

LOGISTICS: A CRUCIAL ELEMENT OF RAPID DEPLOYMENT

Throughout the ICRC, there are some 2,500 people performing more than 50 different logistics functions, such as supply-chain managers, drivers, purchasers, warehouse managers, reporting officers or air-operations managers.



Inaugurated in 2011, the Satigny logistics centre, near Geneva International Airport, is the bridgehead of the supply chain deployed by the ICRC throughout the world in order to provide people affected by conflict with whatever they need to survive in an emergency: food, water, a roof over their head and medical care.

The storage area is a modern facility with an increased capacity to handle 20% of the worldwide orders in ICRC operations. The ICRC has another big logistics centres in Nairobi, Kenya, three regional centres in Côte d'Ivoire, Jordan and Pakistan, and two stores shared with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Panama and Malaysia. The majority of goods are, however, purchased from local suppliers in the field in order to reduce costs and transport time. Still, each day, an average of 15 trucks load and unload at the Geneva logistics centre and thousands of tonnes of goods are dispatched all over the world each year.

The centre's large Geneva warehouse stocks mostly high-value items such as pharmaceutical, orthopaedic, sanitation and water-supply equipment. In addition to the warehouse, the building comprises meeting rooms and a training workshop for the Water and Habitat Unit. This latter function is more than appropriate, as the centre itself sets high environmental standards. It uses energy-efficient geothermal science to regulate temperature. There is no air-conditioning as such, but a continuous flow of air between the indoors and outdoors.



LOGISTICS: OVERVIEW

- 100,000 m² of storage in the 5 centres;
- more than 7,000 orders from thousands of suppliers processed annually;
- goods weighing more than 100,000 tonnes delivered each year to over 80 countries such as Afghanistan, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel and the occupied territories, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria;
- more than 2,500 vehicles in the fleet, which in 2013 travelled nearly 34 million km!
- 15 ICRC-operated aircraft flew for 10,000 hours in 2013, transporting 50,000 passengers and 1,800 tonnes of cargo, with additional ad hoc charters for emergency relief cargo and personnel.

YOUR CONTACT



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FRIENDS OF THE ICRC AT THE HEART OF THE ACTION

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RAPID DEPLOYMENT: FOR GREATER SPEED AND EFFECTIVENESS



The ICRC is a humanitarian organization that, over the years, has had to face, and to adapt to, all kinds of situations. A concentration of large-scale, unforeseen emergencies in just a few years, like the conflicts in Iraq (2003) and Darfur, Sudan (2004), the Asian tsunami (2004-5) and the Pakistan earthquake (2005), had a significant impact on the many humanitarian organizations involved in the responses, including the ICRC; their capacities were stretched to the limit.

In 2008, therefore, the ICRC established its own rapid deployment mechanism (RDM) to facilitate its operational response to unforeseen or unplanned acute crises that, in terms of scale, complexity or political importance, require prompt and deliberate deployment of resources and energy.

A multidisciplinary team of experienced staff recruited from the field and headquarters is deployable in any requested formation. All ICRC delegations are aware of the surge-capacity resources that are available (e.g. specialists in health, water, relief, administration, management, logistics, IT). Once the decision to activate the RDM has been taken by the ICRC, the delegation in question is able to call on these as required, according to its existing capacity and to the emergency context it is facing.

The RDM maintains its support to the delegation until a new plan and structure, adapted to the new situation, has been established, consolidated, and integrated into the medium-term work of the delegation and region.

The strength of the RDM lies in the fact that it enables the ICRC to manage a range of lingering and lasting crises over time, while having the ability to rapidly respond to acute emergencies, drawing on and developing existing resources and adding new resources when required. In other words, it is not only a question of changing speeds, but of maintaining two speeds in parallel, at different levels.

Thanks to the RDM and to your trust in us to use your gifts where they are most needed, we have the flexibility to respond wherever and whenever the needs are great, and in whatever configuration. This is an extremely powerful combination, and we are grateful for your ongoing support and generosity.

Dominik Stillhart
ICRC Director of Operations



ICRC



YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION

MORE ON THE RAPID DEPLOYMENT MECHANISM

The ICRC's RDM can be activated in:

- rapid-onset emergencies or a major deterioration in the humanitarian situation in a conflict;
- rapid-onset natural disasters that occur in conflict-affected countries or regions;
- rapid-onset man-made technological or environmental disasters that occur in conflict-affected countries or regions;
- rapid-onset global emergencies of such a magnitude or impact that they oblige the ICRC to act based on its own initiative, for example those that result in needs that are beyond the capacity of the National Society.

29 Since its inception, the RDM has been activated 29 times with more than 500 staff (including from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in specialist functions) deployed to respond to a wide variety of emergency situations around the world. It has been instrumental in enabling the ICRC to cope with crises and to help the greatest number of people possible.

Alert and deployment

ICRC staff on the roster will usually be highly experienced in emergencies and in their technical area of specialization. Once on the RDM roster, these staff remain on alert. They are notified by SMS or email, first if they need to be on standby, and second when they are to deploy to a specific location. This enables the ICRC to deploy its staff, after a full briefing, within 24 hours. Large-scale emergencies often require mobilization of additional resources from within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Materials

The delegation, together with the RDM support staff, requires specialist equipment adapted to emergency contexts and ready for immediate use during the initial phase of an emergency. For this purpose, specific kits (containing, for example, IT equipment for the office and field, stationery, medical materials, satellite phones, and personal items for delegates departing at short notice) are issued to the deploying staff from headquarters or from regional centres.

EXAMPLES OF RDM ACTIVATION IN RECENT YEARS



2010: Côte d'Ivoire

Boosting in particular **medical, relief, water and family links** activities for people affected by **post-election violence**.

▶ RDM staff deployed: 10



2011: Libya

Establishing a delegation and other permanent bases from which to conduct **multiple activities** for those affected by the **escalation of social unrest to armed conflict**.

▶ RDM staff deployed: 96



2014: Israel and the occupied territories, particularly the Gaza Strip

Scaling up the emergency response to the escalation of hostilities between Israel and Gaza, particularly to facilitate the **evacuation** of wounded people, the movement of technicians, including its own, to **repair** damaged infrastructure, and the delivery of **medical** and other **essential supplies** to the Gaza Strip.

▶ RDM staff deployed: 26



2012: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Responding to the escalation in fighting, particularly in the Kivu provinces, focusing on **first aid, medical care, relief and water**.

▶ RDM staff deployed: 17



2012 and 2013: South Sudan

Scaling up operations in response to the varied growing emergency and longer-term needs of people affected by the international armed conflict with Sudan and the internal armed conflict gripping the country. This included the deployment of **additional surgical teams**.

▶ RDM staff deployed 2012: 11

▶ RDM staff deployed 2013: 37



2012 and 2013: Philippines

Responding to the effects of the widespread devastation caused by Typhoon Bopha and Typhoon Haiyan in parts of the country already suffering the effects of low-intensity armed conflict. With infrastructure devastated, **logistical** concerns needed immediate attention.

▶ RDM staff deployed 2012: 35

▶ RDM staff deployed 2013: 77

