



# APPEALS 2023

## OVERVIEW



ICRC

## MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a neutral, impartial and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

# APPEALS 2023

## OVERVIEW



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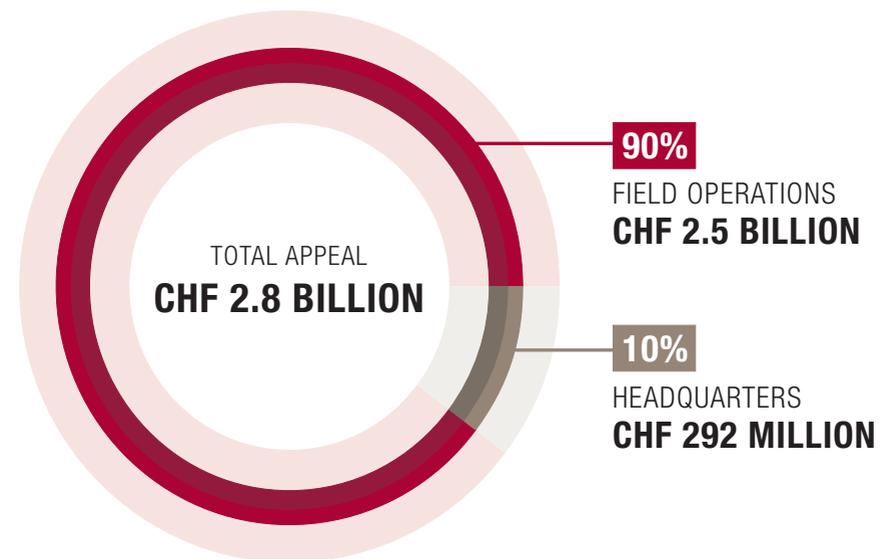
The figures in this document have been rounded off and may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents. Sums may be marginally different from the totals presented.



# ICRC APPEALS 2023

There are more than 100 armed conflicts in the world today, alongside other situations of violence. The suffering they cause, combined with climate shocks and rising food and energy prices, will make 2023 a year of vast humanitarian needs.

The ICRC is appealing for **2.8 billion Swiss francs** to help it bring humanitarian protection and assistance to millions of people affected by conflict and violence in 2023.



# INTRODUCTION

In 2023, the ICRC will mark 160 years of working with victims of conflict and violence, and supporting the communities that live with this threat. From the start, the ICRC and other members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have together delivered neutral and impartial humanitarian services around the world.

At this moment in history, the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine has become a global crisis, triggering or exacerbating economic, social, food and energy insecurity in many other countries. This new humanitarian threat comes in addition to the pressure exerted by the climate crisis on the most vulnerable communities.

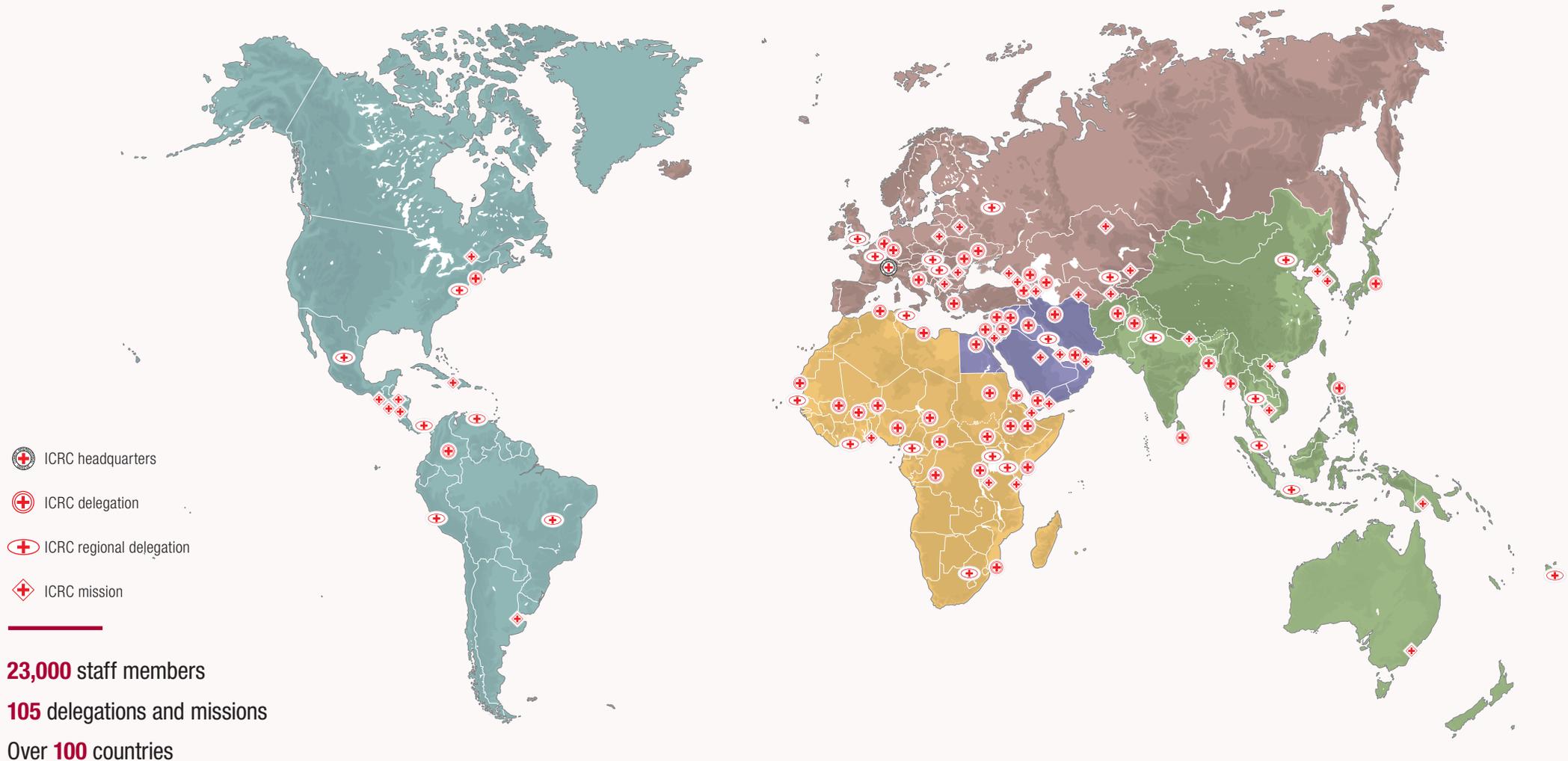
Against this backdrop and considering the ICRC's capacity to deliver, including in partnership with the Movement, the ICRC has planned an increase in operations for 2023 leading to a budget of CHF 2.8 billion. It is an ambitious plan and reflects the ICRC's expectation that it will be able to return to historically high levels of implementation following the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 crisis. It also underscores the ICRC's commitment to strengthen the positive difference that it makes on the lives of communities living with conflict and violence, particularly those in areas beyond the reach of public services or over which armed groups exercise control.

The ICRC's budget for its field operations in 2023 marks an increase of 19% to CHF 2.5 billion; its headquarters budget has increased by 11% to CHF 292 million. The latter reflects, first, the increased support that field operations will require in order to meet growing and more complex needs. Secondly, it accounts for the greater need for engagement on international humanitarian law (IHL) and for reinforcing the protection activities at the heart of the ICRC's mandate; many of these are driven from the ICRC's headquarters, which also leads its humanitarian diplomacy. Finally, the ICRC is not immune to the financial impact of the challenging economic environment: global inflation is contributing to the ICRC's budget growth, adding up to CHF 200 million to operational costs.

An impactful ICRC is one that receives support which enables it to act independently and impartially, allocating funds based on needs. Flexible funding will once again ensure the delivery of services in contexts that are out of the limelight, guarantee rapid deployment capacity in the face of new emerging crises, and sustain core ICRC activities. Securing such funds will remain a priority in 2023.

Supporters of the ICRC are partners, and the organization continues to work to increase the effectiveness and transparency of its operations and remain the partner of choice for delivering humanitarian services in situations of conflict and violence.





# THE ICRC AROUND THE WORLD

The ICRC works in armed conflicts and other situations of violence regardless of their nature or the level of media interest. Established in 1863, it now works in over 100 countries, with 23,000 staff members working in various capacities across the globe.

Because of its long-standing presence, its access and proximity to communities, and its dialogue with authorities and other stakeholders, it has first-hand knowledge of the prevailing circumstances on the ground and the needs of the people affected.



## OUTLOOK 2023

The ICRC operates in an environment beset by major challenges, in which millions of people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence face devastating humanitarian consequences.

The established trends of the last two decades show no sign of letting up. Many of today's conflicts have been dragging on for years, some of them marked by intense hostilities and worsening needs. Renewed geopolitical polarization is aggravating previously dormant conflicts or leading to further neglect of other large-scale crises. At the same time, acute crises have been emerging more frequently, highlighting the need to build emergency preparedness and response capacities while maintaining agility to deliver longer-term interventions for a more sustainable humanitarian impact.

- Based on the ICRC's legal reading, more than 100 armed conflicts are being fought globally, to which around 60 states and over 100 non-state armed groups are parties. Several hundreds more armed groups are involved in other situations of violence.
- The ICRC estimates that there are over 520 armed groups of humanitarian importance operating in settings where it works, and that approximately 175 million people live in territories over which these groups exercise some degree of control.
- The steady multiplication and fragmentation of parties and the prevalence of partnered warfare have contributed to many of today's conflicts becoming increasingly protracted.

Respect for IHL is, at best, uneven: armed groups continue to elude responsibility; and states, operating through state and non-state proxies, do the same. This also means that parties too frequently try to exclude certain categories of people from the humanitarian protection of the law, and that violations are committed with impunity. Technology is rapidly developing, with cyber operations, autonomous weapons, and the use of outer space raising questions regarding the application and interpretation of IHL.

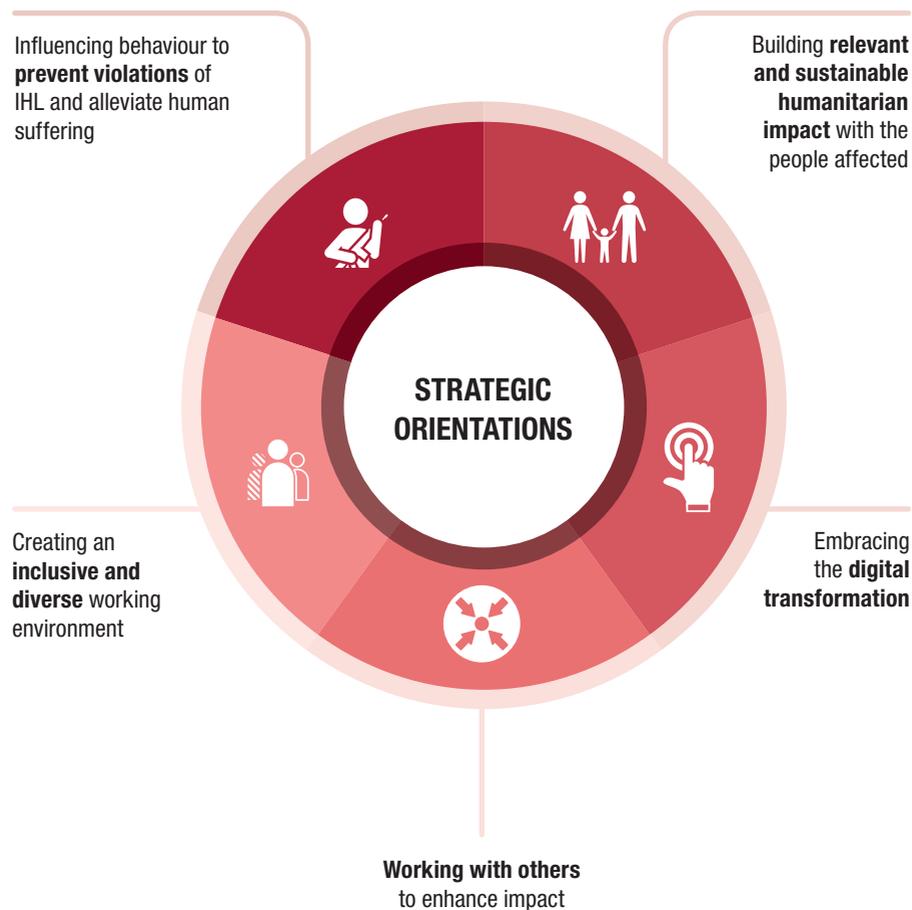
The situation is compounded by the overlapping effects of worsening climate shocks, rising costs of basic goods and services, and global financial pressures, including those linked to the knock-on effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The combination of these factors exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and socioeconomic inequalities, especially for people already enduring conflict and violence.

These intersecting crises add to the complexity of meeting humanitarian needs and have a twofold impact on the ICRC's operations. In places affected by violence and especially prone to climate risks, the most vulnerable populations are becoming more destitute, and societies are at further risk of destabilization. At the same time, the costs of delivering the ICRC's operations have increased, prompting the organization to adapt, evolve, and engage with partners to sustain its ability to respond to wide-ranging needs.

Amidst all this, a people-centric approach remains essential to ensuring that people's needs are met in a timely, meaningful and sustainable manner.

# ICRC STRATEGY 2019–2024

The [ICRC Strategy 2019–2024](#) remains the compass for the ICRC’s action. Five strategic orientations guide the ICRC towards achieving more sustainable outcomes for violence-affected people.



## INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

The following constitute overarching priorities, including key investment areas, for the ICRC in the year ahead.

-  Ensuring organizational capacity to respond effectively to emergencies and protracted crises
-  Having a sufficient pool of staff fit to be deployed as required
-  Simplifying and optimizing work systems and processes
-  Enhancing cyber security and data protection
-  Strengthening the foundations and adaptability of the Central Tracing Agency
-  Strengthening capacity to tackle misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, and mitigating the negative impact on affected people
-  Stepping up humanitarian diplomacy capacity in crises and on core issues of concern
-  Developing financing models that enable scaling-up and expansion of ICRC activities

# HEADQUARTERS



Switzerland, Geneva. ICRC headquarters supports the organization's operations worldwide and drives its activities as the guardian of IHL. It also houses the ICRC library, which is almost as old as the institution itself. The library's collections offer a wealth of resources, including archival material dating back to 1863, to support research on IHL and humanitarian work.

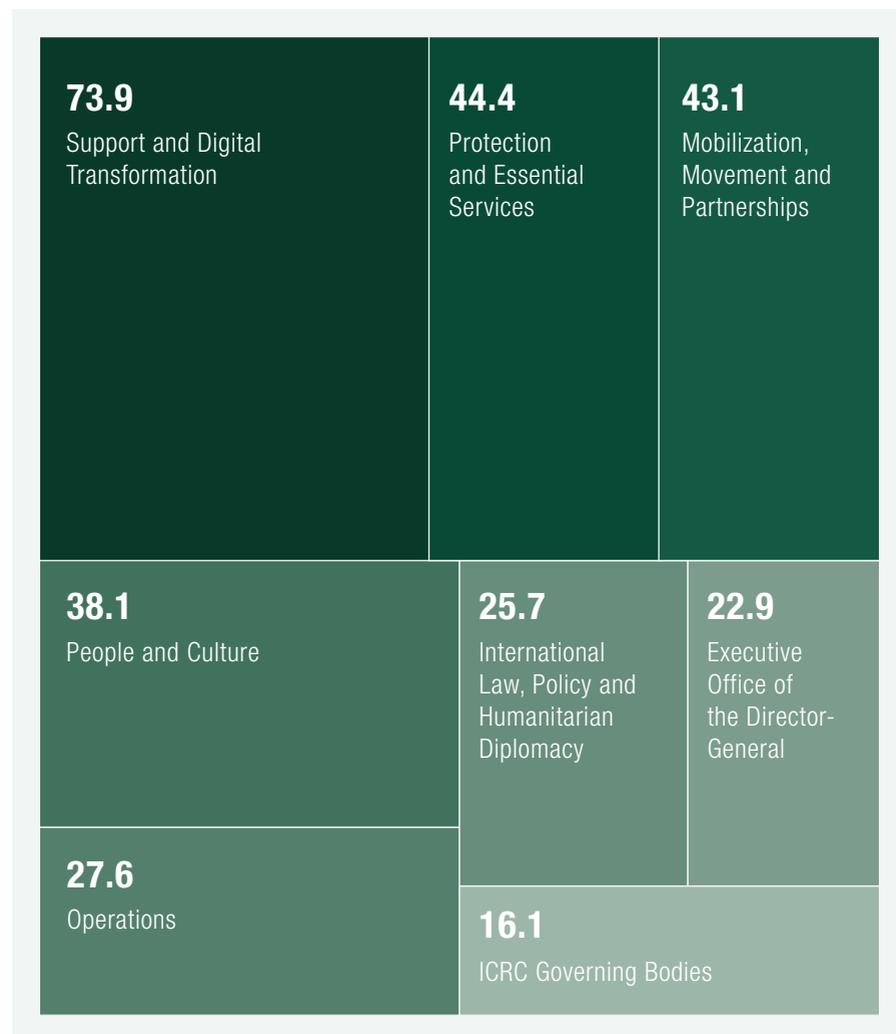
# HEADQUARTERS

TOTAL 2023 BUDGET  
**CHF 292 million**  
↑ 11%<sup>1</sup>

STAFF MEMBERS  
**1,195**

## BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY DEPARTMENT

in CHF millions



## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Takes charge of the overall steering of the ICRC, notably overseeing implementation of the Strategy and institutional priorities

### MAIN PRIORITIES FOR 2023

- ✓ strengthening performance, organizational resilience and value-driven behaviour
- ✓ global engagement and partnerships within and beyond the humanitarian sector
- ✓ innovation and strategic foresight

## DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, POLICY AND HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY

Leads the design of the ICRC's influencing strategies and steers the strategic development of its policy and humanitarian diplomacy; works to promote, clarify and develop IHL and other relevant law

### MAIN PRIORITIES FOR 2023

- ✓ reaffirming the relevance of IHL and supporting its implementation
- ✓ steering humanitarian diplomacy and influencing legal and policy debates
- ✓ bolstering capacity to persuade influential players to promote and ensure adherence to IHL
- ✓ legal expertise and guidance for ICRC delegations and headquarters



**“No matter how different the next conflict is from all those that came before, IHL is fit for purpose.”**

– ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric Egger

Conflict is the very act of dehumanization, destroying of another by force. In the logic of survival, room for humanity is difficult to find. But it is precisely for these intractable circumstances that neutral and impartial humanitarian action was designed. International humanitarian law provides minimum standards of humanity that must be respected in armed conflict.

Read more: [International Humanitarian Law in a Divided World](#)



**See also:** The ICRC's [Humanitarian Law and Policy blog](#), which cultivates reflection and practical discussions on IHL and humanitarian action. Articles, interviews with legal experts and other features cover topics such as IHL obligations in conflict and post-conflict situations; climate action in conflict-affected places; and safeguarding humanitarian data against digital threats.

1. % increases are based on the initial 2023 and initial 2022 budgets, prior to any budget extensions.

## DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS

Oversees the delivery of ICRC activities in more than 100 countries around the world

### MAIN PRIORITIES FOR 2023

- ✓ ensuring coherent and relevant humanitarian operations across five geographical regions
- ✓ building sustainable humanitarian impact with conflict-affected people and streamlining long-term responses to protracted crises
- ✓ reinforcing staff competencies and security
- ✓ engaging with influential actors to safeguard humanitarian access and respect for IHL



The international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine called for rapid deployment of ICRC capabilities and scaled-up operations across the areas directly affected by the hostilities and in neighbouring countries, in close coordination with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society and other Movement partners. Hundreds of staff members were deployed in response to the crisis, including surgical teams, experts in weapon contamination and other specialists.

## DEPARTMENT OF PROTECTION AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Steers the design and implementation of ICRC activities aimed at protecting and assisting violence-affected people worldwide

### MAIN PRIORITIES FOR 2023

- ✓ influencing behaviour to strengthen respect for IHL and protection for people
- ✓ relevant, sustainable and quality programmes that address people's needs holistically
- ✓ leveraging digital technologies and working with others to provide innovative responses
- ✓ supporting staff deployment and capacity-building



For over 150 years, the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency has been helping families separated by armed conflict or other violence to reconnect with each other and clarify the fate or whereabouts of their missing relatives. To keep pace with increasing needs – and ever-evolving technological advances – the agency is undergoing a [five-year transformation](#) to strengthen its foundations, adapt to growing challenges and be equipped for the future. This involves employing digital solutions, advising states on measures to prevent disappearances, strengthening local forensic systems and bolstering its own emergency-response capacities.

## DEPARTMENT OF MOBILIZATION, MOVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Steers, guides and enables the ICRC's interactions and partnerships with the Movement and other institutions

### MAIN PRIORITIES FOR 2023

- ✓ building trust in and mobilizing support for the ICRC
- ✓ strengthening an inclusive Movement response and advancing the development of National Societies
- ✓ developing partnerships and working with diverse actors

## DEPARTMENT OF PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Ensures the growth of a competent, diverse and inclusive workforce to meet the ICRC's operational needs worldwide and allow for its sustainability

### MAIN PRIORITIES FOR 2023

- ✓ staffing the ICRC
- ✓ ensuring staff safety and well-being
- ✓ empowering talent and fostering a diverse, inclusive and engaging working environment

## DEPARTMENT OF SUPPORT AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Leads the development and delivery of a coherent, efficient and resilient system of capabilities and processes in finance, logistics, technology and information within the ICRC

### MAIN PRIORITIES FOR 2023

- ✓ business continuity through high-quality services
- ✓ streamlining processes and boosting the ICRC's overall efficiency and effectiveness
- ✓ facilitating digital transformation and virtual proximity to people affected by crises



[RedSafe](#) is a humanitarian platform designed and managed by the ICRC that provides safe and secure services for people affected by conflict and other situations of violence, migration and humanitarian crises. The website and app provide people with information as aid, and a digital vault for storing digital copies of important documents, in compliance with ICRC data-protection standards.

# OPERATIONS



Ethiopia. The ICRC distributes food rations for displaced people in Oromia region. Thousands of people affected by conflict and drought are facing food insecurity.

# FIELD OPERATIONS

TOTAL 2023 BUDGET  
**CHF 2.5 billion**  
↑ 19%<sup>2</sup>

STAFF MEMBERS  
**21,892**

## BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAMME

		in CHF millions	% Increase <sup>2</sup>
Assistance	68%	1,723.2	↑ 22%
Protection	16%	395.4	↑ 14%
Prevention	8%	208.3	↑ 11%
Cooperation with National Societies	6%	151.5	↑ 16%
General	1%	26.5	↑ 22%

## ICRC PROGRAMMES

The complex challenges faced by people affected by conflict and violence require multidisciplinary approaches that incorporate both emergency and longer-term responses. Through its four main programmes, the ICRC mounts comprehensive and inclusive responses that address needs at the systemic, community and individual level.

### PROTECTION



Engaging with parties to hostilities remains crucial to promote protection for those not or no longer taking part in the fighting, foster respect for IHL and humanitarian principles, and facilitate the ICRC's work. Addressing the protection concerns of specific groups, helping separated families to contact their relatives, searching for missing persons, and negotiating humanitarian access, including to people in detention, remain at the core of the ICRC's mission.

- Protection of the civilian population
- Protection of people deprived of their freedom
- Protection of family links
- Forensics

### ASSISTANCE



The ICRC will continue to support conditions that allow people to live in dignified conditions – from providing relief assistance and providing income-generating opportunities to enable families to support themselves, to propping up health systems and pursuing multi-year projects to keep water and electricity running. Ultimately, the aim is to contribute to the resilience of people and communities, and to help them build pathways out of crisis and towards self-sufficiency.

- Economic security
- Water and habitat
- Health: primary care, pre-hospital and hospital services, mental-health and psychosocial support, physical rehabilitation, health in detention
- Weapon contamination

### PREVENTION



Preventing violations of IHL and other fundamental norms is key to alleviating human suffering. The ICRC's prevention programme aims to create an environment conducive to human dignity and neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action. It entails raising awareness of IHL, supporting its implementation and reinforcing its relevance in today's world. When respected, IHL spares civilian lives and property, prevents abuse and disappearances, safeguards hospitals, keeps certain weapons off the battlefield, and ensures the ICRC's own ability to work across front lines, in places of detention and wherever it is needed.

### COOPERATION



The ICRC is committed to working with others to enhance the impact of its activities and deliver meaningful responses to people. It coordinates with its partners within the Movement and beyond, and where possible, works closely with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in such areas as emergency preparedness and response, tracing and other family-links services, promoting IHL and humanitarian principles, and supporting the development of National Societies.

2. % increases are based on the initial 2023 and initial 2022 budgets, prior to any budget extensions.

## GLOBAL TARGETS: ASSISTANCE

### ECONOMIC SECURITY



**Food consumption**  
2,964,878 people<sup>3</sup>



**Food production**  
6,360,183 people



**Income support**  
2,500,328 people



**Living conditions**  
2,292,621 people<sup>3</sup>



**Capacity-building**  
52,173 people

### WATER AND HABITAT



**In civilian communities**  
42,839,866 people



**In places of detention**  
234,340 people



**In health facilities**  
173 structures

### HEALTH



**Health centres**  
706 structures



**Hospitals**  
608 structures



**Physical rehabilitation**  
322 projects

<sup>3</sup> Civilians and detainees

## 15 LARGEST OPERATIONS

in CHF millions

	BUDGET
1. Ukraine	316.5
2. Afghanistan	218.0
3. Syrian Arab Republic	171.7
4. Yemen	136.4
5. South Sudan	111.7
6. Somalia	108.6
7. Iraq	104.2
8. Democratic Republic of the Congo	103.4
9. Ethiopia	99.3
10. Nigeria	91.2
11. Myanmar	64.4
12. Mali	57.7
13. Israel and the Occupied Territories	55.0
14. Libya	54.7
15. Lebanon	51.8

## BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY GEOGRAPHICAL REGION

	in CHF millions	% increase <sup>4</sup>
Africa	38% 942.3	↑ 6%
Near and Middle East	23% 563.6	↑ 1%
Europe and Central Asia	18% 456.3	↑ 165%
Asia and the Pacific	16% 403.1	↑ 17%
Americas	6% 139.4	↑ 4%

<sup>4</sup> % increases are based on the initial 2023 and initial 2022 budgets, prior to any budget extensions.

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW

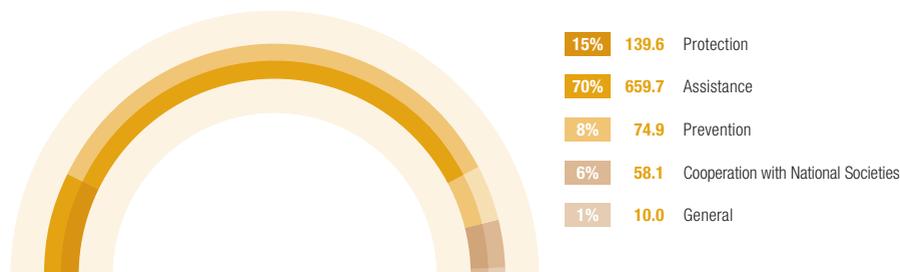
# AFRICA

TOTAL 2023 BUDGET  
**CHF 942.3 million**  
 ↑ 6%<sup>5</sup>

STAFF MEMBERS  
**9,208**

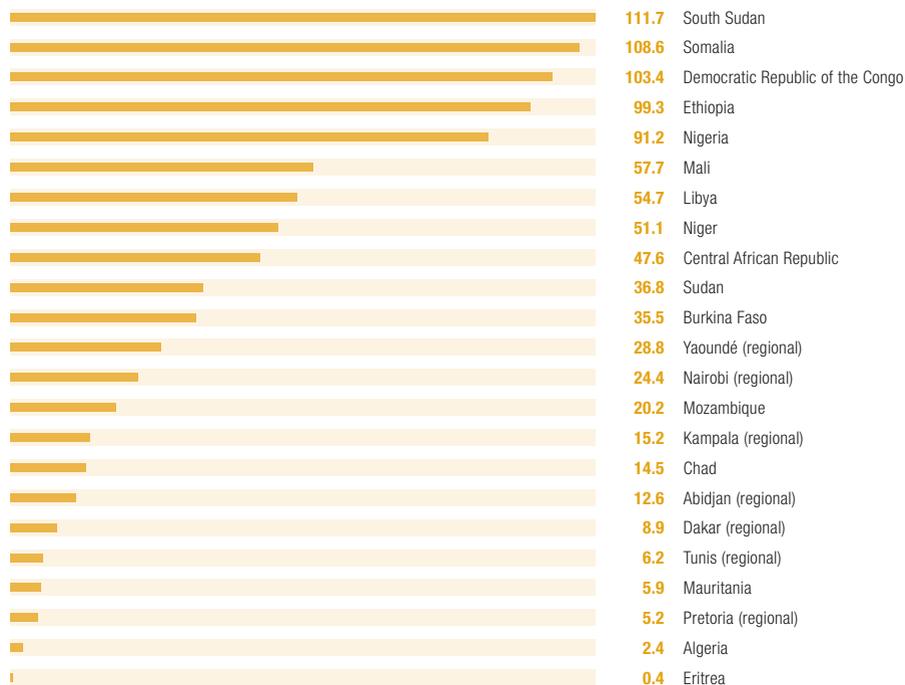
### BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAMME

in CHF millions



### BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY CONTEXT

in CHF millions



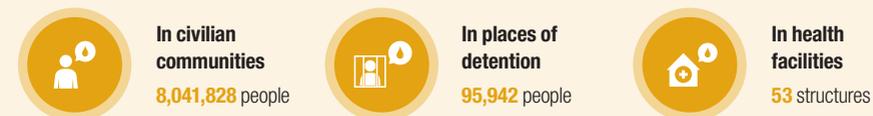
5. % increases are based on the initial 2023 and initial 2022 budgets, prior to any budget extensions.

## ASSISTANCE: KEY TARGETS

### ECONOMIC SECURITY



### WATER AND HABITAT

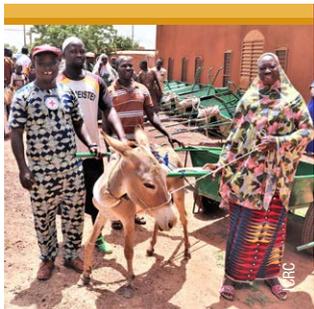


### HEALTH



6. Civilians and detainees

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW: AFRICA



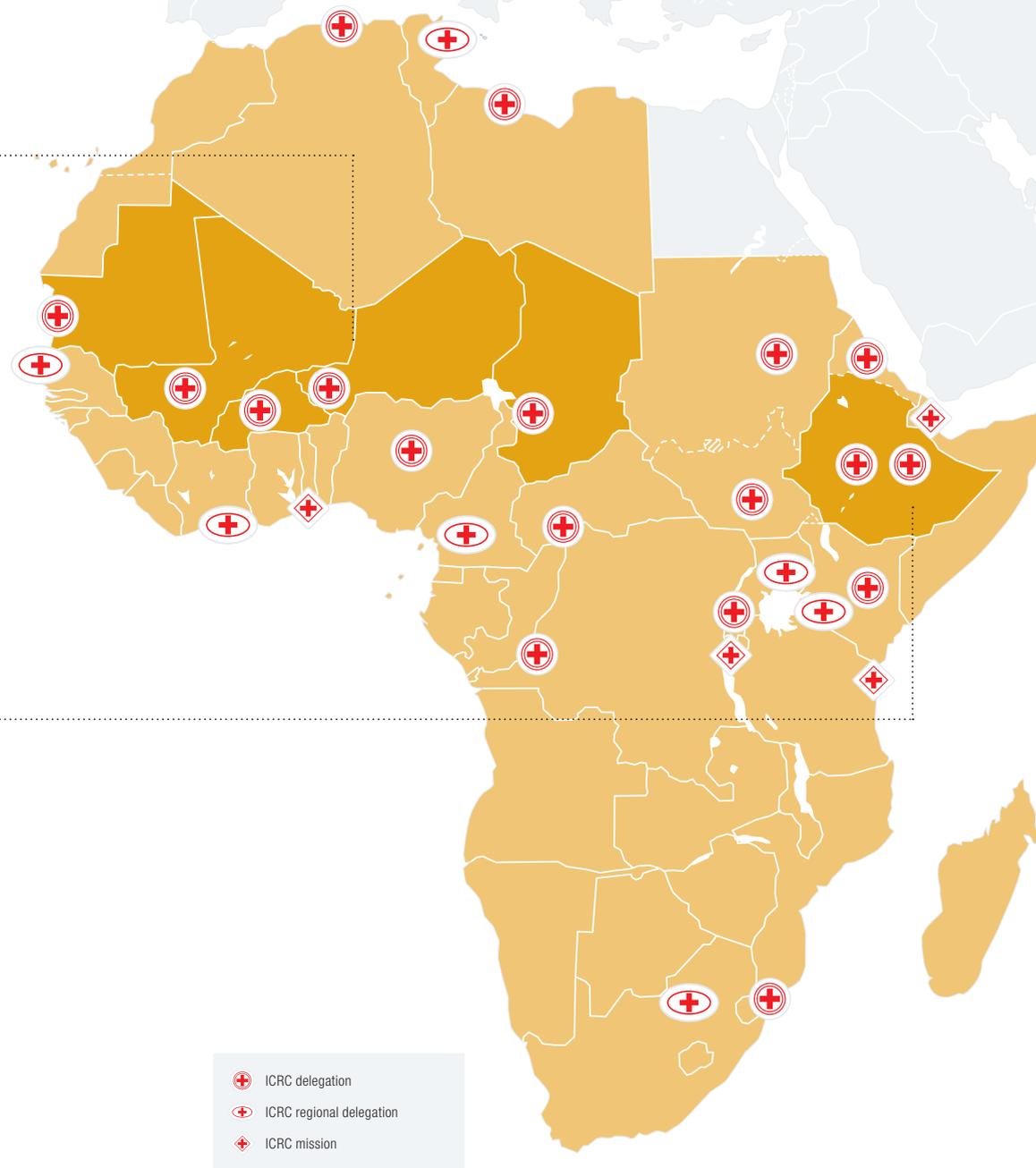
### ◀ THE SAHEL REGION

In Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, years of armed conflict and other violence, the climate crisis, and unprecedented levels of food insecurity have created a 'deadly loop' with millions of people caught in the middle. Displaced people have lost access to their lands and means of sustenance; many must share limited resources with their host communities, themselves already grappling with meagre access to basic services and livelihood sources. The ICRC promotes protection for conflict-affected people and engages with them to more fully understand their needs and the risks to their safety. It helps them meet their need for food, water and health care, in partnership with the pertinent National Societies. Its principled humanitarian approach and its dialogue with parties to conflict facilitate its access to communities that few or no other humanitarian actors can reach.



### ◀ ETHIOPIA

Humanitarian needs in northern Ethiopia remain high, as the armed conflict has left people with few means of obtaining food, medical care and other essentials. Elsewhere, intense violence continues to affect communities, some of whom are also dealing with devastating drought. Throughout the country, the ICRC works to reach communities not covered by, or inaccessible to, other humanitarian actors, to help people meet their urgent needs: it supports the delivery of life-saving health care, provides relief assistance, restores the supply of clean water, seeks to ensure that victims/survivors of sexual violence and others are protected, and reconnects separated families.



-  ICRC delegation
-  ICRC regional delegation
-  ICRC mission

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW AMERICAS

TOTAL 2023 BUDGET  
**CHF 139.4 million**  
↑ 4%<sup>7</sup>

STAFF MEMBERS  
**1,438**

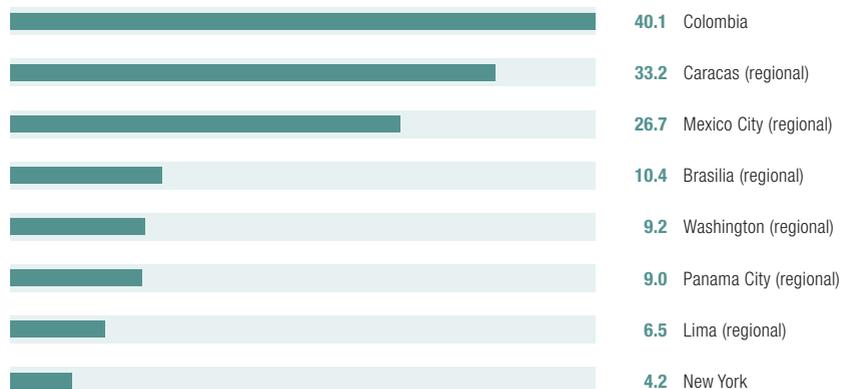
### BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAMME

in CHF millions



### BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY CONTEXT

in CHF millions



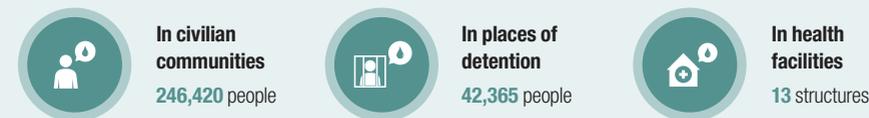
7. % increases are based on the initial 2023 and initial 2022 budgets, prior to any budget extensions.

## ASSISTANCE: KEY TARGETS

### ECONOMIC SECURITY



### WATER AND HABITAT



### HEALTH



8. Civilians and detainees

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW: AMERICAS



### ◀ HAITI

Amid persistent political and socio-economic tensions, armed violence has surged in Haiti, particularly in Port-au-Prince. Many people are unable to obtain essential services or must endanger themselves to do so. Violence-affected communities are also more vulnerable to disease outbreaks, such as the cholera outbreak that began in late 2022, because health facilities are stretched. Though humanitarian access is limited because of the security situation, the ICRC is working with the authorities and others to improve communities' access to health care and water and sanitation facilities, and to protect detainees against cholera.



### ◀ COLOMBIA

Thousands of people in Colombia have been forcibly displaced or confined owing to intensified armed conflicts among armed groups. The ICRC – often the only actor with secure access to the areas affected – works with the authorities to address the humanitarian needs generated by ongoing and past violence. Its programmes aim to help communities, missing people's families, migrants and other vulnerable people, including victims/survivors of sexual violence, to strengthen their resilience. It serves as a neutral intermediary in the release of people held by armed groups, and sustains its long-standing work of addressing systemic issues in detention.



-  ICRC delegation
-  ICRC regional delegation
-  ICRC mission

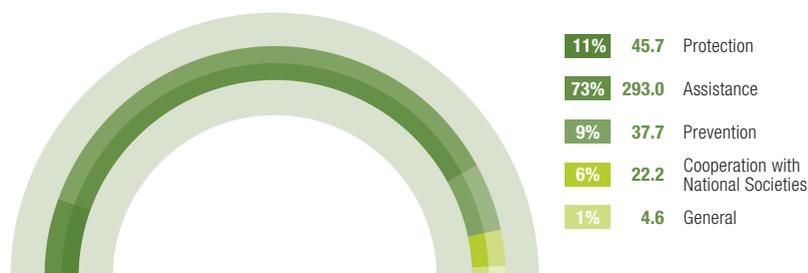
## REGIONAL OVERVIEW ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

TOTAL 2023 BUDGET  
**CHF 403.1 million**  
↑ 17%<sup>9</sup>

STAFF MEMBERS  
**4,723**

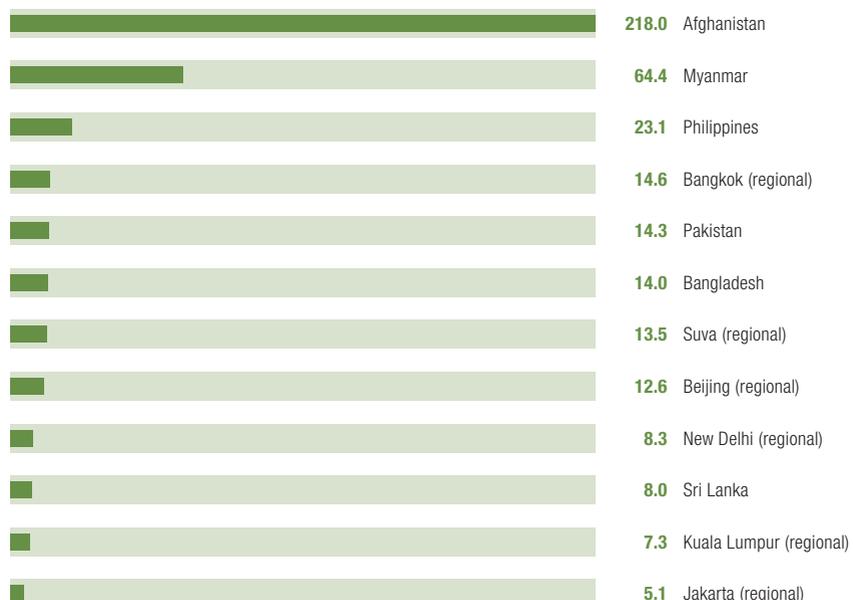
### BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAMME

in CHF millions



### BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY CONTEXT

in CHF millions



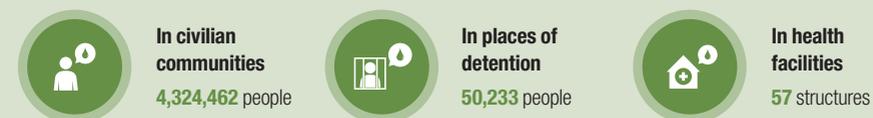
9. % increases are based on the initial 2023 and initial 2022 budgets, prior to any budget extensions.

## ASSISTANCE: KEY TARGETS

### ECONOMIC SECURITY



### WATER AND HABITAT



### HEALTH



10. Civilians and detainees

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



M. Samir/ICRC

### ◀ AFGHANISTAN

Civilians continue to bear the brunt of Afghanistan’s faltering economy and the consequences of decades of armed conflict. Basic services suffer from frequent disruptions; health facilities are struggling to operate; and commodity prices have gone even higher. The ICRC’s humanitarian response in the country – made possible by its long-standing presence and dialogue with the authorities – spans across various urgent concerns: the protection of violence-affected people and their right to access essential goods and services; the uninterrupted provision of medical care, including for people with disabilities; and the treatment and living conditions of detainees. It promotes acceptance for IHL and other international law.



ICRC

### ◀ PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, protracted violence continues to displace people, disrupt livelihoods and damage civilian property. The ICRC works in underserved or hard-to-reach communities to protect and assist people displaced or otherwise affected by conflict. It provides comprehensive support to missing people’s families and other violence-affected people to help build their resilience to the effects of violence, including sexual violence. It implements cash-for-work and other livelihood projects, and broadens their access to essential services. It maintains its long-standing work in detention to protect the welfare of detainees, particularly their access to health care and legal aid. It supports the Philippine Red Cross in responding to needs generated by conflict, migration or other circumstances.



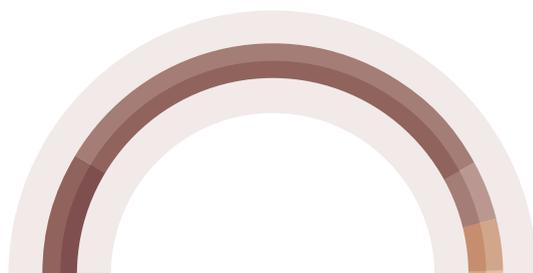
## REGIONAL OVERVIEW EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

TOTAL 2023 BUDGET  
**CHF 456.3 million**  
↑ 165%<sup>11</sup>

STAFF  
MEMBERS  
**2,260**

### BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAMME

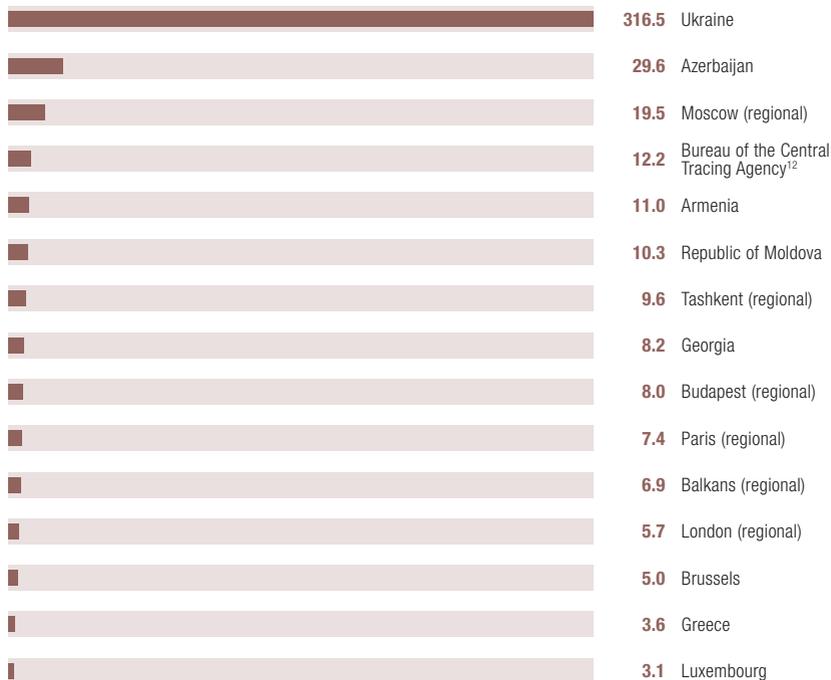
in CHF millions



17%	78.7	Protection
67%	306.0	Assistance
8%	37.6	Prevention
7%	32.5	Cooperation with National Societies
0.3%	1.6	General

### BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY CONTEXT

in CHF millions



11. % increases are based on the initial 2023 and initial 2022 budgets, prior to any budget extensions.

12. Central Tracing Agency Bureau for the International Armed Conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine

## ASSISTANCE: KEY TARGETS

### ECONOMIC SECURITY



### WATER AND HABITAT



### HEALTH



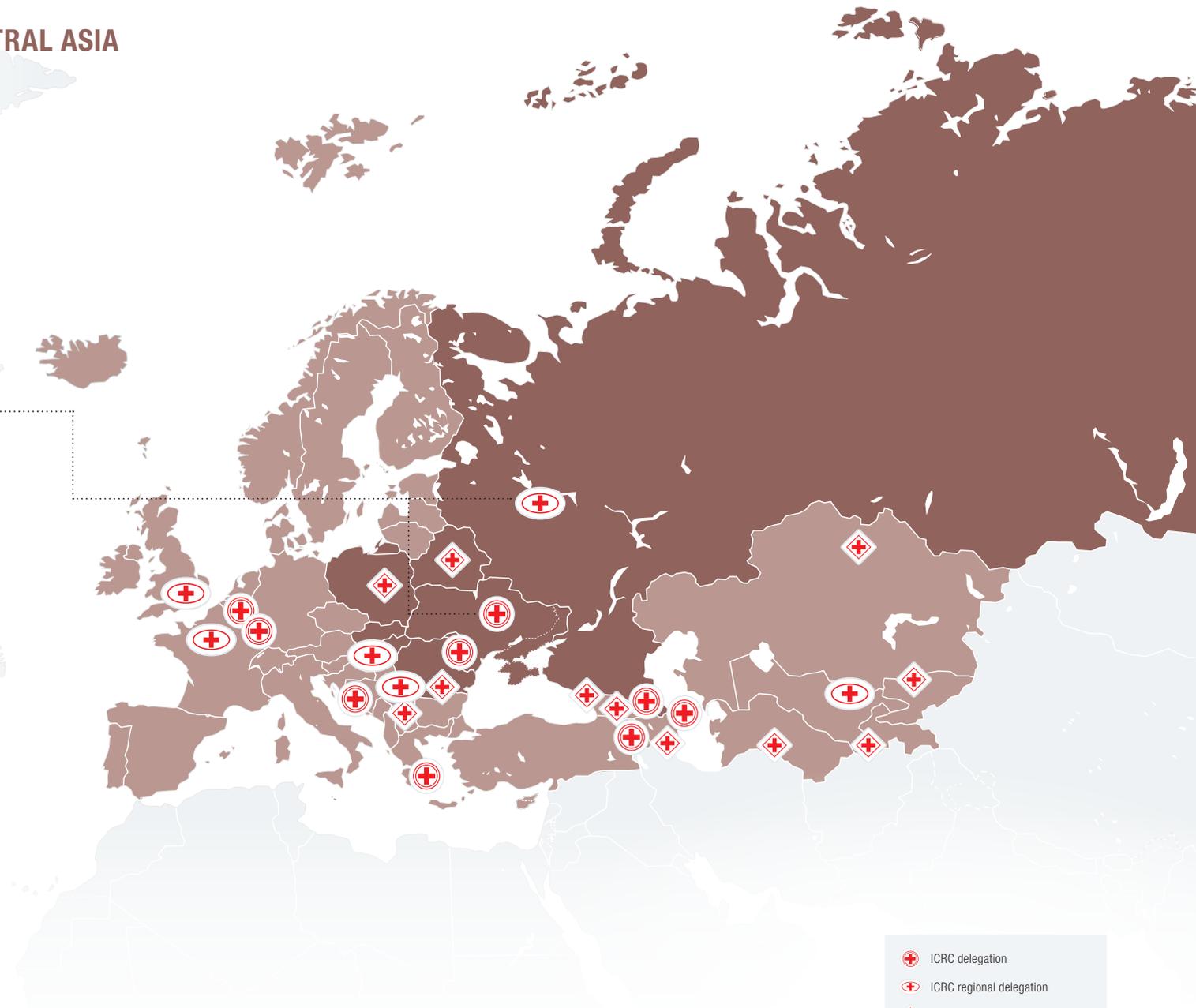
13. Civilians and detainees

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW: EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA



### ▲ INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND UKRAINE

The international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine is fueling a humanitarian crisis affecting millions of people in the region and beyond. In response, the ICRC has significantly scaled up its operations in Ukraine and the surrounding countries, focusing on needs not covered by other humanitarian actors. Its emergency assistance helps people to meet their urgent needs and enables them to access health care, water and other essential services amid disruptions in supply chains and widespread destruction of infrastructure. Its activities aim to help both people affected by hostilities in Ukraine, and refugees and other migrants in neighbouring countries. The ICRC seeks to increase protection for civilians, people deprived of their freedom and others; acting as a neutral intermediary between the parties, it helps bring people news of relatives separated from them and facilitates the safe passage of injured or ailing civilians to medical facilities and other areas. It co-convenes the Movement's efforts to maximize their impact.



The ICRC's response is covered by its delegations in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova; its regional delegations based in Moscow and Budapest; and the Central Tracing Agency Bureau for the International Armed Conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

TOTAL 2023 BUDGET  
**CHF 563.6 million**  
↑ 1%<sup>14</sup>

STAFF MEMBERS  
**4,263**

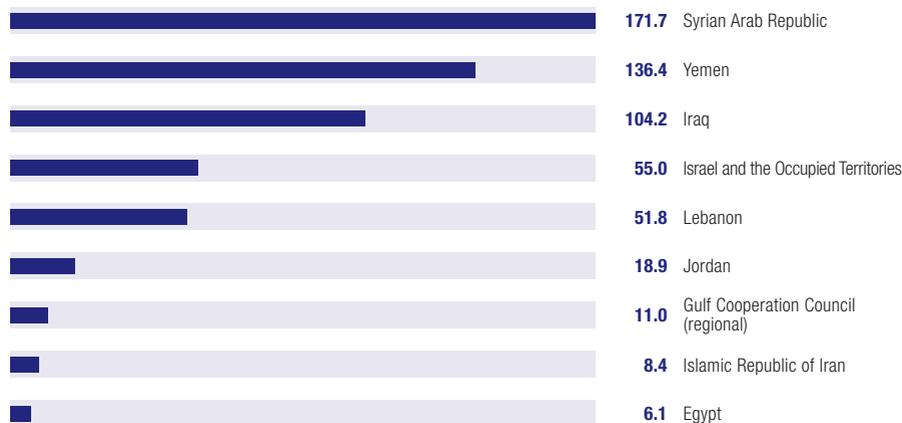
### BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAMME

in CHF millions



### BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY CONTEXT

in CHF millions



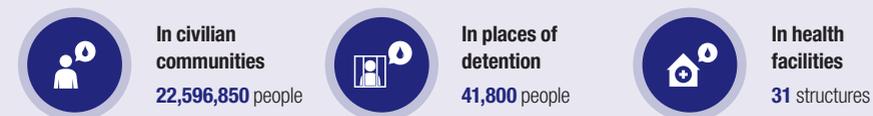
14. % increases are based on the initial 2023 and initial 2022 budgets, prior to any budget extensions.

## ASSISTANCE: KEY TARGETS

### ECONOMIC SECURITY



### WATER AND HABITAT



### HEALTH



15. Civilians and detainees

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW: NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST



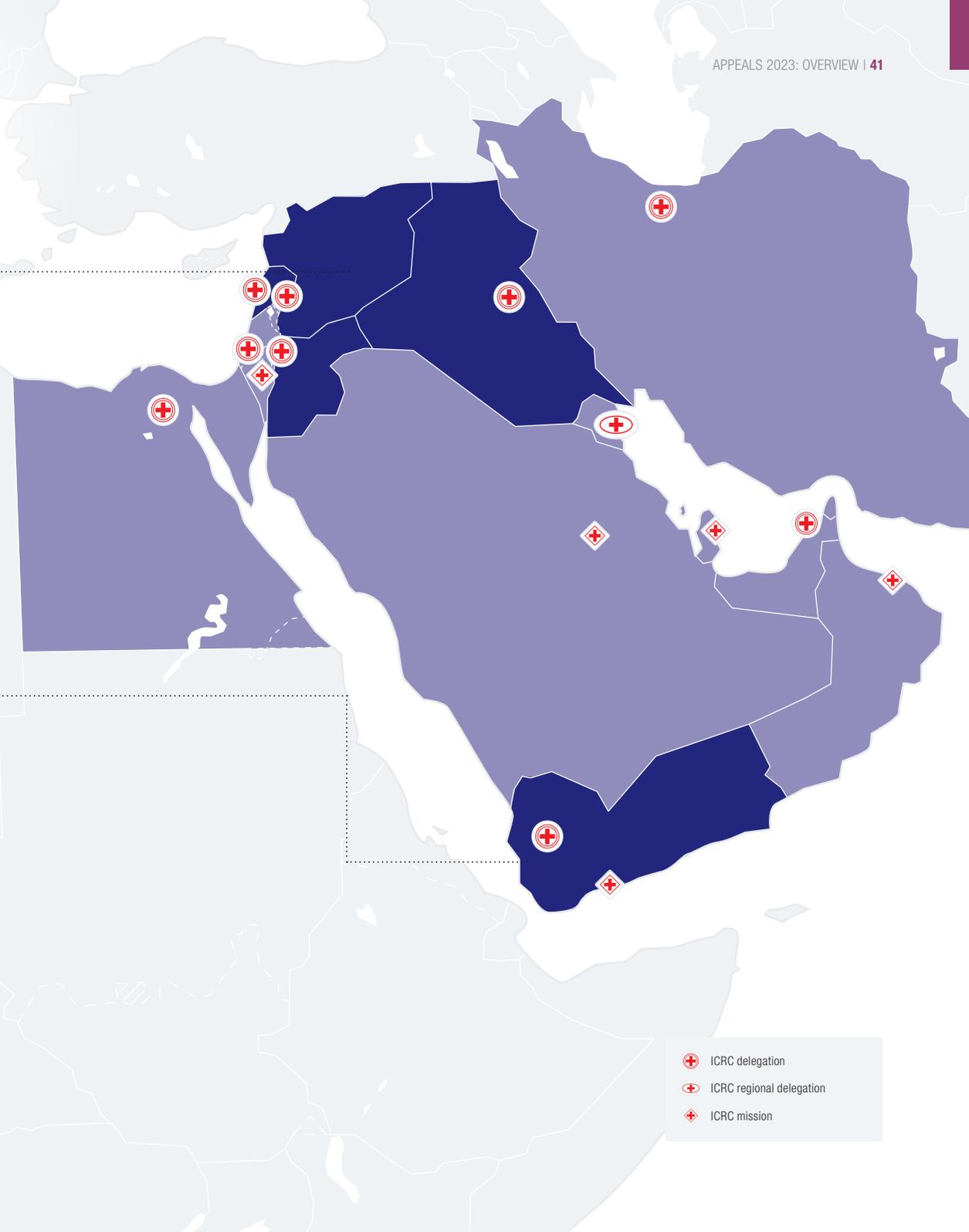
### ◀ SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, LEBANON, JORDAN AND IRAQ

After over a decade of armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, thousands of families in Syria and in neighbouring countries still have no contact or news of their relatives who have gone missing in relation to the conflict. Across the region, the ICRC will continue to provide tracing and other family-links services, as well as assistance to missing people's families, in coordination with the authorities and National Societies. Notably, families whose main breadwinners have gone missing will be given livelihood support to help them sustain themselves; refugees in Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan will be enrolled in accompaniment programmes, through which they may access psychosocial and other support to help them through their ordeal.



### ◀ YEMEN

Yemenis continue to suffer the consequences of years of armed conflicts and other situations of violence. Essential infrastructure has been destroyed, and economic activities disrupted; a food crisis and the rising prices of commodities add to their difficulties. Members of families have been separated by violence or detention. The ICRC is working to respond to the worsening humanitarian situation. Notably, it strives to help Yemenis regain a degree of self-sufficiency by providing vulnerable households with the means to enhance their livelihoods or by supporting communities in conflict-prone areas in devising self-protection measures. The ICRC also runs physical rehabilitation programmes in the country, including activities that promote socio-economic inclusion.



-  ICRC delegation
-  ICRC regional delegation
-  ICRC mission

# IN FOCUS



Burkina Faso. Community members in Fada N’Gourma welcome the news that the ICRC has completed construction of a water pump, which facilitates access to clean water for some 1,500 people.

## ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED PEOPLE

Whether protecting people from ill-treatment, providing food, shelter and water, or supporting education and other vital services, ICRC action must always be driven by people’s needs and account for diversity in conflict-affected communities. This means incorporating a people-centric approach in all areas of its work, from support services to front-line delivery.

The ICRC will continue working to ensure the meaningful participation of violence-affected people in all phases of its programme cycle and that their distinct needs, context-specific vulnerabilities, and capacities are taken into account. Efforts to reinforce inclusive programming across its operations and disability inclusion in its work are part of this endeavour.

Operationalizing this approach entails, among other things:

- learning about people’s needs and collecting their view and suggestions on the ICRC’s activities – including through community

contact centres and hotlines – and adapting its response accordingly;

- sharing potentially life-saving information to help people make informed decisions and protect themselves from risks;
- supporting people’s agency to design and implement their own solutions – for example, by giving them tools for setting up small businesses of their choice, or assistance for coping positively with their emotional distress; and
- helping ICRC staff strengthen their capacity to design responses that consider how various diversity factors and the social power dynamics within a context affect people’s access to ICRC services.

These efforts enable the ICRC to build trust and acceptance among the communities it works with and to remain equipped to deliver multidisciplinary responses that help people bolster their resilience, leading to more effective, relevant and sustainable humanitarian impact.



Myanmar. Sandar Aye lost her leg a year ago, after stepping on a landmine while picking vegetables. But that did not stop her from pursuing her dream of becoming a tailor, as she recently joined an ICRC-supported tailoring course. “I’ll begin by sewing clothes for children and progress to wedding gowns and other pretty clothing,” she says.

## CLIMATE AND CONFLICT

The climate and environmental crisis affects people across the world, but among those who suffer the most are people enduring the effects of conflict and other violence. Communities already grappling with lack of access to essential services and livelihood opportunities are faced with yet another threat to their coping mechanisms.

The ICRC takes into account the need to help vulnerable communities build their resilience to the combined consequences of violence, climate risks and environmental degradation, and its responsibility for reducing its own environmental footprint. It is working to integrate climate-adaptation strategies across its programmes, in line with its commitments to the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations.

Whenever possible, it will employ sustainable approaches in its operations – for instance, by:

- working with communities to come up with innovative, environment-friendly and climate-smart solutions to make the best use of limited land, water and other resources;
- installing solar-powered water and energy systems, including in health facilities, schools and places of detention;

- helping farmers and herders to insure their crops and livestock against droughts and floods;
- building the capacities of essential-service providers to prepare for and withstand the effects of conflict, adverse climatic conditions and other recurrent shocks;
- boosting energy efficiency and waste-management practices in ICRC delegations;
- encouraging ICRC delegations to explore innovative, multidisciplinary and people-centred initiatives through the [Climate and Conflict Challenge](#).

On the global stage, the ICRC will continue its diplomatic efforts to strengthen climate action in conflict settings, draw attention to vulnerabilities exacerbated by the climate crisis, and promote IHL rules protecting the environment.

The [ICRC Climate and Environment Transition Fund](#) aims to help the organization shift its operations to clean energy and adapt its response to the challenges posed by climate and environmental risks.



Gaza. Through the “[From Zero Cost to Zero Waste](#)” project, Palestinian women learn how to repurpose household waste into products that they can sell to boost their income. Among their creations are copper-wire jewelry, soap from leftover frying oil, and placemats from plastic grocery bags.



Ethiopia. The ICRC works in a range of ways to prevent and adequately respond to conflict-related sexual violence in the country – from giving medical supplies to one-stop centres helping victims/survivors to raising public awareness of the issue. It also strives to mitigate the risk of sexual violence when upgrading community facilities; for instance, in 2023, when installing latrines, it will ensure that they are lockable and well-lit.

## ADDRESSING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Despite legal prohibitions, sexual violence remains prevalent during armed conflict and other situations of violence. It has multiple harmful effects on the people who endure it and on their communities.

The ICRC’s approach to addressing sexual violence stems from IHL. It is holistic and multidisciplinary, aimed at preventing sexual violence from occurring, mitigating people’s exposure to risk, and responding to the multifaceted needs of those affected. As an impartial organization, the ICRC supports victims/survivors of sexual violence based on humanitarian need. It ensures that its activities are tailored to the specific requirements and unique capacities of the people and communities it is seeking to help, and works with them to implement effective responses.

The ICRC’s approach involves:

- supporting the provision of appropriate health care, including mental-health and psychosocial support, for victims/survivors of sexual violence;
- providing livelihood support and other essential services to people who have experienced or are at risk of sexual violence;
- addressing people’s protection-related needs and engaging with communities to mitigate their risk of exposure to sexual violence;
- promoting IHL provisions and other norms prohibiting sexual violence; and
- addressing the issue of sexual violence in detention.

## MENTAL-HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Armed conflict affects both body and mind. Many people in conflict-affected areas are living with mental-health conditions, which may range from mild depression to post-traumatic stress disorder. They sometimes witness traumatic events, and experience fear and uncertainty owing to their circumstances. When not addressed, mental-health and psychosocial needs can have a far-reaching and long-term impact on the well-being of individuals and on the social fabric of communities. Yet, in many violence-affected places, there is no access to appropriate care for those in need.

The ICRC carries out various mental-health and psychosocial support initiatives around the world, focusing on building local capacities and responding to the needs of different groups of people affected by conflict and other violence. These include people who were injured in the fighting, victims/survivors of sexual violence, the families of missing people, people who had to flee their homes and start over elsewhere, and detainees living in difficult conditions.

The ICRC's activities include:

- working with local health staff to ensure the availability of mental-health and psychosocial services at ICRC-supported health facilities and counselling centres or through sessions in communities;
- training community-based actors, such as National Society volunteers, health workers, associations of families of missing people, teachers and government workers, to provide or refer community members for psychological support, and/or to raise awareness of mental-health issues to encourage more people to seek help and to prevent or address stigmatization;
- providing health-care workers and others assisting violence-affected people with techniques for managing their own distress; and
- sharing technical advice with detaining officials to make mental-health and psychosocial support available to detainees.



Azerbaijan. "I love my kindergarten a lot and I cannot stop playing in the playground," says a young student at a school that benefited from ICRC repairs. The kindergarten – the only one in their village – was damaged during the escalation of conflict in 2020. ICRC upgrades have helped children regain safe access to their school, giving them and their community a sense of normalcy and hope.

## ACCESS TO EDUCATION

People affected by armed conflict or other violence have increasingly identified access to education as a priority for them, especially once their most immediate needs have been met. Education is key to providing children with the knowledge, skills and environment they need to develop positive coping mechanisms and build their future. In conflict and violence-affected settings, it can also help to protect them from becoming involved in violence or other harmful behaviour.

IHL contains rules that require parties to conflict to facilitate access to education, and state practice indicates that access to education is among the special protections to which children are entitled under customary law. Unfortunately, education is often one of the first services to cease during hostilities, and one of the last to resume once they end.

The ICRC's Access-to-Education Strategy for 2021–2026 centres around three main axes:

- change the behaviour of pertinent actors to keep education safe from attack and to prevent the use of schools for military purposes;
- guarantee access to quality education through ICRC protection and assistance activities for groups with specific vulnerabilities, including juvenile detainees, children associated with armed groups or forces, children with disabilities, children with missing family members, and displaced or migrant children; and
- create regional and global commitments to protect education, through diplomatic and advocacy efforts aimed at influencing legal norms and education policies that frame states' behaviour.



Nigeria. Conflict-affected people in the north-east learn how to manage their emotional distress in a safe and supportive manner at sessions run by the Nigerian Red Cross Society and the ICRC. "Eight of my children went missing and I have been alone in this community. When the whole group came to visit me at home, it gave me hope and strength," says a participant.

# FINANCING THE ICRC



Nigeria, ICRC-supported Maiduguri State Specialist Hospital. Twins Hassana and Hussaini had a mission to complete in three months: Hassana had to beat malnutrition, while Hussaini had to pull through burn injuries. Both were successful and have been discharged from the hospital.

## BUDGET AND APPEAL STRUCTURE

- The ICRC's budget is established on a yearly basis, with the budget period corresponding to the calendar year.
- The 2023 budget is based on the objectives set for the year and aims to cover activities implemented from 1 January to 31 December 2023.
- The ICRC uses its yearly *Appeals* to seek funding for its activities worldwide. In the course of the year, adjustments to the initial budgets may be made in the form of budget extensions. These are usually launched in response to emergencies or other situations requiring an expansion of activities or significant operational shifts; donors may be informed of these through *Budget Extension Appeals*.
- *Special Appeals* cover specific or cross-cutting themes, such as disability and mine action and the ICRC's response to sexual violence in armed conflict.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The ICRC is funded by contributions from states party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, supranational organizations, international institutions, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and public and private sources. All funding is voluntary.

Contributions to the ICRC may be made in the form of cash, goods or services.

- Cash contributions are the most flexible and efficient way to finance ICRC operations. They account for around 95 to 98 per cent of the ICRC's total income. Cash contributions may be allocated for a specific purpose; please see the section on earmarking.
- In-kind contributions are donations provided in the form of food, non-food items or other specific goods for the ICRC's assistance activities. Donors may also provide cash-for-kind contributions to cover the purchase of pre-defined goods by the ICRC.
- Contributions in services refer to support given to the ICRC in the form of logistics or staff on loan.

## EARMARKING

Earmarking is the practice whereby donors require that their contributions be allocated for specific ICRC operations.

The table below shows the overall framework agreed with donors for the earmarking level of cash contributions to the ICRC.

LEVEL OF EARMARKING	RANGE/RESTRICTIONS
<b>Unearmarked</b>	contributions restricted to no other purpose than general headquarters or field operations
<b>Loosely earmarked</b> (region and/or programme or target population)	contributions restricted to a given region and/or programme or target population in the field or at headquarters
<b>Country earmarked</b>	contributions restricted to one of the ICRC's contexts in the field
<b>Tightly earmarked</b>	contributions restricted to a (sub-)programme or (sub-)target population within a specific context in the field or a specific organizational unit at headquarters

Flexible funding policies remain essential for the ICRC to meet needs effectively and in line with its principled approach to humanitarian action. Such policies correlate directly with the ICRC's ability to maintain its independence, frontload rapid-response operations, and adapt to constantly evolving situations and needs.

Of particular importance are unearmarked and loosely earmarked contributions. The operational flexibility afforded by such contributions allows the ICRC to fulfil its exclusively humanitarian mandate in a timely manner, whether in sudden-onset crises, protracted conflicts that call for multi-year responses, slow-onset crises requiring pre-emptive action, or so-called "forgotten crises" that have fallen out of the public spotlight.



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*ICRC programmes and services in fragile environments around the world demonstrate the value of neutral, impartial and independent action.*

*But we cannot do it alone.*

*With your committed and steadfast support, for which we are deeply grateful, the ICRC will continue to protect lives, prevent suffering and bring hope to people in 2023.*

**Mirjana Spoljaric Egger**

ICRC President



**ICRC**

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