

TOGETHER, WE BRING HOPE



ICRC

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

We work worldwide to bring hope to people affected by armed conflict and violence, and do all we can to protect their dignity and alleviate their suffering.

We are:

Independent
Neutral Impartial
Humanitarian



Boris Heger/CRC



Didier Revol/ICRC

TOGETHER, WE ARE A SURE SIGN OF HOPE

Thank you for getting in touch with us about making a bequest. It is because of the support of people like you that we can keep bringing hope to those caught up in the horror of war.

In the next few pages we will explain why our humanitarian work worldwide is more important than ever, and how you can contribute to it by naming the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in your will. Your generosity makes all the difference.

"... thanks to the support of people like you..."

OUR SHARED HUMANITARIAN VALUES

The Movement's seven Fundamental Principles:

Unity
Impartiality
Neutrality
Independence
Universality
Voluntary service
Humanity



THE ICRC IS THE FOUNDING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the largest humanitarian network in the world, with more than 100 million volunteers.

The Movement is made up of:



ICRC

the International Committee of the Red Cross, which assists people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence throughout the world;



the 190 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world, which support the public authorities in their own countries in the humanitarian field, providing a whole range of services, including disaster relief and health and social assistance programmes.



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the umbrella organization of the National Societies, whose main task is to coordinate relief in the event of natural disaster;

The ICRC and its Movement partners work together on a great many projects, although they are separate, independently financed bodies.

The ICRC coordinates the Movement's activities in conflict zones.

It is essential for us to be in the field as close as possible to the people we help. Our partnerships with National Societies make such proximity possible. In a country affected by armed conflict, the ICRC and the country's National Society – the ICRC's natural and favoured partner – pool their operational capacities to make their action more effective.



Frédéric Boissonnas/ICRC



Carlo Bossoli, Museo Nazionale del Risorgimento, Turin

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW: IMPOSING LIMITS ON WARFARE

Over 150 years ago, Henry Dunant, a citizen of Geneva, was an unwilling witness to the atrocity of war at the Battle of Solferino in Italy. He was appalled by the human suffering that had always been regarded as an inevitable consequence of war, and determined that laws should be passed to limit that suffering. The laws would have to be promoted and, if necessary, amended, and work had

to be done to see they were abided by. In 1863, with four of his fellow citizens, Henry Dunant established the International Committee of the Red Cross and, the following year, States adopted the original Geneva Convention to improve the lot of people wounded during conflict. The idea was simple: all the wounded would be treated, whatever side they were on. International humanitarian law was born.

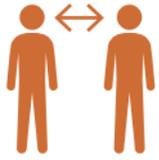
In the twentieth century, the two world wars and the development of ever more lethal weapons brought home the relevance of Henry Dunant's ideas. In 1949, after millions of civilians had been killed in the Second World War, States amended the existing Conventions and adopted new ones in order to protect civilians in time of war: these are the four Geneva Conventions.

Two requirements underpin international humanitarian law:

1. People who are not or no longer fighting must be protected
2. Weapons and methods of warfare must be limited.

Promoting and developing international humanitarian law is one way of protecting victims of conflict. At the same time, the ICRC has also been working in the field with the victims to try to alleviate their suffering for 150 years.

With the experience we have gained over the years, we conduct a whole range of activities, all of which share a single goal: to meet the essential needs of people affected by conflict and other situations of violence throughout the world.



Confidential dialogue with all the parties to a conflict (governments, armed groups, etc.)

Diplomacy



Dialogue with influential actors on the world stage and campaigns on subjects central to the ICRC's mandate (health care in danger, landmines, etc.)



Public condemnation of serious, repeated violations of IHL, if this is in the victims' interest



Restore damaged infrastructure (hospitals, schools, water services, housing) and training local staff



WE SUPPORT PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT AND OTHER ARMED VIOLENCE



Improve conditions of detention



Support and restore livelihoods (providing farming and fishing equipment, training, grants, microcredit, cash-for-work)

Emergency relief



Emergency relief (food and other essentials, medical care, drinking water, etc.)



Physical rehabilitation for amputees and others



Restore contact between dispersed family members



Trace the missing and support their families

WE SPEAK



Disseminate, promote and monitor implementation of IHL on the ground



Develop new IHL norms (in response to new weapons and methods of warfare)

Promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL)

Relief during long conflicts and reconstruction

WE ACT



World Picture News / CONLAN, Seamus

DEDICATED PEOPLE WORKING FOR HUMANITY

Alberto Cairo has directed the ICRC's physical rehabilitation programme in Afghanistan since 1992. He manages seven centres where people with disabilities receive physical rehabilitation services, and much more. He explains: "Helping people to walk again isn't enough. They need to be able to stand on their own feet with dignity and be proud of having a job and a place in society."

In 1992, quite by chance, I met a man who changed my life and the life of many other people. When I first

saw Mahmoud, this man, who had lost an arm and both legs, was in his wheelchair in the middle of the road with his terrified young son. I invited Mahmoud to our centre in Kabul, although it was closed at the time because of the fighting. Being able to stand wasn't enough for Mahmoud: he needed a job as well as his arms and legs. He referred to himself as 'a wreck' and desperately wanted to regain his dignity. I asked him to assemble artificial limbs. He developed a passion for his work and soon became the fastest worker

on the production line. He had something to prove to himself and that's how he regained his dignity."

The centre eventually reopened and today all the people the ICRC employs there are people who have been treated in its centres. More than 80,000 people receive treatment every year.

The ICRC is proud to have workers as dedicated as Alberto, whose life is dedicated to attending to the needs of people affected by conflict.

HOW IMPORTANT ARE BEQUESTS FOR OUR WORK?

Very. In 2015, for example, 40% of the bequests we received went to help fund our operations in Africa, particularly in Liberia, where the ICRC provides water and sanitation and promotes international humanitarian law. We also help refugees who have fled the violence in Côte d'Ivoire and the Liberian families who have taken them in.

Many donors do not specify how a bequest should be used. We value such trust highly; it gives us the leeway to use those funds immediately where they are needed the most. That might be to help and protect the victims of forgotten conflicts or to come to the aid of people in an emergency.

HOW DO WE USE BEQUESTS?

For every donation of 100 Swiss francs to our field budget, 93.50 goes directly to our field operations and the rest goes to support those operations.

A single legacy left to the ICRC enabled us to finance 25% of our relief operations in the southern Philippines after Typhoon Bopha.





OUR THANKS

WHEN YOU PLEDGE A BEQUEST

We show our gratitude to people who name the organization in their will and pay tribute to their generosity.

We do this in modest – but heartfelt – ways:

- an annual greetings card
- a subscription to the *In Action* magazine for ICRC donors
- invitations to humanitarian events
- meetings with ICRC specialists in small groups.

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

We will honour your memory in a number of ways, in accordance with your wishes:

- thanks published on the website and in the annual report
- a letter of thanks to your family
- a tribute published in the press
- a certificate of appreciation signed by our president – a colour print of a work by the Genevan painter Gérald Poussin.



Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images/ICRC

TOGETHER, WE ARE A SURE SIGN OF HOPE

As conflicts become ever more indiscriminate and bloody, civilian populations are systematically targeted. The ICRC's activities are more necessary than ever to preserve a haven of humanity in the midst of war.

*Together, we can make all
the difference.
Thank you for your support.*



ICRC

Marie-Jo Girod

Bequests and donations manager

Direct line: +41 22 730 33 76

Email: mgirodblanc@icrc.org

www.icrc.org/bequest

