

## ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES FACTS & FIGURES 2023

JANUARY-JUNE 2023



Through its permanent presence in Israel and the Occupied Territories (ILOT) since 1967, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been working to alleviate the suffering of people impacted by conflict.

This is an overview of our activities in the first six months of 2023.

### Ensuring Dignity in Detention

Within the framework of our endeavors to secure humane treatment and conditions of detention for detainees, we carried out **262** visits to Palestinian detainees in Israeli and Palestinian detention facilities, including **29** visits by medical staff to assess access to healthcare in Israeli detention and health facilities. We also contributed to the improvement of detention conditions for **11,539** detainees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

### Maintaining Family Links

We facilitated permits for **29,165** family members and transported those who could conduct family visits to their relatives in Israeli detention facilities. **4,580** detainees were able to see their loved ones through regular visits. We also facilitated the exchange of **15** Red Cross Messages and **545** salamat (i.e., verbal greetings) between detainees and their families who are separated by local and international borders. We acted as a neutral intermediary between relevant authorities for various humanitarian crossings via Quneitra and Rosh-Hanikra checkpoints. We also presented family-links related requests of beneficiaries in Israel and the occupied Golan to the respective authorities.



## Supporting Vulnerable Communities

To address the humanitarian consequences of the occupation:

### In Gaza:



A combination of multipurpose cash and essential household items was given to **151** households who lost their houses due to the escalation in May 2023.



Multipurpose Cash Support was given to **34** fishing households who were directly affected by boat confiscation or affected by the 2023 May escalation.



Financial support was provided to **20** fishing households, to rehabilitate their boats and restore their livelihoods.



**49** households of persons with disabilities and individuals severely injured by confrontations were provided with grants to support starting a business.



**50** honey producers received **150** climate-resilient beehives (three hives each) as part of an innovation project to tackle the effects of climate change.



**73** households were provided with Cash for Work opportunities to support service providers with different activities.



**28** olive farmers received **1,800** ecological traps to mitigate damage caused by the olive fruit fly in the border areas of Gaza and the Northern Governorates.



**11** greenhouse-farming households in Zaiton area were supported to restore greenhouses affected by the May 2023 escalation.



**11** people injured by unexploded ordnance (UXO) and **49** members of their families received MHPSS support in cooperation with the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS).

*In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem:*



**118** households whose houses were demolished were provided with emergency cash support.



**Six** individuals severely injured by confrontations with Israeli Defence Forces were provided with cash grants to start their own business.



Cash support to enhance farming activities was provided to **72** households in areas affected by settlement expansion and settlers' violence.



**99** herders in areas affected by settlements expansions and settlers' violence were supported with cash grants to help them rehabilitate animal shelters and improve animal breeding practices.



**50,000** animals were vaccinated against chlamydia to reduce the mortality of fetuses in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in the West Bank.



**645** olive farmers received **6,400** ecological traps to tackle the effects of the olive fruit fly in Area C.



**111** pastoralist households were supported through the artificial insemination of **2,000** animals in five communities in the West Bank, in partnership with the MoA.



### Access to Water and Electricity

- Access to essential services (i.e., water, electricity and waste water) was enhanced for more than **927,000** residents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- Within the framework of the Gaza Resilience Program (which aims to help communities and systems absorb conflict-related shocks and recover more rapidly):
  - ◊ The reliability and availability of electricity supply was improved through the installation of smart grid components and enhanced remote control capabilities.
  - ◊ The capacity of water and wastewater facilities to continue to function during armed hostilities was increased, ensuring **749,400** residents in Gaza maintained access to essential water and sanitation services.
- Key local actors were supported, including water authorities (Municipality of Gaza, Coastal Municipality Water Utility) and electrical utility (Gaza Electricity Distribution Corporation).
- Ongoing support to hospitals and health centers was provided, through provision and maintenance of electrical sources and rehabilitation of an emergency department, strengthening more than **58** health facilities (reaching **567** beds and **7,174** consultations per day).



Hisham Mhanna / ICRC

## Healthcare for the sick and wounded

### *Caring for the Sick and Wounded*

- **One** weapon-wounded kit was provided to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza during the May 2023 armed hostilities, with the capacity to treat up to **50** severely wounded people, along with **15** hospital beds, **30** stretchers and several surgical sets.
- Several contingency stock items were provided to Military Medical Services (MMS), **300** Case-forms to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) of MMS and Civil Defense (CD) and **15** Suction machines to EMS of MoH, MMS and CD.
- **Three** X-ray machines, **five** medical refrigerators, **21** sterilization machines and several physiotherapy items were provided to MoH primary health centers.
- **2,500** liters of fuel for a small generator was provided to the Palestinian Authority MoH Coordination and Liaison Office in Gaza, along with stationery and office material to ensure continuity of operations to process patients permit requests to the Israeli Civilian Liaison Authority (CLA).
- **One** Training of Trainers Basic Emergency Care (BEC) Training Course was conducted for **13** MoH Trainers.
- **One** Basic Ambulance Responder Training was conducted for **17** EMS staff from MMS, MoH and CD.
- **One** BEC Training Course was conducted for **19** nurses & doctors from MMS hospitals.

- **Ten** emergency department policies were developed by MoH, with ICRC support.
- **30** posters and one billboard were provided for Al-Shifa Medical Complex Emergency Department (ED) to sensitize the public on respect for medical staff and facilities.
- **Nine** baseline audits on laboratories in Gaza were completed, to assess capacity.
- **Seven** workshops and **four** Technical Working Groups on quality management systems (QMS) were conducted. This directly trained **10** core implementors and reached over **295** laboratory staff via onsite educational mentoring visits with **64** days of mentoring completed.
- **Six** laptops were provided for quality officers, along with introductory Microsoft training to improve IT literacy and streamline QMS documentation.
- **Two** MoH laboratory unit managers were provided with a certified online training on international ISO standards, alongside the University of British Columbia.

### *Physical Rehabilitation Program*

- **1,642** persons with disabilities were supported with physical rehabilitation at the Artificial Limbs and Polio Centre (ALPC) in Gaza.
- **55** children were supported at the clubfoot clinic of ALPC, using the Ponseti method.
- Assistive devices, wheelchairs, materials, orthopedic shoes, and tools were provided to ALPC, Palestinian Avenir of Childhood Foundation (PACF) and PRCS.
- **70** children with disabilities were provided with wheelchairs and other assistive devices at PACF.
- **14** rehabilitation staff provided with theoretical and practical training to adapt wheelchairs to patients, as part of the opening of a new wheelchair unit at a PRCS hospital.
- **100** players were supported with societal integration activities. This included **50** participants from the Football Amputee League and **50** children engaged in amputee football training.
- Coordination meetings on wheelchair service delivery were facilitated between the main stakeholders (MoH, MoSD, ALPC, Assalama Society, PACF, PRCS etc).



Mohammed Zaqout/ArabNews Agency

## Strengthening Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- For the second year, **15** MMS staff were supported with scholarships to study a postgraduate diploma in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) at Gaza Community Mental Health Program and Islamic University.
- **34** staff from CD and MMS, who run the ‘Helping the Helpers’ peer support group cycle were trained as facilitators for the program. **65** peers benefitted from these facilitators.
- **Two** MHPSS units were equipped with furniture and IT items, allowing helpers to practice applying knowledge from capacity-building programs and activities in a safe space.
- **236** persons with disabilities benefitted from MHPSS support via the technical support and supervision provided to the ALPC.
- **13** cases were supported and referred to Doctors Worldwide to receive MHPSS intervention through home visits.
- **12** facilitators from the Palestinian Paralympic Committee & Palestinian Amputee Football Association were trained to facilitate peer support group sessions. **12** peer support group sessions were conducted by these facilitators for **18** people with disabilities.
- To enhance the psychological resilience of people with disabilities through theatre, ICRC partnered with the Bozour Association for Arts and Culture. The first and second phase of this intervention was completed, training **48** people with disabilities over 25 days.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed between the ICRC and the Israeli Trauma Coalition (ITC) to continue ICRC support to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support trainings ITC conduct in hospitals in the south of Israel.



## Cooperation with National Societies

### PRCS

- The PRCS ambulance service successfully responded to **55,941** calls, evacuated a total of **662** individuals that were effectively transported to hospitals and responded to field treatment of **4,269** cases during clashes.
- **120** Emergency Medical Service team members attended Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support trainings to advance their response skills and knowledge.
- The PRCS East Jerusalem facilitated the transfer of **216** acute medical cases from/to Gaza to hospitals in Jerusalem and West Bank.
- The PRCS responded to house destruction cases in the West Bank by distributing non-food items to **19** affected families.
- **11** pallets of rehabilitation and medical supplies and **10** ambulances were delivered to PRCS Gaza branch, facilitated by the ICRC.

### *Magen David Adom (MDA) In Israel proper*

- Initiatives such as the installation of defibrillators were part of MDA's and the ICRC's efforts to address the needs of vulnerable communities.
- Training and capacity-building activities with MDA staff, including the National Disaster Response Team, were conducted to strengthen emergency response in cases of natural disasters in Israel.





## Promotion of international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles

As the guardian and promoter of IHL, the ICRC takes action to protect and assist those affected by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and to foster respect for the law. It does the latter, notably by spreading knowledge of IHL to a wide range of local and international stakeholders, by supporting its implementation at the domestic level in Israel and the occupied territories, by monitoring respect for it by all parties and by reminding them of their obligations.

- Participation in 4th IDF Law Of Armed Conflicts (LOAC) Conference.
- A Hebrew University International Law workshop was facilitated, with discussion of RCRC volume “How IHL develops” with ICRC’s Bruno Demeyere, Editor-in-Chief of the International Red Cross Review.
- A two-day IHL workshop was facilitated for members of non-state armed groups in Gaza.
- A one-day workshop on the ICRC and IHL was conducted for **57** university students in Gaza.
- **30** law students from An-Najah National University in Nablus participated in a lecture on ICRC modalities of work, the emblem, and the difference between IHL and international human rights law (IHRL).
- **One** roundtable was facilitated for non-state armed group officers in Gaza, on the ‘Urban Warfare Handbook’.



## Community Engagement

The ICRC recognizes community members as valuable partners. To ensure that we meet the needs of those who are affected by conflict, who are at the heart of our work, we carried out a series of community-focused engagements in the first six months of 2023:

### *In Israel proper and occupied Golan:*

- Visits were conducted with the MDA to communities affected by hostilities, aiming to monitor and support affected civilians.
- Meetings with Druze community leaders in the occupied Golan were held in order to monitor developments there and hear their concerns.

### *In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem:*

- **18** youth between 16–18 years old from Duhaisha refugee camp in Bethlehem were supported to participate in a series of activities and sessions on ICRC modalities of work and programs. PRCS participated in the activities and facilitated sessions on health care missions and their protection under law.

### *In Gaza:*

- Over **10,000** residents received awareness sessions to better understand the risks of UXO and promote safer behavior in the Gaza Strip.
- **One** roundtable discussion with **30** detention stakeholders (including families of detainees).
- **61** people were reached via information sessions on a range of offered services and assistance and how to get in touch with the ICRC if needed.
- Supported distribution of **one** billboard and **30** posters promoting respect for healthcare workers and facilities in Al-Shifa Medical Complex emergency department, alongside the Ministry of Health in Gaza.



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