



ICRC

FACTS & FIGURES

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THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IN SYRIA

More than two years of fighting have had a major impact on every aspect of life in Syria. Untold numbers of people have become displaced, been killed, gone missing, become disabled, detained or separated from family members, to name but a few of the calamities that have afflicted the country.

In addition to the human tragedy that is unfolding, essential services such as health care, water supply and garbage collection have been hampered in a number of areas as a result of the fighting. In addition, numerous schools, hospitals and other public facilities have been destroyed.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent estimates that there are now close to 5 million displaced people in Syria.

Since the onset of the conflict, the ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent have been working closely to reach millions of displaced and resident Syrians across the country and respond to their needs in terms of food, water and health care.

In the first half of 2013, the ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent helped ensure that clean water was available to 20 million people. Food items were also delivered to more than one million people. In addition, the ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent donated surgical and other medical supplies to treat thousands of sick and wounded patients across the country.

The ICRC currently has close to 128 staff members working in Syria, including 32 international team members. Working their way through numerous challenges; they do everything in their power to bring relief to people suffering the effects of this tragic conflict.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: FOOD AND OTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS

More than two years into the conflict, hundreds of thousands of Syrians are bereft of income and savings and completely dependent on aid. In the first half of 2013, the ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent together managed to provide aid throughout the country for more than one million people, most of them displaced.

This assistance was distributed as follows:

- food rations, consisting of rice, beans, lentils, tea and sugar, canned food and other items, were distributed to almost 1.2 million people throughout the country, beginning with Damascus and rural Damascus to Homs in the centre and Aleppo and Deir Ezzor in the north and east.
- mattresses, blankets, hygiene items (soap, washing detergents, shampoo, etc.) and other household essentials (kitchen utensils, buckets, rechargeable lights and sleeping mats) were distributed to more than 400,000 people across the country.



A displaced woman from al-Raqqa awaits a food parcel at the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's branch in Manbej, Aleppo

PROVIDING CLEAN WATER AND UPGRADING WATER AND SANITARY WORKS

A lack of clean drinking water has a serious impact on the health and well-being of entire communities. One of the cornerstones of the ICRC's work in Syria consists in ensuring that people affected by the fighting have access to clean water and acceptable sanitary conditions.

In cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the local water boards, the ICRC has responded to the needs of millions of people in terms of water and sanitation by:

- ensuring that 20 million people have access to clean drinking water by providing local water boards throughout Syria with the chemical supplies necessary for treating water.
- providing technical support, materials and equipment, including pumps, motors and generators, for local water boards.
- delivering water by truck to 135,000 people in al-Nabk and Tal-Kurdi in Rural Damascus, al-Furuqlus in Homs, and in Deir Ezzor.
- distributing more than 83,000 10-litre water bottles to displaced people in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, al-Hassakeh and Deir Ezzor.
- completing improvements to 321 public facilities serving as temporary shelters for displaced people (by installing showers and water heating units, and by increasing the capacity of the sanitary facilities and the water units) in 13 governorates across the country.



ICRC and Syrian Arab Red Crescent engineers at al-Basil water treatment plant. Deir Ezzor

HEALTH CARE FOR THE SICK AND THE WOUNDED

In the first half of 2013, the ICRC provided surgical supplies and other medical items needed to treat thousands of wounded people throughout the country. The ICRC:

- provided surgical and first-aid supplies for the treatment of more than 750 wounded people to nine public and private hospitals and a number of Syrian Arab Red Crescent branches. Intravenous fluids for more than 9,000 wounded patients were also supplied;
- supplied medicines for the treatment of 2,500 patients with chronic diseases to Syrian Arab Red Crescent and Ministry of Health clinics;
- provided medical supplies for four Syrian Arab Red Crescent mobile health units – two in Homs and one each in Hama and Tartous – which together have the capacity to treat up to 3,200 people per month;
- equipped three additional Syrian Arab Red Crescent mobile health units – in Idlib, Rural Damascus and Homs – which together can provide preventive and curative health care for up to 2,400 patients per month.



An ICRC health delegate prepares a shipment of medication for field distribution. Damascus

RESTORING CONTACT BETWEEN FAMILY MEMBERS

In the first half of 2013 the ICRC helped hundreds of people affected by the current conflict in Syria, including people in the occupied Golan, restore contact with other members of their families.

- close to 645 people sought the ICRC's help in confirming the whereabouts of relatives who had gone missing or been arrested since the start of the conflict. About three quarters of the requests concerned people who were believed to be detained.
- six people without valid identification papers, some of them refugees, were resettled in third countries with ICRC temporary travel documents issued in coordination with the authorities concerned and the UNHCR.
- the ICRC facilitated travel to and from the occupied Golan for over 50 students and others in need.
- more than 80 official documents were carried back and forth between Syrian families separated by the demarcation line.
- the ICRC received dozens of Red Cross messages (containing family news) for further distribution to immediate family members and other relatives.

VISITING DETAINEES

Visiting detainees remains a priority for ICRC, which stands ready to carry out visits for people held by one side or another any time the opportunity arises.

During the past six months, the ICRC has continued its dialogue with the Syrian authorities to reach a common understanding that would enable its delegates to carry out visits to detention facilities in Syria.

In addition, the ICRC also engaged in a dialogue with the armed opposition with the aim of visiting places of detention under their control. The ICRC stands ready to carry out such visits, the security situation permitting, and provided that the ICRC's standard procedures for visits to places of detention are accepted and adhered to.



An IHL workshop arranged by ICRC. Damascus

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

To raise awareness of and promote compliance with international humanitarian law, the ICRC:

- continued bilateral and confidential dialogue with the Syrian authorities to raise awareness of international humanitarian law and remind them of the obligation to spare civilians and their property. A similar dialogue was also held with various armed opposition groups.
- issued close to 20 written public documents detailing the humanitarian situation and reminding those involved in the conflict of the rules of international humanitarian law.



Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers evacuate a dead body from Helloq. Aleppo

- organized a workshop for 16 lawyers from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to enhance their knowledge of international humanitarian law.



A young girl enjoys an apple in Majdal Shams. Occupied Golan

APPLE TRANSFER FROM THE OCCUPIED GOLAN

In cooperation with the authorities concerned, the ICRC helped 1,320 farming families in the occupied Golan to transfer almost 14,300 tonnes of apples to the rest of Syria. The sale of the apples represents an important source of income for the Golanese farmers.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SYRIAN ARAB RED CRESCENT

The ICRC provided the Syrian Arab Red Crescent with material, technical, logistical, financial and other support to enable it to maintain the important role it plays in responding to the needs of people suffering the effects of the fighting.



Displaced boys living at a school where ICRC has carried out upgrading water and sanitation works. Al-Hassakeh



A man is delighted upon receiving an ICRC food parcel. Madaya – Rural Damascus



Displaced boys are seen at a school that serves as a temporary residence for them, their family and hundred others. Aleppo

THE ICRC'S MISSION IN A NUTSHELL

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was founded 150 years ago, in 1863, and is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It has been working in Syria and in the occupied Golan for over 45 years, since 1967.

The ICRC is a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organization. It seeks to preserve a measure of humanity in times of armed conflict. Its guiding principle is that even in war, there are limits.

The set of rules established with this in mind, and endorsed by nearly every nation in the world, is known as international humanitarian law. The Geneva Conventions form its backbone.

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the ICRC has over 12,000 employees who work in more than 80 countries.



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