



THE ICRC IN SOMALIA



ICRC

The ICRC has a longstanding history in Somalia spanning over 40 years of conflict response and humanitarian relief. Working closely with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), it continues to assist people and communities afflicted by a combination of armed conflicts and recurrent climate shocks. It also works to reconnect separated family members, visits places of detention, and seeks to ensure respect for international humanitarian law (IHL).

PREVENTION / PROTECTION

The protection of persons adversely affected by armed conflict – civilians, the wounded and sick, persons deprived of their liberty – is enshrined in international law. International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is a set of rules which seek to limit the effects of armed conflict and prevent human suffering. It specifically protects persons who are not, or are no longer, participating in the fighting – such as civilians, the wounded and the sick, and detainees – and restricts the means and methods of combat.

The ICRC endeavors to ensure that those involved in the fighting comply with their obligations under IHL. It constantly reminds all parties of their obligations to ensure that civilians are protected from the effects of hostilities, that the wounded and sick are cared for, and that persons deprived of liberty are treated humanely. We also strive to prevent suffering by promoting IHL and other fundamental rules protecting people in situations of violence by maintaining a regular dialogue with all



weapon-bearers, disseminating knowledge of the law among them, and ensuring that IHL is integrated into the planning and conduct of their operations. We also seek to support individuals and communities in recovering from and/or reducing their exposure to the risk of harm related to conflict and violence..

The ICRC has been working in places of detention in Somalia for many years, advocating that persons deprived of their liberty be treated humanely, without discrimination, regardless of the reasons

for their detention. We engage in regular bilateral and confidential discussions with detaining authorities and offer technical assistance and material support to help improve the material conditions of detention and treatment of detainees. In particular, we work to improve living conditions in terms of space, light, hygiene, water, food, and health care, and to ensure that detainees have meaningful contact between themselves, with staff, with their families, and the outside world, and access to legal representation.

PROTECTION OF FAMILY LINKS

During armed conflict, natural or man-made disasters, and displacement, families are often separated and without news of their family members. The ICRC and the SRCS, through the Protection Family Links (RFL) programme, work together to locate people who are separated or missing as

a humanitarian consequence of disaster, conflict and violence, migration, or detention, and to put them into contact with their loved ones. This work includes searching for family members, restoring and maintaining family contact, sometimes reuniting families, and seeking to clarify



the fate and whereabouts of those who remain missing. The RFL programme collects family news messages from family members for their relatives within and outside the country. The ICRC has also introduced “Trace the Face” for Somalis who lost contact with relatives

who migrated to Europe or Southern Africa. It enables them to post their photos on a dedicated platform in the hope that their missing relative, or someone they know, will see it and re-establish contact through the network of trained professionals within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

HEALTH

Access to basic health care remains a challenge in the context of armed conflict, violence, displacement, and climate shocks. To help address this challenge, various programmes are in place with the aim of improving the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities. The ICRC is currently working on first aid, primary health care (PHC), hospital care (war surgery, emergency medical care, and other services), and nutrition programmes in partnership with the SRCS. It supports the SRCS in running 21 PHC clinics, 10 of which provide nutrition services for children under five, pregnant and lactating mothers, as well as vaccination services for children under five years old and pregnant women. The SRCS clinics in Radaar and Gubadley in Mogadishu and Farjano in Kismayo provide 24-hour care to mothers and newborns during and after labor. The ICRC is also supporting **three** community hospitals in Mogadishu (Keysaney and Medina hospitals) and Kismayo, as well as one stabilization center in Kismayo.

The First Aid and Pre-hospital Care programme is present throughout the

country and aims to provide training, support, and response capacity to various groups and communities. Together with the SRCS, the ICRC is working on reinforcing the capacity of volunteers, community members, and responders by providing information, response materials, and first aid skills to enable them to respond effectively to emergency situations.





ECONOMIC SECURITY

The prolonged humanitarian emergency, coupled with the weak capacity of local institutions to respond to needs, results in a significant portion of the population being unable to sustainably cover their essential needs. During emergencies, the ICRC provides food and essential household materials to improve food consumption and living conditions. To protect and promote livelihoods, it also engages in livelihood-support projects such as sandbag distribution for riverine flood control, productive grants for farmers, pastoralists, fishermen, and beekeepers,

as well as micro-economic initiatives aimed at generating income for female-headed households. The ICRC also works with the Somali Agriculture Technical Group (SATG) to help farmers improve their practices through training and the provision of machinery. Assistance is delivered through cash, in-kind, or vouchers. In addition, we contribute to reducing malnutrition by preventing and treating malnourished children under five years old and pregnant and lactating women through a comprehensive Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) programme.

WATER

Years of conflict and climatic shocks like drought and floods have disrupted the availability of and access to safe and clean water. The ICRC works to provide clean water by improving and rehabilitating water supply systems, rainwater harvest units, and boreholes. It also works to improve the general infrastructure of hospitals

(Keysaney, Medina, and Kismayo) and clinics, as well as the living conditions for detainees in places of detention by enhancing water access, sanitation, and power supply. The ICRC also supports the SRCS in promoting best hygiene practices to prevent waterborne diseases.



Abdikarim Mohamed/ICRC

COOPERATION

The ICRC Cooperation Strategy aims at strengthening the international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's partnership spirit and the capacity of the SRCS to deliver humanitarian services. The SRCS remains the main partner of the ICRC. Together with other Movement partners, they strive to

address the humanitarian needs of people affected by armed conflicts, violence, and disasters, particularly in the areas of economic security, primary and secondary healthcare, and RFL, while reinforcing each other's roles and capacities.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED PEOPLE

The Risk Management Unit (RMU) is an internal independent unit within the Somalia Delegation that aims to ensure accountability and due diligence in the use of ICRC resources. Within assistance programmes, the RMU's pre- and post-assistance verifications help detect and prevent aid diversion, low-quality programming, and implementation. It also plays an important role in avoiding the negative effects of assistance activities on beneficiaries or communities. The RMU undertakes real-time monitoring through external consultants, a call center, and a feedback and complaints line.

Engagement with beneficiaries throughout the programme cycle allows them to be aware of their rights and entitlements beforehand, which they can draw on to hold the ICRC accountable if their expectations are not met. The feedback and complaints mechanism – the Community Contact Centre (CCC) – offers individuals and communities a means to provide feedback, submit complaints, or request information related to ICRC activities in their locations. The ICRC can be reached directly through a short code toll-free number (373) accessible from any mobile network in Somalia.



Abdikarim Mohamed/ICRC

The ICRC helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, doing everything it can to protect their dignity and relieve their suffering, often with its Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. The organization also seeks to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

Reach us through our toll-free number **(373)** for any information, feedback or complaints related to ICRC activities in Somalia

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