



## **Programmes and activities of the ICRC in Somalia**

# ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization established in 1863 whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situation of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

While the first interventions of the ICRC in Somalia date from 1942, it has had a permanent presence in the country since 1977, through a headquarters agreement. The ICRC operates in Somalia through a network of 12 offices in Mogadishu, Hargeisa, Bossaso, Garowe, Galkayo, Dhusamareb, Beletweyne, Jowhar, Xudur, Baidoa, Kismayo and Dhobley, with a back-office in Nairobi. It is active in the areas most affected by armed conflicts and violence, on the ground, in close proximity with the population. The ICRC team in Somalia consists of 351 staff, including 50 internationals.

The ICRC works in close partnership with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement present in Somalia. It engages with all parties to the conflict and coordinates closely and transparently with all authorities at local, regional, State and federal levels. Independent from the United Nations system, the ICRC closely coordinates its activities with other humanitarian organizations.

### **Medical care for the wounded**

- The ICRC permanently supports the Keysaney hospital of the SRCS in Mogadishu (since 1992, together with the Norwegian Red Cross), the Medina Hospital of Mogadishu (since 2000) and the Kismayo General Hospital (since 2013) through the provision of medicines, consumables, salaries, equipment, capacity-building, training in weapon wounded care and the rehabilitation of infrastructures. In 2024, this support enabled the treatment of 20'280 patients, including 1'552 weapon-wounded whose treatment was entirely supported by the ICRC.
- In the event of an influx of wounded, the ICRC also supports other medical facilities through ad hoc donations (68 donations to 38 hospitals in 2024).
- The ICRC supports the 3 Ambulance centres of the SRCS in Mogadishu, Galkayo and Las Anod through the provision of medicines, consumables, salaries, equipment, and the rehabilitation of infrastructures. In 2024, those centres allowed for the evacuation of 7'009 patients.
- The ICRC and the SRCS also provide first aid training to front-line operators to improve the stabilization of the wounded and sick until they are transferred to a medical facility. In 2024, 43 sessions were conducted for 1'037 participants, including 227 weapon bearers.

### **Physical Rehabilitation**

- The ICRC fully supports the 3 Physical Rehabilitation Centres of the SRCS in Mogadishu, Hargeisa and Galkayo supporting people affected by conflict in need of orthopaedic equipment and physiotherapy care.
- In 2024, this support enabled 3'122 patients to be fitted with prosthesis and orthosis (833 of whom were entirely supported by the ICRC), for a total of 5'597 consultations in those 3 centres.

### **Primary health care and malnutrition**

- In the areas most affected by the conflict, the ICRC supports 21 primary health care clinics of the SRCS with medicines, consumables, equipment, salaries, referrals and capacity building. The ICRC also supported 5 mobile clinics of the SRCS to provide basic health care in remote areas affected by conflict. In 2024, these 26 clinics have treated 305'770 patients and referred 2'648 people. In 2024, the ICRC also constructed 2 SRCS health clinics and rehabilitated another 2.
- 10 of those 26 clinics also provide supplementary and therapeutic feeding support, which, in 2024, benefited 16'371 children and 12'959 pregnant women in situation of moderate or acute malnutrition. The ICRC also supports the Acute Severe Malnutrition Stabilization Centres of Kismayo where 1'610 children under the age of 5 with severe acute malnutrition were treated in 2024.

## **Emergency relief assistance**

- In the event of an emergency, and in the areas most affected by the conflict, the ICRC, together with the SRCS and in coordination with the local authorities, distributes food and essential household goods (in cash or in kind) to displaced and/or the most vulnerable populations, after assessing their needs.
- In 2024, the ICRC distributed a one-month multipurpose cash assistance to 277'080 persons (or 46'180 households), some of them up to 3 times. 171'330 persons (or 28'555 households) also received shelter kits from the ICRC through the SRCS.

## **Support to agricultural and livestock production, resilience, and self-sufficiency**

- To respond to chronic food insecurity in Somalia and help the population adapt to climate change, the ICRC supports farming, agropastoral or pastoralist households affected by conflict or natural disasters to protect, restore or improve their food production. This takes the form of livelihood recovery grants (3'312 households in 2024), donation/rehabilitation of irrigation equipment (1'723 households in 2024), donation of sandbags to mitigate the impact of floods (6'434 households in 2024) and cash-for-work for the rehabilitation of productive assets (351 households in 2024).
- The ICRC also supports poor vulnerable urban households headed by women, war wounded, victims of sexual violence and other vulnerable groups whose livelihood has been affected by conflicts to improve their income. This takes the form of individual livelihood grants for micro-economic initiatives (1'315 households in 2024), provision of beekeeping or fishing equipment and related technical trainings (200 households in 2024) and vocational training for young people (150 in 2024).
- The ICRC also supports community animal health workers (166 in 2024) to provide quality extension services to pastoral and agropastoral communities affected by conflicts or natural disasters (805 in 2024). IN 2024, this benefited 17'703 households and allowed to treat 117'750 animals. The ICRC also helps farmers' cooperatives improve their production of food, seeds or fodder (250 members in 2024).
- A total of 25'661 households, or 153'991 people, were thus assisted by the ICRC's resilience and self-sufficiency programmes in 2024.

## **Access to water and hygiene**

- In partnership with local authorities and providers, the ICRC supports, rehabilitates and/or builds water supply systems in remote localities most affected by the conflict. This includes wells, boreholes (equipped with hand pumps or electric pumps), rainwater catchment, spring catchment, solarization of water infrastructure, water point protection and other interventions aimed at mitigating the impact of climate hazards/change.
- In 2024, 70 water systems were built/rehabilitated across the country for the benefit of 465'121 people.
- 92 borehole operators and water agency staff were also trained and equipped with tools in 2024.
- The ICRC also responds to outbreak of acute water diarrhoea in Somalia through the distribution of hygiene kits and jerrycans (212'560 people in 2024) and hygiene promotion sessions (15 in 2024).

## **Visits to persons deprived of their liberty**

- The ICRC has been visiting persons deprived of their liberty in places of detention in Somalia since 1977. The purpose of these visits is to ensure that the conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees comply with Somali law and international standards. As elsewhere in the world, based on its observations, the ICRC shares recommendations with the detaining authorities in order to find solutions to improve the conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees. Detainees considered particularly vulnerable are monitored individually by the ICRC. Repeated visits, interviews without witness, and constructive, bilateral and confidential dialogue with the detaining authorities are part of the ICRC's working modalities in detention.
- Depending on the problems identified, the ICRC also offers technical advice and material support to the detaining authorities, particularly in the areas of health, nutrition and the rehabilitation of infrastructures with a view to improving the living conditions and hygiene of prisoners and prison staff. During visits to places of detention, the ICRC also offers detainees the opportunity to contact their families (see below).
- In 2024, the ICRC conducted 51 visits to 16 places of detention across the country and visited 3,751 detainees, including 544 followed individually.
- A total of 4'889 detainees also received hygiene assistance and basic personal items (including ad hoc complimentary assistance during the holy month of Ramadan). 76 detainees were able to contact their families and/or consular services. Health structures located in 5 places of detention were also supported by the ICRC with essential medicines and materials. The ICRC also conducted rehabilitation work in 3 places of detention.

## **Restoring family links**

- The ICRC and the SRCS help families find and reconnect with their loved ones with whom they have lost contact due to conflict, violence, migration, arrest/detention and/or disasters. Free telephone calls and Red Crescent/Cross Messages (open letters containing only family news) allow separated family members (including detainees and migrants) to reconnect and maintain family contact. The ICRC and the SRCS can also help reunite children separated from their parents.
- In 2024, the ICRC and the SRCS facilitated 194'943 phone calls, organised the exchange of 60'977 Red Cross Messages, opened 373 tracing requests and allegations of arrest and resolved 444 cases (some from previous years).
- The ICRC also supports the authorities in the management of mortal remains, to ensure that they are buried with dignity and that families can be informed (56 professionals trained in 2024).

## **Protection of the civilian population affected by the conflict**

- Through its protection teams covering the areas most affected by the conflict throughout the country, and thanks to its proximity to civilian populations and communities affected by violence, the ICRC strives to prevent/mitigate attacks on the life and dignity of civilians and on medical personnel and facilities, and to ensure respect for the law of armed conflict (also known as international humanitarian law) through a regular, bilateral and confidential dialogue with all parties to the conflict.
- In 2024, on 185 occasions, the ICRC documented concerns raised by people regarding the consequences of the armed conflict on their lives or livelihood. Those concerns were formally taken up with the parties to the conflict to seek redress and prevent future re-occurrence through 17 official representations. 47 people were also referred and 187 received tailored individual assistance to help them recover.
- The ICRC may also offer its services as neutral intermediary for prisoners' release or other similar operations when such role may be required.

## **Promotion of the law of armed conflict and humanitarian principles**

- The ICRC helps strengthen the capacity of the armed security forces of Somalia to disseminate and integrate the law of armed conflict, so as to improve the protection of civilian population. In 2024, 23 training courses were conducted by the ICRC for 1'475 members of the security and defence forces.
- The ICRC also organizes awareness-raising sessions on the basic principles of the law of armed conflict and humanitarian principles for community and religious leaders, security agencies, students, health professionals, and various components of the civil society. In 2024, 114 sessions reached 2,668 people.
- The ICRC also supports governmental and legislative authorities in the ratification and national implementation of international treaties on the law of armed conflict. It also supports the promotion and teaching of the law of armed conflict in universities and higher education institutions.

## **Partnership with the Somali Red Crescent**

- In Somalia, the ICRC works in close partnership with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), which is present throughout the country through a network of 18 branches and 130 sub-branches, 1'200 staff, 5'118 active volunteers and 20'000 community volunteers.
- It also works in close partnership with the other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement present in Somalia in support of the SRCS (i.e. the national Red Cross or Red Crescent societies of other countries and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) in order to strengthen the organizational development and operational capacities of the SRCS, on the basis of its strategic plan, and provides it with technical, logistical and financial support.
- In particular, and as mentioned above, the ICRC supports the SRCS Keysaney hospital of Mogadishu, 26 SRCS clinics, the 3 physical rehabilitation centres of the SRCS and its 3 Ambulance centres.
- The ICRC-SRCS partnership also include the fields of emergency preparedness and response, training and management of SRCS volunteers, security management, infrastructures (3 SRCS offices and 3 warehouses constructed/rehabilitated by the ICRC in 2024), income-generation, first aid, restoring family links, promotion of humanitarian principles and humanitarian diplomacy.

*Through its Risk Management Unit, the ICRC also ensures that it remains accountable to the affected population it serves, ensures two-way communication, and manages risks of fraud and aid diversion, amongst others. In 2024, the ICRC received and treated 42'878 calls from affected population through its toll-free line, and proactively contacted 58'207 beneficiaries for verification through its call centre. In addition, 56 third-party monitoring missions were conducted by independent consultants.*

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