

OPERATIONS





the ICRC around the world



- AFRICA**

- ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

- EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS**

- MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**



ICRC headquarters



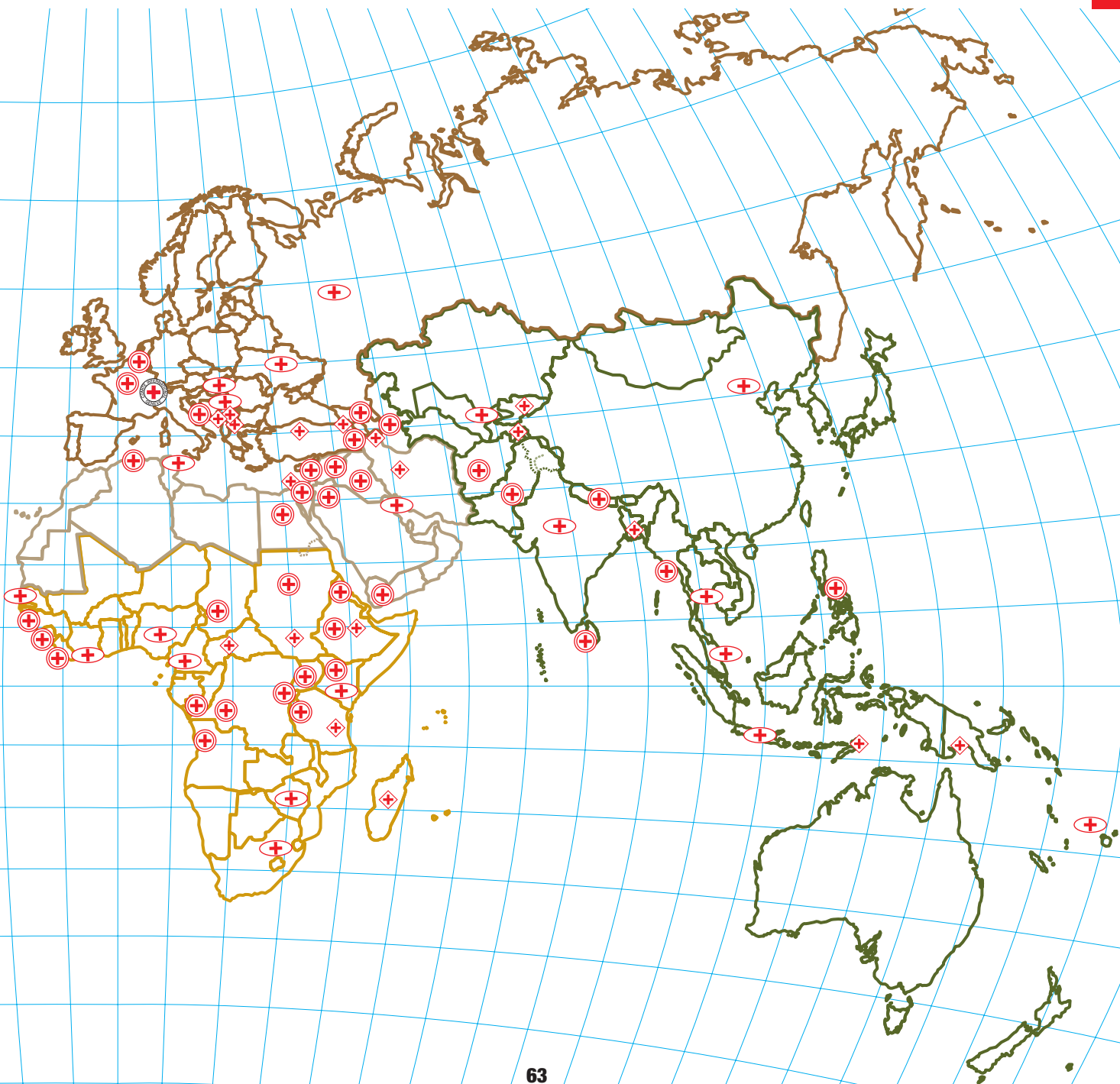
ICRC delegation

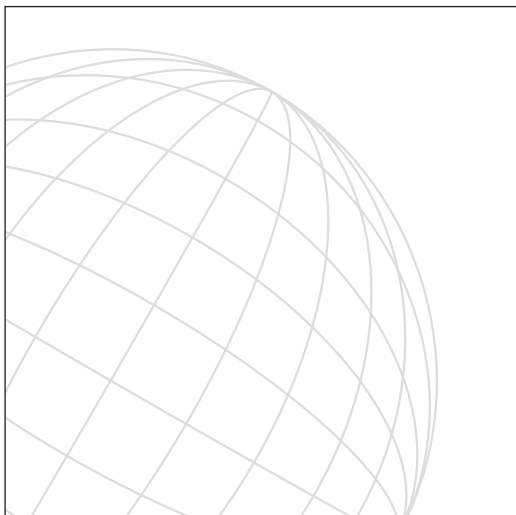


ICRC regional delegation



ICRC mission





operational highlights



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CONFLICT ENVIRONMENTS AND CHALLENGES FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

In 2007, it proved as complex as ever to analyse the factors affecting armed conflicts around the world. Experience shows that most present-day armed conflicts are rooted in a combination of local and/or national factors. In the past, they would have mostly pitted two or more chiefdoms or countries against one another in a struggle for influence or territorial control. Such conflicts involved conventional, established and structured armed forces that clashed on designated battlefields, with front lines that could be marked on equally conventional maps. They were waged to obtain by force what the warring parties could not achieve through dialogue, negotiation, cajolery or threat alone.

These patterns of warfare are changing. Fewer wars are being fought for outright control of territory, although there are, of course, some that have a strong territorial dimension or undercurrent, such as the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. And fewer wars are being fought for deep-seated ideological reasons, as they were during the Cold War.

Nowadays, conflicts appear to be more often fuelled by pressure to secure immediate and long-term access to or control over key natural resources. Economic factors therefore play a significant role, with armed elements indulging in economic predation. Many countries, meanwhile, continue to suffer from inherently weak or collapsed public services, such as health, water and social welfare.

Such developments have been complicated by a number of other factors: the assertion of identity, weapon proliferation, environmental degradation and scarcity of land and water, mass migration leading to a rise in new forms of urban violence, and, in several contexts, the blurring of the line between political violence and criminality.

Another feature of current conflict environments is the interplay of local, regional and global dynamics. In 2007, few wars were being waged between States, whereas a growing number of highly complex non-international armed conflicts at times acquired an international dimension and involved a plethora of actors with various grievances.

There has been a marked rise in the influence of non-State actors, specifically those engaging in armed violence. Such groups are often unstable and have a tendency to fragment into different sub-factions that regroup under new commands. In 2007, as in recent years, several armed groups were engaged in confrontation on a global scale with a number of States. This manifested itself in several countries mainly in acts of “terrorism”, on the one hand, and counter-“terrorism” operations, on the other.

Many situations of armed conflict are characterized by their extended duration, chronic nature, generally low intensity and widespread impact. No matter what the nature of the hostilities – armed conflict or situation of violence – the outcome is inevitably large numbers of people killed, injured, detained, separated from their families or missing. Many people are also affected indirectly; the sick, for example, may be unable to access medical care because of the fighting or insecurity.

The ICRC believes that responding to today’s armed conflicts and other situations of violence presents two major challenges: one is to have a clear understanding of the diversity of armed conflicts and other situations of violence and the specificity of each; the other is to address the multitude of needs they engender in a meaningful way.

According to the ICRC’s analysis, the trend is for civilians to be specifically targeted and the number of indirect victims to grow. Threats to civilians’ security often arise from a lack of respect by the warring parties for the relevant norms and rules of international law, notably IHL.

Developments in 2007 have confirmed that it is the interaction of many of these factors that makes the understanding of and response to such situations highly complex.

OPERATIONS: REVIEW, APPROACH AND THEMATIC CHALLENGES

The year 2007 was significant for the ICRC in operational terms. The organization started out with an overall field budget of CHF 843.3 million; it subsequently issued nine separate budget extensions amounting to an additional CHF 122.4 million.

Throughout the year, the ICRC combined its commitment to alleviate human suffering resulting from longstanding, often neglected, crises in countries such as the Central African Republic, Colombia, Haiti, the Philippines, Somalia and Yemen with responses in higher-profile conflicts such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories, Sri Lanka and Sudan. The ICRC's role of neutral intermediary was also reaffirmed in several contexts, and the organization gained broad recognition of its independent and impartial approach.

In late 2003, at the end of a particularly testing year for the ICRC, there was much debate and justified soul-searching within the organization and in the humanitarian community at large. "Is there a future for neutral and independent humanitarian action?" was one of the questions being asked. Assertions that "there is no neutral ground in today's polarized world" and "the Geneva Conventions are outdated" became part of the conventional wisdom of the day.

At the time, profoundly shaken by the targeted killing of several of its national and expatriate staff in Afghanistan and Iraq, the ICRC made some important decisions that remain highly relevant today. The first was to reassert that its operational approach was indeed based on working close to those in need and on broad acceptance of the organization by all parties to a conflict. The second was to maintain its decentralized approach to security management. The third was to adopt a more structured and global approach to building relationships with key Muslim actors, given that, in an increasingly polarized world, the ICRC needs and wants to engage with all stakeholders able to facilitate its mission.

Underpinning these strategies was the determination to demonstrate, through a firm operational commitment and concrete deeds, the added value of the ICRC's neutral and independent humanitarian action. This has involved remaining, to the extent possible, in often dangerous and unpredictable contexts and striving to preserve or regain the acceptance of a variety of stakeholders. It has also entailed demonstrating an enhanced rapid-response capacity and an ability to sustain large-scale operations over time in increasingly chronic crises. Moreover, the ICRC has continued to foster relations with a range of key State actors, keeping in mind the gradual rebalancing of the world's centres of power and influence, regionally and globally.

The ICRC remains committed to furnishing a multi-disciplinary response to the needs of affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable among them. Analysing and seeking to understand the nature of the risks and the violence to which specific populations are exposed during armed conflict is a central feature of its approach. In 2007, it further developed its combined protection and assistance activities. For example, in responding to emergency medical needs, the ICRC relied more heavily on flying surgical teams, which have proved their relevance in contexts that require a great deal of flexibility, such as Chad and Sudan. In response to needs that are specific to women and young girls,

the ICRC drew on its field experience over recent years in contexts such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop an operational framework for dealing with the consequences of sexual violence.

Across the globe, armed conflicts have increasingly led to population displacements. The ICRC remained firmly committed to responding to the plight of IDPs in a significant number of contexts in 2007, such as Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. In many of these contexts, displaced families are taken in by neighbours or relatives, which is one of the reasons why the ICRC also analyses the situation of resident families and addresses their needs in parallel. They are also included in attempts to prevent further displacements from occurring, as in Darfur (Sudan).

AFRICA

East Africa was particularly volatile throughout much of 2007. Sudan remained the ICRC's single largest operation for a fourth consecutive year. Overall, the ICRC was able to carry out its activities in acceptable security conditions. Its operational strategy remained focused on resident populations in remote rural regions of Darfur. Following a dramatic security incident affecting Oxfam and Action Contre la Faim in Gereida (South Darfur) in late 2006, the ICRC decided to take over responsibility for assisting the 120,000 IDPs living in the camp there. In neighbouring Chad, the ICRC worked primarily in tense border regions in the east of the country, seeking to assist displaced and resident populations affected by the various forms of conflict and violence.

Somalia was once again a particular challenge following changes to the internal landscape: the overthrow of the Islamic Courts in December 2006 and the gradual change in the pattern of the conflict pitting the Transitional Federal Government and Ethiopian forces against a range of armed opposition groups. The ICRC, in close partnership with the Somali Red Crescent Society, assisted hospitals in Mogadishu and provided IDPs affected by the fighting with a combination of food, essential household items and a safe water supply.

The situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo took another turn for the worse in 2007. Despite the ongoing nationwide political transition, the Kivu provinces saw a resumption of heavy fighting leading to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. The ICRC stepped up its programmes, combining protection and assistance activities.

A new feature that emerged in the course of the year was the ICRC's involvement in the broader Sahel region. In particular in northern Niger but also in Mali, it provided medical services and played the role of neutral intermediary in securing the release of detainees held by armed groups.

Elsewhere in Africa – in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea and Zimbabwe, for example – the ICRC faced a variety of challenges in carrying out its work. Furthermore, in July, the Ethiopian authorities expelled the ICRC from Somali Regional State, on the grounds that it had provided support to the Ogaden National Liberation Front. The ICRC refuted the accusation. The ensuing discussions, including at a high level, had failed to resolve the crisis at the end of the year.

ASIA

Afghanistan experienced a highly volatile year. Already exhausted by decades of conflict, the civilian population continued to bear the brunt of the armed conflict between the contingents of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the Afghan national armed and police forces and armed opposition groups. Fortunately, the ICRC's role as the neutral guardian of IHL was recognized by all parties. In close partnership with the Afghan Red Crescent, the ICRC broadened the geographical scope of its programmes, particularly in the medical field. It acted as a neutral intermediary in the release of hostages (including a group from the Republic of Korea) and in securing access to the most conflict-torn regions of the south and east for immunization teams from the UN and the Afghan Ministry of Health. It also continued to visit detainees held by ISAF and the Afghan authorities.

In Pakistan, the ICRC adapted the focus of its activities to the evolving situation. It began a series of nationwide visits to detainees and, in close cooperation with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, enhanced its response to the consequences of armed violence, particularly in terms of medical care and in the western part of the country. In October 2007, the ICRC inaugurated a new physical rehabilitation centre in Muzaffarabad while winding up its other activities related to the consequences of the 2005 earthquake.

Another country that presented considerable operational challenges was Sri Lanka. The ICRC responded in particular to the consequences for IDPs and resident populations of the fighting in the east and north. It followed with particular concern and attention the rise in the number of disappearances.

Other situations of notable concern in Asia were the Philippines and Nepal. In India, the ICRC pursued its activities in Jammu and Kashmir, continuing to visit persons arrested and detained in relation to the prevailing situation in that context.

For more than two years, the ICRC had tried to engage in dialogue with the authorities of Myanmar with a view to overcoming the difficulties that it had encountered in visiting detainees and assisting civilians affected by violence in sensitive border regions. In 2007, it began to mobilize third-party States in support of its efforts, and in June it issued a public denunciation of the violations committed against detainees and civilians in Myanmar. Since then, it has spared no effort to renew its dialogue with the authorities of Myanmar and continues to do so. Throughout 2007, the ICRC maintained its presence in Myanmar and continued its activities in the field of physical rehabilitation, provided support to families visiting detained relatives of ICRC concern and cooperated with the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

The ICRC pursued its dialogue with specific Asian States, such as Australia, China, India, Indonesia and Japan, and with Asian institutions such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, in order to deepen its understanding of how they view conflict dynamics in Asia and beyond, and how they analyse the humanitarian implications thereof.

EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS

Colombia experienced a particularly difficult year in terms of conflict dynamics, the result being an increase in the number of newly displaced people assisted by the ICRC, significant numbers of reported IHL violations, such as forced disappearances and

summary executions, and greater use of landmines and thus consequences for civilians and weapon bearers. The ICRC saw its level of operational involvement climb, its positive dialogue with all those involved giving it good access, including to all places of detention under the responsibility of the Colombian authorities. Its combined protection and assistance activities were carried out in priority zones across the country. Accepted as a neutral and independent humanitarian practitioner, the ICRC played a key role in the release of some 20 hostages and the recovery of the bodies of 11 deputies who died in captivity. The remains were returned to their families.

As in the past, the ICRC worked to obtain greater insight into the specific nature of urban violence, notably in Brazil and Haiti. In Haiti it focused on addressing major humanitarian needs in particularly violent areas of the capital, Port-au-Prince, providing support for the medical evacuation programmes of the Haitian National Red Cross Society and ensuring safe access to water supplies for the population.

The ICRC maintained its visits to people held by the US authorities in Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and in Afghanistan and Iraq. The dialogue between the ICRC and the US administration remained strong and constructive.

The ICRC also consolidated its relations with key European stakeholders and continued its gradual operational phase-out in the Western Balkans.

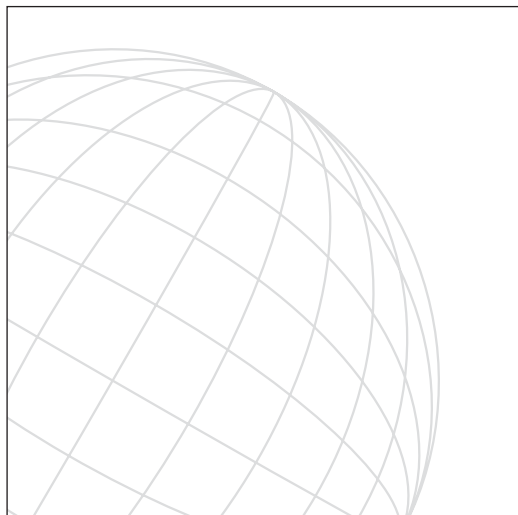
In the Russian Federation, the ICRC gradually downsized its operations in the northern Caucasus, particularly its assistance programmes. While still prone to acts of violence by armed groups and security force operations, the situation in the region is less acute than two or three years ago. Although the ICRC was unable to resolve its differences with the authorities of the Russian Federation on the issue of access to detainees, it continued to organize family visits for sentenced detainees held far away from their homes. It was particularly attentive to the plight of persons missing as a result of the conflict in Chechnya.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Iraq remained the foremost crisis spot in the region with horrific consequences for the civilian population. Although the levels of violence were somewhat less acute in the last four months of 2007, Iraqis were again exposed to the effects of car-bomb attacks, deliberate sectarian killings, kidnappings, military operations and more. The number of Iraqis displaced or forced to flee the country was in the hundreds of thousands. The ICRC pursued its visits to detainees, including for the first time to people held by the Iraqi authorities. It strengthened its medical, water and habitat and assistance programmes for IDPs and residents and, while continuing to operate under very tight security, sought to increase the scope of its operations in geographical terms.

In Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories, the ICRC remained deeply concerned about the impact of the occupation for the population of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It scaled up its activities in the latter, in particular in terms of medical care and water and habitat programmes, following the closure of the Gaza Strip by Israel. It pursued its visits to more than 11,000 Palestinians held by Israel and continued to voice concern about the fate and whereabouts of three missing Israeli servicemen in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, the unstable situation in Lebanon, the conflict in the north of Yemen and the violence in Algeria received particular attention.



ICRC operations in 2007: a few facts and figures

PRESENCE

The ICRC's 80 delegations and missions were distributed throughout the world as follows:

▶ Africa	28
▶ Asia and the Pacific	15
▶ Europe and the Americas	26
▶ Middle East and North Africa	11

PERSONNEL

The average number of ICRC staff in 2007 was as follows:

▶ Headquarters:	818
Field: expatriates	1,491
<i>Expatriates</i>	1,349
<i>National Society staff</i>	126
<i>National staff on temporary mission</i>	16
Field: national staff	9,769
▶ Field: total ¹	11,260
Final total	12,078

1. This figure does not include an average of 1,420 daily workers hired by the ICRC in the field

FINANCE

▶ ICRC expenditure in 2007

Headquarters	CHF 154.9 million	USD 128.6 million	EUR 94.3 million
Field	CHF 840.2 million	USD 697.9 million	EUR 511.8 million

The sub-total comes to CHF 995.1 million, from which field overheads (CHF 51.0 million) must be deducted in order to reach the final total.

Final total:	CHF 944.1 million	USD 784.1 million	EUR 575.1 million
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▶ 10 largest operations in 2007 in terms of expenditure

1 Sudan	CHF 94.0 million	USD 78.1 million	EUR 57.3 million
2 Iraq	CHF 76.5 million	USD 63.6 million	EUR 46.6 million
3 Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories	CHF 61.4 million	USD 51.0 million	EUR 37.4 million
4 Afghanistan	CHF 49.8 million	USD 41.3 million	EUR 30.3 million
5 Somalia	CHF 49.2 million	USD 40.9 million	EUR 30.0 million
6 Congo, Democratic Republic of the	CHF 32.6 million	USD 27.1 million	EUR 19.9 million
7 Colombia	CHF 30.6 million	USD 25.4 million	EUR 18.7 million
8 Sri Lanka	CHF 30.2 million	USD 25.1 million	EUR 18.4 million
9 Chad	CHF 24.6 million	USD 20.4 million	EUR 15.0 million
10 Uganda	CHF 22.6 million	USD 18.8 million	EUR 13.8 million

Exchange rates: USD 1.00 = CHF 1.2039; EUR 1.00 = CHF 1.6417

VISITS TO DETAINEES

ICRC delegates visited **518,277 detainees**, **36,777** of whom were monitored individually (including 957 females and 1,846 minors), held in **2,425 places of detention** in **77 countries**. Of this number, **21,609 detainees** (including 629 females and 1,495 minors) were registered and visited for the first time in 2007.

With support provided by the ICRC, **23,358 detainees** benefited from **family visits**.

A total of **21,867 detention attestations** were issued.

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

The ICRC collected **256,772** and distributed **229,150 Red Cross messages**, thus enabling members of families separated as a result of conflict, disturbances or tensions to exchange news. Among these messages, **49,717** were collected from and **41,964** distributed to **detainees**. In addition **4,228 phone calls** allowed people, mainly detainees, to inform their families of their whereabouts.

The ICRC **registered 969 unaccompanied/separated children** (including 210 demobilized children) during 2007. Once their families had been located and with the agreement of the children and their relatives, it organized and supported the reunification of **761 children** with their families. By the end of the year, the cases of **2,140 unaccompanied/separated minors** (including **119 demobilized children**) were still being handled, which involved tracing their relatives, maintaining contacts between the children and their families, organizing family reunification and/or identifying another long-term solution for the children concerned.

ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES

In 2007, the ICRC purchased or received as contributions in kind the following assistance supplies:

▶ Food items	52,625 tonnes	CHF	53 million
▶ Seed	3,808 tonnes	CHF	4 million
▶ Essential household items	20,367 tonnes	CHF	52 million
<i>Including:</i>			
<i>1,522,000 blankets</i>			
<i>10,830 tents</i>			
<i>454,800 tarpaulins</i>			
<i>357,570 kitchen sets</i>			
<i>383,250 hygiene kits</i>			
<i>510 tonnes of clothing</i>			
▶ Medical and physical rehabilitation items		CHF	37 million
▶ Water and habitat items		CHF	17 million
		TOTAL	CHF 163 million
			USD 135 million
			EUR 99 million

Exchange rates: USD 1.00 = CHF 1.2039; EUR 1.00 = CHF 1.6417

The ICRC established the **whereabouts of 5,570 people** for whom tracing requests had been filed by their families. The ICRC website www.familylinks.icrc.org allowed the **publication of 82,641 names** of people providing news to relatives and friends or being sought by their relatives. At the end of the year, the ICRC was still taking action to locate **66,409 people** (including 11,891 women and 6,368 minors) for their families.

The ICRC helped **868 people** (including 761 minors) **to rejoin their families**. It organized the **transfer or repatriation of 5,212 people**, including **464 detainees after their release**, and **353 sets of human remains**. It issued **travel documents** that enabled **3,228 people** to return to their home countries or to settle in a host country.

It relayed **3,246 official documents** of various types between family members across borders and front lines.

More than **1 million people** contacted ICRC offices worldwide for services or advice regarding issues related to protection and family links.

ASSISTANCE

In 2007, the ICRC ran assistance programmes in **52 countries**. The bulk of the work was carried out in Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Israel and the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories, Pakistan, the Russian Federation (Northern Caucasus), Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

During the year, ICRC activities to ensure economic security, many times implemented together with host National Societies, directly benefited households and communities in **36 countries** worldwide. More than **2,520,000 internally displaced people, returnees, residents** (in general, people living in rural areas and/or areas difficult to reach owing to insecurity and/or lack of infrastructure) and **people deprived of their freedom** received aid in the form of **food** and **3,940,000** in the form of **essential household and hygiene items**. Around **66% and 72%** of the beneficiaries of food and essential household and hygiene items respectively were **IDPs**. In addition, **2,780,000 people** (of whom around 33% were IDPs) benefited from livelihood support through **sustainable food-production programmes or micro-economic initiatives**. These included various response mechanisms ranging from the rehabilitation of traditional irrigation systems to small-scale community-based cash-for-work and livestock-management/support projects.

WATER AND HABITAT

In 2007, the ICRC's Water and Habitat Unit was involved in water, sanitation and construction work in 40 countries. These projects catered for the needs of more than **14.3 million people** worldwide (IDPs, returnees, residents – in general, people living in rural areas and/or areas difficult to reach owing to insecurity and/or lack of infrastructure – and people deprived of their freedom). They were implemented by **expatriate and national engineers and technicians**.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

During the year, the ICRC regularly supported **318 hospitals** and **524 other health care facilities** around the world. An estimated **2,890,000 people** (53% children, 30% women and 17% men) benefited from ICRC-supported health care facilities. **Community health** programmes were implemented in **18 countries**, in many cases with National Society participation.

More than **20,200 weapon-wounded** and **100,700 non-weapon-wounded** (surgical case) patients were admitted to ICRC-supported hospitals in **18 countries** where more than **113,000 surgical operations** were performed. The ICRC regularly supported **113 first-aid posts** located near combat zones, which provided emergency treatment, mainly for weapon-wounded patients.

CARE FOR THE DISABLED

The ICRC's Physical Rehabilitation Unit provided support to **85 centres** in **26 countries**, enabling **160,693 patients** (including 26,378 women and 36,431 children) to receive services. A total of **11,006 new patients were fitted with prostheses** and **18,609 with orthoses**. The centres produced and delivered **22,309 prostheses** (including 2,836 for women, 1,454 for children and 9,729 for mine victims) and **32,123 orthoses** (including 5,804 for women, 15,863 for children and 745 for mine victims). In addition, **2,909 wheelchairs** and **36,850 crutches and sticks** were distributed, most of them locally manufactured. Training of local staff was a priority in order to ensure sustainable services for patients.

ICRC COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The aim of the ICRC's cooperation with National Societies is to strengthen working relationships and dialogue with Movement partners for the greater benefit of people affected by armed conflict and internal strife.

In the vast majority of the countries where the ICRC operates, it does so in partnership with National Societies. Overall, it is estimated that more than **one third of the ICRC's operational activities are carried out in cooperation with the National Society of the country concerned**.

The ICRC also spent **CHF 75 million** to assist National Societies in their own countries in building and strengthening their capacity to carry out activities in the following areas:

- ▶ **140 National Societies** in their work to promote and spread knowledge of **IHL and the Fundamental Principles**
- ▶ **123 National Societies** in their work to restore **family links**, including responding to needs resulting from natural disasters, in conformity with the newly adopted Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement
- ▶ **103 National Societies** in their **preparedness for health and relief assistance** during conflict
- ▶ **20 National Societies** in carrying out **community awareness programmes on mines and explosive remnants of war**

In 5 of the countries where the ICRC is running its largest operations, 4 different National Societies working internationally were involved in the **implementation of 8 ICRC projects**. The ICRC also provided a coordination framework (through a coordinated activities agreement or a bilateral project agreement) for **14 National Societies working internationally on 37 projects in 6 countries**.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

In 2007, the **Media Relations Unit** in Geneva issued **247 press releases, 3 news reports, 105 information bulletins** and **74 briefing and information notes**, and organized **10 press conferences**. It produced and issued **16 video news items** to broadcasters worldwide and produced **52 news stories** for use with various target groups and **5 films** in the *From the field* series.

According to the Factiva database, which compiles print-media sources from more than 159 countries in 22 languages, the ICRC was mentioned more than 14,000 times in 2007.

RELATIONS WITH ARMS CARRIERS

Throughout the year, ICRC delegates met and dialogued with various arms carriers present in conflict zones, from members of the military and the police to paramilitary units, armed groups and private military companies' staff.

- ▶ **25 specialized ICRC delegates** conducted or took part in more than **300 courses, workshops, round-tables and exercises** involving some **20,000 military, security and police personnel** in more than **120 countries**. A total of **21 military officers** from **12 countries** received ICRC scholarships to attend **5 military courses on IHL** in San Remo

- ▶ a total of **55** general and senior **officers** from **53** countries received ICRC scholarships to attend the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations (SWIRMO) in Geneva, Switzerland
- ▶ a meeting on both disciplinary and penal sanctions took place in Geneva with representatives of various armed forces, armed groups and academic circles
- ▶ **10** new **officer-instructors (police and military)** were trained in order to give lectures on both IHL and human rights in support of regular activities by specialized delegates
- ▶ a film based on interviews with former non-State fighters from 4 different countries about their knowledge of and compliance with IHL was produced and tested in the field in autumn 2007 and will be ready in 2008 for use as a dissemination tool in discussions with armed groups
- ▶ the ICRC also published *Integrating the law* and *Violence and the use of force*, 2 booklets for delegates and their audiences

RELATIONS WITH ACADEMIC CIRCLES

In practically every country covered by the ICRC, university lecturers in law, international relations and journalism incorporated IHL into their teaching. At the national level, the ICRC supported universities by distributing teaching materials, co-organizing IHL events and competitions for students and sponsoring the participation of lecturers and professors in key regional and international IHL seminars.

In 2007, the ICRC organized or co-organized:

- ▶ **15 regional and international IHL training seminars for academics** (2 in Africa; 3 in Asia; 10 in Europe and the Americas), involving **over 200 professors, lecturers and graduate students**
- ▶ **10 regional IHL competitions** for students (2 in Africa; 3 in Asia; 5 in Europe and the Americas), involving some **400 students and lecturers**

SUPPORTING IHL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

The **Exploring Humanitarian Law teaching programme**, launched in 2001, is currently being implemented in **40 contexts** around the world. It was piloted in classrooms in **7 countries** during the year.

WEAPON CONTAMINATION

Throughout the year, the mine-action sector provided operational support to delegations, National Societies and political authorities in 19 countries. The sector also worked with the UN and NGOs to further develop and strengthen international mine-action standards and coordination.

INFORMATION, DOCUMENTATION AND LANGUAGE SERVICES

Through its library and research service, the ICRC responded to some **2,380 requests** for information from National Societies, NGOs, academics, government departments and the media.

The ICRC produced some **35 print and audiovisual products** and **distributed** more than **6,000 films** and **635,000 publications** worldwide. The ICRC website received around **2.5 million visitors** who viewed about 12.3 million pages in total.

The ICRC headquarters received groups totalling over **5,200 visitors**. Of these, some 47% were university students, 8% were from the diplomatic community, 7% were from international organizations and NGOs, and 4% were military.

Some **7 million words** were translated, edited and proofread by translators and editors working for or contracted by the ICRC through its language service.