



ICRC IN CHINA

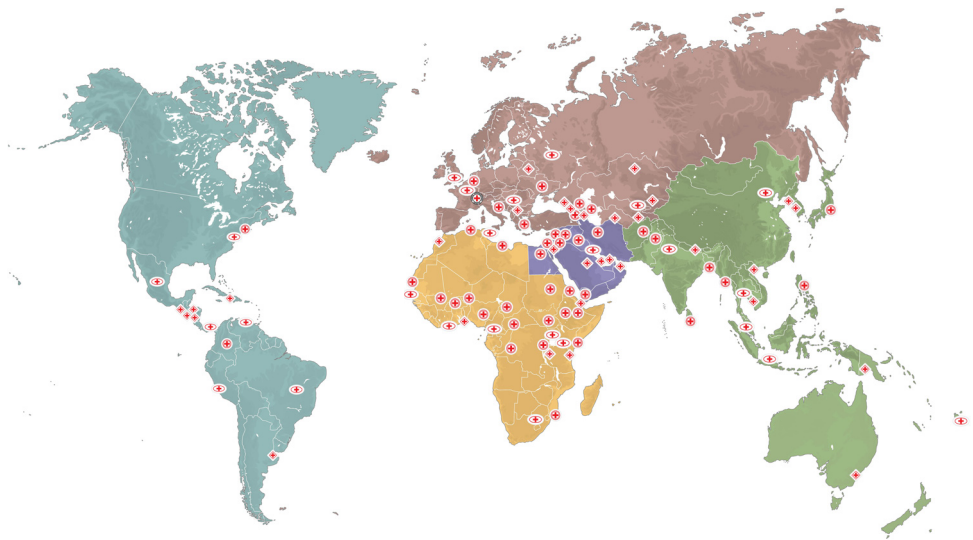
The world we live in is confronted with unprecedented challenges and polarization. Not a day goes by without concerning news about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the growing effects of climate change or the human cost of armed conflicts.

These challenges call for dedicated, collective and cooperative responses. Indifference and inaction in the face of injustice, inequality and violence are strategies we cannot afford.

The regional delegation in Beijing works actively with our partners and friends in China and other countries in East Asia, in a spirit of solidarity and common humanity, to promote respect for humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law and to strengthen the response to needs in the most difficult conflicts and crises of our time. As we are working to further our collaboration, I look forward to more close exchanges and engagement.

Pierre Krähenbühl
Personal Envoy of the President
Head of Regional Delegation for East Asia

THE ICRC AROUND THE WORLD



-  ICRC headquarters
-  ICRC delegation
-  ICRC regional delegation
-  ICRC mission

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Regional Delegation for East Asia covers China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Mongolia. While we have been working in China since 1987, the regional delegation opened its office in Beijing in 2005.

The regional delegation focuses on creating an understanding of the ICRC's humanitarian efforts and emergency response around the world. We also work to increase awareness of and respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), the legal framework that seeks to minimize human suffering caused by war.

DIALOGUE ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

The regional delegation maintains regular dialogue with Chinese authorities, think tanks and academic institutions on major humanitarian issues and challenges worldwide.



RAISING AWARENESS

about the humanitarian needs created by armed conflict or other situations of violence, and ensuring support for our work globally.



DISCUSSING ISSUES

related to the humanitarian–development nexus, which looks at how humanitarian action, sustainable development and recovery, and protecting and supporting vulnerable people in conflict-affected areas align.

As part of our engagement with the private sector, we provide guidance and share best practices with companies operating in fragile environments to help them fulfil their corporate social responsibility duties. The ICRC has addressed expert-level audiences at prominent forums, including the Boao Forum for Asia, on issues around the humanitarian–development nexus, global health and responsible business in fragile contexts.



Head of ICRC Regional Delegation for East Asia (on left screen) participated in Boao's sub-forum "Economic Development and Security" in 2022.

Through its digital and social media platforms, media and public engagement, the delegation also works to foster the understanding of humanitarian issues among the general public.

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Another focus of the regional delegation is to promote international humanitarian law, a set of rules that strives to limit the effects of armed conflict.



By engaging in stimulating dialogues with the authorities and different entities of the national government, the delegation continues its discussions on key contemporary issues within the framework of IHL, promotes China's participation in IHL treaties and encourages the integration of humanitarian law into domestic legislation.



The ICRC boosts the knowledge and understanding of IHL and humanitarian action within the academic community through conferences, seminars, moot court competitions and training programmes.

MILITARY AND POLICE ENGAGEMENT

The regional delegation has former military and police experts on the team to hold dialogue with the Chinese security services to enhance understanding of the operational implications of international humanitarian law, especially related to developments in military technology, and to conduct pre-deployment training for Chinese police and military peacekeepers, who are then connected to ICRC delegations worldwide.

HUMANITARIAN FORENSICS

The regional delegation works with the authorities to strengthen their capacity to search for, recover and scientifically identify those killed in natural disasters and in past conflicts, such as the Korean War, so that they can be buried in a dignified way. As part of our efforts, we also engage with academia and other forensic experts.

WORKING WITH THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF CHINA

The regional delegation works with the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) to promote a better understanding of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the importance of humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles and values in China in a sustainable way.



We organize training sessions to help enhance the National Society's capacity to respond to emergency situations, including search and rescue, disaster preparedness and response and managing the dead in a dignified way during natural disasters. We work to strengthen our international cooperation with the RCSC by focusing on conflict areas, such as Afghanistan and Ukraine, where the National Society has been financially supporting our operations since the end of 2021.



We support the RCSC to get acquainted with developments within the Movement and the statutory meetings, a key forum dedicated to humanitarian action and law, following the Movement's guiding principles.



The delegation also works with the RCSC to help education institutions that wish to integrate IHL in their curricula. The Humanitarian Education Programme in China, developed by the RCSC and the Ministry of Education with the support of the ICRC, introduces young students to the essential rules and principles of IHL.

GLOBAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The regional delegation is actively engaged in dialogue with Chinese authorities and institutions on issues of global health. In particular, the ICRC's humanitarian health experience is shared with Chinese government agencies, think tanks and academia. Through its global health diplomacy programme, the ICRC advocates for Universal Health Coverage of vulnerable populations affected by violence and conflict.

The ICRC's recommendations focus on public health in emergency situations, protection of medical teams, response to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthening health systems in fragile settings.

PROCUREMENT OF RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR GLOBAL OPERATIONS

The ICRC started direct purchase of relief supplies from China in 2010 and the country quickly emerged as one of its largest procurement hubs worldwide. Items purchased include a wide variety of goods such as kitchen sets, agricultural and fishing tools and medical equipment. They are distributed to communities affected by conflict in countries such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.



An ICRC team in Afghanistan packs hygiene and winter items to be distributed among detainees in a prison.

FUNDRAISING

The delegation works to maintain an active dialogue with Chinese authorities on funding for humanitarian operations worldwide, in line with the ICRC's commitment to diversify its donor base. China's economic importance and interest in multilateralism make it a priority for ongoing engagement, at a time when it is further developing its foreign aid policy.

The ICRC helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything it can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve 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.



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