



@SARC/Z. Hakmi

Facts and Figures 2014

January - December 2014

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IN SYRIA

Nearly four years of fighting have had a major impact on every aspect of life in Syria. Millions of people have become displaced, tens of thousands been killed, gone missing, detained or separated from family members.

In addition to the humanitarian crisis, the infrastructure of the country has been badly damaged and the essential services like healthcare and water supply have been hampered in a number of areas as a result of the conflict.

More than six million people are internally displaced within the country, struggling to cope with difficult living conditions. Hosting communities also find difficulties to get the basic needs covered as the local resources are severely stretched.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been assisting millions of people in Syria since the onset of the conflict four years ago. Working in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to reach millions of displaced and resident people across the country and to respond to their needs in terms of food, water and health. The ICRC, and in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, provides over half a million people with food and other essentials every month. The ICRC keeps seeking for access to all areas affected by the conflict. In 2014, The ICRC was able to cross front lines and to deliver medical supplies, food and other essentials to Aleppo, Homs and Rural Damascus.

ICRC President Peter Maurer visited Syria twice in 2014. During his January and November visits, he met with senior Syrian Government and Syrian Arab Red Crescent officials, met with persons affected by the conflict, and visited joint ICRC-Syrian Arab Red Crescent projects serving affected communities across frontlines.

The ICRC currently has over 300 staff working in Damascus, Aleppo and Tartus, where they are endeavoring to distribute food, restore the water supply, improve health care and re-establish contact between people separated by the conflict.

WORKING IN A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SYRIAN ARAB RED CRESCENT

The ICRC provided the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) with material, technical, logistical, financial and other support to enable it to maintain the important role it plays in responding to the needs of people suffering the effects of the fighting.



ICRC



Our delegates talk with a displaced person who lost everything after fleeing Aleppo to Tartous

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: FOOD AND ANOTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS

The ICRC has been assisting millions of people in Syria since the onset of the conflict four years ago. Working in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, it provides over half a million people with food and other essentials every month.

In 2014, The ICRC assistance was distributed as follows:

- Food parcels, consisting of rice, bourghul, beans, lentils, oil, tomato paste, tea and sugar, canned food, were distributed to over 5.5 million people all over the country;
- Nearly 250,000 people living in shelters for the displaced in Aleppo, Lattakia, Rural Damascus, Homs and Damascus had daily meals prepared for them in ICRC-supplied collective kitchens supported by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent;
- Hygiene kits, towels, mattresses, blankets and other household essentials (kitchen utensils, sleeping mats, buckets, rechargeable lights, etc.) were distributed to almost 1.5 million people across the country.

PROVIDING CLEAN WATER AND UPGRADING SANITATION

The humanitarian needs for water supply and other essential sanitation services increased in 2014 as the conflict continued. The infrastructure has been badly damaged due to direct destruction and lack of spare parts and adequate operation and maintenance. The ICRC's Water and Habitat unit operates in this context to assist with construction, engineering, providing access to clean water and proper sanitation, hygiene and environmental protection.

In 2014, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red crescent and local water boards, the ICRC has responded to the needs of millions of people in terms of water and sanitation by:

- Ensuring that 16 million people have access to clean drinking water by providing local water boards throughout Syria with the chemical supplies necessary for treating water;
- Providing technical support, materials and equipment, including

spare parts, pumps, motors and generators, to local water boards for more than 500 projects all over the country;

- Delivering water by truck to 360,000 people in Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Deir Ez-Zour and Qunietra;
- Distributing water bottles to 170,000 displaced people in Daraa, Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Hama;
- Improved 210 facilities serving as temporary shelters for displaced people (by installing showers, water heating units, and by increasing the capacity of the sanitary facilities and water units) in all Syrian governorates assisting around 160,000 displaced people;
- Providing pesticides for municipalities' public health and vector control programs in eight Syrian governorates, assisting around 3.5 million people.



ICRC medical assistance across front lines in Aleppo

HEALTHCARE FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED

The ICRC provided surgical supplies and other medical items needed to treat thousands of wounded people throughout the country.

In 2014, the ICRC:

- Provided surgical and first aid supplies to 27 public and private hospitals and a number of Syrian Arab Red Crescent branches for the treatment of more than 5,000 patients;
- Supplied medicines to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and many health facilities across the country for the treatment of 100,000 patients with chronic diseases;
- Provided the Palestinian Red Crescent in al-Yarmouk Camp in Damascus with chronic diseases medicines sufficient to treat 5,000 patients and 50 safe delivery kits;
- Provided medical supplies for the nine Syrian Arab Red Crescent mobile health units in seven governorates;
- Provided consumables for 700 hemodialysis sessions in Al Bir Hospital, Al Waer in Homs;
- Provided 770 disabled patients with wheelchairs in Damascus and Aleppo in addition to 700 pairs of crutches.
- Provided 2 hospitals and 2 polyclinics in Aleppo with generators.

RESTORING CONTACT BETWEEN FAMILY MEMBERS

In 2014 the ICRC helped hundreds of people affected by the current conflict in Syria, including people in the occupied Golan, to restore contact with other members of their families.

- Over 2,000 people sought the ICRC's help in confirming the whereabouts of relatives who had gone missing or been arrested since the start of the conflict. About 80% of the requests concerned people who are believed to be detained;
- Thirty nine people without valid identification papers, some of them refugees, were resettled in third countries with ICRC temporary travel documents issued in coordination with the authorities concerned and the UNHCR;
- The ICRC facilitated travel to and from the occupied Golan for 60 students and others in need;
- More than 50 official documents were carried by the ICRC back and forth between Syrian families separated by the demarcation line in the occupied Golan;
- The ICRC facilitated the exchange of dozens of Red Cross Messages (containing family news) and salamats (oral messages) for further distribution to immediate family members and other relatives;
- The ICRC helped in reuniting three children from Syria with their family members in Egypt.

VISITING DETAINEES

Visiting detainees has remained a priority for the ICRC, which stands ready to carry out visits for people held by one side or another any time the opportunity arises and if security permits.

The ICRC has continued its dialogue with the Syrian authorities on detention and has proposed two concrete plans of action for supporting the authorities towards the improvement of conditions of detention in two Central Prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Interior.

In addition, the ICRC also engaged in a dialogue with armed opposition groups on detention and the re-establishment of family links between persons detained and their families. The ICRC stands ready to facilitate the re-establishment of family links through Red Cross Messages (RCM) service.



Distributing essential relief aid in Barzeh, Damascus

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

To raise awareness of and promote compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL), the ICRC:

- Continued its confidential dialogue with Syrian authorities and other parties to raise awareness of international humanitarian law, and remind them of their obligation to spare civilians and their property at all times;
- Conducted a week-long IHL workshop for senior staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which allowed for greater familiarity with fundamental concepts of IHL;
- Conducted an IHL workshop for senior Syrian journalists and editors, which allowed these Syrian opinion leaders to become acquainted with the basic rules of IHL;
- Conducted IHL workshop for Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers;
- Produced a digital IHL module for arms carriers;
- Produced a number of IHL-themed audio-visual products, including animated video clips, for online publication.



In Yarmouk camp, delivering health assistance in cooperation with the Syrian Red Crescent and the Palestinian Red Crescent



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THE ICRC'S MISSION IN A NUTSHELL

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was founded over 150 years ago, in 1863, and is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It has been working in Syria and in the occupied Golan since 1967.

The ICRC is a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organization. It seeks to preserve a measure of humanity in times of armed conflict. Its guiding principle is that even wars have limits.

The set of rules established with this in mind, and endorsed by nearly every nation in the world, is known as international humanitarian law. The Geneva Conventions form its backbone.

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the ICRC has over 12,000 employees who work in more than 80 countries.

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