

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.