CHF 1,157.7 million, from which field overheads (CHF 59.9 million) must be deducted in order to reach the final total.

Final total:	CHF 1,097.8	USD 1,017.5	EUR 689.2
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▶ 10 largest operations in 2008 in terms of expenditure				In million
1 Sudan	CHF 109.9	USD 101.9	EUR 69.0	
2 Somalia	CHF 102.3	USD 94.8	EUR 64.2	
3 Iraq	CHF 95.5	USD 88.5	EUR 60.0	
4 Afghanistan	CHF 69.8	USD 64.7	EUR 43.8	
5 Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories	CHF 62.1	USD 57.6	EUR 39.0	
6 Congo, Democratic Republic of the	CHF 49.8	USD 46.2	EUR 31.3	
7 Colombia	CHF 37.6	USD 34.8	EUR 23.6	
8 Sri Lanka	CHF 30.1	USD 27.9	EUR 18.9	
9 Chad	CHF 26.6	USD 24.7	EUR 16.7	
10 Pakistan	CHF 24.9	USD 23.0	EUR 15.6	

Exchange rates: USD 1.00 = CHF 1.0789; EUR 1.00 = CHF 1.5929

VISITS TO DETAINEES

ICRC delegates visited **494,540 detainees**, **35,892** of whom were monitored individually (1,124 females; 1,490 minors), held in **2,387 places of detention** in **83 countries**. Of this number, **21,046 detainees** (752 females; 1,244 minors) were registered and visited for the first time in 2008.

With support provided by the ICRC, **32,735 detainees** benefited from **family visits**.

A total of **18,358 detention attestations** were issued.

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

The ICRC collected **345,634** and distributed **321,444 Red Cross messages**, thus enabling members of families separated as a result of armed conflict, disturbances or tensions to exchange news. Among these messages, **116,201** were collected from and **101,833** distributed to **detainees**. In addition **3,958 phone calls** allowed people, mainly detainees, to inform their families of their whereabouts.

The ICRC **registered 1,984 unaccompanied/separated children** (including **335 demobilized children**) during 2008. Once their families had been located and with the agreement of the children and their relatives, it organized and supported the reunification of **818 children** with their families. By the end of the year, the cases of **2,017 unaccompanied/separated minors** (including **240 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 another long-term solution for the children concerned.

ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES

In 2008, the ICRC purchased or received as contributions in kind the following assistance supplies:

		In million
▶ Food items	121,000 tonnes	CHF 109
▶ Seed	6,750 tonnes	CHF 9
▶ Essential household items	19,500 tonnes	CHF 53
	<i>Including:</i>	
	898,500 blankets	
	10,000 tents	
	323,400 tarpaulins	
	184,500 kitchen sets	
	212,400 hygiene kits	
	951 tonnes of clothing	
▶ Medical and physical rehabilitation items		CHF 32
▶ Water and habitat items		CHF 20
	TOTAL	CHF 223
		USD 207
		EUR 140

Exchange rates: USD 1.00 = CHF 1.0789; EUR 1.00 = CHF 1.5929

The ICRC established the **whereabouts of 6,072 people** for whom tracing requests had been filed by their families. The ICRC website www.familylinks.icrc.org allowed the **publication of 88,587 names** of people providing news to relatives and friends or being sought by their relatives. At the end of the year, the ICRC was still taking action to locate **48,018 people** (5,725 females; 5,150 minors at the time of disappearance) for their families.

The ICRC helped **880 people** (including 818 minors) to **rejoin their families**. It organized the **transfer or repatriation of 3,363 people**, including **202 detainees after their release**. It also organized the transfer or repatriation of **1,556 sets of human remains**. It issued **travel documents** that enabled **3,285 people** to return to their home countries or to settle in a host country.

It relayed **3,660 official documents** of various types between family members across borders and front lines.

A total of **983,147 people** contacted ICRC offices worldwide for services or advice regarding issues related to protection and family links.

ASSISTANCE

In 2008, the ICRC ran assistance programmes in **49 countries**. The bulk of the work was carried out in Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia and the Russian Federation, Iraq, Israel and the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

During the year, ICRC activities to ensure economic security, many times implemented together with host National Societies, directly benefited households and communities in **40 countries** worldwide. More than **2,791,000 internally displaced people, returnees, residents** (in general, 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 **3,315,000** in the form of **essential household and hygiene items**. Around **72% and 83%** of the beneficiaries of food and essential household and hygiene items respectively were **IDPs**. In addition, **2,355,000 people** (of whom around **33%** were **IDPs**) benefited from livelihood support through **sustainable food-production programmes or micro-economic initiatives**. These included various response mechanisms ranging from the rehabilitation of traditional irrigation systems to small-scale community-based cash-for-work and livestock-management/support projects.

WATER AND HABITAT

In 2008, the ICRC's Water and Habitat Unit was involved in water, sanitation and construction work in **43 countries**. These projects catered for the needs of more than **15 million people** worldwide (IDPs, returnees, residents – in general, 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). They were implemented by **expatriate and national engineers and technicians**.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

During the year, the ICRC regularly supported **284 hospitals** and **394 other health care facilities** around the world. An estimated **3,496,428 people** (31% women; 52% children) benefited from ICRC-supported health care facilities. **Community health programmes** were implemented in **22 countries**, in many cases with National Society participation.

More than **19,300 weapon-wounded** and **101,000 non-weapon-wounded** (surgical case) patients were admitted to ICRC-supported hospitals in **21 countries** where more than **108,000 surgical operations** were performed. The ICRC regularly supported **first-aid posts** located near combat zones, which provided emergency treatment, mainly for weapon-wounded patients.

CARE FOR THE DISABLED

The ICRC's Physical Rehabilitation Unit provided support to **82 centres** in **25 countries**, enabling **167,968 patients** (including 28,872 women and 45,725 children) to receive services. A total of **9,781 new patients were fitted with prostheses** and **24,817 with orthoses**. The centres produced and delivered **20,817 prostheses** (including 2,734 for women and 1,428 for children; 8,326 for mine victims) and **39,667 orthoses** (including 6,422 for women and 22,096 for children; 562 for mine victims). In addition, **2,503 wheelchairs** and **35,088 crutches and sticks** were distributed, most of them locally manufactured. Training of local staff was a priority in order to ensure sustainable services for patients.

WEAPON CONTAMINATION

Throughout the year, the Weapon Contamination Sector provided operational support to delegations, National Societies and political authorities in **30 countries**. The Sector also worked with the UN and NGOs to further develop and strengthen international mine-action standards and coordination.

FORENSICS SERVICES

During 2008, the ICRC's forensic services supported field operations in **43 countries** to help prevent and resolve cases of missing persons. Activities ranged from support to local forensic services to substitution, including the forensic identification of human remains prior to their handover and/or repatriation. In addition, regional meetings of medico-legal institutes were organized in Asia and the Pacific and in Latin America with a view to improving cooperation among the institutes in investigating cases of missing persons. A variety of other internal and external training courses and dissemination events, including for National Societies, were conducted to build countries' capacities to deal with the problem and to raise general awareness of the issue.

ICRC COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The aim of the ICRC's cooperation with National Societies is to strengthen working relationships and dialogue with Movement partners for the greater benefit of people affected by armed conflict and internal strife.

In the vast majority of the countries where the ICRC operates, it does so in partnership with National Societies. Overall, it is estimated that more than **one third of the ICRC's operational activities are carried out in cooperation with the National Society of the country concerned**.

The ICRC also spent **CHF 84 million** to assist National Societies in their own countries in building and strengthening their capacity to carry out activities. This includes:

- ▶ **CHF 15.8 million** for their work to promote and spread knowledge of **IHL and the Fundamental Principles**
- ▶ **CHF 14.5 million** for their work to restore **family links**, including responding to needs resulting from natural disasters, in conformity with the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement
- ▶ **CHF 30.4 million** for their **preparedness for health and relief assistance** during conflict
- ▶ **CHF 2.9 million** for carrying out **activities to reduce the impact of weapon contamination on people**

A total of **3 National Societies** working internationally were involved in the **implementation of 5 ICRC projects in 5 countries**.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

In 2008, the Public and Media Relations Unit in Geneva issued **250 press releases and 40 information bulletins** and organized **six press conferences** and its **first ever webcast news conference**. The ICRC also produced some **50 print and audiovisual products**,

including **18 video news items**, which were issued to broadcasters worldwide, and **10 other video news items and films** for use with various target groups.

The ICRC website received around **3.2 million visitors** who viewed about **14.8 million pages** in total.

The ICRC distributed some **8,000 copies of films** and **560,000 publications** worldwide.

According to the Factiva database, which compiles print and online media sources worldwide, the ICRC was **mentioned more than 14,000 times** in 2008. For example, in relation to the conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation, information from ICRC news releases was specifically mentioned 340 times in print media reports between 8 and 28 August 2008.

Broadcast tracking showed that the ICRC's news footage was widely broadcast all over the world. For example, nearly **800 news items**, broadcast on over **60 channels**, including BBC World and Al Jazeera International, used ICRC footage to report on the convention banning cluster munitions.

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.

- ▶ **28 specialized ICRC delegates** conducted or took part in more than **100 courses, workshops, round-tables and exercises** involving some **10,000 military, security and police personnel** in more than **80 countries**; **25 military officers** from **11 countries** received ICRC scholarships to attend **8 military courses** on IHL in San Remo
- ▶ **56 general and senior officers** from **55 countries** received ICRC scholarships to attend the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations (SWIRMO) in Switzerland
- ▶ a two-day meeting took place in Lima, Peru, bringing together 20 governmental and ICRC experts to discuss the use of force in situations of violence other than armed conflict; a regional workshop was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, co-organized by the Indonesian army and the ICRC, during which participants explored the legal framework and other topics relating to the use of force in internal security operations
- ▶ specialized delegates in Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America represented the ICRC and observed the implementation of IHL or international human rights law during a dozen international military exercises

RELATIONS WITH ACADEMIC CIRCLES

In practically every country covered by the ICRC, university lecturers in law, international relations and journalism have incorporated IHL into their teaching. At national level, the ICRC supported the teaching of IHL at universities by distributing books and other teaching materials and co-organizing academic events on IHL, which addressed the theoretical and practical dimensions of the law, and IHL competitions for students. The ICRC sponsored the participation of academics in key regional and international IHL events.

In 2008, the ICRC organized or co-organized:

- ▶ **13 regional and international IHL training seminars for academics** (3 in Africa; 2 in Asia and the Pacific; 7 in Europe and the Americas; 1 in the Middle East and North Africa;), involving **over 300 professors, lecturers and graduate students**
- ▶ **5 regional IHL competitions** for students (1 in Africa; 2 in Asia and the Pacific; 2 in Europe and the Americas), involving some **250 students and lecturers**

SUPPORTING IHL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, launched in 2001, has been integrated into the official secondary school curricula in several countries in 2008 (Seychelles, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Malaysia). It is currently being implemented in almost 40 other countries, where the aim is to integrate the programme into the formal school curriculum, ensuring both full ownership by the education authorities and the longer-term sustainability of the programme.

In 2008:

- ▶ the ICRC revised Exploring Humanitarian Law materials including a new teaching guide and a training video for teachers, along with a short promotional video clip
- ▶ more than **50,000 people consulted the Exploring Humanitarian Law Virtual Campus**, a web-based resource centre for the programme
- ▶ the "MinEduc" programme in the Commonwealth of Independent States was on track towards completion by the end of 2010, focusing on support to the education authorities in integrating IHL into curricula as part the broad education reform process
- ▶ the ICRC initiated a research project on preventing children's involvement in organized armed violence

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION MANAGEMENT AND MULTILINGUAL COMMUNICATION

Some **3,600 people** made use of the ICRC's Library and Research Service and some **2,400 people** from National Societies, NGOs, academia, government departments and the media, received responses to their **requests** for information.

ICRC headquarters received nearly **200 groups** totalling some **5,000 visitors** (university students: 54%; members of armed forces: 9%; National Society staff and volunteers: 9%; diplomatic community: 7%).

Some **7 million words** were translated, edited and proofread by translators and editors working for or contracted by the ICRC through its language service.