



HUMANITARIAN REPORT 2024 COSTA RICA



*Caption: We work with the Costa Rica
Red Cross to promote understanding
of international humanitarian law
to staff and volunteers.*

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) works closely with the Costa Rican government to promote the implementation and development of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international standards on policing, and to ensure compliance with them.

In February 2023, [we attended the Regional Conference on the Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons in San José, Costa Rica](#). During the conference, 33 states from the region issued an official statement calling for the negotiation of a legally binding international instrument to regulate autonomous weapon systems.

Costa Rica was one of the first countries to adopt a position on applying international law, including IHL, to cyber operations during armed conflict. We presented the Costa Rican authorities with an initiative to develop a digital emblem as a way of better protecting medical and humanitarian services during armed conflict.

We supported the Costa Rican IHL committee to run a workshop for parliamentarians and their advisers on the criminal repression of serious IHL violations. This was carried out as part of reforms to the Costa Rican Criminal Code – which we are supporting – to include war crimes and other international crimes.

As part of our humanitarian mandate, we also helped the committee to organize the annual course on IHL and we supported the committee's participation in the regional meeting of national IHL committees on IHL and similar bodies in America.

We teamed up with the Judicial Training Centre for Central America and the Caribbean (CCJCC) and the Judicial School of Costa Rica to run a workshop for justice officials in Central America on basic IHL concepts and on protecting the human rights of migrants.

We also maintained a dialogue with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which is based in San José.

In terms of promoting international rules for policing, we met with representatives from the Ministry of Public Security, the National Police Academy and law enforcement authorities to discuss joint activities related to security training in the country. This followed on from the training-of-trainers course on the use of force and humanitarian principles that Costa Rican officials attended in Guatemala last year.

COOPERATION WITH COSTA RICAN RED CROSS


We work closely with the Costa Rica Red Cross to help strengthen its humanitarian activities in the country. We provide financial and technical support, such as promoting the Fundamental Principles, explaining the correct use of the emblem and the protection of cultural property.

In 2023, we continued to support the Costa Rica Red Cross in its work to help migrants by providing free phone calls, messages, internet access and phone charging. Unfortunately, road traffic accidents often occur on migration routes, leaving migrants injured or hospitalized. In such situations, these RFL services help migrants to keep in contact with their loved ones.


As part of their efforts to keep families together and reduce the risk of migrants going missing, the Costa Rica Red Cross maintains a presence at the southern and northern borders of the country.

With our support, the Costa Rica Red Cross is running training programmes for volunteers on data protection, RFL procedures and the Safer Access Framework, with the aim of strengthening the organization's humanitarian action and ensuring its work is accepted and understood. We are also running workshops with staff and volunteers to raise awareness of IHL.






73 free phone calls and internet connections were provided to help migrants contact their families.



48 members of the Costa Rica Red Cross received training in RFL procedures.



60 Costa Rica Red Cross volunteers took part in workshops on how to better implement the Safer Access Framework during field activities.






Over de 60 public officials from various sectors received training in IHL.

MISSION

We help people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything we can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. We also seek to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

People know they can count on us to carry out a range of life-saving activities in conflict zones and to work closely with the communities there to understand and meet their needs. Our experience and expertise enable us to respond quickly and effectively, without taking sides.

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