



THE ICRC IN SOMALIA

In Somalia, the ICRC, in close partnership with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), responds to the needs of conflict victims, often aggravated by natural disasters. It provides emergency assistance, long-term support for community self-reliance, promotes and monitors international humanitarian law and visits detainees.

The ICRC has been working in Somalia since 1977 when it responded to the crisis that arose from the war between Ethiopia and Somalia. Since 1982, it has maintained a presence in Somalia. Its delegation is based in Nairobi since 1994.

The SRCS is the main operational partner of the ICRC in Somalia. Through its network of offices throughout the country, it provides essential community services. Together, the ICRC and the SRCS work on improving primary health care services, the treatment of weapon wounded, emergency assistance for the most vulnerable and to restore family links between family members separated by the conflict.

HEALTH CARE

To ensure that the weapon wounded receive appropriate medical care, the ICRC supports the two main surgical hospitals in Mogadishu: community-run Medina hospital and Keysaney Hospital run by the SRCS for 20 years. Ad hoc emergency assistance is provided in case of mass casualties to SRCS and medical facilities across Somalia. More than 6,000 weapon wounded in Somalia receive treatment through the ICRC every year.

In addition, the ICRC supports 30 SRCS clinics in south central Somalia. These facilities provide access to essential health care and to quality drugs. More than 725,000 people use these services every year. The ICRC also provides the clinics with equipment and training.

In response to drought and the ensuing increased incidence of disease, the ICRC supports additional mobile health teams addressing basic health needs and referring malnourished children and their mothers to the closest stabilization centres. The ICRC also provides support for Somali Red Crescent volunteers promoting good hygiene practices as a means of preventing the spread of water-borne diseases.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

The ICRC in Somalia is restoring or improving livelihoods and economic security in communities weakened by decades of conflict and natural disaster through agricultural, fishery, water and income generating projects. More than 1 million people benefit every year from these projects designed to promote community self-sustainability. Since 2012, the ICRC also helps pastoralists to improve their animals' health.

The ICRC is also ready to respond to emergency nutritional needs of the most vulnerable families in Somalia through the distribution of food rations when necessary (over three million people received food in south central Somalia in 2011 and 2012).

In addition, the ICRC provides emergency water rations for people displaced by conflict and affected by poor rains. Thousands of people and their livestock benefit from access to clean water through improved boreholes, hand dug wells and rehabilitated water catchment facilities in south central Somalia and parts of Puntland.



INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The ICRC engages in dialogue with all of the conflicting parties, discussing humanitarian issues and the rules applicable to the conduct of hostilities. It encourages respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) and reminds all parties of their obligation to ensure the protection of those not participating in the hostilities, such as wounded, detainees or civilians. It also spreads knowledge of humanitarian values, through radio programs referring to Somali warfare traditions, which recognize the need to protect women, children, wounded and sick against attacks.

In line with its neutral, impartial and independent monitoring role, the ICRC is visiting detainees, in order to monitor the treatment and conditions of detention, in particular for persons detained in relation to the conflict.

Another important part of the ICRC's work is to restore contact between family members separated by conflict. Working with the SRCS, the ICRC collects family news, distributes them to the separated relatives, inside and outside of Somalia, and supports the publication of names of missing people by the BBC's Somali-language service on air and both the BBC's and the ICRC's websites.



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