



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

REGIONAL DELEGATION FOR ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE,
PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY



ICRC

THE ICRC IN THE REGION

The Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay is based in Brasília, with offices in Fortaleza (CE) and São Paulo (SP), and a mission in Buenos Aires.

The ICRC works to promote, disseminate, and implement International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and humanitarian principles. Based on a series of treaties, particularly the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as well as various other legal instruments, IHL protects people who do not participate or have ceased to engage in hostilities in armed conflicts and restricts the means and methods of warfare according to their humanitarian consequences.

Additionally, in Brazil, the ICRC collaborates with the federal government, local governments, organizations,

and communities to strengthen the authorities' responses to the humanitarian consequences of armed violence.

Armed violence is a complex phenomenon with severe impacts on the population. Some of these impacts are more visible, such as homicides and injured individuals, whilst others are less noticeable, such as missing persons, displacement due to violence, impacts on the mental health of the population, and difficulties or inability to access essential public services such as healthcare facilities and schools, among others.

Another priority of the Regional Delegation is to prevent the breakdown of family ties among populations affected by armed violence or in migratory contexts. In this regard, we work in partnership with the Red Cross in each country.

THE ICRC IN THE WORLD

- Works to assist and protect people affected by conflicts and armed violence.
- Is a neutral, impartial, and independent organization, founded in 1863.
- Is present in more than 100 countries, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Has over 17,000 employees.



DIPLOMACY, ADOPTION, AND PROMOTION OF IHL AND HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

The promotion and respect for International Humanitarian Law, as well as for humanitarian principles, are cornerstones of the ICRC's work in the five countries covered by the Regional Delegation.

IHL is a set of rules aimed at limiting the humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts. It is sometimes referred to as the law of armed conflict or the law of war (*jus in bello*). Specifically, IHL seeks to restrict the means and methods of warfare that the parties involved in a conflict may employ and ensure the protection and humane treatment of persons who are not or are no longer directly participating in hostilities. In summary, IHL establishes minimum

standards of humanity that must be respected in any armed conflict situation. To promote International Humanitarian Law, the ICRC supports and advises states, both in the region and globally, to ratify treaties and adopt at the national level the necessary measures, whether legislative or administrative, for its implementation.

In the region, the ICRC supports the work of National Commissions for the implementation of IHL in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay. These commissions are composed of representatives from various ministries and assist and advise governments on the application and dissemination of IHL principles.





D. Simões/ICRC

Cooperation with the armed forces of the five countries aims to facilitate the integration of IHL into military doctrine, education, training, and control mechanisms.

Academic activities are also a focus of the ICRC's work to encourage universities in the region to include IHL in their study programs. Courses, seminars, and competitions on the subject for students of Law, Political Science, International Relations, and Communication, among other groups, are organized and promoted. Additionally, the Regional Delegation

engages in humanitarian diplomacy, considering that the Southern Cone countries hold a prominent position in international and regional forums. As such, they are key partners in the promotion of IHL and humanitarian principles.

For the ICRC it is essential not only to promote IHL but also to explain its stance on humanitarian issues, facilitate operations, and raise awareness of the needs of people affected by armed conflicts and violence. This effort is in support of neutral, impartial, and independent humanitarian action.

HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES OF ARMED VIOLENCE

PROTECTION OF THE POPULATION AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE

Armed violence affects numerous cities in Brazil and around the world, leading to high rates of homicides or violent deaths and causing a series of consequences for the affected communities and for society at large.

The program in favor of people affected by violence which began in Fortaleza at the end of 2019, aims to strengthen the capacity of authorities to respond to the protection needs of the population, as well as support communities affected by violence in reinforcing their mechanisms of self-protection and resilience.

The ICRC's engagement with individuals affected by armed violence enables an

understanding of their reality and how the consequences of such violence impact their daily lives. Based on this, the ICRC promotes multidisciplinary responses by the authorities through its Protection programs, taking into account specific needs such as mental health, legal assistance, relocation, and ensuring access to essential goods.

Furthermore, this close relationship allows for the identification of recurring patterns of violations, thereby providing technical support by making recommendations and contributing to the development of public policies.





C. Almeida / ICRC

MISSING PERSONS AND SUPPORT FOR THEIR FAMILIES

The disappearance of persons is a complex and still widespread phenomenon in Brazil, affecting men and women of different ages and social classes.

Through the Family Links Protection Program, the ICRC supports authorities in preventing and addressing the issue, while also working to mitigate the consequences of disappearances for families affected by armed violence.

The ICRC has a multidisciplinary team with expertise in protection, forensic science, legal aspects, mental health and psychosocial support, information and technology management, among other fields.

In the city of Brasília and the states of Ceará, Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo, the ICRC provides technical assistance to

state and federal authorities to support them in establishing a mechanism for locating missing persons, ensuring the respectful handling of mortal remains, and facilitating access for families to services capable of meeting their multiple needs.

To this end, the ICRC maintains close contact with families of missing persons and family associations, including supporting them in setting up a national network of families of missing persons. This network is a way to increase resilience and improve their capacity to express themselves and engage in dialogue with authorities.

Furthermore, the ICRC's recommendations are based on the assessments of needs and follow-up programs carried out with families of missing persons.

PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

Guided by principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence, the ICRC intervenes to improve conditions of detention and treatment of persons deprived of liberty. The aim is to ensure that these individuals receive humane treatment, with due respect for their dignity, regardless of the reason for their detention.

The ICRC works with prison authorities in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and

Uruguay in the fields of prison management and infrastructure under the scope of the “Criteria for Technical Standards in Prison Infrastructure” (CETIP) project.

The goal is to contribute to safeguarding the respect and dignity of persons deprived of liberty and to ensure that detention centers comply with internationally recognized standards of prison infrastructure and management for more humane treatment.



SAFER ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES

The impacts of armed violence are often not so visible, such as the direct consequences on the provision and access of the population to essential public services, including education, health, and social assistance.

Aiming to mitigate the consequences of armed violence for essential services professionals and the populations served by them, the ICRC developed the Safer Access to Essential Public Services Program (AMS). This initiative focuses on strengthening the capacities of public institutions to conduct contextual analyses related to armed violence, risk management, crisis management, stress management, and the attention to mental health and psychosocial well-being.

The program's actions pursue the promotion behavioral changes among essential public service professionals and

managers, enhancing their resilience to the risks and impacts of armed violence, and reducing the consequences of this context on the provision and access to services.

The AMS program provides knowledge and decision-making criteria for professionals through protocols and standardized practices, preparing them to act in times of risk and/or crises related to armed violence.

The program's development was based on the ICRC's internal operational guidelines and its more than 160 years of experience in contexts of armed conflict and violence worldwide. AMS promotes the implementation of a risk management methodology adapted to the reality of Brazilian public services and aligned with international standards ABNT BR ISO 31000.





L. Veras/ ICRC

DIALOGUE WITH POLICE FORCES

Armed violence also presents challenges for the exercise of police security functions. The ICRC works with public security authorities because it considers respect for international human rights standards applicable to police actions to be both important and necessary, given that one of the main functions of organizations engaged in these activities is to ensure the rights of every individual.

In its dialogue with police forces, the ICRC shares its mission and mandate, organizes training on international human rights standards applicable to police functions,

and encourages and promotes the exchange of best practices among forces in the region.

Through training and direct dialogue with these authorities the organization promotes the integration of the law by incorporating international human rights standards and the use of force into institutional documents in fields such as education (training and specialization courses), doctrine (procedural manuals, protocols, and operational conduct regulations), training, and the internal control mechanisms of police activities.

FAMILY LINKS PROTECTION

The ICRC, through the Restoring Family Links Program (RFL), in partnership with the National Red Cross Societies in the region, works to address the needs of restoring and maintaining family contact.

As part of the Family Links Network – which includes the ICRC and National Societies—the RFL program seeks to prevent the interruption of family ties, assist in maintaining these connections, and reduce disappearances. This allows vulnerable individuals to inform their

families of their whereabouts and stay in contact with their beloved ones.

In Brazil and the Southern Cone, the ICRC collaborates with the National Societies of each country to provide and support services for restoring family links for migrants and facilitate the search for missing migrants in other countries. The organization also supports the strengthening of National Societies' capacity to respond to disasters, which can be a significant cause of family disconnections.



INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MOVEMENT

To enhance the impact and feasibility of operations in Brazil and the Southern Cone the ICRC promotes cooperation and the exchange of experiences among the members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

This is the largest humanitarian network in the world that consists of 80 million people who assist those affected by the humanitarian consequences of disasters, armed conflicts, as well as social and health emergencies. The Movement is composed of the following organizations:

As a result of its cooperative efforts, this global humanitarian network can provide timely responses with significant humanitarian impact in different countries.





COOPERATION IN BRAZIL AND THE SOUTHERN CONE

By means of cooperation with National Societies, the Movement is able to extend the reach of its humanitarian response. More specifically, the ICRC collaborates on programs such as Restoring Family Links, the Safer Access Framework (SAF), First Aid, and Capacity Development within National Societies.

The Regional Delegation works in a coordinated manner with the Federation and the National Societies to address humanitarian challenges, whether in insecure contexts, vulnerable communities, or even in emergency preparedness.

This cooperative effort is fundamentally based on supporting the development of the National Societies' capacities and strengthening their roles as first responders in humanitarian emergencies.

This is crucial for responding to humanitarian impact before, during, and after emergencies or conflicts.

Cooperation is essential for addressing humanitarian impact before, during, and after emergencies or conflicts. Key activities include response to migration, preparation of first aid teams operating in insecure and sensitive contexts, and strengthening mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and financial sustainability.

The ICRC facilitates and coordinates Humanitarian Diplomacy alongside the National Societies, which in addition to assisting public authorities on humanitarian issues, also engage with local authorities for the implementation of resolutions adopted in global forums, such as the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION





ICRC operations are financed primarily by the states. However, the organization has been seeking to diversify and increase its sources of financial resources due to the growing humanitarian needs in various contexts.

In Brazil the ICRC focuses on mobilizing donations from individuals and businesses to support people affected by armed conflicts and armed violence worldwide.

Among other activities, the ICRC encourages recurring donations from individuals in Brazil, conducts direct marketing campaigns to expand its donor base, and works to establish long-term relationships with donors, potentially leading to substantial contributions or legacies.



The ICRC helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything it can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with its Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. The organization also seeks to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

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