



ICRC

Programmes and activities of the ICRC in Somalia

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 334 staff, including 45 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 organisations.

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 and training. In 2025, this support enabled the treatment of 19'675 patients, including 1'674 weapon-wounded whose treatment was entirely supported by the ICRC. Rehabilitation work was also carried out in all 3 hospitals.
- In the event of an influx of wounded, the ICRC also supports other medical facilities through ad hoc donations (47 donations to 24 hospitals in 2025).
- The ICRC supports the 3 Ambulance centres of the SRCS in Mogadishu, Galkayo and Las Anod, but also the SRCS Ambulance response teams in Kismayo, Beletweyne and Dhusamareb, and the SRCS volunteers response team in each of the 18 regions of the country through the provision of medicines, consumables, salaries, equipment, and the rehabilitation of infrastructures. In 2025, this support allowed for the medical support and evacuation of 11'214 patients.
- The ICRC and the SRCS also provide first aid training to front-line operators and communities to improve the stabilization of the wounded and sick until they are transferred to a medical facility. In 2025, 64 sessions were conducted for 1'477 participants, including 445 combatants, for a total of 10'338 persons trained by the SRCS.

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 2025, this support enabled 3'733 patients to be fitted with prosthesis and orthosis, for a total of 9'754 consultations in those 3 centres.

Primary health care and malnutrition

- In the areas most affected by the conflict, the ICRC supports 26 primary health care clinics of the SRCS (including 2 mobile clinics) with medicines, consumables, equipment, salaries, referrals and capacity building. In 2025, these clinics have treated 353'851 patients and referred 2'493 people. In 2025, the ICRC also constructed one SRCS health clinic and rehabilitated another 3.
- 11 of those 26 clinics also provide supplementary and therapeutic feeding support, which, in 2025, benefited 56'786 children and 14'378 pregnant and lactating women in situation of moderate or severe malnutrition. The ICRC also supports the Acute Severe Malnutrition Stabilization Centre of Kismayo where 1'999 children under the age of 5 with severe acute malnutrition and medical complications were treated in 2025.

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 newly displaced and/or the most vulnerable populations, after assessing their needs.
- In 2025, the ICRC distributed one-month multipurpose cash assistance to 229'428 persons (or 38'238 households), some of them up to 3 times. 132'462 persons (or 22'077 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 to protect, restore or improve their food production. This takes the form of livelihood recovery grants (4'496 households in 2025), donation of sandbags to mitigate the impact of floods (29'857 households in 48 flood-prone communities) and cash-for-work for the rehabilitation of productive assets (150 households in 2025).
- The ICRC also supports poor vulnerable 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 in urban settings (1'093 households in 2025), provision of beekeeping or fishing equipment and related technical trainings (200 households in 2025) and vocational training for young people (60 persons in 2025).
- The ICRC also supports community animal health workers (159 in 2025) to provide basic veterinary services to pastoral communities affected by conflicts or natural disasters (335 in 2025). In 2025, this benefited 9'501 households and allowed to treat 70'298 animals. The ICRC also helps farmers' cooperatives improve their production of food, seeds or fodder (250 members in 2025).
- A total of 45'557 households, or 273'342 people, were thus assisted by the ICRC's resilience and self-sufficiency programmes in 2025.

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 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 2025, 74 water systems were built/rehabilitated across the country for the benefit of 632'781 people.
- 98 borehole operators and water agency staff were also trained and equipped with tools for maintenance.
- Together with the SRCS, the ICRC also responds to the outbreak of acute water diarrhoea through the distribution of hygiene kits and jerrycans (97'529 people in 2025) and hygiene promotion sessions (20 in 2025), and prevented the effect of floodings by constructing riverbanks (36'000 people), in addition to dewatering activities (34'800 people in 5 locations).

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. 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. Those considered particularly vulnerable are also followed individually. Repeated visits, private interviews with detainees, and constructive, bilateral and confidential dialogue with the authorities are part of ICRC's standard working modalities.
- 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 infrastructures rehabilitation, with a view to improving the living conditions and hygiene of prisoners and prison staff. The ICRC also offers detainees the opportunity to contact their families (see below).
- In 2025, the ICRC conducted 56 visits to 20 places of detention across the country and visited 5'102 detainees, including 566 followed individually.
- A total of 4'794 detainees received hygiene assistance and basic personal items (including complimentary assistance during the holy month of Ramadan). Health structures located in 5 places of detention were also supported by the ICRC with essential medicines, materials and incentives for health staff, allowing for 15'791 medical consultations, and the treatment of 1'834 detainees against malnutrition. The ICRC also conducted rehabilitation work in 8 places of detention. The ICRC also helped 237 detainees contact their families and 43 for consular services.

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 2025, the ICRC and the SRCS facilitated 138'216 phone calls, organised the exchange of 47'408 Red Cross Messages and opened 1'170 tracing requests and allegations of arrest. 542 of all opened cases of missing persons were resolved, either by the families themselves or with the support of the ICRC/SRCS.
- 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 (222 professionals trained in 2025).

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, or IHL) through a regular, bilateral and confidential dialogue with all parties to the conflict.
- In 2025, on 143 occasions, the ICRC documented concerns raised by people regarding the consequences of the armed conflict on their lives and livelihood and respect for IHL. Those were formally taken up with the parties to the conflict to seek redress and prevent re-occurrence through 71 official representations. 92 individuals were also referred and 102 received tailored individual assistance to help them recover.
- The ICRC also offers its services as a neutral intermediary for prisoners' release or other similar crossline operations when such a role is 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 the civilian population. In 2025, 34 training courses were conducted by the ICRC for 2'656 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 2025, 141 sessions reached 3'616 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, 1'155 staff, over 5'100 active volunteers and approximately 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) 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 SRCS Keysaney hospital of Mogadishu, 26 SRCS clinics, the 3 physical rehabilitation centres of the SRCS and its Ambulance response teams.
- The ICRC-SRCS partnership also includes the fields of emergency preparedness and response, first aid, restoring family links, volunteers' training and management, security management, infrastructures (3 SRCS offices and 2 warehouses constructed/rehabilitated by the ICRC in 2025), income-generation, 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 2025, the ICRC received and treated 27'954 calls from affected population through its toll-free line, and proactively contacted 61'491 beneficiaries for verification through its call centre. In addition, 42 third-party monitoring missions were conducted by independent consultants.

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