



DELEGATIONS

Algeria
Egypt
Iran, Islamic Republic of
Iraq
Israel and the Occupied Territories
Jordan
Lebanon
Syrian Arab Republic
Yemen

REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Kuwait
Tunis

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection
46,117
Assistance
113,597
Prevention
20,495
Cooperation with National Societies
11,452
General
261

191,923 of which: Overheads **11,700**

Implementation rate
92%

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



 ICRC delegation  ICRC regional delegation  ICRC mission

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

In 2010, the ICRC maintained a strong presence and wide operational reach in the Middle East and North Africa in order to meet the multiple urgent needs of victims of past and current conflicts in the region. Its broad range of protection and assistance activities, carried out alongside preventive action based on advocacy for greater adherence to and respect for IHL, remained rooted in the organization's neutral, independent and impartial approach to its strictly humanitarian mission.

In contexts experiencing ongoing or recurrent armed conflict, such as Iraq, Israel and the occupied territories and Yemen, the ICRC sought as a priority compliance with the provisions of IHL relative to the conduct of hostilities and/or occupation by the parties directly concerned. It fostered relations with government authorities, armed groups, influential sectors of civil society, religious circles and militant groups as an essential step to gaining acceptance of and support for its work. By nurturing these relations, the ICRC also aimed to enhance understanding of the humanitarian norms common to both IHL and Islamic law insofar as they reflect the universality of certain basic principles of humanity.

ICRC operations in Iraq, Israel and the occupied territories and Yemen remained among the organization's largest worldwide. In Iraq, the ICRC continued to expand its presence and operational reach, enabling it to assess and respond to humanitarian needs in a more direct and targeted manner, including in previously inaccessible regions, although access and security constraints still hindered full implementation of planned activities. In the occupied Palestinian territory, the humanitarian consequences of certain policies and the impact of military operations were regularly taken up with the Israeli authorities with a view to at least tempering their effects. The ICRC's dialogue with the Palestinian authorities and armed groups focused on the need to respect both Israeli and Palestinian civilians. In Yemen's conflict-ravaged northern provinces, the organization decided in May to increase its budget to cover, together with the Yemen Red Crescent Society and despite a fragile security situation, the emergency needs of more conflict victims. However, insecurity and mobility restrictions sometimes impeded National Society/ICRC teams from working according to the Movement's Fundamental Principles and from fully responding to the needs of thousands of conflict-affected people.

The ICRC endeavoured to ensure that people directly affected by armed conflict or the consequences of occupation had access to food, water, sanitation and medical care and that those deprived of their freedom were treated humanely. Restoring family links and determining the fate of people unaccounted for from past and current conflicts also remained core activities in many countries in the region.

In Iraq, while some newly displaced people received emergency supplies, emphasis was placed on restoring or boosting livelihoods to foster sustainable self-reliance, rather than on direct aid. The roughly 73,600 beneficiaries of livelihood support included mainly farmers, returnees and residents in insecure and neglected rural regions as well as households headed by women and disabled people. With the

focus of activities shifting to conflict-prone and neglected rural areas, more than 4.3 million Iraqis benefited from water and sanitation repair, maintenance and construction projects. In the same regions, primary health care centres received support to reinforce their services. Medical and surgical supplies enabled hospitals to better cope with sudden high influxes of wounded people, and Iraqi doctors and nurses obtained additional qualifications through a joint project with the health authorities to strengthen the Iraqi emergency services.

In the occupied Palestinian territory, ICRC assistance focused on alleviating the plight of Palestinians suffering the worst effects of the occupation. Cash-for-work and livelihood-support projects benefited more than 58,000 destitute Palestinians, mainly in the Gaza Strip, but also West Bank residents affected by restrictions on access to their land. Water and sanitation services were improved for more than 662,000 people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, while life-saving medical and surgical supplies and equipment spare parts, as well as training, helped Gaza hospitals maintain essential services for the wounded and sick. The Palestine Red Crescent Society continued to carry out life-saving medical evacuations, with the ICRC supporting its emergency medical services together with the Norwegian Red Cross and, as a neutral intermediary, facilitating ambulance movements for emergency cases in need of treatment outside Gaza.

In Yemen, the ICRC constantly adapted activities conducted via "remote management" through Yemen Red Crescent volunteers and ICRC local staff. Despite the difficulties, some 157,000 people received food rations to cover their needs for one month and 156,000 people essential household items, most of them only once. During the second half of the year, however, residents in some northern parts of Amran province and IDPs and residents in the Sa'ada area benefited from regular assistance. Water and sanitation projects benefited some 161,500 people, mainly IDPs and residents in Sa'ada. About 4,000 people displaced by fighting in Shabwa province received water supplies in the first joint Yemen Red Crescent/ICRC emergency operation carried out from the ICRC's newly opened office in Aden. The provision of medical supplies and training support kept primary health care centres treating the wounded and sick in the north operational.

In Lebanon, the ICRC continued to help the Lebanese Red Cross strengthen its ambulance and first-aid services and together they agreed on a joint contingency plan to respond to humanitarian needs in emergencies. Further staff training and medical equipment were provided to Palestine Red Crescent Society medical facilities in Lebanon to improve health services for the more than 400,000 Palestinian refugees in the country. Water and sanitation services were upgraded for some 340,000 people living in poorly served areas while in the neighbouring Syrian Arab Republic, 21,000 people in drought-ridden north-eastern provinces had their water supply improved to sustain their livelihoods.

ICRC delegates visited people detained in Algeria, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, the occupied Palestinian territory, Qatar and Tunisia, and resumed visits in Yemen after an interruption of several years. The largest number of detainees visited was in Iraq, where, thanks to its expanded presence on

the ground, the ICRC visited 32,801 detainees held in 81 facilities, mainly under the custody of the Iraqi central government, of whom 1,839 were monitored individually. Discussions with the Saudi authorities regarding access to Saudi nationals held by them after their transfer or release from detention/interment abroad remained at a standstill, while those with Bahrain's authorities on a possible resumption of visits to detainees continued. Despite repeated requests, the ICRC had still not been granted access to an Israeli soldier held by Hamas by year-end.

Delegates' findings during visits and recommendations were shared confidentially with the detaining authorities, and in several cases the ICRC provided support to enhance detainees' treatment and living conditions. For example, in Lebanon, the first phase of a project to boost water supply in the biggest prison was completed; in Mauritania, an emergency health programme in the main prison was initiated; and in Tunisia, progress was made on a pilot project to alleviate prison overcrowding. The specific needs of detained women were taken into account wherever possible. In Yemen, for example, female detainees continued to receive vocational training to enhance their prospects of reintegration after release.

In addition to exchanging news through the ICRC with their families, 4,749 detainees, mainly in Israel, were able to receive family visits arranged by the organization. In Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, families of people in US custody in Afghanistan or in the internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba had contact with their relatives through teleconference calls facilitated by the ICRC. In all, 15,642 former inmates or their families received ICRC detention certificates, which sometimes qualified them to obtain State allowances. Several foreign detainees were repatriated under ICRC auspices after their release.

Demand remained high for ICRC tracing and RCM services as a means of restoring or maintaining contact with family members living in places where normal communications remained difficult. Several countries in the region, such as Egypt, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, hosted large and sometimes rising numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, many of whom were able to contact their families through the ICRC/National Society RCM network.

In Yemen, some 3,800 irregular asylum seekers, mainly from the Horn of Africa, held in precarious conditions while awaiting deportation, continued to receive emergency assistance to ensure their health and well-being in a joint Yemen Red Crescent/ICRC operation. First visits to foreign nationals awaiting deportation in Algerian retention centres contributed to a greater understanding of their needs. Similarly, the ICRC engaged the Egyptian authorities in confidential discussions aimed at alleviating the plight of irregular African migrants heading for Israel. Following a joint Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran/ICRC assessment of the living conditions and needs of migrant communities in three Iranian provinces, the two organizations developed an assistance project with the Interior Ministry, to be implemented by the National Society in 2011.

Some 2,330 people, mainly in Egypt and Iraq, were issued ICRC travel documents to allow family reunification or resettlement in

third countries. The ICRC also facilitated travel for Palestinians wishing to visit or be reunited with family members living in other parts of the occupied territory or in Jordan, as well as contacts between Syrian nationals in the occupied Golan and their families in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC pursued action to address unresolved cases of persons who had gone missing during past conflicts in the region, including support to help strengthen forensic capacities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Lebanon. Significant progress was registered in addressing the issue in connection with the 1990–91 Gulf War and very positive steps were taken regarding the 1980–88 Iran–Iraq war in the framework of formal ICRC-facilitated mechanisms. This resulted, for example, in the first meetings between Iranian and Iraqi representatives since 2008 and the repatriation of remains of Iranian and Iraqi combatants. It also led to the first two joint operations by Iraqi and Kuwaiti forensic experts: the first, to exhume remains in Kuwait and subsequently repatriate the bodies of 55 Iraqi military personnel; the second, to locate mass graves possibly containing the remains of missing Kuwaitis in Nasariya, Iraq. In ongoing efforts to resolve the cases of combatants and civilians from both sides still missing in connection with the Western Sahara conflict, dialogue was pursued with the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front.

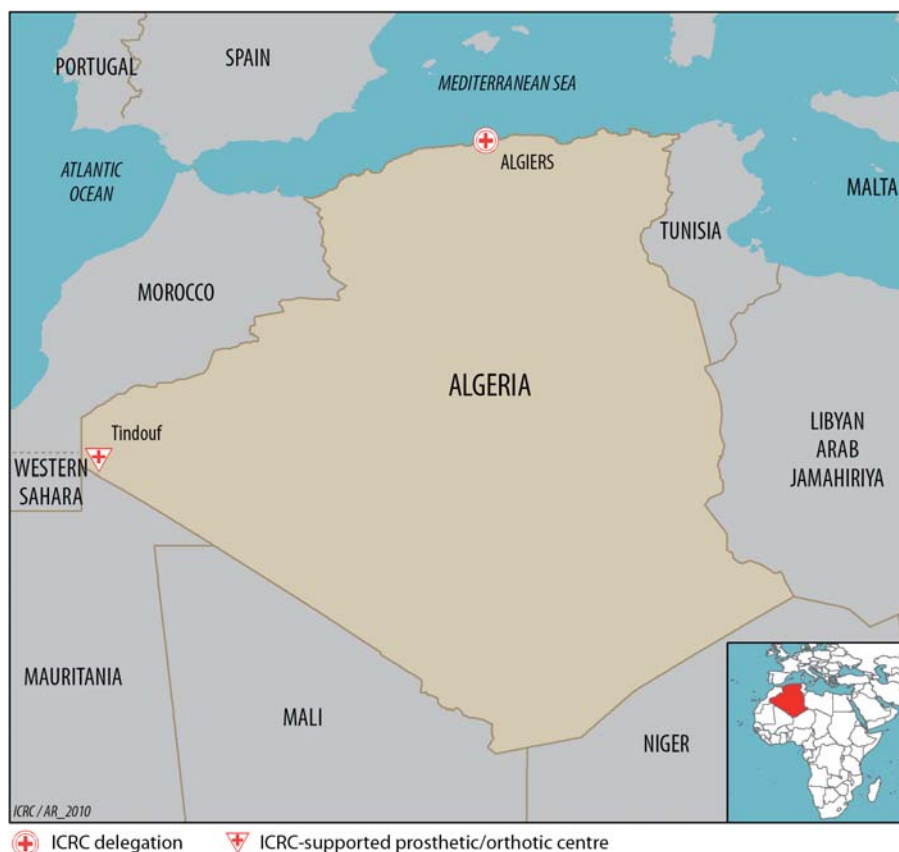
The ICRC initiated mine-clearance operations in Iraq, lent its support to a pilot mine-risk education initiative in both areas of the Western Sahara, signed a cooperation agreement on mine-risk education with the Iranian Red Crescent Society in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and contributed to a mine-awareness campaign in the Syrian Arab Republic. ICRC technical and material support was maintained for physical rehabilitation centres in Algeria, the Gaza Strip (centre renovated by the ICRC), Iraq and Yemen. In Iraq, where the number of disabled people continued to rise, physical rehabilitation centres either run or supported by the ICRC remained the main structures providing such services in the country.

Promoting greater knowledge, acceptance and implementation of IHL throughout the region, in cooperation with the Cairo-based League of Arab States, remained the main task of the ICRC in Egypt. To this end, it continued to encourage adherence to IHL and promote its incorporation into national legislation, military training and doctrine and school and university curricula through regional seminars, providing written and audiovisual materials on IHL translated into Arabic for governments and key civil society groups throughout the region.

National Societies were the ICRC's main operational partners in several countries of the region. The primary aim was to enable them to strengthen their emergency-response capacities, focusing on ambulance services, first aid, tracing, restoring family links, mine action, and IHL dissemination.

Close coordination was maintained with Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian players, particularly in conflict zones, in order to maximize impact, identify unmet needs and avoid duplication.

ALGERIA



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	1,099
Assistance	-
Prevention	517
Cooperation with National Societies	173
General	-

▶ **1,790**

of which: Overheads 109

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	82%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	5
National staff (daily workers not included)	8

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- ▶ shared with the detaining authorities its findings and recommendations following 71 visits to persons deprived of their freedom in prisons, police stations and *gendarmeries*
- ▶ submitted summary reports to the authorities covering key issues related to detainees' treatment and living conditions identified during its visits to prisons (2007–09) and police stations/*gendarmeries* (2008–10)
- ▶ with the National Society, enabled families to exchange news with relatives detained/interned abroad by means of RCMs as well as 18 telephone/videoconference calls
- ▶ enabled 86 foreign nationals detained in Algeria to contact their families or notify their consular representatives of their whereabouts
- ▶ provided 60 army officers, 25 trainee and 27 practising magistrates, 200 parliamentarians and 40 journalists with IHL training

The ICRC has been working in Algeria, with some interruptions, since the 1954–62 Algerian war of independence. It carries out visits to people held in places of detention run by the Ministry of Justice and to people remanded in custody in police stations and *gendarmeries*. The ICRC also works to promote IHL among Algerian civil society, the authorities and the armed forces. The ICRC supports the Algerian Red Crescent's reform process and tracing activities.

CONTEXT

Localized clashes between national security forces and armed groups persisted throughout the year, particularly east of Algiers, leaving hundreds of people dead or wounded and triggering multiple arrests. Scores of civilians were reportedly among the casualties, mainly the victims of roadside bomb attacks attributed to armed groups.

The government stepped up its efforts to combat criminal activity and eradicate violent armed groups in the Sahel region. In order to develop a common strategy to address these issues, it convened a meeting of regional peers, leading to the establishment of a regional intelligence cell and a joint operational base in the southern city of Tamanrasset.

There were reports in the press that key members of the self-styled Al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb, formerly known as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, had turned themselves in to the authorities.

Against a backdrop of ongoing social unrest linked to high levels of unemployment and poverty and political sensitivity regarding future electoral processes, the government adopted a five-year plan aimed at boosting the economy and improving public infrastructure.

According to official figures, around 55,000 detainees were being held in 127 prisons across the country. To alleviate overcrowding, the government took steps to implement alternatives to imprisonment while embarking on the construction of new detention facilities.

Algeria continued to serve as a point of departure or transit for irregular migrants seeking entry into Europe, including many sub-Saharan Africans as well as Algerian nationals. Unable to reach their destinations owing to tighter entry restrictions and border controls, many faced arrest or deportation.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	103		
RCMs distributed	76		
Phone calls facilitated between family members	18		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)			
ICRC visits	Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited	25,655		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	69	2	
Detainees newly registered	9		
Number of visits carried out	71		
Number of places of detention visited	70		
Restoring family links			
	Total		
RCMs collected	1		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	28		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In 2010, the ICRC maintained its focus on visiting detainees in Algeria to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Dialogue with the authorities, particularly within the Justice Ministry, was further developed based on the findings of such visits. In parallel, the ICRC reinforced its cooperation with the national IHL committee, military training institutions and civil society actors to foster widespread understanding of humanitarian principles and the Movement.

Delegates visited detainees in prisons and other facilities country-wide, sharing findings and recommendations confidentially with the authorities. Over the year, the ICRC also submitted two summary reports to the authorities, drawing their attention to key issues identified during its visits over a two- to three-year period. The first, submitted in February, focused on the welfare of detainees in prisons. The second, regarding the welfare of people held temporarily in police stations or *gendarmeries*, was submitted

in September. The reports laid the groundwork for constructive discussions with the Justice Ministry and the penitentiary administration, with the ICRC offering expert input to support them in improving detainees' physical and psychological well-being in the context of wider penal and penitentiary reforms. Such dialogue contributed to new government directives aimed at reducing overcrowding in prisons and introducing confidential medical consultations for persons held in temporary detention. A procedure was developed to notify families more systematically of a relative's detention. The Defence and Interior Ministries were formally invited to engage in a similar dialogue regarding detainees under their jurisdictions. Meanwhile, the ICRC pursued efforts to gather information about and gain access to detainees held by Algeria's intelligence and security services.

Following visits to foreign nationals awaiting deportation in Algerian retention centres, the ICRC submitted a note to the authorities to initiate a dialogue with them on the welfare of such people.

With ongoing ICRC back-up and encouragement, the Algerian Red Crescent provided Algerians with the opportunity to exchange news through its tracing and RCM services with family members detained/interned abroad or living in conflict-affected countries. Some detainees enjoyed the first direct contact with their families in 10 years.

Together with the authorities, the ICRC helped build the capacities of Algerian officials and structures to implement IHL independently in due course. To accelerate the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, it trained national IHL committee members, parliamentarians and magistrates in their role in supporting the process. To strengthen the integration of IHL into military training, the ICRC consolidated its working relationship with the Defence Ministry's training department, particularly by helping it enhance the quality of IHL instruction at the Cherchell Military Academy.

Meanwhile, efforts continued to build public awareness of and support for IHL and the Movement, notably by developing existing relationships with influential contacts in the media and religious and academic circles through seminars and discussion groups. Such activities gave rise to numerous articles in the press highlighting humanitarian issues and ICRC activities.

CIVILIANS

Families in Algeria were able to exchange news with relatives detained/interned in the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba or in countries such as Iraq and Lebanon, and visited by ICRC delegates, through telephone and RCM services facilitated by the Algerian Red Crescent. Such services were also made available to Algerians with relatives living in conflict-affected countries where communications were limited, and to former detainees/internees in efforts to ensure their welfare upon release. Families had the opportunity to see and speak to relatives currently held in the Guantanamo Bay internment facility via videoconference calls organized by the National Society in cooperation with the ICRC. For some, this was their first direct contact in over 10 years.

The Algerian Red Crescent continued to work with the ICRC on enhancing and expanding its family-links services, although at a slower pace than anticipated owing to internal reorganization (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). Through contacts with foreign communities resident in Algeria and with national and international actors working in the field of migration, the ICRC gained a better understanding of the challenges facing migrants, enabling it to apprise relevant actors of the Movement's family-links services at their disposal.

Within the framework of the 2005 Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, the Algerian authorities proceeded with the financial compensation of the families of persons unaccounted for from the internal strife of the 1990s. In this respect, they were reminded of the ICRC's readiness to share its experience in responding to the needs of such families.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees held in prisons under the authority of the Justice Ministry and in police/*gendarmérie* custody received visits from the ICRC, according to its standard procedures, to monitor their treatment and living conditions and respect for their judicial guarantees. Five weeks' notice of any such visits was required by the authorities.

Foreign nationals, including those detained after being refused entry to Algeria, were the focus of special attention given the particular risk of their becoming isolated. Through delegates, 86 of them informed their families or consular representatives of their situation.

Following visits, delegates shared their findings and recommendations, in confidence, with the authorities. A summary report submitted in February, covering key issues identified during visits to prisons between 2007 and 2009, served as a basis for discussions aimed at supporting the authorities in making lasting improvements to detainees' conditions. At a round-table convened to spearhead these efforts, the Justice Ministry, the prison service and the ICRC discussed the report findings and reviewed progress made towards implementing planned penal and penitentiary reforms. In particular, they examined issues relating to overcrowding and to disciplinary procedures in prisons with a view to preserving detainees' physical and psychological well-being.

A second summary report, submitted in September to the Foreign Affairs Ministry for distribution to the relevant authorities, focused on the welfare of people in police/*gendarmérie* custody, based on ICRC visits to such detainees between 2008 and 2010. The report aimed to support the development of a sustained dialogue between the relevant ministries and the ICRC, including on ways to ensure systematic adherence to complaints and investigation procedures provided for in the Criminal Procedure Act, with a view to reinforcing existing regulations designed to preserve inmates' legal rights. The authorities' response had not been received by year-end.

Visits to foreign nationals awaiting deportation in Algerian retention centres, complemented by information collected by the Mali Red Cross during contacts with migrants on the Algeria-Mali border (see *Niamey*), contributed to a greater understanding of their needs and the terms of their return to their countries of origin. The ICRC's initial observations from these visits regarding the material conditions of persons awaiting deportation aimed to give impetus to a discussion with the authorities on their welfare.

The ICRC pursued its efforts to seek information about and gain access to people detained by Algeria's intelligence and security services.

Authorities take steps to improve detainees' conditions

Detainees in prisons, numbering around 55,000 across 127 facilities, continued to suffer the repercussions of severe overcrowding. While progressing with the construction of new prisons, the authorities also took more immediate steps to alleviate the problem in coordination with the ICRC and other international bodies. These included making use of new legislation permitting the use of alternatives to

imprisonment when handing down sentences for minor offences and facilitating the partial or conditional release of detainees where appropriate. At local level, prison directors benefited from ICRC advice on implementing short-term measures to improve conditions in facilities under their management, such as enhanced aeration, better access to natural light and improved hygiene.

As part of efforts to raise prison health care standards, 60 prison health personnel attended a refresher seminar organized by the penitentiary administration, with ICRC participation. Training focused on the diagnosis and treatment of common health problems in prisons to pave the way for dialogue on medical ethics. After being briefed on the ICRC's detention-related activities, participants welcomed the prospect of closer cooperation.

Following discussions with the ICRC on how to improve the treatment of people held in police stations and *gendarmeries*, the Justice Ministry issued an instruction providing for these detainees to have a private medical consultation prior to their release. Relevant authorities were also reminded of the importance of allowing detainees to contact their relatives immediately after their arrest, resulting in more systematic notification of families.

AUTHORITIES

National and international authorities, diplomats and the ICRC maintained regular contact, exchanging information regarding Movement activities and mutual concerns such as penitentiary reform, irregular migration and regional insecurity.

Together with the ICRC, the Algerian authorities carried out activities to build the capacities of relevant officials and structures to incorporate IHL into national legislation. National IHL committee representatives shared their experiences with peers at an ICRC meeting of IHL experts in Beirut (see *Lebanon*) and attended regional courses, thereby acquiring the skills to pass on their knowledge to colleagues. Alongside some 200 parliamentarians, committee members also learnt about their role in supporting IHL implementation, and discussed the legal protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems at a study day organized by the People's National Assembly, the Commission for Foreign Affairs and the ICRC. Based on positive feedback, the People's National Assembly suggested collaborating with the ICRC on future events.

Twenty-seven practising magistrates enhanced their IHL expertise at one of a series of seminars planned by the Algerian Magistrates' School and the ICRC aimed at creating a future pool of specialists able to teach IHL independently.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL having been formally integrated into the curricula of military training establishments countrywide, the Defence Ministry and the ICRC worked together to support such facilities, particularly the Cherchell Military Academy, to reinforce military instructors'

capacities to teach IHL systematically and effectively to all sectors of the armed forces. To strengthen teaching resources, the ministry's training unit was supplied with IHL reference books.

Sixty IHL instructors enhanced their teaching techniques at a train-the-trainer course organized by the Cherchell Military Academy and the ICRC. Participants also learnt about the ICRC's support to the Algerian authorities in ensuring detainees' welfare. With ICRC sponsorship, one high-level officer further advanced his skills at the fourth Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations in Lucerne, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*). To enhance their awareness of humanitarian principles, some 300 cadets at the Academy attended an introductory briefing by the ICRC on IHL and the Movement.

Following changes within the Interior Ministry hierarchy, a similar briefing planned for police, *gendarmes* and security service officers was postponed with a view to combining it with a training exercise in 2011.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Existing ICRC contacts with the media, NGOs and academic and religious circles were strengthened, helping build support for the Movement among a broad cross-section of society.

To enhance reporting on humanitarian issues, one journalist received sponsorship to attend an IHL seminar abroad, while 40 others deepened their understanding of IHL and the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent role at a seminar co-organized by the ICRC and El Djazair News. This event, which prompted an animated debate about journalists' responsibilities during armed conflict, generated several articles in the press on ICRC activities. El Djazair News also published ICRC press releases weekly, while the ICRC's Arabic-language quarterly *Al-Insani* featured articles highlighting the links between IHL and Islamic law. One such contribution was commissioned from the president of the High Islamic Council. To focus resources on these activities, plans to broadcast radio spots were put on hold.

An influential Muslim Sufi order invited the ICRC to address its members for the second time, allowing more in-depth discussion of IHL-related issues and ICRC operations. Local NGOs also maintained dialogue with delegates, including on the humanitarian consequences of irregular migration.

Within the framework of the ICRC's ongoing partnership with the Algerian Magistrates' School, 25 trainee magistrates attending the third seminar of its kind learnt about the protection afforded to detainees under IHL. Magistrates previously trained by the ICRC contributed to the event.

Lecturers and students at the 14 Algerian law faculties teaching IHL received ICRC reference materials to support their work; many also made use of the delegation's research library. Three lecturers ben-

efited from sponsorship to join national IHL committee members at an IHL event abroad. To encourage further institutions to introduce IHL in their curricula, the dean of Algiers's Islamic Sciences faculty and the ICRC agreed to co-host a seminar in 2011 to promote the topic among law faculties countrywide; this was postponed from 2010 to facilitate maximum participation.


RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Algerian Red Crescent remained in a transition phase in anticipation of major management and structural changes. With the International Federation, the ICRC stood ready to support the National Society's efforts to regularize its governance, legal base and operational structures in line with the Movement's Fundamental Principles and the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures, and to facilitate its participation in statutory Movement meetings.

National Society personnel strengthened their capacities to restore family links (see *Civilians*), growing in confidence with the help of ICRC expertise and encouragement. In particular, family-links coordinators worked with delegates to advance progress on unresolved cases, refining record-keeping procedures to facilitate follow-up and drawing up action plans to guide field missions.

EGYPT



 ICRC delegation

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	272
Assistance	-
Prevention	747
Cooperation with National Societies	185
General	-

▶ **1,204**

of which: Overheads 74

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	100%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	4
National staff (daily workers not included)	35

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- ▶ helped the Egyptian Red Crescent Society expand its logistical capacity in the northern Sinai to improve the channel of vital relief aid to the Gaza Strip and cope with any emergencies at the Egypt-Gaza border
- ▶ engaged the authorities in confidential discussions aimed at alleviating the plight of would-be irregular African migrants to Israel
- ▶ together with the League of Arab States, actively promoted the integration of IHL into national legislation, university and school curricula, and the training of national armed forces in Egypt and throughout the Arab world
- ▶ co-organized with the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union and the Egyptian parliament the 2nd meeting on IHL for parliamentarians from 11 Arab countries, who agreed a plan of action to adopt and implement IHL treaties
- ▶ restored and maintained contact between family members separated by armed conflict, detention, displacement or natural disaster
- ▶ pursued discussions with the Egyptian authorities on ICRC access to security detainees in the country

The ICRC has been in Egypt, with some interruptions, since the beginning of the Second World War. It promotes the incorporation of IHL into domestic legislation, military training and academic curricula in Egypt. Its Cairo-based regional legal advisory, communication and documentation centre works in close cooperation with the League of Arab States and other ICRC delegations to do the same throughout the Arab world. The ICRC supports the work of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society. It also seeks to visit people deprived of their freedom in Egypt.

CONTEXT

The ruling National Democratic Party won a large majority in parliamentary elections held in June and November. Many, including observers and human rights organizations, alleged that the elections were marred by fraud.

In May, parliament extended the state of emergency, in place for three decades, by a further two years, despite strong criticism from opposition circles. The government limited application of the emergency law to cases of “terrorism” and drug-related crimes. Twenty-six Islamist militants of different nationalities were sentenced to heavy prison terms on charges of plotting to attack tourist and commercial sites.

Egypt contested an agreement signed by several other Nile River basin countries giving them a greater share of the Nile water flow, and sought to ensure respect for a 1959 accord granting it a majority share of the water.

Egypt continued to attract large numbers of people fleeing armed conflict, other situations of violence and economic hardship, mainly from the Horn of Africa. Thousands sought irregular entry into Israel, some of whom were killed by Egyptian border guards and others detained and deported. Many were reportedly held and abused by criminal gangs in the Sinai.

The Egyptian-brokered agreement between Fatah and Hamas was put on hold owing to persistent disagreement between the parties. In September, Egypt hosted the second round of direct Israeli-Palestinian talks, which ultimately collapsed over the Israeli settlement issue. Meanwhile, the Rafah border with the Gaza Strip was opened on a more regular basis to allow the passage of Palestinians to and from Egypt. Construction of a steel wall continued on the Egyptian side of the border, intended to stop the smuggling of goods and people through underground tunnels.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	42		
RCMs distributed	80		
Phone calls facilitated between family members	65		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons	Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	39	14	8
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	19		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	2		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)	44	14	13
Documents			
People to whom travel documents were issued	1,173		
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines	3		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Egypt continued to be a base of ICRC activities to support the promotion of neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action and the national implementation of IHL in the 22 member countries of the League of Arab States (Arab League).

Government officials, parliamentarians, judges, academics, military staff and diplomats of Arab League member States attended regional seminars to promote the integration of IHL into national legislation, university and school curricula, and armed forces' training programmes. In support of these activities, governments and national implementation bodies, as well as key civil society audiences, such as the national and international media, human rights NGOs and faith-based Arab humanitarian organizations, received relevant information from the ICRC's regional documentation and promotion centre in Cairo, which continued to produce written and audiovisual materials on IHL. The ICRC's

Cairo-based Arabic-language website remained a key reference on IHL-related issues. IHL courses for senior editorial staff from major Egyptian and international media outlets, including pan-Arab satellite broadcasters, resulted in more accurate and extensive coverage of IHL-related issues.

Together with the Inter-parliamentary Union and the Egyptian parliament, the ICRC organized the 2nd meeting on IHL for Arab parliamentarians, held in Cairo, during which 37 representatives of 11 Arab States agreed a plan of action to adopt and implement IHL treaties. Egypt's national IHL committee, with ICRC input, submitted to the Foreign Affairs Ministry a proposal on accession to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and made further progress with the Egyptian parliament on the adoption of laws on the protection of the emblem and the prosecution of war crimes.

Asylum seekers and refugees, particularly from sub-Saharan Africa, continued to rely on ICRC family-links services to

exchange news with relatives in their home countries. Families living in Egypt used the same services to contact relatives either detained/interned abroad or present in countries where communications had been disrupted by armed conflict, other situations of violence or natural disaster. Refugees without valid identity papers resettled in third countries using travel documents issued by the ICRC in coordination with the embassies and organizations concerned.

The ICRC pursued discussions with high-level officials regarding authorization to visit people detained on charges of endangering State security or in connection with the fight against “terrorism”, as yet to no avail. It also raised other issues of humanitarian concern with the relevant authorities, including the plight of irregular migrants trying to enter Israel via Egyptian territory.

A first-ever formal cooperation agreement was concluded between the Egyptian Red Crescent Society and the ICRC. A project to expand the National Society’s logistical capacity in northern Sinai was initiated to better enable it to manage the flow of relief aid to Gaza and cope with any emergencies at the Egypt-Gaza border.

CIVILIANS

Asylum seekers and refugees, particularly from sub-Saharan Africa, continued to rely on the ICRC family-links service to exchange news with relatives in their home countries. Families living in Egypt used the same service to trace and re-establish contact with relatives either detained/interned abroad or present in countries where communications had been disrupted by armed conflict, other situations of violence or natural disaster. In addition to the exchange of news via RCMs, dispersed family members also had direct contacts through phone calls facilitated by the ICRC. The remains of one Egyptian national who had died abroad were repatriated under ICRC auspices.

Family-links activities were carried out in close coordination with the IOM, UNHCR, NGOs and the Egyptian Red Crescent, as well as with community-based associations of refugees and migrants from Africa and Iraq. Information sessions held within these circles raised awareness of the Movement family-links network, thereby encouraging its use when required.

Families of people detained/interned make use of the family-links service

Families of Egyptian nationals detained/interned abroad were visited by ICRC staff to deliver RCMs from and collect RCMs for their relatives. Phone calls, including video calls, allowed them to have direct contact with relatives held in the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba.

After receiving certificates confirming the detention of their relatives, families were able to claim social welfare allowances and enrol their children in school. The situation of former detainees/internees released and transferred back to Egypt, including two Egyptian nationals repatriated under ICRC auspices after

their release from detention in Iraq, was assessed with a view to helping the most indigent among them. One Egyptian national formerly held in the Guantanamo Bay internment facility received assistance to help him start a small income-generating project, and another former Guantanamo internee received medical care.

Refugees assisted in resettling in third countries

Large numbers of people fleeing their home countries for political or economic reasons continued to arrive in Egypt. The majority came from Sudan but some from other countries in the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region and West Africa and from Iraq. Only a limited number were granted refugee status and accepted for resettlement in third countries.

Unaccompanied minors required particular attention. Coordination between organizations dealing with minors ensured maximum impact and the identification of unmet needs. Thus, when family reunifications were in their best interests, some minors joined their relatives abroad, having been provided with ICRC travel documents. Others, notably those without papers who had lost all support upon reaching majority and others awaiting family reunification, received psychological and vocational counselling provided by an NGO, with ICRC support.

Refugees without valid identity papers were able to resettle in third countries with travel documents issued by the ICRC in coordination with the embassies and organizations concerned.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Based on its right of initiative conferred by the Movement’s Statutes, the ICRC continued to engage in discussions with high-level officials regarding authorization to visit people held on charges of endangering State security or in connection with the fight against “terrorism”, as yet to no avail.

The Interior and Foreign Ministries and the ICRC held confidential discussions on the plight of would-be migrants to Israel either arrested by the Egyptian authorities prior to being deported or allegedly held and abused by people-trafficking gangs in the Sinai Peninsula. An ICRC report on this issue was submitted to the ministries in December with a view to developing discussions and cooperation with them regarding the welfare of these people.

AUTHORITIES

The 22 member States of the Arab League were encouraged to promote and implement IHL, including through joint Arab League/ICRC regional seminars for government officials, in particular members of national implementation bodies, to refine mechanisms for the incorporation of IHL into national legislation and into the curricula of training institutes for future judges and diplomats (see *Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon*). To follow up a plan of action adopted by Arab government experts in 2009, feedback on an Arabic version of a draft model law on the Rome Statute

was submitted to the Arab League for circulation amongst its member States. In parallel, 37 parliamentarians representing 11 Arab countries agreed a plan of action to adopt and implement IHL treaties at the 2nd meeting of Arab parliamentarians on IHL held in Cairo and co-organized by the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union, the Egyptian parliament and the ICRC. Furthermore, 34 officials from 16 Arab States acquired the necessary skills to teach the subject to their peers during regional courses organized by the ICRC in Beirut, Lebanon, and in Cairo.

Governments in the region benefited from additional material in Arabic prepared together with the Arab League to help establish national IHL committees, organize their work or assist in any related issues. This included an updated edition of the handbook of IHL treaties, a book on the role of the ICRC in developing IHL, and a guide on national implementation of IHL.

In Egypt, in part as a result of meetings with the ICRC, the national IHL committee submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding Egypt's accession to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Three seminars on IHL implementation organized with the parliament facilitated progress in drafting legislation on the protection of the emblem and the prosecution of war crimes. There was no opportunity to initiate a planned study on the compatibility of national legislation with IHL.

Scores of Egyptian civilian and military judges and public prosecutors raised their awareness of IHL and the ICRC by participating in IHL courses and essay competitions.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Arab League Military Affairs Department, together with the ICRC, continued to promote the integration of IHL into armed forces' doctrine and training in Egypt and throughout the Arab world. In this framework, 40 high-ranking officers from the military training and legal departments of 14 States attended a four-day IHL course co-organized by the Arab League and the ICRC in Cairo.

In Egypt, military forces participating in UN peacekeeping missions, as well as officers and judges at various military academies, attended tailored IHL training sessions. Police officers studying in academic institutes or based in the Sinai and 40 officials from six Arab States studying in the National Center for Social and Criminological Research heard presentations on IHL/international human rights law.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Pan-Arab media gave extensive coverage to IHL-related issues and ICRC operations, relaying key humanitarian messages to their audiences in the region and worldwide. In so doing, they drew on background materials in Arabic on IHL and the ICRC, including the ICRC's Cairo-based Arabic-language website and

quarterly *Al-Insani* magazine. Regional and national workshops, the latter organized by the national IHL committee, on IHL and the Movement for some 200 media professionals also contributed to more accurate reporting on these subjects. Egyptian TV channels marked International Women's Day by airing an ICRC spot on the plight of women in war zones.

The formal handover of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme to the Egyptian Ministry of Education was due to take place at the beginning of 2011. In addition to courses organized with the Arab League (see *Authorities*), PhD students from various Arab States and other students in Egypt deepened their IHL knowledge through documentation provided by the ICRC and presentations on IHL given in collaboration with UNHCR. In order to further optimize ICRC support in this domain, a survey was conducted on the status of IHL teaching in the Arab world.

At the invitation of two NGOs in Cairo, 44 human rights activists from Egypt and the occupied Palestinian territory attended briefings on IHL and the ICRC.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Egyptian Red Crescent and the ICRC concluded their first-ever formal cooperation agreement, covering 2010–12 in the fields of best management practices, IHL promotion, communication, family links, and emergency preparedness and response.

The National Society again channelled large quantities of international and its own relief aid to the Gaza Strip. To help handle the workload and better cope with any emergencies at the Egypt-Gaza border, it launched a project in Al-Arish to expand its logistics capacity by building a warehouse and training its staff and volunteers, with ICRC technical and financial support.

Similarly, the National Society boosted its emergency preparedness and response capacities through the renovation and equipment of its first-aid branch training centre in Cairo, while some 60 volunteers and young people learnt about the Movement and IHL during 3 three-day courses.

IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	1,691
Assistance	-
Prevention	1,443
Cooperation with National Societies	407
General	-

► **3,541**

of which: Overheads 216

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	81%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	6
National staff (daily workers not included)	44

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- facilitated the first meetings since 2008 of Iranian and Iraqi representatives aimed at clarifying the fate of people unaccounted for in connection with the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war
- welcomed the commitment to increase cooperation made by the new president of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ICRC president during a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland
- with the national IHL committee and the Payam Azadegan Cultural Institute, co-organized a conference on the challenges involved in the implementation of the Third Geneva Convention on the protection of POWs
- concluded a three-year cooperation agreement with the Iranian Red Crescent on mine-risk education
- with the National Society, developed a project to assist migrants in 3 provinces after assessing their needs
- pursued a research project with the Qom Institute for Islamic Studies, resulting in the publication of 2 volumes setting out common ground between Islamic law and IHL

The ICRC has been in the Islamic Republic of Iran, with some interruptions, since 1977. It seeks to clarify the fate of POWs registered during the Iran-Iraq war or identified through RCMs. It works in partnership with the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the fields of tracing, support to migrants, physical rehabilitation, international relief efforts and the promotion of IHL, for which the national IHL committee is an important partner. The ICRC supports mine-risk education. It also maintains a logistical supply base in the country in support of ICRC operations in the region.

CONTEXT

Following the previous year's bitterly contested presidential election, the Islamic Republic of Iran remained relatively calm in 2010. For the first time, the UN recognized International Nowruz Day (21 March). Supreme Leader and President Ahmadinejad received the presidents of Afghanistan, Iraq, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in Iran to celebrate the occasion.

The leader of the People's Resistance Movement of Iran, formerly known as Jundullah, was arrested in February, and his brother was executed in March. The group had claimed responsibility for two bomb explosions in Sistan-Baluchestan province in 2009.

The government started eliminating subsidies for fuel, gas, electricity, water and staple food, instead offering cash allowances

reserved for Iranian nationals to make up for the expected increase in the cost of living.

The country's standoff with certain members of the international community over its nuclear development programme continued despite the May talks mediated by Brazil and Turkey. The UN Security Council and the European Union imposed additional sanctions in June.

The Islamic Republic of Iran continued to host large numbers of mainly Afghan and Iraqi refugees and migrants. The government called on the international community to assume a greater share of the resulting financial burden, while accelerating expulsions of irregular Afghan migrants.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	55		
RCMs distributed	159		
Phone calls facilitated between family members	1		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations	Total		
People reunited with their families	4		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons¹	Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	97	22	30
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	22		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)	110	29	36
Documents			
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines	2		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)			
Restoring family links	Total		
RCMs collected	281		
RCMs distributed	219		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	473		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Not including people missing as a consequence of the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

During a meeting in Switzerland, the Iranian foreign minister and the ICRC president discussed the establishment of a headquarters agreement formalizing the ICRC's presence in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The ICRC's operational priorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran focused on: addressing the humanitarian consequences of the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war; promoting the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties; restoring family links; providing support to ICRC operations in Afghanistan and Iraq; and enhancing cooperation with the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The media gave increased coverage to the ICRC's mandate and work, which helped create a more favourable environment for its activities and acceptance of its humanitarian messages.

The ICRC continued to act as a neutral intermediary to facilitate Iranian and Iraqi efforts to address the issue of people unaccounted for in relation to the Iran-Iraq war and to help strengthen Iranian forensic capacities through the provision of financial and technical support. It facilitated the first meetings of Iranian and Iraqi representatives since 2008 and continued to work with them on resolving cases of persons previously registered as POWs, presumed POWs, or reported as missing, as well as of human remains. The ICRC also continued to work with the Iranian authorities on clarifying the whereabouts of former Iraqi POWs allegedly released in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The national IHL committee remained a key ICRC partner in promoting IHL treaties. It encouraged the Islamic Republic of Iran's accession to the 1977 Additional Protocols and finalized a comparative study on Iranian law and IHL.

Leadership changes within the Iranian Red Crescent resulted in the postponement of some joint activities with the National Society; however, the newly appointed National Society president and the ICRC president affirmed their commitment to step up cooperation.

The ICRC/Iranian Red Crescent tracing and RCM services enabled people to restore and maintain contact with relatives detained/interned abroad. The two organizations conducted a joint assessment of migrants' needs, resulting in the development of an assistance project, to start in 2011.

Cooperation on addressing weapon-contamination issues continued with the Iranian Mine Action Centre and other partners. The Janbazan Medical and Engineering Research Centre, the Martyrs Foundation and the ICRC organized a second session to facilitate specialized treatment of young people injured by mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW), aimed at patients who had been unable to attend the 2009 session. Building on their experience of co-organizing a regional seminar the previous year, the National Society and the ICRC signed a cooperation agreement on mine-risk education.

The ICRC maintained contact with religious authorities and institutions, universities and NGOs. It provided funding and technical support for their research and publications relating to IHL and/or common features shared by Islamic law and IHL, co-organized related events with them and sponsored their attendance at events abroad.

The Islamic Republic of Iran continued to serve as a logistics hub for ICRC operations in neighbouring countries, enabling large quantities of relief goods, water and shelter materials to be procured and/or dispatched to Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as to African countries.

CIVILIANS

Iranian and Iraqi authorities speed up action to clarify the fate of people unaccounted for

Further steps were taken to implement a joint memorandum of understanding signed by the Iranian and Iraqi governments in 2008, with the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary. The agreement aimed to clarify the fate of thousands of combatants and civilians on both sides still unaccounted for in connection with the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war and to relieve the anguish of their families.

The process gained fresh momentum as the Iranian and Iraqi authorities signed the rules and procedures proposed by the ICRC for the work of two tripartite committees intended to meet once a year with the respective tasks of resolving 1) cases of former and presumed POWs still unaccounted for and 2) cases of persons missing or killed in combat. This aimed to facilitate the collection and sharing of information and the exhumation, identification and repatriation of human remains.

In February 2010, nine sets of Iraqi human remains exhumed in the Islamic Republic of Iran were handed over to the Iraqi authorities, while the Iraqi authorities transferred a similar number of Iranian

human remains to the Iranian authorities, under ICRC auspices. In July, the remains of two Iranian soldiers were repatriated by the Iraqi authorities; the repatriation was facilitated by the ICRC.

In October, Iranian and Iraqi representatives met for the first time since 2008 under the ICRC aegis in Geneva, Switzerland, to settle unresolved cases of persons previously registered as POWs, presumed POWs, or reported as missing, as well as of cases of unidentified human remains. In a series of meetings, they clarified cases of missing persons, decided when and where to conduct future joint exhumations, and agreed to meet again in Tehran in January 2011. As a follow-up, the Iranian and Iraqi authorities received updated lists of missing Iranians and Iraqis from the ICRC, as well as answers provided by the respective authorities in some of the cases, enabling the families to be informed.

In the framework of a joint mechanism agreed upon by the Iranian authorities and the ICRC in 2004, new updated lists of former Iraqi POWs released in the Islamic Republic of Iran who remained unaccounted for were handed over to the Iranian authorities for further investigation. In addition, the ICRC issued former Iraqi POWs still in the Islamic Republic of Iran with detention certificates qualifying them for State allowances.

Iranian organizations involved in recovering and identifying human remains linked to the Iran-Iraq war continued to draw on ICRC forensic expertise, practical training and funding to strengthen their capacities. The Kawsar Genetic Research Centre (under the responsibility of the armed forces' Search and Recovery Committee) used ICRC funding to purchase spare parts for its DNA equipment. The Legal Medicine Organization sent an expert to attend a genetics course at a UK university, co-organized by the ICRC. The organization also requested the ICRC's help to introduce ICRC ante/post-mortem database software for use in large-scale disaster response, while discussions regarding training in the use of such software for the management of conflict-related data were ongoing with other actors.

Relatives separated by armed conflict maintain contact

People in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including refugees, mainly from Afghanistan and Iraq, were able to restore or maintain links with family members detained/interned abroad (Afghanistan, Iraq or the US internment facility at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba) through tracing and RCM services operated jointly by the ICRC and the Iranian Red Crescent. Afghan nationals detained in the Islamic Republic of Iran were able to contact their families in Afghanistan by the same means.

The cases of five unaccompanied/separated Afghan children were brought to the attention of the ICRC, which reunited them with family in Denmark, taking account of the children's best interests; five Iranian nationals were voluntarily repatriated from Iraq in operations facilitated by the ICRC.

Mine-risk education developed in contaminated regions

Weapon contamination remained a serious threat to people living in or transiting the five provinces bordering Iraq, as well as

an obstacle to economic development. Various partners involved in mine action continued to receive ICRC material and technical support and funding to develop their activities.

The Iranian Mine Action Centre and the ICRC cooperated on events such as International Mine Awareness Day (4 April), during which the authorities were briefed on ICRC mine-action work, and co-organized a refresher training course for mine-risk educators.

The Maaf NGO held mine-risk education sessions in 60 villages in Kurdistan and taught safe behaviour and first aid in another 60, reaching over 7,000 people in all. Maaf systematically shared data with the Mine Action Centre.

The Janbazan Centre devised measures to improve the quality of life of mine/ERW victims and their families, particularly by addressing their medical needs, based on a study produced jointly by the centre and the ICRC. The centre, the Martyrs Foundation and the ICRC co-organized a second session giving minors with mine/ERW-related disabilities the chance to have their cases examined individually and to be referred for specialized treatment; 37 youngsters attended, bringing to over 80 the number of people benefiting from the initiative. Their families were shown how to deal with their special needs.

After co-hosting a regional seminar on weapon contamination in 2009, the Iranian Red Crescent and the ICRC signed a cooperation agreement on mine-risk education. With ICRC support, the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security conducted mine-risk education for farmers and shepherds in Kermanshah and students in Khuzestan, found to be particularly endangered.

Representatives of the Iranian Red Crescent, the Janbazan Centre, the Mine Action Centre and the Welfare Organization were sponsored by the ICRC to attend relevant events abroad, for example an IHL course in Bangalore, India (see *New Delhi*), and a physicians' convention on the prevention of nuclear war held in Basel, Switzerland.

Migrants' needs assessed

Following an assessment of the living conditions and needs of migrant communities in three provinces, the Iranian Red Crescent and the ICRC developed a tripartite assistance project with the Interior Ministry, to be implemented by the National Society in 2011 with ICRC funding and technical support.

AUTHORITIES

Discussions continued between the ICRC and the Iranian authorities, including during a meeting between the foreign minister and the ICRC president, on the establishment of a headquarters agreement formalizing the ICRC's presence in the country. The Iranian president referred to IHL in a speech made at April's nuclear disarmament conference in Tehran, and the ICRC president's statement on nuclear weapons was circulated among Iranian officials. The authorities were also briefed on the organization's mandate and expertise on detention and weapon-contamination issues (see *Civilians*).

The national IHL committee contributed to the Islamic Republic of Iran's signing of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It stood ready to discuss with parliamentarians a study published by the parliamentary research centre on the country's accession to the Additional Protocols, recommending in particular the ratification of Additional Protocol I, albeit with some reservations. With the Payam Azadegan Cultural Institute and the ICRC, the national IHL committee organized a conference on the protection of POWs under the Third Geneva Convention, in which former POWs and military personnel participated. The national IHL committee finalized a study on Iranian law and IHL for publication and prepared the production/Farsi translation of IHL-related documents, including ICRC legal commentary.

Iranian officials visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and were sponsored to attend IHL-related events abroad (see *Nepal* and *New Delhi*). The Islamic Human Rights Commission sent representatives to the Review Conference of the Rome Statute (see *Uganda*) and invited the ICRC to give a speech at its conference on biological weapons.

Cooperation continued with religious institutions, including the Qom Institute of Islamic Studies. With ICRC technical support and funding, the Qom Secretariat produced research and other publications on Islamic law and IHL, sent a representative to participate in a regional IHL event in Beirut (see *Lebanon*) and contributed to IHL debates in religious circles.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC still had no direct contact with the Iranian armed forces, but the national IHL committee and the ICRC discussed the committee's plans to produce IHL teaching materials for the military.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Local media gave increased coverage to the ICRC's activities, drawing on its website in Farsi and other ICRC information sources. Contacts with media representatives, interviews with national news agencies and a first-ever national television interview enabled the ICRC to relay key humanitarian messages and information about its mandate and work to the general public.

Human suffering generated by war was brought home to a wide audience through the ICRC's "Humanity in War" photo exhibition hosted by the National Society and through a similar display staged on World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May) portraying the plight of civilians injured during the Iran-Iraq war. A documentary showing ICRC visits to Iranian POWs in Iraq was co-produced with the Payam Azadegan Cultural Institute and the Martyrs Foundation. Former POWs organized a national event, with ICRC participation, commemorating the 1990 mass repatriation of Iranian and Iraqi POWs.

At film festivals held by the Ministry of Education, a broad spectrum of viewers saw the Farsi versions of a “Save the health workers” TV spot and other productions provided by the ICRC, which gave out awards for the best films on humanitarian themes.

Work continued with the education authorities on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, which needed to be further adapted to the cultural context before its integration into school curricula.

Contacts with universities were pursued. Iranian student teams were sponsored by the ICRC to take part in an international and a national moot court competition; the winners of the latter event went on to the next round held in Bangladesh. Tehran University co-organized conferences with the ICRC on a study on Islamic law and IHL and on the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and an IHL course for diplomats; law experts prepared a book on the challenges facing IHL and materials on customary IHL. Other universities requested the ICRC’s expertise.

Some 30 NGO representatives participated in a workshop on IHL and the Movement, co-organized with the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Iranian Red Crescent and the ICRC continued to develop their operational partnership, particularly in the fields of restoring family links (for the first time RCMs were collected by the National Society from Afghans detained in the Islamic Republic of Iran), physical rehabilitation and mine-risk education. The secondment of National Society staff to ICRC rapid deployment missions and activities for migrants (see *Civilians*) was in preparation. The Iranian Red Crescent started its own project, initially planned as a joint undertaking with the ICRC, to provide war-affected women with psychological/social support. The year 2010 was marked by changes in the National Society leadership; the new president and the ICRC president undertook to increase bilateral cooperation and National Society coordination with Movement partners. National Society staff participated in meetings on the restoration of family links and IHL, as well as training courses at ICRC headquarters.

The leadership changes resulted in the postponement of some planned youth and physical rehabilitation activities; however, the first part of an ICRC training course on the management of international physical rehabilitation projects took place in November. The Iranian Red Crescent organized intensive training for two technicians working in an ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre in Tajikistan.

The ICRC and the International Federation coordinated on issues of common interest, such as the standardization of Iranian Red Crescent textile products. Some 200,000 blankets purchased from National Society textile factories were used in ICRC flood relief operations in Pakistan.

The quality of the National Society’s programme on IHL and the Fundamental Principles was highlighted in an external evaluation. Some 450 branch staff in 12 provinces attended workshops on IHL and the Movement, alongside participants from civil society, government and military circles.

IRAQ



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	16,575
Assistance	46,258
Prevention	7,120
Cooperation with National Societies	1,346
General	-

► **71,299**

of which: Overheads 4,351

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	84%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	99
National staff (daily workers not included)	587

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- further extended its presence in Iraq, enabling it to implement its activities directly through its own staff, assess needs in previously inaccessible regions and open an office with expatriate staff in Kirkuk
- monitored the treatment and living conditions of around 32,800 people held in 81 places of detention, including 1,839 individually monitored detainees
- strengthened the resilience of IDPs, households headed by women, farmers and disabled people by providing them with livelihood support benefiting 73,597 people, as well as help with obtaining State benefits
- improved the delivery of essential water and sanitation services to some 4.4 million Iraqis countrywide
- facilitated the transfer of expertise by providing training to more than 460 doctors and nurses, water treatment plant operators, prosthetic/orthotic technicians and physiotherapists
- started a project to clear mines/explosive remnants of war, making life safer for more than 10,000 inhabitants in the Missan governorate by clearing some 1,600 pieces of ordnance

The ICRC has been present in Iraq since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980. Protection activities focus in particular on people detained by Iraqi government, the Kurdistan regional authorities and the US forces in Iraq and on efforts to restore contact between separated family members with the support of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. Assistance activities involve helping IDPs and residents restore their livelihoods, with a focus on households headed by women, supporting physical rehabilitation centres and training medical personnel, and repairing and upgrading water, sanitation, health and detention infrastructure. The ICRC continues to promote IHL among weapon bearers.

CONTEXT

Despite improvements in the security situation, Iraq was still wracked by armed conflict. Armed violence, including bombings, election-related incidents and attacks by armed groups, continued to kill, displace or otherwise affect people, disrupting the lives of many communities; minority groups were often singled out. Inhabitants in north/north-western areas were displaced as a result of tensions and shelling in May/June.

Inconclusive elections in March 2010 were followed by months of political deadlock. The formation of a new all-inclusive government started in November when the Iraqi parliament elected the president, who in turn appointed the prime minister. By year-end, many key ministries had yet to be filled.

While economic development and service provision improved in some urban areas, the new government faced many challenges, for example in meeting health and sanitation requirements in rural communities. The need for water remained particularly acute in view of persistent drought. Despite widespread weapon contamination, hardly any organizations were involved in clearance of mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW). The combined security and economic problems dissuaded many Iraqis who had fled to neighbouring countries from returning.

The United States of America pursued the withdrawal of its troops. During the gradual closure and handover of US internment facilities, inmates continued to be transferred to the custody of the Iraqi authorities. Many families remained without news of relatives who went missing during conflicts involving Iraq since 1980.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages		Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected		2,901		
RCMs distributed		4,727		
Names published on the ICRC family-links website		9,456		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations		Total		
People transferred/repatriated		5		
Human remains transferred/repatriated		12		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons¹		Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		79	2	12
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		140		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)		2,500	20	103
UAMs/SCs,* including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers		Total	Girls	Demobilized children
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at 31 December 2010		1	1	
Documents				
People to whom travel documents were issued		803		
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		42		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits		Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited ²		32,801		
Detainees visited and monitored individually		1,839	63	24
Detainees newly registered		913	29	21
Number of visits carried out		228		
Number of places of detention visited		81		
Restoring family links		Total		
RCMs collected		8,294		
RCMs distributed		9,154		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		62		
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC		12		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		1,876		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Including people missing as a consequence of the 1990–91 Gulf War/not including people missing as a consequence of the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war

2. All detainees known through the authorities' notifications and followed up by the ICRC

ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Economic security, water and habitat			Total	Women	Children
Food	Beneficiaries		105,763	30%	51%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	58,713		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries		99,651	28%	53%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	73,745		
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries		73,597	25%	50%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	20,161		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries		4,390,364	30%	39%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	450,430		

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS				
ASSISTANCE				
Health		Total	Women	Children
Health centres supported	Structures	4		
Average catchment population		106,070		
Consultations	Patients	75,802		
	<i>of which curative</i>		21,338	29,787
	<i>of which ante/post-natal</i>		6,244	
Immunizations	Doses	34,076		
	<i>of which for children aged five or under</i>	33,606		
	<i>of which for women of childbearing age</i>	470		
Referrals to a second level of care	Patients	157		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat				
Food	Beneficiaries	17,113		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	7,370		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,400		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	23		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	4		
Admissions	Patients	3,733		
	<i>of whom weapon-wounded</i>	3,733		
Water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	5,623		
Physical rehabilitation				
Centres supported	Structures	13		
Patients receiving services	Patients	31,622	4,149	9,071
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	1,505	231	102
Prostheses delivered	Units	3,451	399	144
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	378		
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	7,677	1,133	4,688
Orthoses delivered	Units	12,748	1,498	8,774
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	30		
Crutches delivered	Units	2,087		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	86		

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC continued to expand its presence and operational reach in Iraq, enabling it to assess and respond to humanitarian needs in a more direct and targeted manner. Intensified networking with authorities, community and religious leaders and weapon bearers, combined with communication to facilitate field operations, was crucial to ensuring greater acceptance of and support for ICRC action. The ICRC gained access to areas its own staff had not been able to visit in several years (Babil, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salaheddin, Wassit, and areas around Baghdad city). By year-end, most staff involved in the operation were based inside the country, including 90 expatriate delegates. However, limited access and security and other constraints still hindered the full implementation of planned activities; for example, the number of people benefiting from economic security projects fell below target.

People newly displaced by the ongoing violence received ad hoc food and other emergency supplies. Based on targeted needs assessments, the ICRC assisted particularly vulnerable groups such as IDPs, households headed by women, disabled people and impoverished farmers, emphasizing livelihood rather than direct aid. The ICRC conducted a comprehensive assessment in the second part of the year aimed at increasing the effectiveness of its

action for destitute households headed by women. Vulnerable returnees and residents in rural communities in insecure and neglected areas of Anbar, Babil, Baghdad, Diyala, Dohuk, Ninewa, Salaheddin and Wassit governorates took part in agricultural projects; needs assessments continued in other rural areas.

Large segments of the population in these areas benefited from assistance provided regularly to primary health care centres. Medical and surgical supplies enabled hospitals to better cope with sudden high influxes of wounded people. In parallel, Iraqi doctors and nurses obtained additional qualifications through a joint project with the Iraqi central and Kurdistan regional governments to strengthen the Iraqi emergency services. Training, material and technical support to physical rehabilitation centres across the country continued, enabling them to provide care for the growing number of people with conflict-related disabilities.

Some 4.4 million Iraqis benefited from repair, maintenance and construction projects to improve water and sanitation services, systematically involving the authorities and including training components. The focus of activities to improve the water supply shifted to neglected rural and/or disputed areas that hosted many IDPs or were otherwise affected by conflict.

The ICRC visited thousands of detainees/internees held by Iraqi, Kurdish or US authorities, mostly in Iraqi places of detention, as detainees were being transferred to Iraqi jurisdiction; respect for their judicial guarantees was one of the priorities in the ICRC's dialogue with the detaining authorities. The voluntary repatriation of released foreign detainees and internees continued. Joint assessments with the Iraqi Correctional Service were conducted, aimed at improving prison water and sanitation conditions.

Progress was made in work with the Iraqi authorities to clarify the fate of people still unaccounted for from the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war and the 1990–91 Gulf War. Medico-legal institutes continued to draw on ICRC expertise and material assistance to strengthen their capacities.

After initial delays, an ICRC project to clear mines/ERW dating from the Iran-Iraq war began in mid-2010, with community mine-risk education carried out by the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

Various military and civil society target groups increased their awareness of IHL and the ICRC's action by attending briefings/presentations.

In addition to cooperating with Movement partners, the ICRC coordinated its activities with those of UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations to identify unmet needs and avoid duplication.

CIVILIANS

Increased presence on the ground allowed the ICRC to monitor the situation of civilians more closely, although access constraints limited its ability to collect extensive first-hand information on IHL violations. All parties concerned were called upon publicly to respect IHL, notably its provisions prohibiting attacks targeting civilians and indiscriminate attacks.

The situation at Camp Ashraf housing several thousand members of the Iranian Mojahedin Khalq group was regularly discussed with the authorities and other stakeholders to ensure compliance with IHL.

Conflict victims have their urgent needs addressed and regain self-sufficiency

Restoring or boosting conflict-affected people's livelihoods was a priority. Based on assessments, 53,436 people (8,307 households) benefited from agricultural inputs or other micro-economic initiatives. They included 7,829 destitute drought-stricken farmers (with their families, 50,175 people) who boosted their harvests thanks to ICRC agricultural inputs and the upgrading of irrigation canals as part of cash-for-work schemes. Combined with land reclamation, restocking and cattle vaccination campaigns, this meant they could continue to live off the land rather than seek work in cities. Some 465 disabled patients, including 16 women, from ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres started small businesses with ICRC grants, raising their family income by 40–80% (benefiting 3,166 people).

IDP households headed by women received particular attention; 2,505 of them (15,030 people) got food and essential household items monthly until scheduled distributions ended in May, as well as help with obtaining State benefits. After social services were decentralized, destitute women encountered additional problems in registering for benefits, although the ICRC urged central and local authorities to solve the problem. Thirteen households (95 people) participated in an initiative started by the ICRC with local NGOs to strengthen their income-generating capacities. The low number was largely due to the complex environment and the difficulties associated with identifying the types of project best suited to the women's needs and cultural context. After conducting a new comprehensive assessment of women's needs and the State pension system in the second part of the year, the ICRC decided to review its approach for 2011.

In addition, some 17,801 people displaced as a result of ongoing violence received one-off emergency food rations and 11,689 hygiene/household items. During Ramadan, over 72,900 vulnerable people received special food and relief handouts.

Water supply and health care improve in remote areas

Some 4.4 million Iraqis, including some 450,000 IDPs, mainly in violence-prone rural and disputed areas, enjoyed better water and sanitation services, contributing to a safer environment and disease prevention. People had access to upgraded water facilities, new supply systems and refurbished primary health care centres. Some 7,000 IDPs in settlements were supplied by water-trucking. All projects were designed to involve authorities and communities in rebuilding infrastructure. Over 120 water treatment plant operators enhanced their skills at ICRC training courses.

In 2010, an estimated 280,000 inhabitants, including IDPs, had better access to basic health care and emergency services in 8 ICRC-supported rural centres. Mid-year these centres started receiving more comprehensive ICRC on-site support focusing on strengthening hygiene and universal precaution, drug management, emergency services and adequate care for women and children, as well as structural improvements. Data from these centres were only partially available. However, as a result of ICRC action, the local health authorities appointed additional female doctors and provided equipment such as ambulances and beds to some facilities.

Weapon contamination is tackled

Communities in affected areas continued to be informed of the threat posed by weapon contamination through Iraqi Red Crescent awareness-raising activities, with ICRC material support.

After some delays, an ICRC project to clear mines/ERW in Missan governorate started in mid-year, in coordination with the authorities, the National Society and the Regional Mine Action Centre. By year-end, the team had cleared some 1,600 pieces of ordnance, making life safer in 26 areas.

Families receive news of their relatives

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC continued to encourage the parties concerned to clarify the fate of people still unaccounted

for from the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war and the 1990–91 Gulf War in bilateral meetings and through the related mechanisms; some progress resulted (see *Iran, Islamic Republic of* and *Kuwait*).

Dialogue continued with the central authorities on the creation of a national centre as well as the adoption of legislation to deal with the issue of missing persons from all conflicts. Discussions with oil companies and the authorities centred on the need to apply Iraqi and international law to protect human remains found during drilling operations. The regional authorities in Erbil agreed to increased ICRC involvement in the Kurdish governorates, starting with an assessment of forensic capacities.

Medico-legal institutes and hospitals received further support in the identification and storage of human remains. An ICRC-sponsored forensic expert attended a specialized DNA training course abroad. The Al-Zubair Centre in Basra installed an archiving system for better management of the files of Iraqi soldiers killed in action during the Iran-Iraq and Gulf wars; its staff received forensic training. At Baghdad's medico-legal institute, a second autopsy room was being refurbished, while the Beiji general hospital received a new mortuary refrigerator.

People restored family links, mainly with detained or interned relatives, via the Iraqi Red Crescent/ICRC RCM service. Six families visited relatives detained in Kuwait since 1991. People mainly of Palestinian origin resettled or joined family in third countries after receiving ICRC travel documents. A joint assessment paved the way for the National Society and the ICRC to strengthen family-links services for detainees and migrants.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People in the custody of the Iraqi central government, the Kurdistan regional government and the United States Forces-Iraq continued to receive visits from the ICRC conducted according to its standard procedures. Although security constraints hampered the ICRC's work in some parts of the country, 32,801 detainees held in 81 facilities were visited, including 1,839 individually

monitored and 913 newly registered detainees. After ICRC visits, the detaining authorities received confidential feedback on detainees' treatment and living conditions. The safety and judicial rights of people transferred to the Iraqi authorities during the gradual closure and handover of US internment facilities featured prominently in the dialogue with the Iraqi and US authorities; by year-end, one US-run facility was still operating.

Detainees and internees, mainly those held in US facilities, restored or maintained contact with their families through the Iraqi Red Crescent/ICRC via RCMs. Foreign nationals were repatriated voluntarily after their release, under ICRC auspices, as were the remains of a Saudi national who had died in prison. Former detainees and internees received ICRC detention certificates enabling them to apply for social welfare benefits.

Some 7,000 detainees held by the Iraqi central and Kurdistan regional governments benefited from direct support provided by the ICRC, including blankets, winter clothes and hygiene kits, as well as games, books and, for 17,000 of them, Ramadan treats.

People held by Iraqi federal authorities

Dialogue with the detaining authorities was expanded, focusing on ICRC access to all detainees and respect for judicial guarantees. At an ICRC workshop in Basra, 19 judges and prosecutors discussed in particular the use in courts of confessions obtained under duress.

Discussions regarding detainees' living conditions in some cases led to better access to open air spaces, improved cell conditions and more frequent family visits.

Prison health services received ICRC technical and material assistance, including drugs, medical equipment and advice on scabies treatment. Detainee health care improved significantly in two federal prisons in northern Iraq thanks to closer cooperation between the prison and local health authorities to address shortcomings together with the ICRC, including services for disabled detainees. Similar cooperation was being encouraged regarding health projects in the Rusafa and Fort Suse prisons.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	IRAQ CENTRAL GOVERNMENT	IRAQ KURDISTAN REGIONAL	UNITED STATES
ICRC visits			
Detainees visited ¹	23,126	3,559	6,116
Detainees visited and monitored individually	807	482	550
	<i>of whom women</i>	11	
	<i>of whom minors</i>	6	
Detainees newly registered	323	237	353
	<i>of whom women</i>	6	
	<i>of whom minors</i>	5	
Number of visits carried out	118	105	5
Number of places of detention visited	37	40	4
Restoring family links			
RCMs collected	8,232	62	
RCMs distributed	9,130	24	
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	24	38	
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC	10	2	
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	1,292	293	

1. All detainees notified by the authorities and followed up by the ICRC

In detention places run by the Iraqi Correctional Service, measures were taken to address overcrowding and accelerate medical referral. Some 1,400 detainees in Baghdad and Hilla benefited from projects to install air conditioners and refurbish the sewage system. Joint assessments conducted with the ICRC in 11 prisons countrywide led to the preparation of infrastructure projects.

People held by the Kurdistan regional government

The dialogue with the Kurdish authorities helped improve ICRC access to detainees as well as respect for judicial guarantees in some areas, as confirmed by interviews with 100 detainees. The Kurdish regional judicial council issued specific instructions to its members to respect such guarantees, including the right to legal counsel after arrest. This led to a review of the cases of several detainees under death sentence. The authorities also pardoned some detainees who had long been held without trial. The need to clarify the whereabouts of people allegedly arrested and to inform their families was taken up at the highest level.

The authorities acted on ICRC recommendations regarding overcrowding and the detention regime in specific cases. Discussions continued with police on conditions of detention and treatment in some police stations.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Improved Ministry of Health supplies and fewer casualties meant a decrease in hospitals' need for ICRC emergency supplies. However, following armed violence, 23 hospitals provided emergency services in part thanks to the supply of ICRC medical and surgical materials. The 4 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data treated 3,733 wounded patients.

As part of the project to strengthen emergency services in Iraq, run jointly by the Iraqi central and Kurdistan regional governments and the ICRC in the Najaf and Sulaymaniyah referral hospitals, 335 medical staff completed courses in emergency services, trauma management and infection control, bringing to 579 the number of health professionals certified by the programme since its start in 2009.

Conditions improved in several hospitals (total capacity: 5,623 beds) thanks to the upgrading of infrastructure and basic services by the ICRC; 143 hospital maintenance teams received training. Two major Baghdad hospitals suffering from water shortages relied on daily ICRC water-trucking. In all, 128 patients at the Al Rashad psychiatric hospital in Baghdad participated on a monthly basis in an ICRC-supported occupational therapy programme.

More than 31,622 physically disabled people received care at the 10 ICRC-supported rehabilitation centres in the country, including 8 run by the Ministry of Health in Baghdad, Basra, Fallujah, Hilla, Najaf and Tikrit, and two operated in Erbil by the ICRC and by a local NGO. The centres and three crutch-production units in Baghdad, Basra and Erbil used ICRC-supplied materials and received regular maintenance and staff training. Work progressed

on the construction of a new centre in Nassiriyah, intended to meet the growing demand for limb-fitting services.

Iraq's Prosthetics/Orthotics School continued to receive ICRC support and its teachers' skills stood to benefit from a budding partnership with a Scottish university.

AUTHORITIES

Iraq acceded to Additional Protocol I, drawing on ICRC expertise. Otherwise, dialogue with the central, regional and local authorities focused on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities (see *Civilians* and *People deprived of their freedom*).

Regular bilateral and multilateral meetings between the ICRC and UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations active in Iraq ensured coordination in fields of common interest. These organizations as well as the diplomatic community in Iraq received regular briefings and information on ICRC activities in the country.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The central and regional armed and security forces maintained a constructive dialogue with the ICRC on training in IHL and its incorporation into their training manuals and operating procedures. They were also briefed on the ICRC's mandate and activities.

Over 1,000 officers of the armed and security forces attended briefing sessions familiarizing them with the ICRC's mandate and activities, as well as humanitarian concerns. The sessions were mostly held in areas controlled by the Kurdistan regional government, given security constraints elsewhere in the country. For the first time, they included staff of the Kirkuk military division and two Peshmerga brigades deployed in the disputed areas. Senior officers increased their IHL knowledge at three workshops co-organized by the National Defence University, the armed forces' Training and Doctrine Command and the ICRC, and legal advisers from selected infantry divisions participated in an IHL seminar. Instructors at the Centre for Military Values enhanced their IHL teaching capacities at a train-the-trainer workshop; military training facilities received IHL reference materials.

Five high-ranking officers attended ICRC-sponsored IHL training in San Remo, including one who was subsequently appointed to chair a military commission tasked with overseeing the integration of IHL into the combined Peshmerga forces. Additionally, one military judge attended the Geneva Centre for Security Policy course, while another Iraqi officer, now based at the Baghdad Operation Command, attended the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations, held in Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*).

Dialogue with the United States Forces-Iraq continued at all levels, both in Iraq and the United States of America.

CIVIL SOCIETY

International and local media reported on ICRC activities and the enduring humanitarian consequences of the conflict in Iraq, based on regular briefings of journalists and ICRC information materials. Journalism students learnt more about these issues at a seminar held in Sulaymaniyah. Contacts were expanded with the large network of NGOs concerned with women's issues, particularly in view of ICRC activities for women (see *Civilians*).

Religious scholars from the Kurdistan region, Kirkuk and Mosul attended an ICRC conference on IHL and Islam in Dohuk, aimed at fostering dialogue on the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent action. Regular meetings with tribal leaders from southern, northern and central Iraq provided opportunities to familiarize them with the ICRC's mandate, to enhance mutual understanding and discuss humanitarian issues, as well as to facilitate the movements and work of ICRC staff. Academics from eight universities increased their knowledge of IHL and ICRC activities in Iraq during a series of lectures.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Iraqi Red Crescent and the ICRC signed a partnership framework agreement confirming and strengthening their operational cooperation in the fields of restoring family links, mine-risk education and data gathering (see *Civilians* and *People deprived of their freedom*), and the promotion of the National Society's visual identity. As part of cooperation activities, a high-frequency radio network was installed in 11 governorates, the Iraqi Red Crescent received 157 first-aid kits and 30 National Society staff honed their dissemination/communication skills at an ICRC workshop.

The Iraqi Red Crescent continued to receive institutional support and guidance from the ICRC and the International Federation aimed at strengthening its legal and statutory base.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES



⊕ ICRC delegation
 ⊕+ ICRC sub-delegation
 ⊕◇ ICRC mission
 ⊕ ICRC office
⊕△ ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	17,159
Assistance	35,522
Prevention	4,358
Cooperation with National Societies	3,825
General	-

▶ **60,865**

of which: Overheads 3,715

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	99%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	86
National staff (daily workers not included)	292

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- ▶ persisted in its efforts to seek compliance by Israel with its obligations under IHL towards the Palestinian population living under its occupation, as well as respect for civilians' and detainees' rights by Palestinian authorities and armed groups
- ▶ shared confidentially with the detaining authorities observations on detainees' treatment and living conditions after visiting 22,469 Palestinians held by Israel and 3,693 people detained by Palestinian authorities
- ▶ through its family visits programme, enabled people from the West Bank to visit 4,741 relatives detained in Israel
- ▶ kept Gaza's ailing health care system afloat by supplying it with 231 tonnes of drugs and consumables, medical equipment and spare parts and by training health professionals
- ▶ improved access to clean water and sanitation through projects benefiting 662,700 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank
- ▶ provided some 8,000 impoverished Gaza and West Bank residents with essential household items and/or monthly food supplies and assisted 58,345 others through economic security projects

The ICRC has been present in Israel and the occupied territories since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It strives to ensure respect for IHL, in particular its provisions relative to the protection of civilians living under occupation. It monitors the treatment and living conditions of detainees held by the Israeli and Palestinian authorities and provides assistance to the Palestinian population. As the lead agency for the Movement in this context, the ICRC coordinates the work of its Movement partners and supports the activities of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom.

CONTEXT

After a 10-month moratorium on settlement construction, talks between the parties to the conflict stalled. The United States of America withdrew incentives it had planned to offer Israel to further freeze settlement building. The Palestinian Authority announced its intention to submit a resolution to the UN Security Council calling on Israel to halt Jewish settlements in Palestinian territory and Jerusalem.

Despite talks, the rift between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority persisted, and the political process remained at a standstill.

The plight of people living in the Gaza Strip under Israeli blockade remained critical. The blockade was eased under international pressure after Israeli forces forced the retreat of a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, killing nine Turkish people on board.

Sporadic rocket fire from Gaza into Israel prompted retaliatory Israeli ground incursions and bombardments, while Hamas took further steps to curb extremist Islamist militants held responsible for rocket attacks.

Movement restrictions still hampered people's lives in the West Bank, as did settlement building and settler violence against Palestinians.

No tangible progress was made in negotiations regarding the release of the Israeli soldier held by Hamas since 2006.

After Hamas and Israel replied to a UN report on their conduct of hostilities during the 2008–09 Gaza conflict, the UN resolved to continue monitoring the progress of domestic investigations.

Peace talks between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic remained suspended.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS				
PROTECTION				
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages		Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected		6,343		
RCMs distributed		8,013		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations		Total		
People reunited with their families		3		
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	1		
People transferred/repatriated		951		
Human remains transferred/repatriated		6		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons		Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		12	1	
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		3		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)		17	4	
Documents				
People to whom travel documents were issued		8		
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		2,817		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits		Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited ¹		26,162		
Detainees visited and monitored individually		8,334	70	572
Detainees newly registered		5,359	28	444
Number of visits carried out		750		
Number of places of detention visited		109		
Restoring family links		Total		
RCMs collected		8,330		
RCMs distributed		6,817		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		4,438		
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		4,741		
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC		5		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		11,673		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. All detainees known through the authorities' notifications and followed up by the ICRC

ASSISTANCE				
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat				
		Total	Women	Children
Food	Beneficiaries	8,163	26%	47%
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	7,936	26%	47%
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	58,345	26%	47%
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	658,188	26%	47%

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

ASSISTANCE

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	25,504		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	23		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	Structures	23	
Admissions	Patients	343,947		
	<i>of whom weapon-wounded</i>	Patients	1,061	
	<i>of whom other surgical cases</i>	Patients	83,812	
	<i>of whom medical cases</i>	Patients	125,591	
	<i>of whom gynaecological/obstetric cases</i>	Patients	133,483	
Operations	Operations performed	81,354		
Outpatient consultations	Patients	810,667		
	<i>of which surgical</i>	Patients	363,016	
	<i>of which medical</i>	Patients	325,325	
	<i>of which gynaecological/obstetric</i>	Patients	122,326	
Water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	4,535		
Physical rehabilitation				
Centres supported	Structures	1		
Patients receiving services	Patients	2,833	215	1,892
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	67	9	2
Prostheses delivered	Units	68	9	2
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	400	18	342
Orthoses delivered	Units	416	20	355
Crutches delivered	Units	91		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	16		

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC continued to remind Israel of its obligations under IHL towards the Palestinian population living under its occupation. It monitored the humanitarian consequences of certain Israeli policies and the impact of military operations and took these up regularly with the Israeli authorities with a view to finding viable solutions to at least temper their effects.

As a basis for dialogue, the ICRC provided the Israeli authorities with reports on the impact of access restrictions on Gaza's fishing community, Israel's occupation policies on rural communities in the Jordan Valley, and the armed forces' use of force in and around Gaza's buffer zone. The authorities replied substantively to ICRC reports on the adverse consequences of the routing of the West Bank barrier and pursued dialogue with the ICRC on Israel's conduct of hostilities during the military operation in the Gaza Strip in late 2008/early 2009.

The ICRC's dialogue with the Palestinian authorities and armed groups focused on the need to respect both Israeli and Palestinian civilians.

In the course of regular visits to Palestinians detained by Israel, the ICRC checked that their treatment and living conditions were in line with internationally recognized standards. The ICRC family visits programme enabled detainees to exchange news with and receive visits from family members, although the Israeli authorities

continued to prevent family visits from the Gaza Strip. The ICRC also visited people held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip and by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. After all visits, the ICRC provided the authorities with confidential feedback. Efforts to gain access to the Israeli soldier captured in June 2006 and detained by Hamas remained unsuccessful.

ICRC assistance focused on alleviating the plight of Palestinians suffering the worst effects of the occupation. Cash-for-work and livelihood-support projects, where possible involving local solutions to circumvent import restrictions, benefited mainly impoverished people in the closed-off Gaza Strip, but also West Bank residents affected by restrictions on access to their land.

Through the provision of life-saving medical and surgical supplies, equipment and spare parts, as well as training, the ICRC helped Gazan hospitals maintain essential services for the wounded and sick. It contributed to better addressing the needs of amputees by providing technical and material assistance, including an upgrade of the building and the construction of an access route, to the only facility in the Gaza Strip that provided orthopaedic appliances and physical rehabilitation services.

The ICRC kept up its work to maintain the water and sanitation infrastructure in the Gaza Strip and to improve the water supply in poorly served West Bank communities. Where possible, the projects were designed to favour long-term solutions, aimed at helping to improve public health while protecting the aquifer.

The ICRC pursued efforts to clarify the fate of people – Israelis, Lebanese and Palestinians – still unaccounted for from past conflicts in the region. Acting as a neutral intermediary, the organization facilitated contacts and trade between inhabitants of the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic. It enabled several Palestinians to visit or permanently join family elsewhere after securing the necessary authorization from the Israeli authorities.

The delegation promoted IHL in government, military, academic, media and religious circles, and worked to raise awareness of humanitarian issues among members of the international community.

The Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society continued to receive ICRC financial, material and technical support to bolster their operational capacities, in particular their emergency medical services (EMS); support to the Palestine Red Crescent EMS was provided jointly with the Norwegian Red Cross.

CIVILIANS

Efforts made to ensure respect for civilians

Given the adverse impact of certain Israeli policies and practices on the civilian population, more than 1,100 oral and written representations were made to the Israeli authorities, urging them, *inter alia*, to:

- ▶ review their occupation policies in line with the relevant provisions of IHL
- ▶ protect the Palestinian population from attacks and harassment by Israeli settlers and damage to their property
- ▶ refrain from the disproportionate use of force during law enforcement, search and arrest operations
- ▶ find viable solutions for ensuring access to agricultural lands and essential services for Palestinian communities affected by the routing of the West Bank barrier and other movement restrictions

Through ICRC reports, the Israeli authorities were informed of the harmful consequences of: restrictions on sea access on the livelihood of Gaza's fishing community; the use of force by the military in and around Gaza's buffer zone; and Israel's occupation policies on rural communities in the Jordan valley (this report was also shared with certain States' representatives).

The Israeli authorities and the ICRC held substantive discussions on two ICRC reports submitted in 2009 on the negative impact of the routing of the West Bank barrier and on the conduct of hostilities by Israeli forces during their 2008–09 military operation in the Gaza Strip.

In the Gaza Strip, dialogue with the *de facto* authorities and armed groups focused on alleged violations of IHL and other relevant norms and on the need to end attacks against Israeli and Palestinian civilians.

Struggling communities improve their livelihoods

In both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, over 1,000 people (164 households) whose houses had been damaged or destroyed as a result of the ongoing armed conflict were better able to cope after receiving shelter materials and other emergency supplies.

Impoverished people in the Gaza Strip benefited from ICRC economic security projects enabling them to increase their income and improve basic community services. In all, 13,346 people (2,053 households) benefited from cash-for-work projects (compared with initial planning, fewer people working more days). Through a compost-production project run with local partners to counter import restrictions, 13,937 farmers (2,144 households) boosted soil fertility and yields; some of them also received help with pest control.

In the West Bank, 13,056 people (2,341 households) affected by movement restrictions benefited from agricultural inputs or income-generating projects. To ease their dire economic conditions, 6,978 people (1,092 households) living in the most severely restricted areas of Hebron City continued to receive monthly food rations and hygiene kits provided jointly by the Palestine Red Crescent and the ICRC.

In Masafar Yata (rural Hebron), 17,732 residents (2,891 households) saw a 25% drop in their livestock's mortality rate after completion of a two-year programme to immunize 59,000 head of cattle against enterotoxaemia.

Residents have access to a safe water supply and better sanitation

Some 529,688 people in the Gaza Strip and 128,500 in the West Bank benefited from ICRC projects to repair/upgrade water and sanitation infrastructure, implemented with local water boards. The projects improved the quality and quantity of the water supply, encouraged sustainable resource management and, through better treatment and disposal of sewage and wastewater, contributed to disease prevention.

For example in the Gaza Strip, 350,000 residents faced fewer health risks from sewage flooding after the stormwater and manure treatment systems were fixed. Some 150,000 people benefited from work to refurbish/upgrade the Rafah wastewater treatment plant, which was equipped with bio-towers. This helped make treated water reusable for irrigation. Renovation of two storm-water pumping stations in Gaza City started in November, and the possibility of undertaking further sewage infrastructure projects was being assessed.

To help them cope with urgent sanitation problems, hospitals continued to receive technical and material assistance, benefiting 4,135 people.

In the West Bank, rural and urban residents had easier access to water as the rehabilitation/construction of water transportation and storage facilities to replace water trucking resulted in improved distribution systems, halving the cost of water per cubic metre. A project targeting 11 villages in south Nablus entered its final phase, while a similar project, including the installation of water tanks and water transmission lines started for 19 villages in the Hebron governorate.

People overcome movement restrictions

Because of borders, front lines and movement restrictions, people used the ICRC as a neutral intermediary to facilitate the exchange of news via RCMs, reunification with family members, the transfer of documents, and travel between the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic, between Lebanon and Israel, and sometimes between locations in the Palestinian territory. Family-links services were particularly in demand among: families of detainees held in Israel; people wishing to trace missing relatives or repatriate deceased relatives' remains from Israel; Lebanese nationals and migrants in Israel wanting to contact/join relatives abroad; and Palestinian children and elderly people, some with disabilities, visiting or going to live with relatives in other parts of the occupied territory or abroad after receiving authorization from the Israeli authorities.

Family visits between people living in the Golan and their relatives in the Syrian Arab Republic remained suspended, despite ICRC efforts to urge the Israeli authorities to lift the ban. Nonetheless, with transport/travel across the demarcation line facilitated by the ICRC, Golan farmers boosted their livelihoods by selling their apple harvest in Syrian markets for the fifth year running, and over 900 pilgrims and university students travelled to Damascus and back home (see *Syrian Arab Republic*).

The families of Israelis who went missing in past military action abroad maintained regular contact with the ICRC. After the discovery of human remains near Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, where three Israelis went missing, the Israeli and Lebanese authorities and the ICRC agreed on work to identify the remains.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People held by Israel

Detainees held by the Israeli authorities in prisons, interrogation centres, provisional detention centres and police stations received regular visits, conducted according to standard ICRC procedures. Detainees under interrogation, administrative detainees and detainees in prolonged solitary confinement were paid particular

attention, as were detained migrants, minors and women. After receiving confidential feedback on delegates' findings, the detaining authorities made a number of improvements, for example regarding material conditions.

Detainees with specific needs (in total 19,404), including women, minors and migrants, received clothes and educational and recreational items. Eighteen migrants were released and returned to their country of origin with the ICRC's help in dealing with administrative and other issues.

Detainees from the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Golan continued to benefit from the ICRC's extensive family visits programme; 46% of detainees held for more than three months received a monthly visit. The introduction of ICRC tracking software facilitated the process of obtaining permits issued by the detaining authorities, and problems related to the treatment of visiting relatives at Israeli checkpoints were raised with them. Some 124,000 people were transported, including 30 with health problems by ambulance, to visit relatives in detention.

Detainees from the Gaza Strip and their families, prevented by Israel from visiting their detained relatives since July 2007, exchanged news through RCMs, phone calls and news directly relayed by ICRC delegates, who doubled the number of their visits to Gazan detainees to ensure more regular family contact.

People held in the Palestinian territory

Detainees in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank regularly received ICRC visits, which were followed up by confidential reports to the Palestinian detaining authorities detailing delegates' findings and recommendations, particularly regarding detainees' treatment, living conditions and respect for their judicial rights. In the West Bank, the minister of the interior received a comprehensive update on the state of affairs in detention centres under his jurisdiction.

In the Gaza Strip, the *de facto* authorities received ICRC representations regarding the treatment of detainees, and in specific cases, respect for their judicial rights.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	ISRAEL	PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
ICRC visits		
Detainees visited ¹	22,469	3,693
Detainees visited and monitored individually	4,641	3,693
	<i>of whom women</i>	12
	<i>of whom minors</i>	68
Detainees newly registered	2,232	3,127
	<i>of whom women</i>	3
	<i>of whom minors</i>	59
Number of visits carried out	373	377
Number of places of detention visited	39	70
Restoring family links		
RCMs collected	8,076	254
RCMs distributed	6,698	119
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	2,649	1,789
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	4,741	
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC	5	
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	10,184	1,489

1. All detainees known through the authorities' notifications and followed up by the ICRC

Some 6,100 detainees, mainly in the Gaza Strip, received hygiene items and other essentials.

In the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, medical and other staff of the Military Medical Services and the Palestinian Security Services (including the Palestinian Civil Police) studied public health issues and medical ethics in detention at two ICRC seminars.

ICRC efforts to visit the Israeli soldier captured in 2006 and detained by Hamas and to enable him to communicate with his family remained unsuccessful.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Hospitals throughout the Palestinian territory were monitored to assess their needs in terms of medical supplies, equipment and spare parts and their use of ICRC-donated materials; concerns about the impact of movement and import restrictions on essential hospital activities and on patients' access to treatment in Israel or elsewhere were raised with the Israeli authorities, and patients' and ambulance movements across checkpoints were facilitated by the ICRC in its capacity as a neutral intermediary. Hospital staff were familiarized with IHL provisions protecting medical services.

In particular Gazan hospitals managed to function thanks to essential surgical and emergency equipment provided by the ICRC. This included spare parts, fuel, maintenance/rehabilitation, and substantial financial and other assistance, such as 231 tonnes of drugs and consumables, as well as help with transporting these from the West Bank, and up-to-date reference literature. Some 140 medical professionals enhanced their skills through emergency room training.

A total of 343,947 patients were admitted to ICRC-supported hospitals.

The EMS of Gaza's *de facto* health authorities drew on substantial ICRC technical, material and financial assistance, and the Palestine Red Crescent received similar support provided jointly by the ICRC and the Norwegian Red Cross. This included funding of the operating costs of the Palestine Red Crescent EMS, managerial, medical and maintenance training for the other EMS, and, in both cases, the provision of communication equipment. This enabled the *de facto* health authorities' and the National Society's EMS to provide ambulance services for 103,066 patients and 69,412 patients, respectively.

Gaza's Artificial Limbs and Polio Centre received material support and training in post-surgical rehabilitation and physiotherapy. The renovation of its building and construction of an access road enabled the centre to extend opening hours, resulting in more thorough individual consultations and patient follow-up. Some 2,833 patients received services there. An ICRC-sponsored trainee technician completed prosthetic-orthotic training in India.

AUTHORITIES

Dialogue with the Israeli and Palestinian authorities, including the *de facto* authorities in Gaza, focused on operational and IHL-related issues (see *Civilians, People deprived of their freedom and Wounded and sick*).

The Palestinian Legislative Council was still unable to pass emblem legislation because of its continued paralysis. Palestinian officials, including representatives of the *de facto* authorities in the Gaza Strip, political parties and village councils attended briefings on ICRC action and the legal norms applicable to their functions.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Familiarizing the armed and security forces with IHL, international human rights norms and the ICRC remained crucial (see *Civilians*).

Operational dialogue with the Israel Defense Forces gained pace as contact was initiated with the Southern Command stationed around Gaza and pursued with West Bank brigades and working groups established to follow up the ICRC's report on the conduct of hostilities during the military operation in Gaza. Some 970 members of the armed forces, border guards, police, prison service and crossing-point administration attended briefings on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities. Contact with the International Law Department and the Military Law School was ongoing. While the dialogue on IHL integration still needed to be developed, the working relationship with military training establishments was nurtured through ICRC presentations, and a high-ranking officer was sponsored by the ICRC to attend an IHL course in San Remo.

The Palestinian Interior Ministry drew on ICRC input to enhance security service training, including for a harmonized manual, and incorporated an ICRC lecture on the legal framework applicable to the functions of Palestinian security services into its leadership courses, attended by 400 officers. More than 1,000 members of the security services learnt about the Movement and human rights norms relating to law enforcement through ICRC-organized events.

Dialogue on operational issues was maintained with various armed groups in the Gaza Strip; 300 Palestinian militants learnt about the ICRC, IHL and first aid at ICRC workshops.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Information provided to international, Israeli and Palestinian journalists, who also took part in field visits, generated extensive coverage of IHL-related issues and ICRC activities in the Israeli-Palestinian context; two Palestinian journalists attended an ICRC regional seminar in Egypt. By participating in briefings and other events, Israeli, Israeli-Arab and Palestinian NGOs learnt about the

ICRC and IHL. Palestinian religious leaders and Islamic scholars discussed IHL and sharia law at ICRC-organized events, including with Christian leaders. Twenty-one scholars attended ICRC regional events (see *Jordan* and *Lebanon*).

Contact was maintained with Israel's academic community. The Hebrew University and the ICRC co-organized an IHL conference and a national IHL competition. Three ICRC-sponsored law experts participated in IHL events abroad.

Nine Gazan and West Bank law or sharia faculties taught IHL; representatives of other Gazan universities attended ICRC workshops with a view to incorporating IHL into their courses. ICRC-sponsored scholars honed their IHL teaching skills at local and regional ICRC events. West Bank law deans and the ICRC co-organized a conference on challenges facing IHL, while law students attended presentations on the ICRC and IHL.

The Exploring Humanitarian Law school programme continued to receive ICRC financial and other support, including help with finding new funding sources, in preparation for its handover to the Palestinian education authorities in 2011. The programme was taught in some 270 Gazan and West Bank classes.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Palestine Red Crescent worked closely with the ICRC, particularly on strengthening its EMS. Building on lessons learnt from the Israeli military operation in the Gaza Strip, the two organizations refined their emergency response tools. Based on ICRC input, the National Society enhanced its medical logistics and family-links capacities. It cooperated with the ICRC on programmes benefiting the Palestinian population (see *Civilians* and *Wounded and sick*). Palestine Red Crescent and other National Society staff used the ICRC's services to facilitate travel permits and coordination for their work in the Gaza Strip.

With ICRC support, the Palestine Red Crescent in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank:

- ▶ coached 660 EMS staff/volunteers in the Safer Access approach, disaster preparedness, warehouse management, and planning, monitoring and evaluation
- ▶ briefed 171 staff/volunteers on the Movement and IHL
- ▶ briefed 89 participants from various organizations on misuse of the emblems
- ▶ taught 934 children safe behaviour in an earthquake

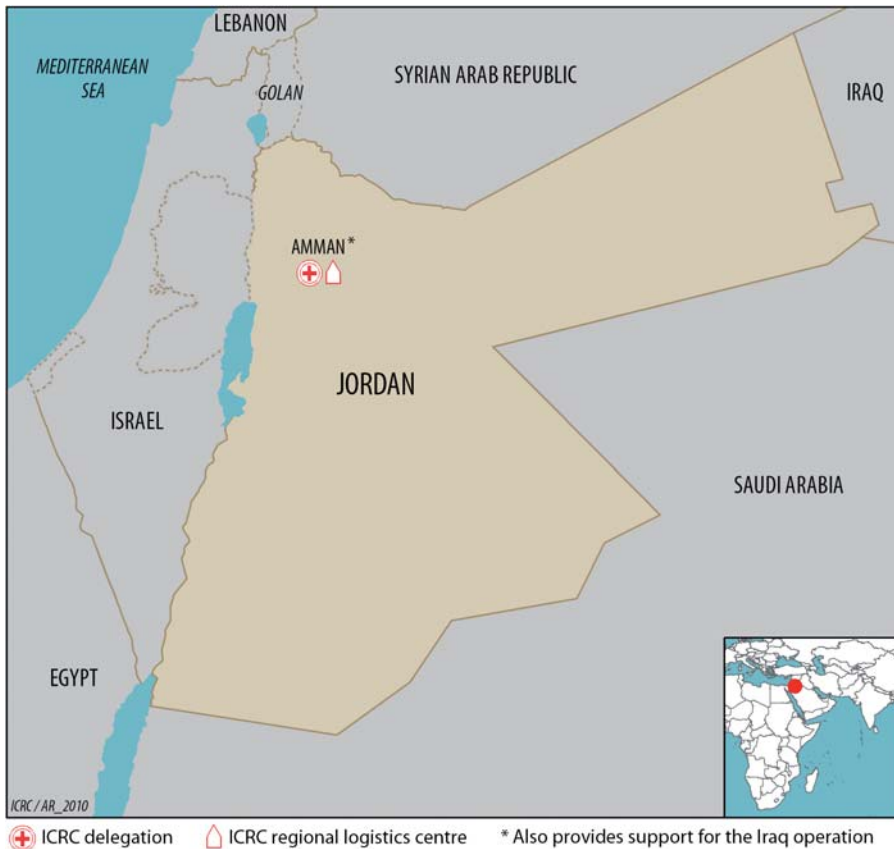
The Magen David Adom participated extensively in the humanitarian response following the Haiti earthquake, for the first time using the red crystal emblem.

With ICRC support, the Magen David Adom:

- ▶ hosted a tracing seminar for participants from 5 continents
- ▶ procured relief materials for immediate and contingency purposes
- ▶ maintained a team to lead its coordination with the Movement
- ▶ published a first-aid manual in Arabic
- ▶ extended EMS services to other vulnerable communities

Monitoring of the 2005 agreement between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent was facilitated by the ICRC.

JORDAN



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	2,332
Assistance	-
Prevention	1,019
Cooperation with National Societies	215
General	- 11

▶ **3,555**

of which: Overheads 206

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	92%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	20
National staff (daily workers not included)	109

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- ▶ following regular visits to people deprived of their freedom, shared its findings and recommendations on their treatment and living conditions with the relevant authorities
- ▶ provided services enabling detainees and civilians to exchange news with family members in Jordan and abroad and refugees to travel to their country of resettlement
- ▶ organized a round-table for government officials and other concerned parties to examine Jordan's possible accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
- ▶ continued to develop its dialogue with the armed and security forces and civil society representatives with a view to gaining better respect and support for IHL and the ICRC
- ▶ provided support to 4 branches of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society to complete micro-economic projects reaching vulnerable communities
- ▶ in Jordan, provided essential logistical and administrative support to ICRC emergency operations in the region and beyond, in particular in Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan and Yemen

The ICRC has been present in Jordan since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Its work there largely consists of visiting detainees to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention, providing tracing and RCM services to enable civilians and foreign detainees to restore family links, and promoting IHL throughout Jordanian society, in close cooperation with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society. The delegation also provides logistical support to ICRC relief operations in the region and beyond.

CONTEXT

The situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory remained a source of deep concern in the Kingdom. Jordan persistently advocated implementation of the Middle East peace initiative endorsed by the League of Arab States in 2002 and the prompt establishment of a Palestinian State. At the same time, Jordan's peace agreement with Israel and its involvement in the global fight against "terrorism" remained unpopular with many Jordanians, triggering frequent public demonstrations. Several security incidents (e.g. a roadside bomb attack on an Israeli convoy and rockets landing in the Aqaba area), for which no one claimed responsibility, led to heightened security measures.

Jordan further extended its diplomatic and economic ties with various countries in the region and worldwide. In May, during the official visit of the emir of Kuwait to the Kingdom – the first in

more than 20 years – both countries expressed a desire to promote bilateral trade relations. In December, the Jordanian king received an invitation from the Iranian president to visit Tehran, underlining the two countries' mutual interest in further improving relations.

Pro-government candidates won parliamentary elections in November in a poll marked by sporadic unrest and a boycott by the main opposition party, the Islamic Action Front. The new parliament was inaugurated by the king and a new cabinet sworn in at the end of November.

Despite government policies to stimulate the economy, a weakened job market, a sharp decline in remittances from Jordanians working abroad and rising prices of basic commodities led to a deterioration of the socio-economic environment for the population in Jordan.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	204		
RCMs distributed	173		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations	Total		
People reunited with their families	1		
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>		
People transferred/repatriated	1		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons	Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	3	1	1
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	3		
Documents			
People to whom travel documents were issued	142		
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines	13		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)			
ICRC visits	Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited	8,199		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	611	1	2
Detainees newly registered	473		2
Number of visits carried out	48		
Number of places of detention visited	14		
Restoring family links	Total		
RCMs collected	291		
RCMs distributed	209		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	508		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	9		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

ICRC operations in Jordan focused on monitoring the treatment and living conditions of detainees and on restoring and maintaining family links disrupted by past and current conflicts in the region.

The ICRC continued to carry out regular visits to over 8,000 people held in places of detention, monitoring their treatment and living conditions in relation to internationally recognized standards and

sharing its findings and recommendations confidentially with the detaining authorities, including the Public Security Directorate (PSD), the General Intelligence Department (GID), the State Security Court and the head of the Jordanian Royal Court. Security detainees were followed up individually.

Following seminars held in 2009 aimed at ensuring appropriate application of the Crime Prevention Act (CPA), the Ministry of Interior took measures to review regularly the cases of administrative

detainees. It also drafted guidelines on body searches and dealing with prisoner hunger strikes. Coordination between the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs) and the Ministry of Health on prison health issues continued to develop. For the first time, CRC directors, guards and medical staff benefited from ICRC expertise in stress management. In parallel, the training initiated in 2009 for CRC prison staff continued.

People affected by past or current armed conflicts in the region were able to restore or maintain contact with relatives and to exchange official documents through the ICRC's family-links service. Refugees lacking valid identity papers resettled or joined relatives in third countries with travel documents issued by the ICRC in close cooperation with UNHCR and the embassies concerned.

Further steps were taken to promote the integration of IHL into national legislation, university curricula and the theoretical and operational training of the armed and security forces. The ICRC organized a round-table for representatives of the government and of the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) to examine Jordan's possible accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Military and security forces personnel attended IHL briefings prior to their deployment on international peacekeeping missions.

The Jordan National Red Crescent Society received further support for its dissemination programmes and to implement small-scale micro-economic projects at branch level. It successfully organized the 8th Asia Pacific Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The ICRC in Jordan remained a key logistical and administrative hub for ICRC operations in the region, in particular in Iraq, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory and Yemen, and further afield, notably Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. The delegation in Amman also continued to manage the main training centre for ICRC delegations working in the Middle East, the Balkans and the Caucasus.

CIVILIANS

Relatives separated by conflict or detention keep in touch

People in Jordan with relatives in neighbouring countries, mainly in Iraq, Israel or the occupied Palestinian territory and often held in detention there, continued to request ICRC assistance to locate, contact or exchange official documents with them. Over 60 home visits from ICRC delegates helped families living in precarious conditions and unable to come to the ICRC office to continue exchanging news with relatives. Families in Jordan also sent parcels to their relatives detained in Iraq via the ICRC.

Families wishing to visit their relatives detained in Israel were usually referred to the Jordanian Foreign Ministry. In exceptional cases, the ICRC, acting as a neutral intermediary, interceded with the ministry on their behalf to facilitate the process. Thanks to the ICRC, one elderly woman in Jordan joined her family in the Gaza Strip and another in the Gaza Strip was reunited with her family in Jordan.

A total of 142 recognized refugees without valid identity papers resettled or joined their families in third countries thanks to travel documents issued by the ICRC in coordination with UNHCR and the embassies concerned.

Families assisted in clarifying the fate of missing relatives

The fate of people unaccounted for from past conflicts remained a source of enduring anguish for the families and a prime concern of the ICRC. After analysis of the DNA profiles of four families in Jordan provided under ICRC auspices to the Lebanese authorities, two of them received certificates confirming the death of a relative during the armed confrontation in Nahr El-Bared Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon in 2007 (see *Lebanon*).

The fate of 18 Jordanians missing in Israel since the 1980s remained unresolved, despite continuing efforts to clarify these cases in coordination with the authorities concerned.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People held by the GID and in the CRCs continued to receive regular ICRC visits, carried out according to the organization's standard procedures, to monitor their treatment and living conditions, with a particular focus on security detainees.

The main issues raised with the authorities following the visits related to: detainees' treatment and access to medical care; administrative detention; prolonged solitary confinement without family visits; respect for judicial guarantees and procedural safeguards; respect for the principle of *non-refoulement*; and the right of detainees to have family contacts and visits. Detainees visited were able to communicate with relatives through the ICRC when necessary.

After each visit, the detaining authorities were provided with confidential oral and written reports on the ICRC's findings and recommendations. Such follow-up included meetings with the State Security Court and the head of the Jordanian Royal Court, notably regarding detainees in the custody of the GID.

The constructive dialogue developed with the CRC directorate bore fruit. For example, following CRC staff training and with ICRC advisory input, the directorate drafted guidelines on prisoner body searches in accordance with international standards. It also implemented guidelines on dealing with prisoner hunger strikes, from both a medical and ethical standpoint and in accordance with international standards. In part owing to ICRC advocacy and input, coordination between the Ministry of Health and the CRC directorate on prison health issues continued to develop, albeit at a slow pace. For the first time, CRC directors, guards and medical staff benefited from ICRC expertise in stress management. In parallel, training initiated in 2009 continued; some 250 additional CRC prison staff attended training sessions on internationally accepted norms relating to detainees' treatment and living conditions and on the ICRC's standard procedures during detention visits.

Following the 2009 training sessions organized, with ICRC support, by the Ministry of Interior for all administrative governors in the country to discuss ways of ensuring proper and uniform application of Jordan's CPA, the ministry's human rights directorate created an ad hoc committee whose members visited CRCs to look regularly into the cases of administrative detainees. This led to the release of administrative detainees. Furthermore, human rights NGOs became more active in taking up the issue of administrative detention with the authorities.

Cases of particularly vulnerable detainees, such as women detained to protect them from retribution for so-called "honour crimes", as well as particularly vulnerable foreign detainees, were referred to local NGOs for various forms of assistance.

Twenty-five foreign detainees benefited from consular protection and legal advice after the ICRC, at their request, notified their embassies in Jordan. The ICRC also endeavoured to ensure that foreign detainees fearing persecution in their home countries, including Iraqis awaiting deportation, benefited from the principle of *non-refoulement*. Ten cases of foreign detainees seeking asylum in Jordan were brought to the attention of the State Security Court and 18 notified to UNHCR. Foreign detainees in Iraq benefited from similar services from the ICRC in Jordan at the request of the Iraq delegation. Those released from prisons in Iraq or Israel were repatriated to or via Jordan under ICRC auspices, in coordination with the authorities concerned. Former detainees or their families were issued with certificates of detention, in some cases qualifying them for State welfare allowances.

AUTHORITIES

The authorities continued working on the ratification of IHL treaties to which Jordan was not yet party and on the implementation of those already ratified, with ICRC support. The Foreign Ministry had still to review a draft law on the Rome Statute prepared by a legal working group. Government officials and members of the national IHL committee attended regional IHL meetings organized by the League of Arab States and the ICRC (see *Egypt* and *Lebanon*), as well as the third Universal Meeting of National IHL Committees held in Geneva, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*).

Dialogue on Jordan's possible accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions continued at the highest level. Representatives of various government ministries and the NCDR exchanged views on humanitarian and legal aspects of the convention during a round-table organized by the ICRC. Members of the national IHL committee, who also attended, confirmed their commitment to advocate for Jordan's accession to the convention.

The NCDR received further ICRC technical and material support for its mine-risk education programme, including help to conduct awareness training sessions and to produce materials highlighting the dangers of explosive remnants of war in contaminated regions.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Jordanian military and security forces officials, including members of the *gendarmerie* directorate, held several meetings with the ICRC to discuss issues relevant to the promotion and integration of IHL and applicable human rights norms, and to exchange information and views on the latest IHL developments and ICRC activities.

The Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) progressed in the systematic integration of IHL into their training programmes, with ICRC-trained instructors being able to teach IHL autonomously. After 35 senior medical military staff attended an IHL training course at the Princess Aicha Bint Al-Hussein medical training complex, the JAF issued specific instructions to secure future integration of IHL into the training curricula of all military medical personnel.

The armed and security forces benefited from ICRC contributions to various training courses and from briefings prior to their deployment on international peacekeeping missions. In both cases, the information provided included briefings on IHL and the ICRC with a view to gaining more support for its action, including, for example, its work regarding people deprived of their freedom.

- ▶ 4,557 military officers of various nationalities attended presentations on IHL/the ICRC
- ▶ 4,235 military, police and *gendarmerie* personnel briefed prior to their departure on peacekeeping missions

CIVIL SOCIETY

Dialogue and meetings with community leaders, think-tanks, political parties, universities (including sharia faculties), human rights research centres and professional associations continued, aimed at raising awareness of IHL and ICRC activities in the region. They included the participation of some 18 religious leaders and sharia professors from across the region in an ICRC workshop on IHL and Islam. The wide distribution of ICRC publications, including the Arabic-language quarterly *Al-Insani*, drew public attention to humanitarian issues in the region and worldwide. The Jordan Engineers Association hosted an ICRC photo exhibition highlighting the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict.

National and international media gave extensive coverage to ICRC activities in Jordan and worldwide, drawing on information provided by the ICRC via news releases, a new leaflet in Arabic, a TV spot to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May), and specific media events.

Fourteen of Jordan's 16 law faculties continued to teach IHL. After stating an interest in starting such courses, lecturers in journalism and political sciences had numerous meetings with the ICRC to initiate the process.

Three law students from the University of Jordan were sponsored by the ICRC to participate in the Jean Pictet Competition on IHL held in Canada.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Jordan National Red Crescent continued to receive ICRC support at headquarters and branch level in strengthening its capacities in the fields of IHL promotion, tracing, project management and the promotion of its image.

With ICRC support:

- ▶ the National Society successfully organized the 8th Asia Pacific Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, held in Jordan in October
- ▶ 4 branches carried out micro-economic projects reaching vulnerable communities

Movement partners present in Jordan, including the ICRC, held regular meetings to coordinate their activities.

Jordan a key logistical and administrative hub for the ICRC

Jordan remained a key logistical and administrative hub for ICRC operations in the region, in particular in Iraq, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory and Yemen. Assistance material was also airlifted from Amman to Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. Purchase of relief items in the region expanded, resulting in cost savings, on-the-spot quality control and better response time. The regional training centre provided services for ICRC delegations working in the Middle East, the Balkans and the Caucasus, and conducted 39 courses for 458 staff.

LEBANON



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	1,713
Assistance	4,295
Prevention	1,203
Cooperation with National Societies	1,216
General	-

► **8,427**

of which: Overheads 514

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	96%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	14
National staff (daily workers not included)	39

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- shared confidentially with the detaining authorities 2 reports regarding unrestricted access to and the treatment of security detainees based on its findings during visits to detainees in prisons and interrogation centres
- participated in the work of a committee set up by the detaining authorities in 2010 to address issues raised in a comprehensive ICRC assessment of health care in Lebanese prisons
- boosted emergency healthcare for Palestinian refugees through a six-month training course for health professionals, material support to Palestine Red Crescent Society hospitals and first-aid training in 3 Palestinian camps
- improved water supply for some 340,000 people living in poorly served areas
- welcomed the creation of a national IHL committee and Lebanon's ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
- strengthened its emergency preparedness by developing a joint emergency response plan with the Lebanese Red Cross Society and maintaining substantial support to its Emergency Medical Services

The ICRC has been present in Lebanon since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It gives priority to providing protection and assistance to civilians affected by armed conflict, in close cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross Society. It seeks compliance with IHL by the government and armed groups present in the country. The ICRC visits detainees held by the Lebanese authorities to monitor their living conditions and treatment. Restoring and maintaining links for people separated from members of their families is also a key activity.

CONTEXT

After a relatively calm start to the year, mounting political tensions fuelled by speculation that the UN Special Tribunal for Lebanon investigating the 2005 assassination of former prime minister Rafik Hariri might indict members of Hezbollah had brought the government to a standstill by year-end.

Hezbollah denounced the tribunal as an Israeli-inspired plot to stoke tension in the region. Its call for a boycott of the tribunal was not followed by other members of the coalition government. Leaders of various countries in the region, including the king of Saudi Arabia, the Syrian president, the emir of Qatar and the Turkish prime minister, attempted to defuse tensions surrounding the tribunal issue during visits to Beirut, reportedly to no avail. During an official visit to Lebanon in October, the Iranian president toured villages in the south, where he expressed strong support for Hezbollah.

In August, Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the Israel Defense Forces clashed for several hours along the border for the first time since the 2006 conflict. The same month, heavy fighting erupted briefly between Hezbollah supporters and members of a Sunni Islamist faction in Beirut causing victims and extensive destruction.

Sporadic intra-Palestinian clashes opposed militants in the Ein El Helweh Palestinian refugee camp in Sidon and rival factions in the Bekaa Valley. In August, parliament adopted a controversial bill granting Palestinian refugees additional rights to work.

Hundreds of unresolved cases of people unaccounted for in relation to past conflicts in Lebanon continued to be a source of deep anguish for the families concerned.

Several marginalized rural and conflict-prone areas remained without adequate water supply owing to lack of funding and qualified manpower to operate, maintain and develop water supply systems.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages		Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected		64		
RCMs distributed		41		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons		Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		4		
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		6		
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	1		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)		5		
Documents				
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		5		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits		Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited		6,449		
Detainees visited and monitored individually		389	10	2
Detainees newly registered		211	1	2
Number of visits carried out		146		
Number of places of detention visited		19		
Restoring family links		Total		
RCMs collected		109		
RCMs distributed		65		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		360		
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		2		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		30		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	346,253	20%	60%
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	3,500		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	17		
First aid				
First-aid posts supported	Structures	4		

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC continued to focus on visiting security detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions, on improving health care in prisons and for Palestinian refugees, on rehabilitating water infrastructure and on maintaining an operational capacity to respond to emergencies alongside the Lebanese Red Cross Society.

More than 6,400 people held in prisons and interrogation centres across the country received ICRC visits to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Compliance with the 2007 agreement between Lebanon and the ICRC, notably regarding timely and unrestricted access to security detainees, was discussed confidentially with the detaining authorities, as were delegates' findings and any recommendations arising from visits.

A comprehensive ICRC assessment of health care needs in Lebanese prisons led to the establishment by the Interior Ministry and its Internal Security Forces (ISF) of a committee, with active ICRC participation, to address shortcomings in the prison health care system. In parallel, the first phase of a large-scale project to boost water supply in Roumieh Central Prison housing some 3,500 inmates was completed.

More than 346,000 residents benefited from emergency repair work on collapsed water schemes and from the upgrade or extension of water supply infrastructure, primarily in remote, marginalized rural and violence-prone areas. The five Palestine Red Crescent hospitals in Lebanon and the Human Call Hospital in the Ein El Helweh Palestinian refugee camp received further staff training and material support to improve health care services for the Palestinian refugee population. In addition, 164 volunteer first responders in three Palestinian refugee camps received first-aid training to improve their emergency response skills.

Families, detainees and migrants continued to rely on the ICRC family-links service to exchange news with relatives detained/interned in Lebanon or abroad or living in countries disrupted by conflict. With a view to promoting best practices in handling the cases of persons missing in relation to the 1975–90 civil war, more technical support and training was provided, notably to family associations and forensic experts, and a group of key people paid a visit to the ICRC delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to take stock of the achievements in this field there.

Following a round-table organized to promote IHL, a national IHL committee was created under the presidency of the defence minister. The LAF established an IHL office with the task of integrating IHL into military training and operational procedures. Networking in influential circles and information sessions on IHL and the Red Cross continued across the country.

The ICRC maintained its capacity to respond to emergencies alongside the Lebanese Red Cross. Together they agreed on a joint emergency preparedness and response plan, and the National Society's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) continued to receive substantial ICRC support to strengthen their response capacity.

Regular Movement partner meetings facilitated coordination between the National Society, the International Federation, National Societies working internationally and the ICRC. Similarly, meetings with UN agencies and other humanitarian actors working in fields of common interest contributed to greater efficiency of humanitarian activities.

CIVILIANS

Emergency preparedness capacity reinforced

The regular updating and development of the National Society/ICRC emergency preparedness and response plan and contacts with suppliers ensured the capacity to respond to emergencies. In parallel, ICRC contacts with key stakeholders aimed to bolster understanding of the ICRC's mandate and its neutral, impartial and independent approach and to promote the basic rules of IHL, highlighting the respect due to wounded people, health personnel and health infrastructure.

Poorly served areas gain easier access to drinking water

More than 346,000 people gained improved access to safe water after 22 water projects, run in cooperation with regional water authorities, were completed in marginalized rural communities in the Bekaa, southern and northern regions, where water facilities were inadequate, non-existent or had collapsed owing to neglect. Water board personnel received technical training and basic equipment to improve their maintenance and systems management and acquired a more up-to-date monitoring capacity after the creation, with ICRC support, of a data bank centralizing information on the state of existing water infrastructure in northern Lebanon.

Family members keep in contact despite armed conflict

Families in Lebanon, including migrants, exchanged news and official documents with relatives detained/interned or residing abroad, mainly in Iraq and Israel, through the ICRC's family-links service. Six Lebanese nationals released from detention in Iraq and Israel were repatriated under ICRC auspices, as were the remains of six Lebanese civilians who had died in Israel. People wishing to officially register in Lebanon the births or deaths of Lebanese citizens in Israel were able to do so after the ICRC translated the relevant Hebrew-language documents issued in Israel into Arabic and issued notifications of such births/deaths on this basis.

Families of missing persons continue to await assistance

No progress was made in providing information to the hundreds of families awaiting news of relatives missing in relation to the 1975–90 armed conflict. However, to help move the process forward, family associations and NGOs, which had started to store relevant information using ICRC software to manage ante/post-mortem data, received further training on data entry. LAF and ISF officers received similar training. Representatives of the minister of State in charge of Lebanese-Syrian relations and the Lebanese commission working on cases of people presumed to have gone missing in the Syrian Arab Republic were briefed on the potential uses of the software, while 12 Justice Ministry experts received forensic training in the recovery and identification of human remains.

In addition to receiving information on the ICRC's approach to addressing the issue of missing persons, a group comprising Lebanese parliamentarians, judges, lawyers, human rights activists, members of family associations and journalists saw first hand what had been achieved in this respect in Bosnia and Herzegovina during a visit to the ICRC delegation in Sarajevo.

Two sets of human remains from the 2007 armed confrontation in the Nahr El Bared Palestinian refugee camp were identified and death certificates transmitted to the families. Confirmation of the identities of two other cases awaited receipt of matching family DNA data.

To raise awareness of the issue of missing persons, the ICRC's Missing Lives exhibition was displayed in a two-day event in Beirut marking International Day of the Disappeared (31 August).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees' treatment and living conditions monitored

More than 6,400 detainees in prisons and in interrogation centres received ICRC visits to assess their treatment and living conditions, with a particular focus on security detainees. Following visits, delegates' findings were discussed confidentially with the authorities concerned. The authorities were urged to ensure delegates' timely and unrestricted access to all security detainees after their arrest, in accordance with the agreement concluded with the Lebanese government in 2007 and with the ICRC's standard procedures.

Two confidential reports on the treatment of security detainees were submitted to the interior minister and discussed with the LAF. Reports on ICRC access to security detainees were also discussed with the judicial authorities. After months of ICRC efforts, 10 security detainees who had been held in solitary confinement for prolonged periods were either released or transferred to the central prison. Other issues taken up with the detaining authorities included prison overcrowding, detainees' access to open-air spaces, family visits for detainees, and respect for judicial guarantees and the principle of *non-refoulement* regarding foreigners after their release from detention.

The interior minister and the ISF chief and senior officers established a joint committee to address the health issues identified during the ICRC's 2009 assessment of health care delivery in prisons. During the two meetings held so far with ICRC participation, the committee focused its deliberations on prison health care structural needs. Regular work with health staff at the Roumieh Central Prison enabled the ICRC to identify ways and means to provide structural support to its medical centre.

The first phase of a comprehensive project to improve water and sanitation conditions for the estimated 3,500 inmates at the Roumieh prison was completed. It included the installation of a new centralized water network, 29 roof water tanks, a chlorination station, a water distribution control room and the rehabilitation

of a deep well, this last increasing available water supply by 70% in the rainy season. Plans to drill an additional borehole to ensure uninterrupted water supply year-round were delayed pending government authorization.

If they so wished, detainees exchanged news with their families via RCMs. Two foreign detainees were visited by their families from abroad, with ICRC support. In a pilot project offering family-links services proactively to foreign detainees in six district prisons, 182 of them re-established contact with their families abroad and 204 informed their embassies of their detention. Released detainees or their families were issued with ICRC detention certificates.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Health care improves in Palestine Red Crescent hospitals

Following the completion in 2009 of a two-year teaching programme to improve the quality of health care for the Palestinian refugee population, work continued based in particular on recommendations resulting from a review of the programme. An intensive six-month training programme for 43 doctors and 27 nurses working in the emergency rooms of the five Palestine Red Crescent hospitals and in the Human Call Hospital in the Ein El Helweh camp improved their clinical management and organizational skills to respond to emergencies, complemented by the adoption of updated clinical guidelines. The programme concluded with a three-day emergency room trauma management course attended by 20 doctors and 6 nurses from the five Palestinian Red Crescent hospitals. The five hospitals' emergency response capacity was further reinforced through the delivery, repair or replacement of essential emergency medical equipment, the introduction of computerized standard equipment and maintenance guidelines, and the provision of medical supplies. In parallel, contacts with the UN Relief and Works Agency enabled the ICRC to advocate for improved access for Palestinian refugees to secondary care in Palestine Red Crescent health facilities.

Construction began on a community health clinic in the Nahr El Bared refugee camp to replace the one destroyed during the 2007 armed conflict there, and Balsam hospital run by the Palestine Red Crescent in the Rashidieh camp was equipped with a large septic tank to resolve a health-threatening sanitation problem. To improve first-aid emergency response services in the Beddawi, Bourj El Barajneh and Ein El Helweh camps, 164 volunteers from 12 camp-based community groups received initial first-aid training, and another 35 volunteers participated in a first-aid refresher course.

Emergency preparedness continues

The maintenance of regular contacts with hospitals and other health facilities enabled the ICRC to continuously adapt its emergency preparedness, including a capacity to provide surgical materials at short notice. Hospitals as well as 6 dispensaries and 4 ambulance services regularly responding to emergencies received donations of medical supplies. Twenty surgeons and hospital doctors attended a war-surgery seminar.

The Lebanese Red Cross EMS drew on substantial ICRC support in implementing its five-year strategy (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). In total, 30 additional first-aid instructors graduated and additional volunteers attended first-aid training as planned. Forty-three EMS stations were upgraded through the provision of equipment and medical material and consumables and 200 ambulances were serviced or repaired.

AUTHORITIES

Meetings with various authorities and regular networking with the main political, religious and secular groups and Palestinian factions across the country aimed to ensure mutual understanding and support for IHL and humanitarian action in the event of any outbreaks of violence.

Lebanon ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. It created a national IHL committee chaired by the defence minister and including the National Society. This followed many meetings and a round-table organized in January for representatives of several ministries and parliamentarians on the role and relevance of such a committee. The committee was represented at the third Universal Meeting of National IHL Committees held in Geneva, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*).

Representatives of the Defence, Foreign Affairs and Interior Ministries and the Lebanese Red Cross were among 100 officials (including 38 university lecturers) from 18 Arab States, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan who attended two regional IHL seminars co-organized by the Arab League's Centre for Legal and Judicial Studies in Beirut and the ICRC. Furthermore, 34 officials from 16 Arab States acquired the necessary skills to teach the subject to their peers during two other regional courses organized by the ICRC in Beirut and Cairo, Egypt.

The diplomatic community, UN agencies and other international bodies were regularly briefed on ICRC activities in Lebanon and the region.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Enhancing knowledge of basic IHL principles and respect for the Red Cross among all weapon bearers remained an ICRC priority.

Cooperation between the LAF and the ICRC proceeded smoothly. In January, the army established an IHL office with the task of integrating IHL into military training and operational procedures, and the head of the office attended a regional IHL course in Beirut (see *Authorities*). A total of 2,875 students in LAF training centres and 445 members of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (including for the first time a Chinese battalion) attended regular presentations on IHL and the ICRC.

Work initiated in 2009 with the ISF continued: 200 ISF staff, 90 members of the military police and 12 officers in charge of LAF detention centres attended briefings with a particular focus on ICRC work for detainees.

Some 225 members of various Palestinian factions and representatives of Islamist circles also attended presentations on basic IHL principles, the protection due to medical services, and the ICRC.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society circles, including the media, NGOs and Movement partners, were kept abreast of ICRC activities and IHL-related issues through the organization of various events, the distribution of informational literature, and briefings. The media regularly picked up ICRC press releases and background material, relaying information on ICRC activities to a wide audience. For example, Hezbollah's TV channel aired a documentary highlighting the ICRC's role in Lebanon.

- ▶ 4 senior Lebanese media representatives attended a regional IHL workshop in Cairo (see *Egypt*)
- ▶ 100 staff members of 2 NGOs operating inside Palestinian camps briefed on the ICRC and the protection due to medical services

Cooperation with universities continued on an ad hoc basis as no decision had been taken yet regarding the integration of IHL into law curricula.

- ▶ 30 law students attended an IHL presentation, 1 university lecturer participated in an IHL regional course and 3 students took part in a moot court competition

The Beirut International Arab Book Fair provided a forum to present an Arabic publication describing the ICRC's role in developing IHL.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Partnership with the Lebanese Red Cross centred on strengthening its emergency response capacity. The National Society and the ICRC agreed on an emergency preparedness and response plan to serve as a basis for a coordinated Movement response in the event of armed conflict. A review of the EMS's five-year strategy acknowledged positive results and highlighted in particular the need for fundraising and a national volunteer policy.

In parallel, work to upgrade the EMS stations countrywide, to streamline and automate EMS working processes and to develop the National Society's logistics capacity continued according to plan (see *Wounded and sick*). Further efforts were required in the fields of mine-risk education and restoring family links.

With ICRC support:

- ▶ EMS radio and IT equipment updated
- ▶ 42 youth volunteers attended a refresher course on how to conduct needs assessments in emergencies
- ▶ managers, drivers and IT specialists in all regions attended technical training sessions

Regular meetings of Movement partners enhanced cooperation between the Lebanese Red Cross, the International Federation and National Societies working internationally. Work progressed on the revision of the National Society's statutes.

Two cases of abuse of the emblem were addressed.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



ICRC / AR_2010

 ICRC delegation

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	315
Assistance	617
Prevention	585
Cooperation with National Societies	476
General	-

▶ **1,993**

of which: Overheads 122

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	80%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	4
National staff (daily workers not included)	10

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- ▶ facilitated contacts between family members and travel by students and pilgrims across the demarcation line separating the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic
- ▶ helped boost Golan farmers' livelihoods by arranging the transport of 8,100 tonnes of apples to markets in the Syrian Arab Republic
- ▶ implemented water projects with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to help some 21,050 people sustain their livelihoods in drought-ridden north-eastern provinces
- ▶ co-organized with the Ministries of Defence and Interior respectively 2 courses on IHL for 75 Syrian armed forces officers and 2 courses on IHL/international human rights law for 60 Syrian police and security forces officers
- ▶ co-organized with the national IHL committee IHL workshops for 50 parliamentarians and 35 Syrian journalists, and an IHL train-the-trainer course for 11 representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Interior
- ▶ welcomed the success of mine-risk education programmes developed in Kuneitra by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent

The ICRC has been present in the Syrian Arab Republic since 1967. It acts as a neutral intermediary on issues of humanitarian concern for Syrian inhabitants of the part of the Golan occupied by Israel. It facilitates travel for certain categories of people, such as students and pilgrims, between the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic, and maintains links between separated family members. It works to spread knowledge of IHL in government, military, academic and media circles, and cooperates closely with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. The ICRC also seeks to visit people detained in the Syrian Arab Republic.

CONTEXT

The Syrian Arab Republic continued to develop relations with many Western and regional States and was widely recognized as a key player in efforts to stabilize the region.

Visits to Damascus by political leaders and senior officials from France, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Spain, Turkey and the United States of America and by the king of Saudi Arabia were generally perceived as an illustration of the importance they attached to enlisting Syrian support in reducing tensions in the region.

The Syrian Arab Republic offered its mediation to help defuse tensions in Lebanon over the outcome of the investigation by the UN Special Tribunal for Lebanon, which was expected to issue indictments for the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri. It was also involved in regional deliberations on the formation of a new government in Iraq. As relations with Iraq improved, the two countries normalized their diplomatic relations in November.

Despite renewed US-Syrian dialogue and the likely nomination of a new US ambassador to Damascus after a five-year hiatus,

US sanctions against the country, in place since 2004 and due to expire in May 2010, were extended.

Israel's continuing occupation of the part of the Golan Heights it seized in 1967 remained the major issue of contention between the Syrian Arab Republic and Israel. The Syrian government expressed its willingness to resume Turkish-mediated peace talks with Israel, suspended since 2008, but only on condition that peace would be based on Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The deadlock continued to leave some 22,000 inhabitants of the occupied Golan cut off from their families in the Syrian Arab Republic. In April, Israel accused the Syrian government of transferring Scud missiles over the Lebanese border to Hezbollah, which Damascus denied.

The government faced major economic and social challenges, notably declining oil production, high rates of unemployment linked to rapid population growth swelled by the presence of Iraqi refugees, and a protracted drought in the north-east. The drought was in its fourth year and had seriously disrupted agricultural production and forced thousands of farmers to migrate to urban centres.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	449		
RCMs distributed	494		
Phone calls facilitated between family members	10		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations	Total		
People transferred/repatriated	944		
Human remains transferred/repatriated	1		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons	Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	7		
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	1		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)	19		
Documents			
People to whom travel documents were issued	168		
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines	38		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	21,050	30%	10%

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Family members cut off from one another for decades by the demarcation line between the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic were able to maintain a minimum of contact through the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary with the authorities concerned. No progress was made in efforts to enable inhabitants of the occupied Golan to visit their families in the Syrian Arab Republic. Such visits were discontinued by the Israeli authorities in 1992.

For the fifth consecutive year, the ICRC facilitated the transport of the apple harvest from the occupied Golan to Syrian markets.

Action was taken to help address the drought emergency in the north-east, in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the central and local authorities. Some 20,000 drought-affected people in Al Hassakeh and Deir Ez Zor provinces had improved access to safe drinking water delivered free of charge by five trucks donated by the ICRC to the National Society. Farming communities

in remote areas of Al Hassakeh province, not easily accessible by road for water-trucking operations, benefited from the installation of three water treatment plants making clean water available to them cost-free.

Demand remained steady for ICRC tracing and RCM services, which sought to help Syrian nationals and Iraqi refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic locate and re-establish contact with family members detained/interned or unaccounted for abroad, mainly in Iraq but also in the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba, and in Lebanon. In close cooperation with the Syrian authorities, organizations such as UNHCR and the embassies of host countries, the ICRC issued travel documents to Iraqi and other refugees accepted for resettlement.

Further IHL training events, organized jointly with the authorities concerned and generally with the participation of the National Society, were held for government officials, parliamentarians, journalists and members of the armed and police forces. Meetings with members of the national IHL committee, the training units of the Ministries of Defence and Interior, and university lecturers provided opportunities to discuss how to integrate IHL systematically into training and teaching curricula. For the first time, Syrian officials attended regional seminars on IHL. Public communication was also reinforced, resulting in wider media coverage of ICRC activities and IHL issues.

The ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent extended their partnership, with the ICRC helping boost the National Society's capacities in the fields of family links, emergency preparedness, first aid, communication and mine-risk education.

CIVILIANS

Inhabitants of the occupied Golan benefit from humanitarian services

Movements between the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic continued to be restricted, preventing people in the occupied Golan from visiting relatives living on the other side of the demarcation line. The restrictions remained in place despite ongoing ICRC diplomatic efforts to resume such visits, discontinued by the Israeli authorities in 1992.

Notwithstanding the restrictions, inhabitants of the occupied Golan and their families in the Syrian Arab Republic were able to maintain limited links facilitated by the ICRC, acting as a neutral intermediary. Thus, 262 students and 665 pilgrims living in the occupied Golan travelled to Damascus and back home with the help of the ICRC, in coordination with the UN Disengagement Observer Force and the Israeli and Syrian authorities. The evacuation of eight emergency medical cases from the occupied Golan to Damascus and nine humanitarian cases from Damascus to the occupied Golan was also facilitated by the ICRC.

Syrian nationals in the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic also relied on the ICRC to convey official papers, such as

power-of-attorney documents, property claims and birth, death and marriage certificates, back and forth between them, enabling recipients to qualify for pensions or to settle personal issues such as inheritance or property rights.

For the fifth consecutive year, Golan farmers boosted their livelihoods by sending their apple harvest (more than 8,000 tonnes) to Syrian markets via transportation provided by the ICRC, acting as a neutral intermediary at their request and that of the Israeli and Syrian authorities.

Family contacts severed by conflict re-established

Through the ICRC family-links network, families were able to locate and maintain contact with relatives either detained/interned or previously unaccounted for abroad. Such contacts included the exchange of news between Syrian families and their relatives held in the Guantanamo Bay internment facility via six telephone calls facilitated by the ICRC. Families also used ICRC services to send parcels to their detained/interned relatives in Iraq and Lebanon. Particular attention was paid to ensuring that Syrian nationals released from the Guantanamo Bay internment facility and transferred to and detained in European countries were able to stay in touch with their families.

Establishing contact between families in the Syrian Arab Republic and their relatives detained/interned in Iraq remained difficult owing to the irregular rhythm of ICRC visits to Iraqi places of detention arising mainly from security constraints.

Families in Israel and Lebanon, as well as in the Syrian Arab Republic, remained without information on the fate of close relatives presumed missing in the Syrian Arab Republic or in Israel in relation to past conflicts. As in previous years, the ICRC remained available to act as a neutral intermediary in resolving these cases.

In total, 168 refugees, primarily Iraqi and stateless persons without valid identification papers, resettled in third countries thanks to travel documents issued by the ICRC in coordination with the Syrian authorities, organizations such as UNHCR and the embassies concerned.

Drought-affected rural farming communities receive livelihood assistance

Based on joint Syrian Arab Red Crescent/ICRC assessments carried out during the second half of 2009, the Syrian authorities at all levels, the National Society and the ICRC agreed on activities to improve farmers' access to water in drought-ridden rural areas of Al Hassakeh province in the north-east of the country.

Additional field visits in and around Al Hassakeh enabled the collection of baseline data, further assessments, and exchanges of information on planned activities between the local authorities (including water boards), future beneficiaries and National Society/ICRC teams. On the basis of the information gathered, projects were redesigned with the authorities concerned and the area of intervention expanded to Deir Ez Zor and Homs provinces.

To help sustain the livelihoods of some 1,050 farmers in remote areas not easily accessible by water-trucking, three water treatment plants were installed in Al Hassakeh province. Plans were also made to build a water treatment plant in Homs province and two underground rainwater catchment reservoirs in Deir Ez Zor province. To help the local water authorities increase the supply of safe drinking water to people in rural communities in Al Hassakeh and Deir Ez Zor provinces, five cistern trucks were donated by the ICRC to the National Society. Used with the local water board, they provided 20,000 beneficiaries living in the two provinces with drinking water free of charge, helping them to sustain their livelihoods and use the money thus saved to buy other essential commodities.

By year-end, delays had prevented completion of the design work to rehabilitate the micro-dams along the Al Khabour river bed and the natural water ponds, while authorizations for low-cost irrigation projects had still to be provided on the basis of proposals made by ICRC experts. Planned hygiene-promotion work by Syrian Arab Red Crescent teams was cancelled.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Efforts to develop a constructive dialogue on detention with the Syrian authorities did not produce any tangible results. However, the response to ICRC requests to the authorities concerned for information on individuals detained in the Syrian Arab Republic improved, resulting in better feedback to their families.

An ICRC proposal to organize a discussion forum on water and habitat issues in places of detention was turned down by the authorities.

AUTHORITIES

Following an agreement reached between the ICRC and the president of the national IHL committee, who was also the minister of State for Red Crescent affairs, two IHL courses for government officials and parliamentarians were organized. Members of the national IHL committee and ICRC representatives met after a five-year hiatus to explore ways to promote the ratification and implementation of IHL instruments and to reactivate the committee's work. Syrian Arab Red Crescent staff, who participated in most of these meetings, gave presentations on the National Society's activities and the Movement. Syrian officials for the first time attended regional seminars on IHL.

- ▶ 11 representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Interior participated in a five-day train-the-trainer course on IHL
- ▶ around 50 parliamentarians attended an IHL workshop
- ▶ 7 Syrian officials, including 2 law lecturers, participated in the annual IHL course for Arab government officials (see *Lebanon*)
- ▶ 3 Syrian representatives participated in the second IHL seminar for Arab country parliamentarians (see *Egypt*)

During a meeting with the head of the Damascus-based Hamas political bureau, the ICRC presented its confidential report on the conduct of Hamas security forces in the Gaza Strip between 28 December 2008 and 27 February 2009. It also reiterated its demand that the Israeli soldier held by Hamas be allowed to have family contacts and to receive ICRC visits, so far to no avail.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Representatives of the training units of the Ministries of Defence and Interior and the ICRC held several meetings to organize training events, to explore ways to integrate IHL more systematically into military doctrine, training and operations, and to introduce international human rights law and internationally recognized standards related to policing into police training programmes.

- ▶ 75 Syrian armed forces officers participated in 2 three-day IHL courses
- ▶ some 150 officers from the Syrian armed forces and from other Arab and non-Arab States participating in courses at the Syrian Command and Staff College attended a presentation on IHL
- ▶ 60 Syrian police and security force officers attended 2 three-day courses on IHL/international human rights law

CIVIL SOCIETY

Networking with the media and religious/traditional leaders was reinforced to broaden their knowledge and understanding of IHL and ICRC activities. Some 35 Syrian journalists from the public and private sectors attended two one-day round-tables on IHL, the ICRC and the Movement. Heightened interest of national and international media resulted in increased coverage of the ICRC and its mandate and activities drawn from information provided regularly by the delegation. For example, the press reported extensively on the apple harvest operation (see *Civilians*) and on courses organized for the police and security forces (see *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*); Syrian national television broadcast a 30-minute programme on the ICRC and IHL.

Law lecturers from Damascus University and the ICRC discussed the status of IHL teaching in Syrian universities and worked on a strategy to promote teaching of the subject at university level.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent continued to receive ICRC training, material and financial support to help strengthen its emergency preparedness, first aid, dissemination, mine-risk education and tracing capacities, to promote its new logo, designed to reinforce its public image and visibility, and to protect its emblem from misuse.

Mine-risk education progressed successfully in Kuneitra, with 25 additional volunteers and school teachers trained during a two-day course and six schools participating in awareness

activities. Authorities and international organizations showed interest in contributing to the programme.

Movement components operating in the country met on a regular basis to share information and ensure coordination of programmes and organized joint events to mark International Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May).

National Society board members from all 14 branches, including newly elected ones, attended a two-day introductory course organized by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the International Federation, the Danish Red Cross, the British Red Cross and the ICRC on the history of the Movement, the mandate and activities of its components, the Fundamental Principles, the emblem, and the International Federation's Strategy 2020.

With ICRC support:

- ▶ 14 volunteers attended a two-day workshop on the protection of the emblem
- ▶ 17 first-aid instructors participated in a ten-day training course, integrating the Safer Access approach
- ▶ 5,000 posters and 10,000 leaflets produced and distributed to complement mine-risk education activities
- ▶ 26 National Society volunteers participated in a four-day workshop on tracing/family links, and needs assessments were carried out in 9 of the 14 branches
- ▶ first-aid personnel received field uniforms
- ▶ 26 volunteers representing 9 branches attended an IHL "Training of Facilitators" workshop

YEMEN



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	1,271
Assistance	26,260
Prevention	1,184
Cooperation with National Societies	2,674
General	-

► **31,389**

of which: Overheads 1,914

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	106%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	32
National staff (daily workers not included)	125

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- resumed visits to people held by the Political Security Organization in Sana'a to monitor their treatment and living conditions, sharing its findings and recommendations confidentially with the detaining authorities
- facilitated the first videoconference calls between people held at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and their relatives in Yemen
- alongside the Yemen Red Crescent Society, provided emergency assistance to some 160,000 people in the north, including regular food rations and hygiene items to some 30,000 IDPs and residents between August and December
- supported 13 primary health care centres and mobile clinics in the north, which gave consultations to some 130,000 people, including IDPs, and 4 limb-fitting centres caring for 9,050 disabled patients
- in a first joint emergency response operation with the National Society from the new ICRC office in Aden, provided water to people displaced by fighting in Shabwa province
- helped the National Society strengthen its capacity to operate according to the Movement's Fundamental Principles, adopt its revised statutes and develop its management reform process

The ICRC has been working in Yemen since the outbreak of the civil war in 1962. It works with the Yemeni Red Crescent Society to assist civilians affected by hostilities. It monitors the treatment and living conditions of detainees held by the authorities, seeking to expand such activities throughout the country. It promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, academic curricula and the training of the armed and police forces. ICRC tracing activities enable refugees to restore family links and Yemeni nationals to locate and contact relatives detained/interned abroad.

CONTEXT

The February ceasefire ending the sixth round of open hostilities since 2004 between government forces/allied tribes and the Houthis in Yemen's northern provinces continued to be threatened by intermittent armed clashes. Tensions eased in August following Qatari government mediation to cement the truce and an exchange of prisoners in late December. However, the chances that this would lead towards a permanent peace agreement remained slight in the absence of a genuine political process.

Government forces sought to eradicate armed groups, including "Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula" (AQAP), held responsible for acts of violence against both national and foreign targets, and engaged in frequent and violent clashes with supporters of a secessionist movement in the south.

Security concerns and movement restrictions in the north hampered efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to conflict victims there, especially in rural areas. Many IDPs feared returning to their villages. Those that did return often found their homes, livelihood assets and basic infrastructure damaged or destroyed.

Political tensions over proposed electoral reforms prompted opposition groups to announce a boycott of parliamentary elections set for April 2011.

A steady flow of migrants, mostly from the Horn of Africa, put further strain on Yemen's limited resources.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS			
PROTECTION			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages		Total	UAMs/SCs*
RCMs collected		3,081	5
RCMs distributed		4,200	2
Phone calls facilitated between family members		240	
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons		Total	Women
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		158	49
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		62	
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)		198	64
Documents			Minors
People to whom travel documents were issued		7	
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		1	
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)			
ICRC visits		Total	Women
Detainees visited and monitored individually		237	
Detainees newly registered		237	
Number of visits carried out		13	
Number of places of detention visited		3	
Restoring family links		Total	
RCMs collected		144	
RCMs distributed		29	
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		506	
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		10	

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

ASSISTANCE					
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Economic security, water and habitat			Total	Women	Children
Food	Beneficiaries		157,011	25%	55%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	76,830		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries		155,725	25%	55%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	95,761		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries		161,506	55%	40%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	80,753		
Health					
Health centres supported	Structures		13		
Consultations	Patients		130,438		
	<i>of which curative</i>	Patients		56,619	48,828
	<i>of which ante/post-natal</i>	Patients		231	
Referrals to a second level of care	Patients		1,909		
Health education	Sessions		353		

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

ASSISTANCE

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Food	Beneficiaries	3,872		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	4,168		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Physical rehabilitation				
Centres supported	Structures	4		
Patients receiving services	Patients	9,050	1,980	4,285
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	786	209	229
Prostheses delivered	Units	893	230	256
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	268	
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	2,611	585	1,280
Orthoses delivered	Units	4,145	807	2,298
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	49	
Crutches delivered	Units	1,390		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	7		

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

After the February ceasefire, despite a fragile security situation, which during the first half of the year simultaneously enabled the return of its expatriate staff to Sa'ada and forced those in Amran to relocate for two months to Sana'a, the ICRC decided in May to increase its budget to cover the emergency needs of a greater number of conflict victims, including some affected by a temporary decrease in WFP food assistance.

However, owing to security and other constraints, thousands of conflict-affected people could not be reached by Yemen Red Crescent Society/ICRC teams, with significant relief stocks remaining at year-end. Additional extended networking with civilian authorities, military commanders, and traditional and religious leaders at community level proved vital in securing access to conflict victims, including in areas outside government control, and gaining support for the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent approach. To enable it to work in partnership with the ICRC, the National Society continued to require wide-ranging support to strengthen its capacities to function in accordance with the Movement's Fundamental Principles and to operate in conflict-affected areas. The volatile situation forced the ICRC to constantly readapt its working procedures and guidelines for activities carried out via "remote management" by Yemeni Red Crescent volunteers and ICRC local staff to ensure these were properly monitored.

In Amran and Sa'ada provinces, some 157,000 people received food rations to cover their needs for one month and some 156,000 people received essential household items, most of them only once. During the second half of the year, however, residents in some northern parts of Amran province and IDPs and residents in the Sa'ada area benefited from regular assistance. Some 161,500 IDPs and residents in the Sa'ada region were the beneficiaries of projects carried out with local water boards or the National Society to maintain or improve water supply and sanitation systems. These projects included emergency measures, such as water-trucking, and the rehabilitation or repair of water networks and two primary

health care centres. Around 130,000 people attended consultations at 13 health facilities run by the Yemeni Red Crescent or the health authorities, which received regular ICRC medical supplies alongside management and staff-training support.

The opening of an office in Aden enabled the ICRC to better assess the situation and humanitarian needs and prepare contingency plans with National Society branches in the south. As a first result, in September, newly formed National Society/ICRC emergency response teams promptly provided water to some 4,350 people displaced by fighting in Shabwa province.

After a second ICRC war-surgery seminar in Sana'a, the Health Ministry and the ICRC reinforced their cooperation with a view to strengthening hospital surgical capacities in the north and south of the country. In coordination with the ministry, the National Society and the ICRC also worked to build up first-aid capacities in these areas. The four physical rehabilitation centres in Aden, Mukalla, Sana'a and Taiz, which provided care to some 9,050 disabled patients, received further ICRC technical, training and material assistance.

ICRC visits to people detained by the Political Security Organization (PSO) to assess their treatment and living conditions resumed in July after a hiatus of several years. Talks continued with the detaining authorities on gaining access to all detainees, including those held by the National Security Bureau, the Counter-Terrorism Unit, and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Ministry of Interior. Assistance programmes for women in prison and for irregular migrants awaiting deportation, in both cases implemented alongside the National Society, continued.

ICRC tracing and RCM services enabled Yemeni nationals, detainees and refugees to re-establish and maintain links with family members in Yemen or living or detained/interned abroad.

ICRC activities continued to be coordinated with those of its Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors in fields of common interest.

CIVILIANS

Insecurity and limited access (see *ICRC action and results*) prevented the collection of first-hand data on potential violations of IHL and slowed the development of dialogue with all parties to the conflict. Public appeals and confidential meetings that did take place focused on the necessity to spare the civilian population, respect health services and facilitate the passage of humanitarian aid.

Despite the insecurity, compounded by major difficulties in operating in accordance with the Fundamental Principles, thousands of families, both resident and displaced, mainly in the Amran and Sa'ada provinces but also in the south, received some emergency assistance from National Society/ICRC teams, including food, water, shelter materials, essential household items, basic medical care and family-links services. To carry out these various programmes, Yemeni Red Crescent and ICRC national staff received appropriate training (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

Conflict victims in the north receive limited aid vital to their survival

In the north, 157,011 people (76,830 IDPs) received food rations covering their needs for one month and 155,725 people (95,761 IDPs) received essential household items, both at least once. They included IDPs in and around Sa'ada City, IDPs in Mandaba close to the border with Saudi Arabia, residents in and around Sa'ada City and, in Amran province, IDPs south of Houth district and destitute people living in isolated areas of Harf Sufyan and Houth districts.

However, security and other obstacles raised by local leaders or authorities frequently hampered impartial and independent aid delivery. Lengthy meetings were necessary to agree on needs assessments, beneficiary registration procedures and distribution sites. Therefore, thousands of conflict-affected people could not be reached by Yemeni Red Crescent/ICRC teams and thousands were not assisted more than once. Between August and December, however, an average of 6,500 IDPs (some 950 households) mainly in Yemeni Red Crescent/ICRC camps in and around Sa'ada City and 24,000 residents and IDPs (3,750 households) in Sa'ada old city and in some northern parts of Amran province benefited from monthly distributions of food rations and hygiene kits.

In the north of Amran province, more than 10,000 people (1,460 farming households) were able to preserve their livelihoods after their 43,000 animals were treated against a deadly parasite in coordination with the animal health authorities.

In total, some 161,500 people benefited from improved water supply and sanitation, mainly in Sa'ada province, through projects carried out with local water boards or the National Society.

Emergency measures for some 134,000 people included daily truck deliveries of drinking water (nearly 700,000 litres/day) and the construction of 73 water points to cover the needs of Sa'ada IDP camps and some 100,000 Sa'ada City residents, and the provision

of diesel to operate pumping stations providing water to residents in Dayan town and some 10,000 people living in temporary settlements in the Amran districts of Al-Gubba, Houth, Khaiwan and Khamer. Additional septic tanks and latrines installed in Sa'ada IDP camps contributed to a healthier environment and disease prevention. Work was also under way to boost Sa'ada City's water storage capacity. In rural communities, some 27,500 people benefited from the rehabilitation or repair of water networks and outlets damaged or destroyed in the fighting. The rehabilitation of two primary health care centres enlarged the consultation room of one centre in Amran and doubled the capacity of another in Sa'ada serving residents and IDPs. In Amran province's Al Harf district, preliminary steps laid the groundwork to rebuild the local health centre, badly damaged during hostilities.

In the southern province of Shabwa, some 4,350 people who had fled their homes owing to intensive fighting between government forces and alleged Al-Qaeda militants accessed water thanks to an emergency Yemeni Red Crescent/ICRC operation. Some 4,500 residents of Kawkaban, Lahj province, benefited from improved water supply after rehabilitation of their local water network.

Conflict-affected people access primary health care

In Sa'ada province, the signing of a cooperation agreement between the National Society, the Ministry of Health and the ICRC boosted support to primary health care services.

Some 130,000 people living in conflict-affected areas of Amran and Sa'ada provinces attended consultations at 13 health facilities, including mobile clinics, run by the Yemeni Red Crescent or the health authorities and receiving regular ICRC medical supplies alongside management and staff-training support. In addition to on-the-job training and coaching, some 50 National Society and Health Ministry staff attended workshops on primary health care and the protection due to medical services and the wounded and sick.

With ICRC support, over 128,000 children in IDP camps and villages in conflict areas in Sa'ada province were vaccinated against measles and polio in a Health Ministry prevention campaign. Similarly, a ministry malaria-control programme was reinforced through the provision of 7,500 mosquito nets distributed in the Amran districts of Harf Sufyan and Houth and associated training for 44 ministry staff and Yemeni Red Crescent volunteers.

Separated family members stay in touch

Families restored or maintained contact through the National Society/ICRC tracing network with relatives detained/interned in Afghanistan, Iraq, the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, and elsewhere. These contacts were enhanced through 240 ICRC-facilitated phone calls and, for the first time in Yemen, 4 video conference calls between families and their detained/interned relatives. Families also received direct news from their relatives held in the Guantanamo Bay internment facility from an ICRC delegate who had visited them there. Those released from the Guantanamo Bay internment facility received medical care support upon their return to Yemen.

Refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from countries in the Horn of Africa, continued to rely on the same services for contact with their families in their home countries or elsewhere.

The situation did not allow either the organization of a planned regional meeting to strengthen family-links services with corresponding National Society services in Horn of Africa countries or progress in transferring expertise to Yemeni counterparts on the management of the remains of Yemen-bound African asylum seekers whose bodies were washed ashore along Yemen's coastline.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The authorities and the ICRC pursued dialogue on ICRC access to all detainees in Yemen, including those held in connection with the conflict in the north and the secessionist movement in the south, and detained members of armed groups, including AQAP. After a hiatus of several years, 237 people held in a place of detention in Sana'a under the responsibility of the PSO received ICRC visits, carried out according to the organization's standard procedures, to assess their treatment and living conditions and to enable them to re-establish contact with their families. Delegates' findings and recommendations were shared confidentially with the detaining authorities.

Talks continued on obtaining unrestricted ICRC access to detainees held by the National Security Bureau, the Counter-Terrorism Unit and the CID of the Ministry of Interior, as yet to no avail.

Members of these services were among 13 representatives of the detaining authorities who deepened their knowledge of internationally recognized norms related in particular to detainees' treatment and health care during a two-day seminar. In parallel to the resumption of ICRC visits, some 40 prison officers and guards attended briefings on the ICRC's standard procedures during detention visits.

Detained irregular migrants receive assistance

Some 3,800 irregular migrants (in average, 720/month), mainly from the Horn of Africa, held in precarious conditions while awaiting deportation in a Ministry of Interior place of detention in Sana'a continued to receive emergency assistance to ensure their health and well-being in a joint Yemeni Red Crescent/ICRC operation. Another 1,072 irregular migrants held in Hodeida and Taiz central prisons were provided with non-food items. At their request, the detention of 328 irregular migrants was notified to UNHCR or their embassies.

Detained women improve their social reintegration prospects

Around 200 female detainees in 10 central prisons continued to benefit from a vocational training programme (e.g. sewing, literacy, handicraft and computer courses), which included the provision of recreational materials and day nursery facilities for their children. Run by the Yemeni Red Crescent with ICRC support, the programme aimed to improve their living conditions in detention and to facilitate their reintegration after release through

income generated from the sale of their products. After release, 19 women benefited from ICRC input to start their own businesses (e.g. a sewing equipment package).

WOUNDED AND SICK

When monitoring allowed, civil and military hospitals in conflict areas in northern and southern provinces received ad hoc medical supplies to help them cope with influxes of wounded patients. After a second ICRC war-surgery seminar in Sana'a attended by 91 doctors from 21 provinces, the Health Ministry and the ICRC reinforced their cooperation with a view to strengthening surgical capacities.

In coordination with the Health Ministry, the National Society and the ICRC reviewed the curriculum and material for first-aid training and defined a plan of action to develop the first-aid network. Some 80 trainers from 12 branches updated their skills during training. In Aden, staff of Health Ministry emergency medical services attended first-aid training organized by the local Red Crescent branch with ICRC support.

Some 9,050 patients received services at the four State-run physical rehabilitation centres in Aden, Mukalla, Sana'a and Taiz, which continued to receive material and training support to produce mobility aids using ICRC polypropylene technology. Patients living in the north unable to reach Sana'a received treatment at the Sa'ada centre between April and June thanks to the presence of ICRC specialists; services were either irregular or discontinued for the rest of the year owing to security constraints. Seven local technicians sponsored by the ICRC pursued specialist training at a school in India to enhance their skills. The health authorities and other stakeholders discussed ways of improving coordination between the centres at two meetings organized by the ICRC.

AUTHORITIES

Meetings with authorities and community leaders at central and local level provided opportunities to express concerns about the impact of the conflict on civilians not engaged in the hostilities, to promote the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent approach, and to solicit their help in facilitating National Society/ICRC activities (see *Civilians*). Information sessions on IHL and the Movement organized, for example, for 25 representatives of the Yemeni cabinet general secretariat and 150 Amran officials and traditional leaders, helped gain their support.

With further legal advice and in the course of three meetings, the national IHL committee agreed on joint activities and formulated a plan of action. Two committee members attended the third Universal Meeting of National IHL Committees held in Geneva, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*). Government officials participated in regional seminars on IHL (see *Kuwait and Lebanon*). Some 45 diplomats and 80 future judges increased their awareness of IHL at two training courses respectively at the Diplomatic Institute and the High Judicial Institute in Sana'a.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Extended networking with Yemeni armed forces and local traditional and religious leaders enabled the ICRC to have contacts with weapon bearers at local level (see *Authorities*). In a first meeting in two years with the influential commander of the North-West Military Command Region, the ICRC directly requested his support in gaining wider access to people in need of humanitarian assistance.

The Ministry of Defence and the ICRC discussed the modalities of including IHL in the armed forces' teaching and training programmes. They renewed an agreement on the publication of articles on IHL/ICRC-related issues in the Yemeni Armed Forces' monthly magazine. Military institutes and the North-West Military Command Region received publications on the ICRC and IHL.

In parallel, contacts with the army and the police enabled the ICRC to brief officers on IHL, on the provisions of IHL and international human rights law applicable to law enforcement, and on the Movement's mandate and activities. Participants included 95 Central Security Forces officers from all provinces who took part in a three-day workshop, and the following military and security personnel who attended dissemination sessions:

- ▶ 300 Central Security Forces officers based in Amran and Sana'a
- ▶ 150 commanders and officers at the Command and Staff College
- ▶ 50 officers in the North-West Military Command Region and the First Armoured Division
- ▶ 65 police officers occupying various positions in places of detention and in the CID
- ▶ 50 officers at the Police Academy

CIVIL SOCIETY

In addition to information sessions conducted by the ICRC for officials and traditional leaders (see *Authorities*), national and regional media outlets were regularly updated on Yemeni Red Crescent/ICRC activities through interviews, newsletters and fact sheets. One senior Yemeni journalist attended a regional seminar on IHL for Arab media in Cairo (see *Egypt*) and 18 others gained knowledge of IHL and the Movement at a two-day workshop in Sana'a.

A new comic book explaining the ICRC and its partnership with the Yemeni Red Crescent was published, targeting a wide public. The first use of a mobile telephone SMS system to promote the five ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation facilities operating countrywide prompted numerous enquiries about them.

Several hundred students, including in Islamic law, raised their awareness of the common ground between Islamic law and IHL, as well as of the ICRC, at lectures and panel discussions held in

universities around the country, including in Aden, Hodeida, Sana'a, Taiz and Tareem. Two Islamic law lecturers participated in regional IHL courses (see *Lebanon*). Subsequently, all were able to enhance their knowledge of IHL through reference books provided to their faculties.

In a further step towards the full integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into school curricula, the Ministry of Education completed teaching manuals for the syllabus, already taught in 64 schools countrywide.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Yemeni Red Crescent remained the ICRC's main operational partner (see *Civilians*). It received wide-ranging financial, technical and material support to strengthen its capacities to work according to the Movement's Fundamental Principles and to operate in particular from its branches in Amran and Sa'ada provinces and in the south.

With this support, the National Society, primarily through its northern and southern branches, notably:

- ▶ reinforced/developed contingency plans
- ▶ trained some 100 staff and volunteers in the fields of economic security, primary health care, restoring family links and public communication
- ▶ established core groups of some 300 trained volunteers in the north
- ▶ recruited some 200 female volunteers to deal with women-headed households and initiated a sewing training workshop for displaced women in Sa'ada
- ▶ created a core communication group to reinforce its identity and image countrywide, organized events, provided volunteers with uniform vests, and produced/distributed brochures and its bi-monthly magazine *al-Ithar*
- ▶ adopted its revised statutes and developed its management reform process

Regular meetings with all partners present in the country ensured Movement coordination.

KUWAIT (regional)

COVERING: Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates



 ICRC regional delegation

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	952
Assistance	-
Prevention	887
Cooperation with National Societies	424
General	273

▶ **2,536**

of which: Overheads 155

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	88%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	4
National staff (daily workers not included)	20

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- ▶ welcomed the significant progress made by the Tripartite Commission in clarifying the fate of people missing as a result of the 1990–91 Gulf War, notably through joint exhumation operations by Iraqi and Kuwaiti forensic experts
- ▶ acting as a neutral intermediary, facilitated the exhumation and repatriation of the remains of 55 Iraqi soldiers found in Kuwait and the repatriation of the remains of other Iraqis exhumed in 2009
- ▶ visited Kuwaiti and foreign security detainees, Iraqis, Palestinians and stateless persons detained in Kuwait, and security detainees in Qatar, providing the detaining authorities with confidential feedback and recommendations
- ▶ in partnership with Red Crescent Societies of the region, enabled families in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to communicate with relatives detained/interned abroad through family-links services, including videoconferencing
- ▶ strengthened cooperation with National Societies in GCC countries, focusing mainly on training in restoring family links
- ▶ with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, held the third regional training course on IHL for over 60 diplomats from 17 Arab countries

The ICRC has been in Kuwait since the outbreak of the 1990–91 Gulf War. Its presence in the region is linked to humanitarian issues remaining from that war and those arising from the current armed conflict in Iraq, and to work relating to people deprived of their freedom in the Gulf Cooperation Council member States. In addition, the ICRC focuses on promoting IHL and its own role as a neutral and independent humanitarian organization working in areas of armed conflict and other situations of violence. Strengthening its partnership with the National Red Crescent Societies of the region is another priority.

CONTEXT

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries remained concerned about the ongoing violence in Iraq and its potential spillover into their territories along sectarian lines, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the persistent international tensions over the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear programme.

No further hostilities between Saudi armed forces and Yemeni weapon bearers along the border between the two countries were reported after armed confrontations ceased at the end of 2009.

Several countries in the region pursued a path of social and political reform, while seeking to eradicate the presence of militants

allegedly linked to al-Qaeda and held responsible for recurrent acts of violence against government and "Western" targets in recent years.

The effects of the global economic downturn led to the suspension or abandonment of major infrastructure development projects in some GCC countries and the subsequent expulsion of large numbers of migrant workers.

Iraq and Kuwait agreed to work together more closely to locate and excavate the gravesites of thousands of people presumed to have been killed in their respective countries during the 1990–91 Gulf War.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS			
PROTECTION			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	118		
RCMs distributed	383		
Phone calls facilitated between family members	80		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations	Total		
Human remains transferred/repatriated	64		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons¹	Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	24	1	1
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	18		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	17		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)	29	5	2
Documents			
People to whom travel documents were issued	2		
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines	7		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)²			
ICRC visits	Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited and monitored individually	75		
Detainees newly registered	24		
Number of visits carried out	6		
Number of places of detention visited	3		
Restoring family links	Total		
RCMs collected	1		
RCMs distributed	6		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	19		
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	6		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	1,541		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Not including people missing as a consequence of the 1990–91 Gulf War

2. Qatar and Kuwait

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Resolving humanitarian issues outstanding from the 1990–91 Gulf War and others arising from the regional consequences of armed conflict in Iraq remained top priorities for the ICRC.

Efforts to clarify the fate of people missing in connection with the 1990–91 Gulf War made the most significant progress in years. In the framework of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-Committee set up under ICRC auspices to bring together

representatives of the States concerned to address the issue, Iraq and Kuwait carried out a first joint exhumation operation in Kuwait, resulting in the recovery of the remains of 55 Iraqi military personnel. During a second joint mission in Iraq, they investigated the whereabouts of the remains of missing Kuwaitis.

The ICRC visited people deprived of their freedom in Kuwait and Qatar to assess their treatment and living conditions and shared their findings and recommendations confidentially with the authorities. Discussions continued with Bahrain's authorities on

a possible resumption of visits to detainees. The ICRC made no tangible progress in obtaining access to nationals of GCC member States imprisoned in their home countries after being transferred from the US internment facility at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba.

For the second consecutive year, the ICRC organized a visit for Iraqi families to relatives detained in Kuwait since the 1990–91 Gulf War. Red Crescent Societies of the region and the ICRC also enabled families in GCC countries to communicate with relatives detained/interned abroad through tracing and RCM services, introducing videoconferencing between detainees/internees in the Guantanamo Bay internment facility and their relatives in Saudi Arabia.

The ICRC continued to promote the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, university education and the training programmes of armed forces in GCC countries. It also networked with civil society groups to highlight similarities between Islamic law and IHL and held training workshops on IHL and the ICRC for journalists, enabling them to contribute to broader acceptance of neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action.

Cooperation with National Societies focused on restoring family links. The ICRC coordinated its activities with Movement partners and other humanitarian players as appropriate, in order to maximize impact, identify unmet needs and avoid duplication.

CIVILIANS

Relatives separated by armed conflict restore contact

Families in GCC member States, including migrants, continued to require assistance in restoring or maintaining contact with relatives either detained/interned abroad, in particular in the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and in Iraq, or living in countries disrupted by conflict, other situations of violence or natural disaster.

Family links were assured through the tracing and RCM services run by the ICRC and the National Societies of the region (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*), which played a pivotal role in ensuring the timely collection and delivery of RCMs. Whenever possible, these services were supplemented by telephone contact, including calls made by ICRC delegates to convey messages between detainees/internees visited and their relatives, or by videoconferencing between inmates and their families; starting in September, videoconferencing was extended to Saudi Arabia (see *Washington*).

In March, six Iraqi families travelled to Kuwait for the second time to visit their relatives detained in Kuwait's central prison (see *People deprived of their freedom*). The visit was organized by the ICRC in close cooperation with the Kuwaiti authorities. No reply had yet been received from the relevant authorities regarding possible family visits for Saudi nationals detained in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The same month, the remains of a Saudi national who had died in an Iraqi prison were repatriated under ICRC auspices and returned to his family in the presence of the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society.

Iraqi and Kuwaiti forensic experts work together on the recovery of human remains

Hundreds of Kuwaiti and Iraqi nationals, both civilians and combatants, remained unaccounted for from the 1990–91 Gulf War, a source of deep anguish for their families.

Under the chairmanship of the ICRC, one meeting of the Tripartite Commission and five meetings of its Technical Sub-Committee dealing with cases of people missing from the conflict took place in 2010. A breakthrough occurred in March when Iraq and Kuwait agreed to let their forensic experts work together alongside counterparts from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the ICRC during exhumation and identification operations in their respective countries. In May, following the second international meeting of forensic experts organized by the ICRC, the first joint operation went ahead in northern Kuwait, resulting in the exhumation of the remains of 55 Iraqi military personnel and their subsequent repatriation to Iraq under ICRC auspices. Iraq had earlier handed over samples of human remains to Kuwait to check if they matched the national DNA database, while the remains of two Iraqis exhumed in Kuwait had been repatriated to Iraq. The families of people unaccounted for abroad had the opportunity to provide ante-mortem data to the ICRC for possible use in identifying missing relatives among the dead and to resort to its help to facilitate the repatriation of identified remains so that they could be given a proper burial.

In December, teams from Iraq, Kuwait, the United Kingdom and the United States conducted their first joint probing mission, facilitated by the ICRC, to locate mass graves in Naseriya, Iraq, possibly containing the remains of missing Kuwaitis. Although no remains were found, the operation showed the parties' willingness to work together.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Kuwait, security detainees, both Kuwaiti and foreign nationals, as well as Iraqi nationals, Palestinians and stateless persons held in the central prison for men or in the deportation centre, received visits from the ICRC, conducted according to its standard procedures, to check on their treatment and living conditions.

Detainees held in the Kuwait central prison were visited in March to assess their overall conditions of detention, particularly medical services and infrastructure, as a follow-up to an ICRC visit carried out in 2009 to study the Kuwaiti detention system as a whole. This led to the start of a dialogue with the detaining authorities regarding cooperation on prison health matters.

People held at the central prison in Doha, Qatar, since their conviction in connection with the failed coup attempt in 1996 received

a follow-up visit from ICRC delegates. In May, 21 of the detainees concerned were released by a decree from the Qatari emir and transferred to Saudi Arabia.

In both Kuwait and Qatar, the detaining authorities received confidential feedback and recommendations from ICRC delegates after visits. Special attention was paid to respect for detainees' judicial rights, including their access to legal counsel.

In Bahrain, dialogue was pursued with the authorities regarding the possible resumption of visits to detainees (discontinued in 2001), as well as seminars on detention-related issues.

Discussions regarding access to Saudi nationals held by Saudi authorities after their transfer or release from detention/internment in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay or Iraq remained at a standstill. Dialogue started with NGOs representing released detainees and/or their families to assess their needs and find ways of helping them. In response to the ICRC's offer of humanitarian services in connection with Saudi Arabia's military operations along the border with northern Yemen, the Saudi authorities informed the ICRC that Yemeni prisoners were treated in compliance with the country's international obligations and rapidly released and deported.

Former detainees, in particular Iraqi POWs, previously held in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia who had been visited by the ICRC in the past, or their families, were issued with certificates of detention, on request. In many cases, this entitled them to State allowances.

AUTHORITIES

The national IHL committees in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) kept in regular contact with the ICRC to plan training events, share expertise in regional fora and discuss the adoption and implementation of humanitarian instruments, particularly weapon-related treaties. Oman and Qatar took additional measures to establish such committees, while Bahrain was still considering this step.

Over 60 diplomats from 17 Arab countries enhanced their knowledge of IHL and the ICRC at the annual regional IHL event in the UAE, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC. In Bahrain and the UAE, judges and prosecutors took part in national

IHL training sessions, organized by the national Judicial and Legal Studies Institutes and, in the case of the UAE, the national IHL committee. Both the Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions were systematically discussed in these fora.

Government officials, academic experts and civil servants from GCC States attended advanced IHL courses in Beirut (see *Lebanon*), while representatives from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE participated in the second regional meeting of Arab parliamentarians on IHL implementation (see *Egypt*).

Together with the political authorities, the Saudi-based secretariats of the GCC and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (and its subsidiary organ, the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent) remained important focal points for conveying humanitarian messages and gaining acceptance of both IHL and neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action in their member States. Although administrative delays continued to hamper the ICRC's efforts to step up regular meetings with these organizations, high-level meetings with the Saudi foreign minister and officials of the Organization of the Islamic Conference secretariat offered opportunities for dialogue.

The Saudi authorities continued to facilitate the transit through its territory of ICRC relief convoys bound for northern Yemen.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE had formally integrated IHL rules into their military instruction and training programmes or had shown interest in doing so. Bahrain, Oman and Qatar had established national military IHL committees.

The armed forces of Kuwait and Oman and the ICRC maintained regular working relations. About 200 officers of all nationalities attending Kuwait's and Oman's Command and Staff Colleges learnt about the basic rules of IHL and the ICRC's mandate and work through presentations. In Bahrain, 45 officers from various army units prepared for their future role as IHL instructors by attending an IHL train-the-trainer course. The course was conducted mainly by Ministry of Defence staff who had been trained with ICRC support. In Qatar, 25 officers of the Interior Ministry participated in an IHL workshop co-organized by the ministry, the National Society and the ICRC.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	KUWAIT	QATAR
ICRC visits		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	47	28
Detainees newly registered	24	
Number of visits carried out	5	1
Number of places of detention visited	2	1
Restoring family links		
RCMs collected	1	
RCMs distributed	6	
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	19	
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	6	
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	1,541	

In the UAE, on the sidelines of the regional seminar for diplomats (see *Authorities*), 30 officers attended an IHL presentation organized by the national IHL committee. This provided representatives of the UAE armed forces and the ICRC with the opportunity to discuss further cooperation.

The GCC Department for Military Affairs and the ICRC continued to explore the possibility of jointly reinforcing the IHL teaching process within the region's armed forces. However, a planned regional seminar on IHL, which the UAE had offered to host, had to be cancelled because of insufficient interest.

Dialogue with the Saudi authorities on developing IHL training activities for the military made no progress.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Pan-Arab and local media regularly reported on ICRC action and humanitarian issues inspired by briefings and information provided by the ICRC, including on its Arabic-language website, thus contributing to greater public awareness of humanitarian issues and ensuring an accurate perception of the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent action and humanitarian role in GCC countries.

Reporting on humanitarian themes was also aided by the training of journalists. Over 100 staff members of the Al Jazeera satellite broadcaster in Qatar, various media outlets in the UAE, and the Alhurra TV channel took part in workshops on IHL and the ICRC. Following the first such event in the UAE, the UAE journalists' association requested further training for its members; to this end, a draft agreement was being drawn up by the ICRC.

Journalists, human rights activists, lawyers and academics from GCC countries discussed freedom of the media, and, drawing on a contribution made by the ICRC, the protection of journalists, at a seminar held in Kuwait by a local NGO and UNESCO.

In Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE, university students familiarized themselves with IHL while participating in nine seminars given by the ICRC at the main law, political science and international relations faculties; in the UAE, Al-Ain University's College of Humanities gave the go-ahead for IHL sessions, which were attended by over 120 students, including journalism students. Postgraduate students and lecturers used ICRC documentation for IHL-related research, and lecturers from four GCC countries were sponsored by the ICRC to attend a regional IHL course held in Beirut (see *Lebanon*).

Other sectors of civil society in GCC countries, such as Islamic circles and charities, expressed interest in learning more about the common ground between Islamic law and IHL: 35 representatives from major Kuwaiti and Saudi charities attended a seminar co-organized by two Islamic charities and the ICRC in Kuwait, which generated demand for more such events; and over 150 representatives of Saudi organizations learnt about IHL and the Movement through an ICRC presentation at a seminar on voluntary work held in Jeddah.

Regional fora, including those organized by UN agencies, in Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE were opportunities for the ICRC to nurture relations with religious leaders, international organizations and NGOs.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies and the ICRC jointly operated the family-links network (see *Civilians*). Staff and volunteers from the Red Crescent Societies of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia attended two ICRC family-links training workshops to enhance their capacities to meet local needs in this field, especially those of the numerous migrants living in GCC countries.

National Societies and the ICRC also explored ways of working together more closely to improve cooperation at the international level, in accordance with the Movement's Fundamental Principles. National Societies were encouraged to increase their support to ICRC operations and to develop joint rapid deployment capacities.

Regular consultations continued between the leadership of most GCC Red Crescent Societies and the ICRC. Discussions with the Saudi Red Crescent leadership on future ICRC activities in Saudi Arabia were ongoing throughout 2010. The Red Crescent Society of the UAE signed a cooperation agreement with the ICRC on strengthening the National Society's disaster-management, family-links and communication capacities and participated in organizing activities for journalists (see *Civil society*).

The National Societies of the region carried out dissemination activities and produced publications, including articles for the ICRC's Arabic quarterly, *Al-Insani*, with ICRC funding and technical support. Staff and volunteers of the Bahrain and the Kuwait Red Crescent Societies learnt about IHL and the Movement during ICRC presentations; the Bahrain Red Crescent staged the "Humanity in War" photo exhibition and presented its activities to the armed forces during an ICRC seminar (see *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*).

TUNIS (regional)

COVERING: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco/Western Sahara, Tunisia



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	2,738
Assistance	645
Prevention	1,431
Cooperation with National Societies	510
General	-

▶ **5,323**

of which: Overheads 325

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	99%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	16
National staff (daily workers not included)	36

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- ▶ in support of the Mauritanian authorities, initiated an emergency health programme in Nouakchott's main prison, providing detainees with life-saving nutritional and medical attention and hygiene items
- ▶ helped the Tunisian authorities develop 2 pilot projects aimed at alleviating overcrowding in prisons
- ▶ with the Moroccan Red Crescent and a Sahrawi NGO, launched a pilot initiative to familiarize communities in Western Sahara with the dangers posed by mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW)
- ▶ provided prosthetic/orthotic and physiotherapy services to 272 Sahrawi victims of mines/ERW and other disabled people
- ▶ welcomed the ratification by Tunisia of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
- ▶ enhanced understanding of IHL and the ICRC among more than 800 members of the armed and security forces during training events organized together with local institutions in Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia

The regional delegation based in Tunisia, which has been operating since 1987, regularly visits people deprived of their freedom in Mauritania and Tunisia to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention. Acting as a neutral intermediary, it is also involved in efforts to resolve issues of humanitarian concern arising from the aftermath of the Western Sahara conflict. It promotes implementation of IHL by the authorities, including its integration into national legislation and into training programmes for the armed forces. National Societies and the media in the region are essential partners in this process.

CONTEXT

The stability of parts of the region continued to be threatened by violence and political and social tensions.

Violent activity, including kidnappings, persisted in remote regions near the Mali-Mauritania frontier, attributed by some sources to members of the self-styled Al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb. Security operations targeting armed groups and individuals suspected of endangering State security reportedly led to arrests.

Mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) scattered throughout the region during the Western Sahara and previous conflicts continued to pose a danger to the population.

The final status of Western Sahara remained contentious between Morocco and the Polisario Front. Informal talks between the parties, organized by the UN special envoy in February and December, failed to move things forward. On 30 April, the UN Security Council extended the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for another year.

Families on both sides remained without news of relatives unaccounted for from the 1975–91 Western Sahara conflict.

In October, some 15,000 Sahrawis gathered outside Laayoune, in the part of Western Sahara under Moroccan administration, to protest against difficult living conditions. Confrontations ensued when the Moroccan security forces intervened to disperse the protesters, resulting in casualties on both sides.

In November, Mauritanian media drew attention to a rise in mortality rates in Nouakchott's main prison, prompting the authorities to launch an investigation.

In late December, Tunisian youth took to the streets to protest against high unemployment and poverty, triggering clashes with security forces. Demonstrations were still in progress at year-end.

The region as a whole continued to serve as a transit route for irregular migrants seeking entry into Europe. Their numbers decreased, however, as tighter restrictions on entry, border controls and greater cooperation between the States concerned saw many forcibly returned to North Africa.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	185		
RCMs distributed	130		
Phone calls facilitated between family members	26		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons¹	Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	48	14	19
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	9		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	1		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)	66	17	25
Documents			
People to whom travel documents were issued	30		
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines	1		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)²			
ICRC visits	Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited	28,599		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	706	6	3
Detainees newly registered	318	4	2
Number of visits carried out	67		
Number of places of detention visited	38		
Restoring family links	Total		
RCMs collected	42		
RCMs distributed	11		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	13		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	30		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Not including people missing as a consequence of the Western Sahara armed conflict

2. Mauritania and Tunisia

ASSISTANCE

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat³		Total	Women	Children
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	1,700		

3. Mauritania only

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

ASSISTANCE

WOUNDED AND SICK				
Physical rehabilitation ⁴		Total	Women	Children
Centres supported	Structures	1		
Patients receiving services	Patients	272	67	29
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	18	3	
Prostheses delivered	Units	21	3	
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	18	
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	36	12	6
Orthoses delivered	Units	45	17	11
Crutches delivered	Units	99		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	2		

4. Physical rehabilitation centre in Rabouni (south-western Algeria) for disabled Sahrawis

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC maintained its focus on protection activities related to people detained in Mauritania and Tunisia and those missing from the Western Sahara conflict. It also stepped up efforts to foster understanding of IHL and humanitarian principles among all those with potential influence in situations of violence, including authorities, armed and security forces and religious institutions.

During visits to detainees in Mauritania and Tunisia, delegates monitored their treatment and living conditions, while supporting the authorities in both countries in implementing fundamental penal and penitentiary reforms. In Tunisia, efforts centred on developing two pilot projects to address overcrowding; these explored the potential impact of alternative custody regimes and social rehabilitation initiatives on reducing the prison population. In Mauritania, the ICRC responded swiftly to deteriorating conditions in Nouakchott's Dar Naïm prison, increasing its support to meet detainees' urgent nutritional, medical and hygiene needs. In discussion with delegates, the authorities began developing a plan of action to reorganize the penitentiary health system.

In its capacity as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC pursued efforts to encourage the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front to clarify the fate of people unaccounted for from the 1975–91 Western Sahara conflict. With both parties having appointed specific bodies to address the issue, the ICRC offered to support these bodies in resolving outstanding cases to alleviate the distress of the families concerned.

The ICRC prosthetic/orthotic workshop and physical rehabilitation centre in Rabouni, in south-western Algeria, continued to provide limb-fitting and physiotherapy services to disabled Sahrawi refugees, including mine/ERW victims. With a view to reducing such injuries, the ICRC lent its support to a pilot mine-risk education initiative co-organized by the Moroccan Red Crescent and a Sahrawi NGO in Moroccan- and Polisario Front-administered parts of Western Sahara respectively.

Seminars, round-tables and bilateral contacts with national authorities, armed and security forces and civil society contributed to mutual understanding and helped foster their support for IHL and the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian work. To encourage national IHL implementation, the ICRC sponsored government representatives to enhance their knowledge at regional IHL events, and provided legal expertise to national IHL committees in Morocco and Tunisia. Libyan and Tunisian military training units began integrating IHL into curricula using IHL manuals revised with ICRC input. Leading media representatives, religious institutions and NGOs also strengthened cooperation with the ICRC, helping encourage widespread respect for humanitarian principles.

With the National Societies, the ICRC helped provide family-links services for people separated from their families, including migrants. These allowed several families to enjoy direct contact with relatives detained/interned abroad.

The organization continued to offer guidance and financial support to the region's National Societies to develop their family-links activities and to build their capacities to provide a full range of humanitarian services. It worked with the Mauritanian Red Crescent on revising its statutes and strategy.

Coordination with Movement partners and other humanitarian actors helped ensure needs were covered while avoiding duplication.

CIVILIANS

Families regionwide were able to locate or make contact with relatives detained/interned abroad, or present in violence-affected countries where communications were difficult, using family-links services provided by the National Societies/ICRC. Among them, 11 families enjoyed telephone or video contact with relatives detained/interned in the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, in Afghanistan or in Iraq. Migrants, refugees and former detainees/internees released and repatriated, or resettled in third countries, also had access to such services,

enabling them to maintain family contact and obtain travel or other official documents where necessary.

In the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, such services were provided by the Libyan Red Crescent, which worked closely with an expert ICRC tracing delegate to boost its family-links capacities. Together they identified ways to accelerate outstanding cases, notably by refining record-keeping procedures. Within the framework of the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement, they conducted a workshop for family-links personnel and reviewed Movement guidelines regarding activities for migrants. Moroccan Red Crescent management staff received an introductory ICRC briefing on the strategy, prompting discussion as to how family-links activities might be incorporated into disaster-preparedness training.

Efforts pursued to provide answers to the families of persons missing from the Western Sahara conflict

With the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary, the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front were encouraged to take concrete action to clarify the fate of people missing in connection with the Western Sahara conflict, and to inform the families accordingly. Both parties having appointed specific bodies to address the issue, the ICRC continued to offer its support to the Consultative Council on Human Rights (CCDH, for Morocco) and the “Sahrawi Red Crescent” (for the Polisario Front) in gathering additional information to that end by sharing its expertise in this field.

On meeting delegates, the CCDH agreed, in principle, to resume efforts to resolve an initial caseload in order to relieve the anguish of the families concerned. Preliminary discussions also took place with the “Sahrawi Red Crescent”, which expressed interest in ICRC help to build staff capacities, for example through advice on data-collection techniques. Both bodies agreed to pursue discussions with the ICRC in 2011 to formalize terms of cooperation.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in Mauritania and Tunisia received visits from the ICRC, according to its standard procedures, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. The ICRC shared feedback from such visits with the authorities confidentially.

During visits, detainees were able to exchange news with relatives by telephone/RCM using Movement family-links services.

In both countries, the authorities responded positively to ICRC recommendations and welcomed its support in their efforts to implement comprehensive reforms aimed at bringing detainees’ treatment and living conditions in line with international standards. They worked to improve respect for detainees’ physical and psychological well-being, taking action where necessary to remind prison personnel of their responsibilities to respect detainees’ legal rights.

Dialogue with Polisario Front representatives continued with a view to resuming visits to detainees under their responsibility, as agreed in principle in 2009. Formal authorization to proceed was awaited at year-end.

Discussions with the Moroccan authorities secured agreement in principle to visit Moroccans detained following their transfer from internment abroad.

Mauritanian detainees receive life-saving support

In Mauritania, the authorities acknowledged the need to improve prison infrastructure, organization and financial management to secure detainees’ health and general well-being, but generally lacked the resources to address such issues.

When, in November, it emerged that nutritional and hygiene conditions in Nouakchott’s Dar Naïm prison had deteriorated to life-threatening levels, the authorities welcomed the ICRC’s proposal to conduct an emergency health assessment. Accordingly, over 900 detainees had their nutritional health monitored by an ICRC medical team, accompanied by Health Ministry nurses, enabling them to identify those requiring immediate treatment as well as recurrent health issues such as skin and respiratory complaints. Based on the findings, the ICRC sharply increased its support to help bring the situation under control.

With ICRC materials and supervision, the authorities initiated a comprehensive clean-up operation and introduced measures to ensure detainees’ accommodation and sanitation facilities would be regularly cleaned in future. Detainees in Dar Naïm and, as necessary, in other facilities, received ICRC hygiene items to help them maintain a healthy living environment.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	MAURITANIA	TUNISIA
ICRC visits		
Detainees visited	1,451	27,148
Detainees visited and monitored individually	108	598
	<i>of whom women</i>	6
	<i>of whom minors</i>	2
Detainees newly registered	40	278
	<i>of whom women</i>	4
	<i>of whom minors</i>	2
Number of visits carried out	19	48
Number of places of detention visited	7	31
Restoring family links		
RCMs collected	21	21
RCMs distributed	5	6
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	8	5

On ICRC advice, prison medical personnel increased their hours to ensure detainees in Dar Naïm had access to 24-hour medical services. Inmates requiring medical attention received adequate treatment thanks to essential medical supplies provided by the ICRC in cooperation with WHO.

In parallel, the authorities and prison health personnel, with ICRC support, embarked on efforts to reorganize the penitentiary health system, developing a plan of action to bring sustainable improvements to detainees' general health and nutrition.

Tunisian authorities work to improve detainees' treatment and address overcrowding

In response to an ICRC written representation concerning the treatment of people held in police custody, the Tunisian authorities confirmed the utility of such communications and proposed meeting delegates quarterly to follow up any new issues. They took note of the ICRC's readiness to help them train prison medical personnel to document inmates' health issues systematically. Such dialogue also drew the authorities' attention to the needs of potentially isolated groups such as migrants, inmates in solitary confinement and those sentenced to death, and reminded them of the importance of family contact in contributing to such inmates' psychological well-being.

Given Tunisia's prison population, numbering some 27,000 detainees in 31 facilities visited by the ICRC, overcrowding continued to put a severe strain on prison resources and infrastructure.

With the ICRC, the Justice Ministry and the prison administration launched pilot projects in Sousse and Mahdia prisons. These aimed to reduce the prison population and improve day-to-day conditions for detainees by introducing a variety of custody regimes and activity programmes to suit different categories of offender. During two ICRC-organized visits to Switzerland, magistrates and other relevant officials examined the Swiss penal and penitentiary model at first-hand. They saw how prisoner numbers might be reduced by introducing alternatives to imprisonment, and by engaging detainees in social rehabilitation initiatives to minimize repeat offences. Back in Tunisia, magistrates were encouraged to consider prison-population growth when handing down sentences, while prison directors and social workers learnt about different custody regimes at a prison administration/ICRC seminar. Based on these activities, the project steering committees developed plans of action, with ICRC guidance, to alleviate overcrowding in the targeted prisons. These were well advanced by year-end ahead of their submission for Justice Ministry approval in 2011.

WOUNDED AND SICK

People in the region remained at risk from mines/ERW remaining from the Western Sahara and previous conflicts.

During the year, 272 Sahrawi refugees benefited from services provided by the ICRC prosthetic/orthotic workshop and physical rehabilitation centre in Rabouni, in south-western Algeria's

Tindouf region. Serving victims of mines/ERW and other disabled people living in nearby refugee camps, the centre produced prostheses, orthoses, crutches and wheelchairs and offered limb-fitting and physiotherapy services. Having access to these facilities prevented patients from having to travel long distances for treatment, and minimized the turnaround time for repairs to their mobility aids. Six physiotherapists and prosthetic/orthotic technicians reinforced their skills with ICRC training, helping ensure the quality and sustainability of services.

In efforts to prevent mine/ERW accidents in Western Sahara, local Moroccan Red Crescent branches and the Sahrawi Campaign to Ban Landmines launched a pilot mine-risk education initiative, with ICRC support (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*), in Moroccan- and Polisario Front-administered areas of Western Sahara respectively. Local rural and nomadic communities, including schoolchildren, learnt about the dangers posed by such devices at presentations, and received leaflets, t-shirts and educational games to help promote such messages more widely.

AUTHORITIES

During briefings and round-tables, government officials, diplomats and parliamentarians in Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia discussed topical IHL and humanitarian and security issues with the ICRC and learnt more about its activities. Such contact deepened their understanding of the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian work, contributing particularly to cooperation in Mauritania and Tunisia on detention-related matters (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

In Morocco, dialogue continued aimed at formalizing the ICRC's presence in the country and strengthening its operations there. The authorities were informed that, from 2011, activities would be managed from the ICRC's Tunis office. In June, they formally acknowledged the ICRC's 2009 position paper regarding humanitarian needs linked to the 1975–91 Western Sahara conflict (see *Civilians*). They encouraged the ICRC, as a neutral intermediary, to pursue cooperation with the CCDH in this regard.

To support the region's governments in mobilizing support for IHL, magistrates, government officials and representatives of IHL implementation bodies from Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia enhanced their IHL expertise at ICRC workshops abroad. No Libyan representatives were available to attend such events.

The Moroccan and Tunisian governments, in particular, took steps to accelerate national IHL implementation, with ICRC guidance and reference materials. Tunisia ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions and undertook to draft a bill governing use of the Movement's emblems. After examining legislative and constitutional obstacles to the ratification of the Rome Statute at an ICRC seminar, Morocco's IHL committee organized a workshop for legislators to advance the process, with ICRC guidance.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

National military and security forces, which were at various stages of integrating IHL/international human rights law into curricula, benefited from ICRC expertise to support their efforts.

In the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia, the armed forces pursued efforts to standardize national IHL instruction and to build instructors' capacities to teach the subject independently. The Libyan military IHL committee finalized its IHL training manual with ICRC input. There and in Tunisia, which undertook a similar exercise in 2009, military schools countrywide began using the new manuals to conduct forces' training.

Some 350 Mauritanian military and security personnel, including National Guard members, learnt about IHL and international human rights law at ICRC seminars organized with national training academies. In Morocco, over 500 officers from the armed and security forces and the Royal Gendarmerie deepened their understanding of existing mechanisms designed to ensure adherence to IHL, and of the role of the International Criminal Court, at courses arranged with the national IHL committee. In Tunisia, military magistrates joined their civilian counterparts at an IHL committee/ICRC seminar to discuss the repression of IHL violations.

Additionally, Libyan and Mauritanian armed forces' magazines published ICRC articles on IHL-related issues, helping broaden understanding of IHL among their respective readerships.

Moroccan peacekeepers due for deployment to other African countries learnt about Movement operations in those countries at preparatory ICRC briefings. In the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, limited contact with security forces prevented the ICRC from conducting briefings for police officers.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Efforts continued to expand contacts among influential civil society members and to foster their support for IHL and the Movement's distinctive humanitarian work.

In the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania and Morocco, NGOs working in fields of common interest, such as the protection of detainees and children, enhanced their understanding of IHL and Movement operations at National Society/ICRC seminars. Similarly, respected religious groups and cultural associations examined parallels between IHL and Islamic law and the distinctive nature of the Movement's emblems. Members of these groups contributed to the ICRC's Arab-language magazine, *Al-Insani*, helping raise awareness of regional humanitarian concerns such as migration.

To enhance humanitarian reporting, the ICRC sponsored journalists' attendance at a regional media workshop and developed partnerships with media trade unions and magazines in Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. Together they organized seminars at which

journalists deepened their understanding of ICRC operations and discussed practical aspects of IHL. These events generated coverage in leading newspapers and radio/television broadcasts, particularly in Tunisia, contributing to greater public awareness of such topics.

In pursuit of efforts to promote IHL in academic circles, religious universities, especially in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia, strengthened their cooperation with the National Societies/ICRC. They hosted several well-attended study days enabling students and lecturers to discuss current challenges facing IHL. With ICRC support, Tunisia's Ez-Zitouna University organized a second seminar on "IHL and the Muslim World", attracting some 50 lecturers and students from across the region. Ez-Zitouna University later organized a similar course for doctoral students, marking the formal introduction of IHL in its curricula.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

In coordination with the International Federation and National Societies working internationally, the ICRC provided expertise and financial support to the region's National Societies to strengthen their capacities to provide a full range of humanitarian services. Regular contact with each Society's leadership ensured Movement components knew of each other's activities and could identify scope for partnership.

The National Societies in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Morocco received advice from tracing delegates on developing their family-links activities in line with the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement (see *Civilians*). The Libyan Red Crescent, in particular, consolidated its cooperation with the ICRC, identifying common objectives and developing a plan of action for the coming year. In efforts to develop a coherent approach to the regional trend of migration, the International Federation/ICRC arranged for all four National Societies to share their experiences at a Movement meeting in Senegal (see *Dakar*).

Having acquired skills to raise awareness of weapon contamination at ICRC courses in 2009, five Moroccan Red Crescent branches produced supporting materials with ICRC funds and, thus equipped, launched a mine-risk education initiative (see *Wounded and sick*). The National Society's Laayoune branch independently mobilized ambulances and first-aiders to attend to people wounded during protests outside Laayoune in October.

Throughout the year, the Mauritanian Red Crescent pursued a comprehensive revision of its statutes and strategy with sustained encouragement and guidance from the ICRC and other Movement partners active in the country.