



ICRC

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

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

COOPERATING WITH THE IRAQI RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

The ICRC supports the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in its efforts to develop its capacity to deliver humanitarian services in Iraq. It trains Iraqi Red Crescent volunteers in first-aid and emergency response. Cooperation between the ICRC and the Iraqi Red Crescent also focuses on helping people separated from their relatives to restore contact and exchange news with them, and on educating communities about the risks of explosive remnants of war.

The ICRC has been working in Iraq continuously since 1980. Its humanitarian work in the country focuses on detainee-welfare activities, and on providing civilians affected by violence with relief assistance.

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.

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IN BRIEF



Paweł Krzysiek/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 among them, such as people with a disability, households headed by women, internally displaced persons, and farmers.

SUPPORTING HEALTH-CARE FACILITIES

- Providing on-site support to 13 primary health-care centres, helping renovate and construct premises and training staff for better-quality services.
- Offering occupational therapy support and supplies for patients at Al-Rashad psychiatric hospital in Baghdad.

HELPING PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY RESUME NORMAL LIVES

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



Flamez Mohammad/ICRC

PROVIDING CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

- Repairing and improving water supply and sanitation infrastructure.
- Providing safe drinking water for vulnerable people, including those displaced within Iraq.
- Training technicians in the operation and maintenance of water treatment plants, other water infrastructure and hospital machinery.

BRINGING AID TO PEOPLE FACING HARDSHIP

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



Michael Greub/ICRC

VISITING DETAINEES AND MAINTAINING CONTACT BETWEEN FAMILY MEMBERS

The ICRC visits people detained by the Iraqi and Kurdish regional authorities with the aim of ensuring that they are treated humanely, that their conditions of detention are appropriate, and that their basic judicial guarantees are respected. It shares confidentially its observations and recommendations with the detaining authorities. The ICRC enables detainees with no family contacts 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:

- repairs and improves water, sanitary and air-conditioning facilities.
- provides detainees with such items as mattresses, clothing, books and sport equipment, and former detainees with detention certificates.

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, participation in joint excavation missions in the field, and the handover of human remains.