

EGYPT FACTS AND FIGURES

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2018



Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC)

In Egypt, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) assists people affected by conflict and violence including from the broader region, promotes International Humanitarian Law, and cooperates with healthcare providers to help them boost their emergency response. The ICRC has been intermittently present in Egypt for over 100 years.

Dating back to as early as World Wars I and II and other crisis such as the 1956 conflict over the Suez Canal and the wars of 1967 and 1973, the ICRC visited and assisted thousands of prisoners of war and civilian internees under the specific mandate conferred upon the organization by the Geneva Conventions. In 1983, the ICRC formalized its legal presence in Egypt by signing a Headquarters Agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and established its office in Cairo.

ICRC's long-standing cooperation with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society has further developed with enhanced activities related to the International Red Cross and Crescent Movement's Family Links Services and extended into the field of direct assistance to address humanitarian needs.

In 2018, the ICRC worked closely with the National Society in responding to the immediate needs of violence-affected people. Following the Egyptian Red Crescent Society's distribution of ICRC aid to people affected in Sinai, the ICRC organised a workshop with its volunteers to further assess these people's needs. The National Society and the ICRC then agreed on a set of short and mid-term activities for responding to the needs in Sinai and engaged in dialogue on this with the relevant authorities.

In 2018, through different activities and partnerships, the ICRC worked on:



PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

3596 Egyptian Army officers, cadets and soldiers were introduced to International Humanitarian Law (IHL) through 22 dissemination sessions and training courses covering all army regional commands.

154 Police officers were introduced to IHL in relation to International Human Rights Law (IHRL) through 6 training courses.

2 Egyptian Judges attended the IHL regional courses held in Beirut and Tunis in 2018.

ICRC sponsored **7** Egyptian officers to attend regional IHL training in Lebanon, Tunisia and Italy in addition to the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations (SWIRMO) 2018 held in UAE.

39 Officers assigned to Peacekeeping Operations attended orientation sessions on IHL and IHRL.

7 students teams from different universities competed in the second national moot court on IHL, held in the German University in Cairo.

The IHL Regional Hub:

Since its establishment in 1990, the IHL team based in Cairo has been carrying out activities in Egypt and in the region:

135 governmental officials, diplomats, military officers, academics, judges, prosecutors, Islamic circles from 23 countries were trained in the Regional IHL Courses in Arabic in Beirut and Tunis. In addition, **47** participants attended the Regional Training of Trainers Seminar in IHL in Morocco to become potential IHL instructors.

45 diplomats attended the Regional IHL Course for Arab diplomats, in collaboration with Diplomatic Institute in the UAE.

In September 2018, **50 representatives** (including ministers and assistant ministers) from 14 Arab states attended the Arab Government IHL Experts Meeting and a regional action plan has been adopted.



DELIVERING FOOD AND DAILY ESSENTIALS

900 vulnerable migrant unaccompanied children received every month food and hygiene items to meet their needs, through cooperation with other organizations.

10,000 families (50,000 individuals) in North Sinai received Food Parcels, white flour and hygiene kits, while **4,000** families (20,000 individuals) received blankets, in cooperation with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC).

18 ERC staff and volunteers participated in trainings on Economic Security to improve their capacity and knowledge to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable families.



INCREASING HEALTHCARE SERVICES' EMERGENCY CAPACITY

63 doctors and nurses increased their knowledge and skills in handling trauma in emergency rooms.

168 cadets from the Egyptian Armed Forces College of Medicine participated in a 15 hours training on the Management of Weapon Wounded in Austere Environments.

26 surgeons strengthened their capacities in the management of injuries caused by weapons.

105 Egyptian Army soldiers were trained to better provide first aid in the field.

82 Egyptian officers from the Military Academy were trained to better provide first aid in the field.

16 soldiers and nurses acquired skills to become first aid trainers.

105 soldiers from the Egyptian Army attended one drill on the management of mass casualty incidents.

10 military doctors acquired knowledge to become trainers in Emergency Room Trauma Courses.

21 surgeons benefited from 50 hours theoretical and practical teaching of the management of weapon wounded patients, organized in cooperation the Egyptian Armed Forces Medical Services.

483 staff members of the League of Arab States (LAS) secretariat and permanent missions, military doctors and nurses, military officers, doctors from the medical services of the Ministry of Interior, and Libyan Military officers became acquainted with the consequences of violence against health care and the Protection of the Medical Mission in armed conflicts.

10 New Emergency Action Teams (EATs), (50 ERC Volunteers from North Sinai and the surrounding Governorates) were trained on Trauma First Aid, emergency response skills.

72 ERC EATs volunteers participated in refresher courses.

60 Dressing kits were donated to the Egyptian Red Crescent to support the emergency response of the Emergency Action Teams.

2 War Wounded Kits and 15 Dressing kits were donated, with the support of the ERC, to the Palestine Red Crescent Society aimed at enhancing the capacity of PRCS to respond to the current emergency situation in Gaza.



BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Tracing requests for **539** persons were opened by families living in Egypt.

By the end of 2018, ICRC Cairo was addressing tracing requests for a total of **1023** persons with whom contact was lost.

19 new photos were published on Trace the Face, an online tool aimed at reconnecting migrants who arrived in Europe with their family members.

The families of **172** individuals could learn about their whereabouts or fate, in many instances with the support of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Family Links network.

201 Red Cross messages and oral greetings (*salamat*) were exchanged between families living in Egypt and their relatives visited by ICRC in places of detention abroad.

3314 phone calls were facilitated to help migrant community members maintain contact with their loved ones abroad.

17 persons including 16 children who had been separated due to conflict, violence or migration were reunited with their family members with the support of ICRC.

262 ICRC travel documents were issued on behalf of refugees/asylum seekers exiting Egypt for resettlement in other countries.



DIALOGUE WITH ISLAMIC INSTITUTIONS IN EGYPT

The dialogue between ICRC and Islamic Institutions in Egypt with the aim to better engage with religious leaders and scholars in face of the devastating consequences of armed conflicts in the Arab Region and parts of Africa has taken a step further. A senior advisor of the Grand Imam of al-Azhar participated to the “IHL and Islamic Law in Contemporary Armed Conflicts” expert workshop in Oct 2018, and the director of the Islamic Legal Research Department of Egypt’s Darul Ifta participated

to a workshop on the Management of the Dead, both held in the ICRC HQ in Geneva. Al-Azhar and ICRC have advanced in their discussions and preparations to hold a joint expert workshop on the preservation of human dignity in times of armed conflict, to be held in Sept 2019.



PROMOTING HUMANITARIAN FORENSIC ACTION

157 undergraduate students integrated the Management of the Dead in their academic curricula of the Armed Forces College of Medicine (AFCoM) and **19 medical resident students** from the African region participated in a forensic session on the Management of the Dead in challenging contexts.

150 body bags were donated to the Egyptian Ambulance Organization (EAO) for the dignified management of human remains in North Sinai and **1 kit** for forensic genetic analysis and identification of human remains was donated to Egyptian Forensic Medicine Authority (EFMA).

73 focal points on **emergency response** in Egypt were trained on the Dignified Management of Human Remains for First Responders in cooperation with the Search and Rescue Center (SAR), the ERC, and the EAO.

8 sensitization sessions on **Humanitarian Forensic Action** were provided to relevant actors from EFMA, Cairo University, ERC, AFCoM and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

2 experts received specialized capacity building abroad through their participation in ICRC International workshops on i) Management of the Dead in Emergencies (ERC) and ii) Forensic Human Identification of the Dead from Armed Conflicts and Catastrophes (EFMA), and **2 representatives** from the University of Cairo and the EFMA participated in the Middle East and North Africa Forensic Network.



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EGYPTIAN RED CRESCENT

ICRC contributed to the Annual Workshop held for the ERC 'Restoring Family Links' focal points that took place in December. **11** branches were represented, and **10** newly recruited volunteers attended the workshop.

The **Family Links Answers** software (data management tool for National Societies) was deployed in October by ICRC at ERC Headquarters to ensure a better management of individual requests concerning family separation due to conflict, natural disasters, other situations of violence and migration.

10 new Emergency Action Teams (EATs) were trained to respond to emergencies, raising the number of teams to 180, covering 26 governorates of the country.

3 ERC trainers attended Regional IHL Arabic courses/ToT to enhance the ERC's capacity to disseminate the principles of IHL among its volunteers.

The ICRC helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, doing everything it can to protect their dignity and alleviate their suffering, often with its Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. The organization also seeks to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

Cover Photo: ERC volunteers distribute assistance, provided by the ICRC, to families in North Sinai. January 2018.

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