

FACTS AND FIGURES FOR 2013



A Lebanese woman who fled Syria conflict awaits ICRC assistance in Hermel, northeast Lebanon.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IN LEBANON

YEAR IN REVIEW

Almost three years into the Syrian crisis, the humanitarian situation of the people suffering the effects of the conflict has deteriorated dramatically inside Syria, as in neighbouring countries, including Lebanon. The country has strived to cope with the growing number of refugees fleeing the violence. Humanitarian organizations have also faced tremendous challenges. In 2013, the ICRC continued to contribute to the international response to the crisis by coordinating its actions with those of the authorities and of other humanitarian organizations, including United Nations agencies.

The ICRC focused its efforts on assisting hundreds of weapon-wounded people who crossed the border from Syria into Lebanon to receive badly needed medical treatment. In cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross, which organized the medical transfers, the ICRC helped ensure that the war casualties received proper treatment in Lebanese hospitals. It supported blood banks of the Lebanese Red Cross and medical facilities in north Lebanon and the bekaa that catered for Syrian patients as well as casualties caused by internal violence in Tripoli.

In addition, the ICRC worked with the local authorities in areas hosting Syrian refugees to alleviate pressure on water infrastructure and meet increasing demand for water. It provided food and other aid for refugees, including Palestinians who had fled their refugee camps in Syria, and assisted Lebanese nationals who had been settled in Syria but were uprooted by the violence.

The families of people who went missing during years of conflict in Lebanon still suffer from not knowing what happened to their loved ones, despite the fact that decades have passed since the disappearances took place. Helping the Lebanese authorities and the families to determine what happened remained a priority for the ICRC, as did visiting detainees in the country's prisons and detention centres.

In 2014, the ICRC will carry on assisting Syrian refugees and the Lebanese communities hosting them. It will focus its assistance on casualties of the Syrian conflict or of internal violence. It will also continue to serve as a neutral intermediary between Lebanon and Israel, as it has done all through the decades since it first began working in Lebanon, in 1967. To maintain its ability to do so, and to continue to provide aid on a strictly neutral and humanitarian basis for the neediest people, the ICRC will remain in dialogue with all parties concerned.



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 Syrian teenage war handicapped being fitted with prosthesis provided by the ICRC at an orthopaedic center in Tripoli, north Lebanon

BOOSTING HEALTH ASSISTANCE

Lebanese health-care services and facilities were placed under additional pressure in 2013 as a result of internal violence and the arrival of hundreds of war-wounded Syrians seeking medical assistance. So far, the ICRC has helped alleviate the pressure by providing medical supplies and medicines for hospitals and dispensaries in north Lebanon and the Bekaa, and covering the cost of treatment in Bekaa hospitals for the most seriously injured patients. It has trained Lebanese doctors and nurses in war surgery techniques and maintained an emergency stock of enough medical supplies to treat up to 600 patients with weapon-related injuries.

In 2014, the ICRC plans to expand its programme of medical assistance to better cater for Syrian war casualties who come to Lebanon for treatment, and improve response to internal armed violence. To enhance the health care available to weapon-wounded patients in Lebanon, the ICRC will seek to pass on to local health-care personnel some of the know-how it has acquired through long experience in providing medical assistance in conflict zones.

In 2013, the ICRC

- Covered the cost of treatment for more than 835 Syrians with weapon-wounded injuries in hospitals in the Bekaa region.
- Fitted 33 Syrian war casualties, including some children, with prostheses.
- Donated medical supplies to 35 medical facilities throughout Lebanon, including those treating and assisting Syrian casualties.
- Provided training for over 200 doctors and nurses in hospitals in north Lebanon and in the Bekaa.
- Organized a war-surgery seminar in cooperation with the Iranian Red Crescent for 30 surgeons from various hospitals in south Lebanon.
- Trained ambulance services providers, including the Lebanese Red Cross, on self-protection and decontamination in the event of exposure to chemical agents
- Organized seven first-aid training courses for a total of 125 participants, including Palestinians and Syrians.
- Provided training in the management of dead bodies for personnel from six emergency medical care providers, and provided emergency-room trauma care training for 34 military and civilian doctors working in the Lebanese Army medical corps

RESTORING CONTACT BETWEEN FAMILY MEMBERS AND VISITING DETAINEES

In 2013, ICRC delegates in Beirut and Damascus cooperated closely to trace family members separated by the conflict in Syria and re-establish contact between them. In addition, the ICRC intervened with the Lebanese authorities to ensure that the principle of non-refoulement of foreign detainees, Syrians in particular, was respected.

Visiting people held in interrogation centres and prisons under the authority of the interior and defence ministries remained a key activity of the ICRC. The visits were conducted on the basis of an agreement signed with the Lebanese authorities in 2007 with the aim of improving conditions of detention, monitoring the treatment of detainees and enhancing respect for basic legal safeguards.

In its capacity as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC continued to repatriate Lebanese people, or their remains, from Israel. It also remained ready to help transfer released hostages and repatriate human remains from Syria, as it did for a British national. In addition, it assisted hundreds of refugees of different nationalities, including Kuwaitis, Iraqis, Syrians, Afghanis and Palestinians, transiting through or leaving Lebanon for resettlement in third countries.



Afghan refugees provided with ICRC travel documents and helped transit through Lebanon for resettlement in third country.

For the second consecutive year, the ICRC collected detailed information about people who went missing in connection with conflict in Lebanon through interviews with their relatives. At a later stage, the ICRC will collect biological reference samples (DNA) from families of the missing, in cooperation with the police, to help identify remains in any future process aiming to clarify the fate of the missing.

In 2013, the ICRC

- Visited 6,200 detainees in 28 places of detention in different parts of Lebanon.
- Donated 100 mattresses, 80 sets of clothes, hygiene articles, detergents, soap and other items to detention centres.
- Intervened with the Lebanese authorities on behalf of 66 foreign detainees to ensure that the principle of non-refoulement was respected.
- Assisted 237 foreign nationals by notifying their respective embassies of their detention.
- Interviewed 549 families of missing persons, bringing to 1,159 the total number of interviews completed since the middle of 2012.
- Repatriated seven Lebanese civilians and the bodies of six others from Israel, and repatriated one Israeli civilian from Lebanon.
- Helped 196 refugees to transit through or leave Lebanon for resettlement abroad.
- Received 577 allegations of arrest concerning people reportedly detained in Syria, and 83 requests to trace persons separated from their families by the conflict.

- Co-organized with the Internal Security Forces a seminar on health in detention which focused on issues relating to hunger strikes and solitary confinement.

COOPERATING WITH THE LEBANESE RED CROSS

In 2013, the ICRC maintained its support for the efforts of the emergency medical services of the Lebanese Red Cross, its main operational partner, to carry out medical evacuations of Syrian war casualties crossing into Lebanon.

The ICRC was also fully engaged in supporting a new five-year strategy (2013-2017) aimed at modernizing and developing the emergency medical services throughout Lebanon. To expand the capabilities of the Lebanese Red Cross, the ICRC upgraded stationhouses of the emergency medical services, equipped them with computers and communication

equipment, and provided logistics support and training for volunteers. It also helped the Lebanese Red Cross blood bank keep pace with increased demand caused by the influx of Syrian war casualties.

In 2013, the ICRC

- Covered the cost of maintenance and repairs for 381 ambulances, and purchased 10 fully equipped new ambulances.
- Provided financial support for Lebanese Red Cross blood banks supplying blood for Syrian war casualties.
- Covered the cost of nearly 98,000 litres of fuel for 445 Lebanese Red Cross ambulances.
- Purchased and installed wireless communication equipment for 17 stationhouses of the emergency medical services.
- Made training available for over 4,000 Lebanese Red Cross members, including 225 ambulance drivers and over 800 new volunteers.
- Upgraded the headquarters and stationhouses of the emergency medical services in Furn El chebak, Aley, Tripoli, Kabreshmoun, Jounieh, and Falougha, and a training centre for the services in Baabda.

ASSISTING REFUGEES AND RETURNEES

Throughout the year, the ICRC took part in the humanitarian response to the refugee crisis, led primarily by the Lebanese authorities and specifically mandated agencies such as the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It stepped in when other humanitarian organizations could not take action quickly, providing food and other aid for refugees,



A Syrian war wounded transported to hospital by the Lebanese Red Cross.



ICRC engineer working on rehabilitation of water pumping station in the Bekaa

including Palestinians arriving from camps in Syria. It also helped Lebanese citizens who had been living in Syria for decades and had lost their means of support.

In 2013, the ICRC

- Distributed food, mattresses, blankets, hygiene items, and cooking utensils to more than 34,000 refugees from Syria, including 15,000 Palestinians, and to 860 Lebanese nationals.

IMPROVING WATER SUPPLY FOR REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

Hosting hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees has had a profound effect on Lebanon – in particular on the country's

water infrastructure, which was already decaying as a result of neglect and past conflict. In 2013 the ICRC therefore undertook to improve the supply and availability of water for the benefit of Syrian refugees and their Lebanese hosts alike. It worked closely with local water boards to help them meet increasing demand for water in areas hosting Syrian refugees, such as north Lebanon, Hermel and the Bekaa. Pumps, transformers and power generators were installed, and pumping stations and decaying water pipelines that had suffered from lack of maintenance were upgraded.

In 2013, the ICRC

- Completed water projects in Tripoli, Koura and Batroun in north Lebanon, and in Hermel, Qaa' and Sultan Yaacoub in the Bekaa, improving water availability for some 230,000 people, including Syrian refugees and their Lebanese hosts.

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

In 2013, the ICRC marked the 150th anniversary of its founding. In Lebanon, it continued to spread knowledge of and promote compliance with international humanitarian law within the Lebanese Army, the Internal Security Forces and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). It also gave presentations and courses aimed at law and social science students and professors to broaden their knowledge of international humanitarian law.



Red Cross Emblem hoisted on North Pole to mark ICRC's 150th anniversary.

In 2013, the ICRC

- Discussed timely subjects related to international humanitarian law with 90 senior officers at the armed forces' Staff and Command College and introduced its mandate and rules of IHL to 400 rank and file.
- Raised awareness among 300 Internal Security Forces officers of international human rights standards and ICRC activities for detainees.
- Briefed 350 UNIFIL officers on the ICRC's mandate and activities in Lebanon as part of their pre-deployment training.
- Introduced students from the Lebanese American University and from Tripoli-based Islamic University, Al Jinane, to the ICRC and international humanitarian law at various events.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross has been present in Lebanon since 1967, addressing the humanitarian consequences of conflict and other situations of violence, in close cooperation with the Lebanese Red cross Society and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Over the last 46 years, the ICRC has assisted families separated by war, prisoners, and displaced populations, acted as neutral intermediary in the repatriation of combatants and mortal remains and reminded parties involved in conflict to respect the principles of international humanitarian law.



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