



PROMOTING RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Reminding parties to a conflict of their obligation to protect people not taking part or no longer taking part in the hostilities is a fundamental part of the ICRC's work. The ICRC endeavours to strengthen knowledge of and respect for International humanitarian law (IHL) among weapon bearers, authorities, tribal and religious leaders and academic circles. It supports the Iraqi armed and security forces to incorporate IHL into their doctrine, education, training and system of sanctions. It encourages the Iraqi government to ratify and implement IHL treaties at the national level.

COOPERATING WITH THE IRAQI RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

The ICRC supports the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) to develop its capacity to deliver humanitarian services in Iraq. It trains IRCS volunteers in first-aid and emergency response. Cooperation focuses also on assisting persons separated from their relatives to restore family contacts and exchange news, and educating communities about the risks of explosive remnants of war.

MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

The ICRC has been working in Iraq continuously since 1980. Its humanitarian activities focus on persons deprived of their liberty and on providing the civilian population affected by violence with relief assistance.

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ICRC IN IRAQ



ICRC



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Iraq addresses the humanitarian consequences of present and past violence and armed conflict affecting the Iraqis. It responds to the needs of the most vulnerable ones among them, such as disabled people, women heading households, internally displaced persons and farmers.

SUPPORTING HEALTH-CARE FACILITIES

- Providing on-site support to nine primary health-care centres, helping renovate premises and training staff for better quality services.
- Strengthening medical services through training in war surgery and emergency management.
- Offering occupational therapy support and supplies for patients at Al-Rashad psychiatric hospital in Baghdad.

HELPING DISABLED PEOPLE RESUME A NORMAL LIFE

- Supporting, through training and raw material donations, the Iraqi institute for prosthetics and orthotics, a workshop that manufactures crutches, and 11 physical rehabilitation centres, of which one is run by the ICRC.
- Encouraging the social and economic reintegration of disabled people through micro-economic projects.

PROVIDING CLEAN WATER & SANITATION

- Repairing and improving water supply and sanitation infrastructures.
- Renovating primary health-care centres.
- Providing safe drinking water for vulnerable people, including those displaced within Iraq.
- Training technicians in the operation and maintenance of water treatment plants and water infrastructure.

BRINGING AID TO PEOPLE FACING HARDSHIP

- Providing relief goods, advocating for and helping women heading households to become financially self-sufficient.
- Distributing food, hygiene kits and essential household items to families displaced by violence.
- Supporting disabled people, vulnerable residents and returnees in rural communities to improve their livelihood.

CLEARING UNEXPLODED MUNITIONS

- Removing unexploded munitions so as to improve the safety of people living in danger areas.
- Making people aware of the risks unexploded munitions pose.

ACTING IN FAVOUR OF DETAINEES AND RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

The ICRC visits people detained by the Iraqi and Kurdish regional authorities, with the aim of ensuring that they are treated humanely and that their conditions of detention are appropriate. It shares confidentially its observations and recommendations with the detaining authorities. The ICRC enables detainees to exchange news with their relatives through Red Cross messages, and responds to enquiries from families seeking information on detained relatives. When necessary, the ICRC also:

- Rehabilitates water and sanitation facilities.
- Provides detainees with such items as books, hygiene articles, mattresses and clothing.
- Issues attestations of detention to former detainees.

CLARIFYING THE FATE OF THE MISSING

The ICRC supports the Iraqi authorities in their efforts to clarify the fate of people still unaccounted for as a result of the Iran-Iraq War and the 1990-1991 Gulf War and to provide answers to the families. This support includes facilitating dialogue and exchange of information between the parties, forensic training, joint missions in the field and handover of human remains.