



# THE ICRC IN ACTION

IN BRIEF



ICRC



T. Glass/ICRC

## WHO WE ARE

For over 150 years the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been helping people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence. As an independent humanitarian organization we do everything we can to protect people's dignity and relieve their suffering, often with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners.

We seek to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening international humanitarian law (i.e. the law of armed conflict) and championing universal humanitarian principles. As the authority on this body of law, we were the driving force behind the Geneva Conventions of 1949.



P. Vladitsav/ICRC

## WHAT WE DO

- Strive to ensure civilians and people not taking part in hostilities are protected from harm
- Provide urgently needed food, safe drinking water, sanitation and shelter
- Visit prisoners of war and security detainees to make sure they have decent living conditions and are treated with dignity
- Put family members separated by armed conflict or migration back in touch
- Provide or facilitate access to basic health-care services
- Help communities recover and give them the means to support themselves
- Inform all parties to a conflict about their obligations under international humanitarian law
- Monitor compliance with international humanitarian law and contribute to its development
- Reduce the danger of uncleared minefields and unexploded ordnance
- Help National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to prepare for and respond to armed conflict and other violence



P. Yazdi/ICRC

## WHERE WE WORK

Our staff work in 80 countries around the world. They may be in the field, providing emergency assistance to those in need, at centres that serve as regional hubs for the coordination and distribution of aid, or in major cities, where they carry out humanitarian diplomatic work.

The majority of our 16,000 staff members work in the field. We also have staff at our headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, who provide vital support and oversight for our operations.



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## HOW WE WORK

Four key principles guide us in fulfilling our humanitarian mission: humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. We relieve suffering purely on the basis of need, regardless of race, gender, politics or religion. And because we are independent and neutral, we can go where many others cannot – saving lives in the most inaccessible and dangerous of war zones.






M. B. Seck/ICRC



The ICRC was established in 1863 and is the founding member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We work closely with our partners in the Movement – the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – which carry out humanitarian activities in 190 countries around the world.

Visit our website at [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org).

Contact the ICRC delegation nearest you, or your local Red Cross or Red Crescent branch.

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