

Promoting respect of the Law IHL



International Humanitarian Law (IHL) aims to limit the effects of war on people not taking part or no longer taking part in the hostilities. The ICRC encourages all arms bearers to treat the civilian population in accordance with IHL. The ICRC works to foster understanding of IHL, for example that the Iraqi National Army and Police include IHL into their training. The ICRC also teaches IHL to lecturers, university students and members of religious circles in Iraq.

It encourages the Iraqi government to ratify IHL treaties and implement them at the national level.

Cooperation with the IRCS

The ICRC cooperates with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) to provide humanitarian services within Iraq. This cooperation focuses on supporting programs to deliver family news for people deprived of freedom and civilians missing because of the conflict.

The ICRC is the founding body of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and exists since 1863.

The ICRC has been carrying out its humanitarian activities in Iraq continuously since 1980. Currently, the priority is to focus on those persons deprived of their freedom, and to provide the civilian population affected by the armed conflict with emergency assistance. The ICRC strives to develop a dialogue with all the parties involved in the conflict in order to do this.

Mission statement

The ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent organisation whose mission is exclusively humanitarian and designed to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to assist them. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting International Humanitarian Law.

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ICRC

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ICRC in Iraq

International Committee of the Red Cross



ICRC

Restoring human dignity



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) responds to the needs of those wounded, vulnerable and displaced by the armed conflict in Iraq through:

Health care for the wounded and the sick

- Support to hospitals and health-care centres through provision of medical supplies and equipment to allow these facilities cope with a large number of mass casualties
- Strengthen emergency services in Iraq through a joint project with the Ministry of Health that trains doctors and nurses on trauma management, infection control and teamwork
- Training paramedics, doctors, surgeons in war surgery, advanced first aid, trauma management
- Occupational therapy support to psychiatric patients in Al Rashad Hospital in Baghdad

Orthopedic and Rehabilitation assistance

- Support to 11 rehabilitation centres, one ICRC-run centre and two crutch-production workshops, that deliver custom-made orthoses, prosthesis, crutches and wheelchairs to patients
- Support training in prosthetics and orthotics to orthopedic technicians
- Construction of Physical Rehabilitation Centres
- Micro-economic projects for disabled patients to encourage their social and economic reintegration

Ensuring healthy environment



Water and Habitat

- Emergency distribution and provision of safe drinking water to the vulnerable population, displaced people, residents and hospital patients
- Rehabilitation and improvement of water supply and sanitation installations and systems especially in rural and poor areas
- Training of water and sanitation specialists
- Rehabilitation in health facilities of water and sanitation systems

Assistance to the displaced and other people in need

- Distribution of food, essential household items and hygiene kits to families affected by the conflict
- Micro-economic projects and relief assistance for women-headed households
- Livelihood-support projects for vulnerable communities in rural areas
- Issue of travel documents for refugees

Protecting human dignity



People deprived of their freedom and family links

The ICRC visits people detained by the Iraqi government and Kurdish regional authorities as well as by the US/Multi-National Force-Iraq. The visits aim to ensure that people deprived of freedom are treated humanely and are given appropriate conditions of detention. The visits also make it possible for detainees to contact their families through the Red Cross Message network.

The ICRC maintains a bilateral and confidential dialogue with these authorities and makes recommendations related to its findings. At times, the ICRC rehabilitates the water and sanitation facilities and delivers assistance in the form of material needs to places of detention. It also offers voluntary repatriation services to released foreign detainees and issues attestations of detention to former detainees.

Clarifying the fate of missing people

The ICRC works with the Iraqi authorities, encouraging them to meet their obligations to clarify the fate of people missing as result of the Iran-Iraq conflict and the 1990-91 Gulf War so that their families can be informed. Since 2003, the ICRC also helps the Iraqi Medico-Legal Institute and local experts to deal with the identification of human remains and the management of the dead through the provision of training and equipment.