



The International Committee
of the Red Cross (ICRC)
in Greece, 2016-2023

BRIEF REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

FOREWORD

BY MARIE DUBEAU, HEAD OF DELEGATION IN ATHENS

As we wrap up our operations in the country and looking back at the 8 years we have worked with the Greek Authorities, the Hellenic Red Cross and other partners for the benefit of vulnerable migrants, we are filled with mixed emotions: a sense of accomplishment for all the work and achievements reached collectively but also a sense that there is still a lot to be done for people fleeing their home in search of safety and dignity. On the eve of our departure, we urge Authorities to build on the foundations established together: from determining the fate of the missing and ensuring proper management of the dead to providing humane conditions of detention, which include access to adequate health care and contact with families and using deprivation of liberty as a last resort. Ultimately, the ICRC's operations in Greece were about bringing humanity to the forefront in what for many is a challenging and life-changing journey.



Marie Dubeau
Head of
Delegation in Athens

INTRODUCTION

In 2015, following armed conflicts in Syria and beyond, Greece found itself at the frontline of an influx of refugees unprecedented in its recent history, in a conjunction of challenging social and financial circumstances. More than one million people fleeing armed conflict, violence and persecution in their home countries crossed Greece's borders in an effort to find safety and a dignified life for themselves and their families in Europe. The main sea and land migratory routes from Turkey to Greece proved to be highly dangerous. Many people lost contact with their families or became separated from them during their migration journey to Europe. Others were faced with challenging conditions and hardship in reception or detention centers. And thousands more have died or went missing in the Aegean Sea or while crossing the Evros river, leaving an open wound for their families who are still waiting for answers.

The ICRC seeks to ensure that migrants receive the protection they are entitled to under international and domestic law, including special protection afforded to certain categories of people, such as refugees and asylum seekers. In Europe, the ICRC supports Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies to address the needs of vulnerable migrants, providing them with technical support, with a specific focus in the field of Restoring Family Links (RFL). It also visits migrants in detention and supports Authorities on identification of missing migrants.

In March 2016, the ICRC opened an office in

Greece in order to respond to the rising needs of migrants and to contribute with its expertise and humanitarian services to their protection and assistance. It collaborated closely with the Hellenic Red Cross on the tracing of missing and separated migrants and on family reunifications. Working with the Greek Authorities, it supported the strengthening of capacities of relevant stakeholders. In doing so, it sought to improve practices related to the management of the dead, to enhance identification of dead migrants and thus provide families with information on the fate of their loved ones.

In immigration detention, the ICRC conducted regular visits in detention facilities to monitor living conditions, providing recommendations to the Hellenic Police on improvements and their responsibilities for the proper and humane treatment of detained migrants and supported the Police to develop best practice and procedures. In the field of health care, the ICRC supported the Police and the health care provider in immigration detention centers in developing capacity and health-related procedures and protocols and brought the issue of health care in detention to the center of a professional public health discussion.

Finally, ICRC, being mandated by the States to be the guardian of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), has cooperated, since 2018, with the Hellenic Armed Forces in IHL dissemination sessions for its members.

Here follows a brief review of the ICRC's 8-years presence in Greece.

MISSING MIGRANTS AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION

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MISSING MIGRANTS IN GREECE

Every year, thousands of families are separated by armed conflicts, natural disasters, or migration. People can suffer terribly when they lose contact with their loved ones and do not know where they are, whether they are safe or even if they are alive. The ICRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies work together around the world to locate the missing and put them back in touch with their relatives. Since 2016, the ICRC Delegation in Athens has supported families of migrants to locate and clarify the fate of their loved ones.



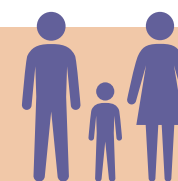
An ICRC staff explains the platform Trace the Face to a Somali woman (Leros, 2019) / MEGALOUDI Fragkiska, ICRC

WORKING WITH THE AUTHORITIES

To effectively respond to the needs, the ICRC developed a regular collaboration with different actors and interlocutors operating across Greece. These include Public Prosecutors, the Hellenic Police, the Hellenic Coastguard, Forensic Authorities, the Civil Registries, Foreign Diplomatic Missions located in Greece as well as local and international organizations offering services to migrants. The efforts to bring answers to the families have required the constant follow-up of all incidents that have taken place within the Greek territory. At the same time, whenever possible, the ICRC met survivors of major incidents, such as shipwrecks.

COOPERATION WITH THE HELLENIC RED CROSS

Since the opening of its office in Greece in 2016, the ICRC supported the Hellenic Red Cross, and more specifically its Tracing Division, in ensuring it has the right technical and financial capacities to provide the required response whenever needed. This included the provision of equipment, such as computers, phones, printers, as well as other tools essential for the Restoring Family Links services in the field. The ICRC also supported the HRC in terms of training on topics related to tracing, such as collecting and treating cases of missing people who are presumed dead, treating cases for people possibly in detention, as well as on data protection.



2.158

people sought for in Greece,
of which 498 were children

268

people located alive

40

people identified
as deceased



ICRC staff discuss with a volunteer from the Hellenic Red Cross at the Kara Tepe Reception and Identification Centre (Lesvos, 2022) / CHATOGLOU Dimitris, ICRC

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RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

The ICRC supported the Hellenic Red Cross in its emergency response in various incidents that took place in Greece. In September 2020, the ICRC joined forces with the HRC to respond to the needs of the affected population

that emerged after the fire in Moria, in Lesvos, and in re-establishing the contact of shipwreck survivors with their families, such as after the deadly shipwreck off the coast of Pylos. It also supported the HRC in its response following the fires in Mati in 2018.

SUPPORT TO FAMILIES OF DECEASED MIGRANTS

Whenever needed and possible, the ICRC accompanied families of migrants to visit the burial sites of their deceased family members. At the same time, in partnership with the Greek Council for Refugees, the ICRC facilitated the provision of necessary legal support to those families in order to obtain the necessary death certificates.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

In the framework of the Protection of Family Links activities in Greece, the ICRC Emergency Travel Document was accepted by the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2021.

This document, known as the ETD, can be used by vulnerable individuals and stateless persons that do not hold travel documents to enter/transit/exit Greece, upon receiving the necessary authorizations. The ICRC also facilitated the reunification efforts of several families through administrative support, such as with the transmission of documents.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

The ICRC worked to sensitize the Authorities on the issue of deceased and missing migrants, be it in bilateral meetings with Authorities or in specific events, such as the thematic special session in the Hellenic Parliament in May 2019 under the title “Missing Migrants and their Families: More than Numbers”. It also carried out public communication campaigns to raise awareness on this crucial humanitarian issue. For instance, on International Day of the Disappeared in 2022, the

In cooperation with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other organizations:



19 individuals were reunified with family members in Greece or abroad

ICRC Athens launched the #NoTraceOfYou campaign in the Athens Metro.

TIP OF THE ICEBERG

Thousands of families remain in need of answers. Undeniably, the cases that have been referred to the ICRC over the past 8 years represent only the tip of the iceberg.



Salwa, a Palestinian mother, reunites with her sons after 5 years of being separated by conflict (Athens International Airport, 2021) / BUSTOS Sebastian, ICRC

FORENSIC SUPPORT

DIGNITY IN BOTH LIFE AND DEATH

The ICRC promotes and supports forensic best practices, to address the needs of affected people. This includes ensuring the proper treatment and identification of the deceased and helping to prevent and resolve the tragedy of people unaccounted for because of armed conflict and other situations of violence, disasters, and migration. Through its team of forensic specialists, the ICRC works globally to help ensure the dead are respected and protected, and to uphold the right of bereaved families to know what happened to their loved ones.

THE ISSUE OF DECEASED MIGRANTS IN GREECE

As one of the primary gateways to Europe, Greece has been faced with numerous incidents both at sea and on land, resulting in a significant number of deaths. In many cases, the bodies of the deceased, when recovered, remain unidentified, raising the issue of the need and right of the families to know the fate of their relatives.

Since 2016, the ICRC Forensic Team in Greece has built a fruitful collaboration with Hellenic Forensic Authorities, providing comprehensive support, training sessions, and expert guidance. In response to multiple shipwrecks, and at the request of the Greek Authorities, the ICRC Forensic Team has extended assistance to Forensic Authorities and first

responders, ensuring the dignified handling of deceased individuals and the implementation of appropriate identification procedures that align with international standards.

WORKING WITH THE AUTHORITIES

The ICRC actively fostered an open and constructive dialogue with diverse stakeholders. These included representatives from forensic medical services, forensic departments of universities, forensic DNA laboratories, as well as key Greek Authorities such as the Hellenic Police and Hellenic Coast Guard. Our engagement extended further to specialized units within the Hellenic Police, such as the Missing Persons Unit (MPU), Forensic Science Division (FSD), and Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Unit, with whom we have had regular communication. Additionally, we maintained collaboration with Public Prosecutors and representatives from relevant Embassies, collectively contributing to a comprehensive and coordinated approach in addressing forensic challenges.



- 110 meetings with the Authorities were held
- 35 field trips were conducted
- 30 forensic expert advice provided



Personal items of deceased migrants can provide a means of identification (Alexandroupolis morgue, 2019) / ©PAPARDELAS Stylianos



Workshop on the Management of the Dead
(Athens, 2023) / CHATOGLLOU Dimitris, ICRC

TRAININGS

The ICRC Forensic Team has collaborated closely with Authorities to identify areas of interest, facilitating round table discussions aimed at fostering interagency coordination among first responders and the medico-legal system, and promoting forensic best practices. Workshops have been conducted to strengthen capacities, while training sessions encourage the implementation of best practices for the Management of the Dead and advocate for a multidisciplinary identification approach. These key topics were recognized for their significance collectively by the attendees: Public Prosecutors, Forensic Experts, representatives of the Hellenic Police, the Coast Guard, and the Fire Brigade, along with local authorities engaged in management of the dead. In this framework, the ICRC organized:



38 trainings with 1,361 trainees

4 round table discussions with 103 participants

3 workshops with 332 participants

RESEARCH

The ICRC Athens Forensic Team participated in three (3) distinct ICRC research projects on the missing and dead migrants on the

Mediterranean Route and the medico-legal death investigation system in Greece. Top-most among them is the “Counting the Dead Project,” designed to ascertain the number of bodies of migrants, both identified and unidentified, recovered in Greece, Spain, Italy, and Malta from January 2014 to 2022.

SUPPORTING THE FAMILIES OF THE MISSING

Since 2016, the ICRC Forensic Team in Athens has meticulously examined 817 cases of missing migrants. This involved conducting 57 interviews with relatives and gathering antemortem data. Additionally, the ICRC has facilitated families in providing their DNA Biological Reference Profile and has assisted them in filing missing persons reports with the Hellenic Authorities. The ICRC has actively followed up on 95 DNA-led identifications and 14 visual recognitions, demonstrating its dedicated commitment to resolving cases and providing closure to affected families. A regular channel of communication with the Authorities was established and maintained for the collection of postmortem data, the reconciliation of the information and for consulting purposes.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In total, the ICRC has provided support to the Authorities in the aftermath of 13 significant incidents occurring between 2015 and 2023 and spanning Lesvos, Leros, Rhodes, Kos, Folegandros, Paros, Kythira, Evia, Mati Attica, Tempi, and Pylos. Up until the beginning of 2024, a remarkable 75% of bodies recovered following the tragic incident off the coast of Pylos have been successfully identified, through the intensive collaboration between various agencies such as DVI, Forensic Science Division of Hellenic Police, embassies of countries of origin, and the ICRC.



57 cases where antemortem data was collected in Greece

817 tracing cases for which forensic support was provided

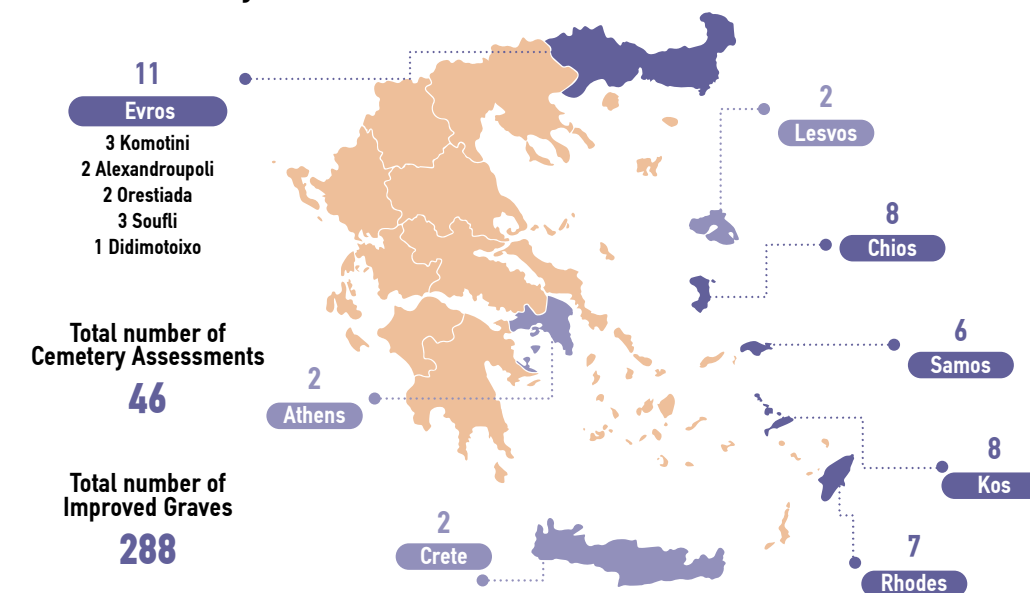
BURIAL AND CEMETERY ASSESSMENTS

The ICRC has conducted forensic cemetery and burial assessments across the country through collaborative engagement and discussions with various municipalities, Forensic Authorities, and funeral offices. This initiative seeks to enhance post-mortem traceability, aligning with the ICRC's overarching goal of ensuring dignity and respect for the deceased. The ICRC has actively taken on the responsibility of restoring burial conditions for both identified bodies, responding to requests from grieving families, and unidentified individuals. This commitment extends to locations such as Lesvos Island, as well as Sidiro, Orestiada and Komotini in the Evros region.



The ICRC worked together with local authorities to tend to 85 graves of unidentified deceased migrants (Agios Panteleimonas cemetery, Lesvos, 2018) / ©PAPARDELAS Stylianos

Cemetery Assessments in Greece 2016-2023



DONATIONS

Over the years, the ICRC has actively contributed material support to enhance the capacity and fortify the Greek medico-legal system. 70 different donations of essential forensic tools, including mortuary kits, photographic light stands, osteometric boards/tools, and refrigerated containers, have been provided to Forensic Authorities. This support aims to foster best practices in forensic pathology, photography, and anthropology. Additionally, Authorities have been equipped with essential IT resources such as laptops, printers, and scanners, as well as materials tailored for first responders, such as body bags, body tags, and buccal swabs kits for DNA sample collection, guaranteeing an efficient response. In response to emergencies, including the

challenges posed by Covid-19, the ICRC has distributed personal protective equipment. Furthermore, the translation and dissemination of over 1,000 copies of ICRC manuals and guidelines in Greek have contributed to the Authorities' preparedness and proficiency in their responsibilities. Between 2016 and 2023, the ICRC donated:



4 containers
9,460 forensic tools

9,460 PPE

42 items of IT equipment

IMMIGRATION DETENTION

IMMIGRATION DETENTION

PROMOTING PROTECTION FOR DETAINEES

The ICRC aims to ensure humane treatment and conditions of detention for all detainees, regardless of the reasons for their arrest and detention. In several countries, the ICRC visits detained migrants to assess the conditions of detention and the treatment they receive, whether they are afforded due process of law and whether they are able to maintain contact with the outside world.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION OF MIGRANTS IN GREECE

Upon request of the Greek Authorities, the ICRC has been visiting detained migrants in Greece since 2012. The ICRC has worked with the competent authorities to ensure that proper detention conditions are offered to all detained migrants, while reminding them that detention should be an exceptional measure and that liberty and alternatives to detention should always be considered first.



Pre-removal Detention Center (Fylakio, Evros, 2017) / ©PAPARDELAS Stylianos

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE

With the establishment of the mission in Greece in 2016, the ICRC’s Detention Team commenced a programme of regular visits to assess conditions and make recommendations to the Police Authorities at local and central level. The visits were initially conducted in eight (8) pre-removal migrant detention centres (PRCs) and nine (9) police stations used as detention facilities as well as in six (6) Reception and Identification Centres (RICs). Eventually, the Team focused on the PRCs and one other administrative detention facility.

In the framework of these visits, the ICRC carried out assistance distributions to the PRCs, supporting the Authorities and detained migrants with donations of hygiene items, clothing and cleaning materials. To tackle the adverse effects of long-term detention and inactivity, such as psychological stress, the ICRC also distributed recreational items. Small, targeted donations of household equipment and lighting were also made to cover specific gaps and improve living conditions for the detained migrants.



ICRC staff distribute basic items to detained migrants (Evros, 2018) / ©PAPARDELAS Stylianos



281 number of visits in total

The ICRC donated:

- 131,931 personal hygiene items
- 14,932 cleaning materials
- 16,210 clothing kits
- 32,007 recreational items
- 1,064 other (household) items

WORKING WITH THE AUTHORITIES

The ICRC has always worked closely with the Police Authorities in charge of places of immigration detention. In the framework of this close cooperation, the ICRC regularly organised workshops for the PRC commanding officers as well as for the police staff working in places of immigration detention. Several high-level round table discussions were also organised to discuss issues that were highlighted in the confidential advisory reports submitted between 2017 and 2023 to the relevant Ministry/Ministries (Ministry of Citizen Protection, Ministry of Migration and Ministry of Health) and the Hellenic Police. Cooperation culminated in 2023 with the

discussion and development by PRC staff of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on particular issues of interest in order to formalise best management practice ensuring appropriate and humane detention conditions. The working meetings held in six PRCs developed procedures with respect to securing, inter alia, integrated entry procedures with needs assessment and individual assessment, better hygiene and cleanliness conditions, and the ability to contact family. A transparent and functional requests procedure, including a complaints mechanism, was also developed, complemented to ensure that detainees have relevant contact details of independent external bodies.



- 3 high-level round table discussions
- 3 workshops for commanding officers
- 27 workshops for police staff in 7 PRCs. Over 600 participants
- 6 working meetings to develop SOPs

COMMUNICATING WITH THE FAMILIES

An issue of particular concern for migrants generally and especially those arriving in detention is the ability to communicate with the outside world. To ensure that detainees are able to make contact and notify their loved ones of their whereabouts, the ICRC provided PRCs with over 15,000 telephone cards between 2016–2023. In an effort to ensure the sustainability of family contact, the ICRC donated eight (8)

communication stations in the form of laptops and telephones during the course of 2023. These, together with the coordinated efforts of the Police Authorities to improve internet provision (wifi), aim to facilitate communication for those detained migrants unable otherwise to make contact.

LEGAL SAFEGUARDS

The ICRC worked with the National School of Judges in 2021 and 2022 to organise two (2) round table events for administrative judges who review cases of immigration detention. Judges from relevant administrative courts around Greece attended the discussions, which focussed on international and national legislation on the use of immigration detention. The initiative was followed up in 2023 with three (3) workshops for lawyers working in the field, held in Xanthi, Athens and Thessaloniki.



Workshop with detention staff (Kos, 2022) / ICRC

HEALTH CARE IN DETENTION

HEALTH CARE IN DETENTION

THE RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE IN DETENTION

Persons who are detained retain their fundamental right to enjoy good physical and mental health, and a standard of medical care equivalent to that provided in the wider community.

The ICRC seeks to protect the life and health of detainees and to ensure that governments respect detainees' dignity and their right to receive health care throughout their detention. In doing so, it also promotes the health of the community outside detention, safeguarding Public Health.

HEALTH CARE IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION IN GREECE

The harsh conditions during the migration journey can have dire consequences on migrants' physical and mental health and on already pre-existing conditions. These are exacerbated in detention. Moreover, infectious diseases become more prevalent in detention. Since 2016, through a multidisciplinary approach, the ICRC has worked to support the Ministry of Health, and in particular EODY (National Public Health Organization) and AEMY (the main provider of health services in PRCs) to improve the services to detained migrants. Be it through training sessions, expert guidance, close collaboration with the Medical Schools and Universities, and providing material support, the ICRC has strived to strengthen the provision of health care services to detained migrants in a holistic way. Ultimately, the ICRC advocated continuously to ensure that Health Care in Detention is an integral part of the national public health system.

FIELD VISITS

As part of the multidisciplinary approach, the ICRC Health Care in Detention team visited immigration detention facilities to assess conditions and access to health care inside and outside detention. It also conducted 168 regional assessments identifying challenges and areas in order to support existing health entities and referral points in their work and in their collaboration with PRC Authorities.



281 visits to detention facilities conducted to assess health care and support the health teams in place

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROJECT

Following formal agreements with the relevant authorities, the ICRC implemented a Primary Health Care project in all PRCs. The project focused on strengthening the ability of the detention health facilities to monitor and respond to health needs and on ensuring that they had the necessary equipment, consumables, and medication. The ICRC also provided technical support with regards to procurement and inventory systems.



Over **610,700** items of essential medications, consumables and medical equipment donated to nine (9) immigration detention centers

TELEHEALTH PROJECT

In an effort to ensure greater access to specialized care as well as to promote continuity of care for migrants in administrative detention, the ICRC supported the introduction of telemedical applications. Following agreements with five (5) major referral hospitals in three (3) regional health prefectures, the ICRC distributed necessary ICT and office equipment for the proper operation of the e-health data filing, archiving, e-inventory, and telehealth applications in places of detention and public health facilities. Additionally, in collaboration with the National Network of Telemedicine, AEMY and the National Health System, the ICRC facilitated e-consultations, medical tele-conferences, and tele-interpretations for both medical and psychosocial matters, thereby increasing access to specialized health care for detained migrants.



1,583 items of ICT and office equipment donated

2,940 e-consultations, medical tele-conferences, and tele-interpretations conducted

A network of over **400** specialized health professionals created

COVID-19 SUPPORT

The ICRC provided material and technical support to Hellenic Authorities to improve the prevention and management of the COVID-19 pandemic in detention settings. Moreover, the ICRC contributed to the revision of health standard procedures, ensured epidemiological surveillance, emergency response preparedness, and supported outbreak management.



Over **154,880** hygiene items, Personal Protective Equipment & audio-visual materials were donated

Over **220** sensitization activities were conducted for **740** professionals in **10** places of migrant reception/detention

HEALTH & HYGIENE PROMOTION

Within the framework of the National Health Strategy for Public Health, the ICRC participated in 14 high-level meetings to review and develop Health Protocols and to integrate Immigration Detention Health promotion programs into National Health Policy. This led, in 2023, to the “Hygiene Promotion Project” which was successfully implemented in four PRCs in coordination with the regional Health Authorities. As part of this project:



55 people including health professionals, detention staff and detained migrants were trained as trainers

1,864 detainees benefited directly from the project

35,200 hygiene products were donated

WORKING WITH THE AUTHORITIES

The ICRC actively collaborated with the Hellenic Authorities, fostering a constructive dialogue on health care services in immigration detention, and sought to bring together all

relevant actors. Ranging from the Ministries of Health, Migration and Asylum, and Citizen Protection, Regional Health Directorates, to Medical Associations, Medical Schools, Public Health departments of Universities, AEMY, Hellenic Police, Penitentiary Service, and the National Organization of Public Health, the holistic approach brought to the forefront the importance of collaboration and coordination. Additionally, through the cooperation and engagement with the Health Authorities, the ICRC coordinated the discussion and the review of 16 Health Standard Operating Procedures and medical protocols concerning health in detention.



9 round table discussions

32 high-level meetings

3 Conferences on Health Care in Detention

TRAINING & EDUCATION

The ICRC worked closely with Authorities to identify common areas of interest and tailored specific trainings for health actors and detention staff on subjects such as vulnerability management, age assessment, and medical ethics, amongst others.

In parallel, the ICRC has collaborated with the University of West Attica and the University of Piraeus and contributed to the creation of a specialization training program in Health in Detention and three postgraduate courses in medical schools and Universities.



197 workshops and training for Health professionals

885 trainees working in detention, health care provision and health management

135 health experts trained through specialized trainings

2 Memoranda of Understanding with Universities and Academies

PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCES AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The ICRC sought to contribute to different fora, ranging from national to European and International conferences and meetings. Importantly, the ICRC also contributed to research projects on key issues such as digital health as well as on access, equity and quality in health in detention. The ICRC has participated in:



5 clinical research programs and presentations

12 International, European and National Conferences



Workshop with detention staff (Xanthi, 2023) / ICRC

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

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INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is a branch of public international law that consists of rules and principles that, in times of armed conflict, seek – for humanitarian reasons – to protect persons who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities and to restrict means and methods of warfare.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS: THE GUARDIAN OF IHL

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) acts as the Guardian of IHL, a role entrusted to it by the international community. Guardian and promoter of IHL, the ICRC takes action to protect and assist victims of armed conflicts and other situations of violence, and to foster respect for IHL. It does the latter, notably, by spreading knowledge of IHL, by supporting its implementation at the domestic level, by monitoring respect for it and by reminding parties to armed conflicts of their obligations. The ICRC also plays an important role in the development of IHL.

PROMOTING IHL IN GREECE

In Greece, the ICRC has focused on the dissemination and integration of IHL by supporting the Hellenic Armed Forces with their obligation to educate their members on IHL. Since 2018, together with the Academic Training Directorate of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff and with the support of the Hellenic Supreme Joint War College, the ICRC has been organizing two annual Operational IHL training workshops, one in Athens and one in Thessaloniki. These workshops focused on the integration of the law in military operations and were attended by officers of all three Services of the Hellenic Armed Forces, i.e., the Navy, the Army and the Air Force, as well as by Military Legal Advisers.

Additionally, the ICRC has been delivering lectures on the basic rules and principles of IHL at the Naval War College and has been contributing systematically to two annual schools organized by the Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Center, one on IHL and the other on Civil–Military Cooperation. It has also contributed with presentations on the Protection of the Civilian Population and the humanitarian challenges in modern warfare in events organized by NATO’s Rapid Deployable Corps in Thessaloniki.



Workshop on IHL (Athens Armed Forces Officers Club, 2023)
/ HNDGS



10

workshops on IHL were co-organized with the Hellenic National Defence General Staff and the support of the Hellenic Supreme Joint War College

1,722

Military Officers and Military Legal Advisers attended sessions on IHL and the ICRC

8

General and Senior Officers from the Hellenic Armed Forces attended the ICRC's flagship annual Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations

2

Senior Officers from the Hellenic Navy attended training programmes in the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo with the support of the ICRC



Workshop on IHL (Athens War Museum, 2019) / PAPAGEORGIOU Christina, ICRC



Workshop on IHL (Thessaloniki's Officers Club, 2019) / PAPAGEORGIOU Christina, ICRC

COOPERATION WITH GREEK UNIVERSITIES

Equally important was the ICRC's collaboration with the academia in Greece. During its presence in the country, the ICRC delivered presentations on IHL and the work of the ICRC to postgraduate and undergraduate students

at Universities in Athens, Thessaloniki and Komotini, encouraging greater engagement with this specific subject. It also supported the participation of Greek students in regional IHL competitions.



1

high-level Conference for the 40 years anniversary of the Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions was co-organized together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Panteion University

480

students from 5 Greek Universities attended sessions on the ICRC and IHL

3

student teams were supported to attend IHL competitions




2

academics were supported to attend the annual Advanced Seminar in IHL for Lecturers and Researchers, co-organized by the ICRC and the Geneva Academy.



All-European International Humanitarian and Refugee Law Moot Court Competition, (Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2022) / UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

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