ICRC

January – December 2025

Ethiopia

# Facts and Figures 2025

## Editorial

In Ethiopia, Africa and the world, 2025 has been anything but predictable, and 2026's story is yet to be told. Across the globe, conflicts are intensifying and humanitarian needs multiply. Africa faces an escalation of conflict and displacement, with more than 50 active armed conflicts. For humanitarian organizations, the pressure is mounting. At the same time, less resources are available. We are faced with a crisis of funding in times of growing needs.

Here in Ethiopia, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) feels those challenges every day—just as do the millions of people who rely on our support. Fortunately, we are not alone to face the challenges. We work in close partnership with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) and other partners from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Together with them, we carry forward the mission to ease human suffering, no matter the obstacles. We also work closely with numerous national and regional authorities and structures to ensure essential services reach the people, no matter where they are.

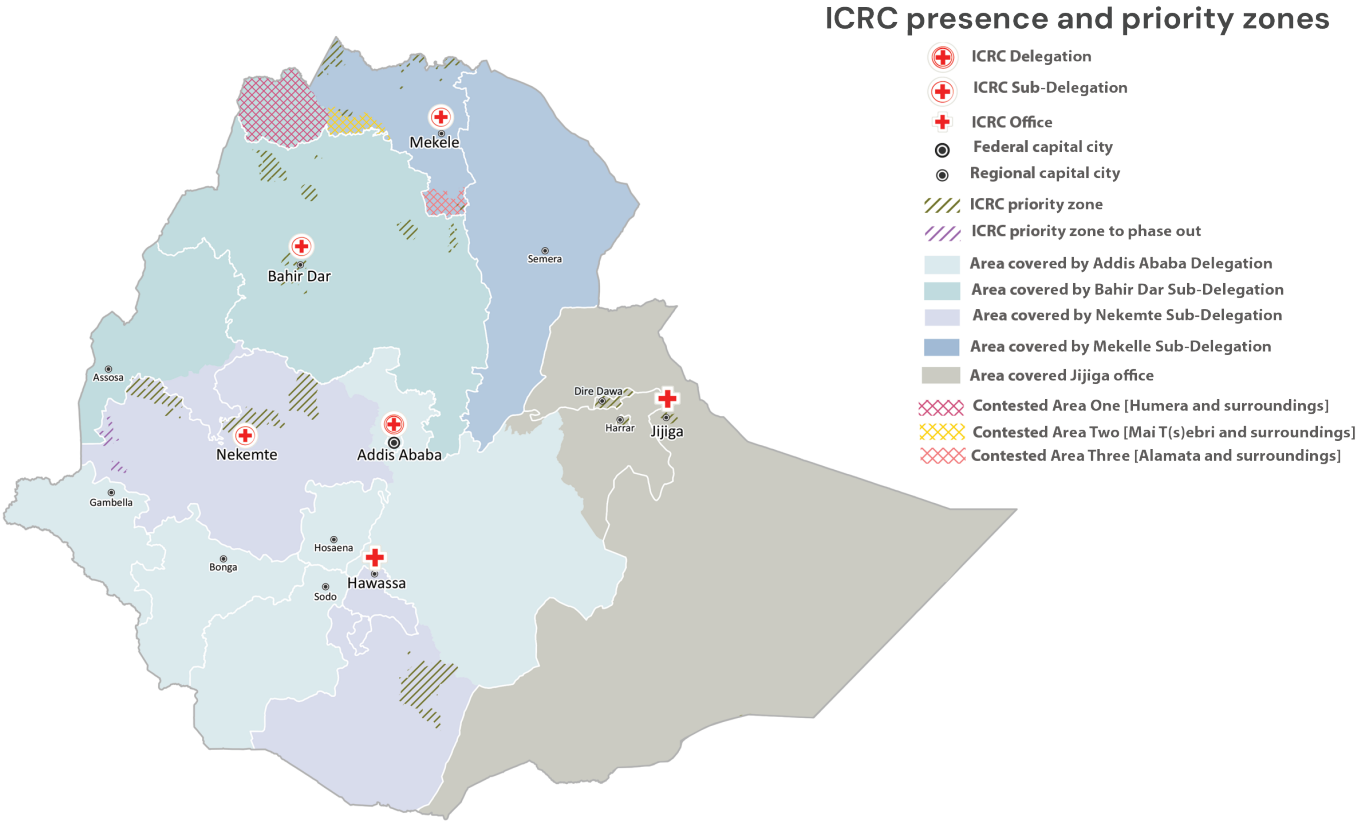
In the country, our operations focus on Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray, and inside these regions on specific areas, where people are most affected by conflict. With the ERCS and other partners, we support health services, provide clean water to communities, help vulnerable families meet basic needs, reconnect loved ones separated by violence. We also improve living conditions in places of detention and invest in prevention, raising awareness about the protection of civilians under international humanitarian law.

In 2025, the overall humanitarian sector faced a steep decline in donor funding, and the ICRC was not spared. In Ethiopia, we had to streamline operations and reduced from 540 staff in 2025 to 437 in 2026. We continue to operate across six offices: Addis Ababa, Mekelle, Bahir Dar, Nekemte, Hawassa, and Jijiga. Furthermore, the ICRC maintains a specific delegation to the African Union, also based in Addis Ababa.

> ***"Everyone can, in one way or another, each in their sphere and according to their strength, contribute to some extent to this good work."***
>
> ***(Henry Dunant, founding member of the ICRC)***

Our presence in Ethiopia dates back to 1935, more than 90 years ago. Since then – and especially since establishing our permanent office in Addis Ababa in 1977 – we have stood alongside communities affected by conflict and violence, offering not just aid, but also dignity, and hope. This will not change. We will continue to strengthen and invest in our cooperation with the ERCS and other humanitarian partners. Our joint commitment to people in need remains unshattered.

Simone Casabianca-Aeschlimann
Head of Delegation, ICRC in Ethiopia




Source: ICRC presence and activities from ICRC; administrative divisions from OCHA and ICRC referential; and contested areas from OCHA

ICRC 2026. The boundaries, names and designations used in this report do not imply offficial endorsement, nor express a political opinion on the part of the ICRC, and are without prejudice to claims of sovereignty over the territories mentioned. References to "contested areas" are understood within the context of the Pretoria Agreement (Article 10:4, 2022)

## Visiting and Supporting Detainees

# 80

## visits to 31 places of detention were carried out.

- **17,000 detainees** were provided with material assistance.
- **340 detainees with disabilities** benefited from rehabilitation services.
- Rehabilitation or maintenance projects in **19 places of detention** improved the living conditions for over **12,200 detainees**.
- **2 technical working groups on health issues** within the prison system were supported, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Federal Prison Commission.
- Specific activities were carried out with the Federal Prison Commission: **2 medical roundtables** to address identified gaps, and **4 prison management trainings** in the various regions.

## Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence

# 5,700

## survivors of sexual violence received medical care in the ICRC-supported one stop centers and primary health centers.

- **135 other victims of sexual violence** supported with cash assistance to meet their specific needs.
- **362 community influencers** attended **7 sessions** on sexual violence.
- Together with the ERCS, over **29,000 other community members** were sensitized through **2,400 outreach events**.
- **80 ERCS staff and volunteers** were trained to raise communities' awareness on sexual violence.

ICRC staff and ERCS volunteers registering conflict affected people for Cash Assistance in West Wellega, Oromia region.

Eric Chege/ ICRC

## Partnership with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society

# 178,000

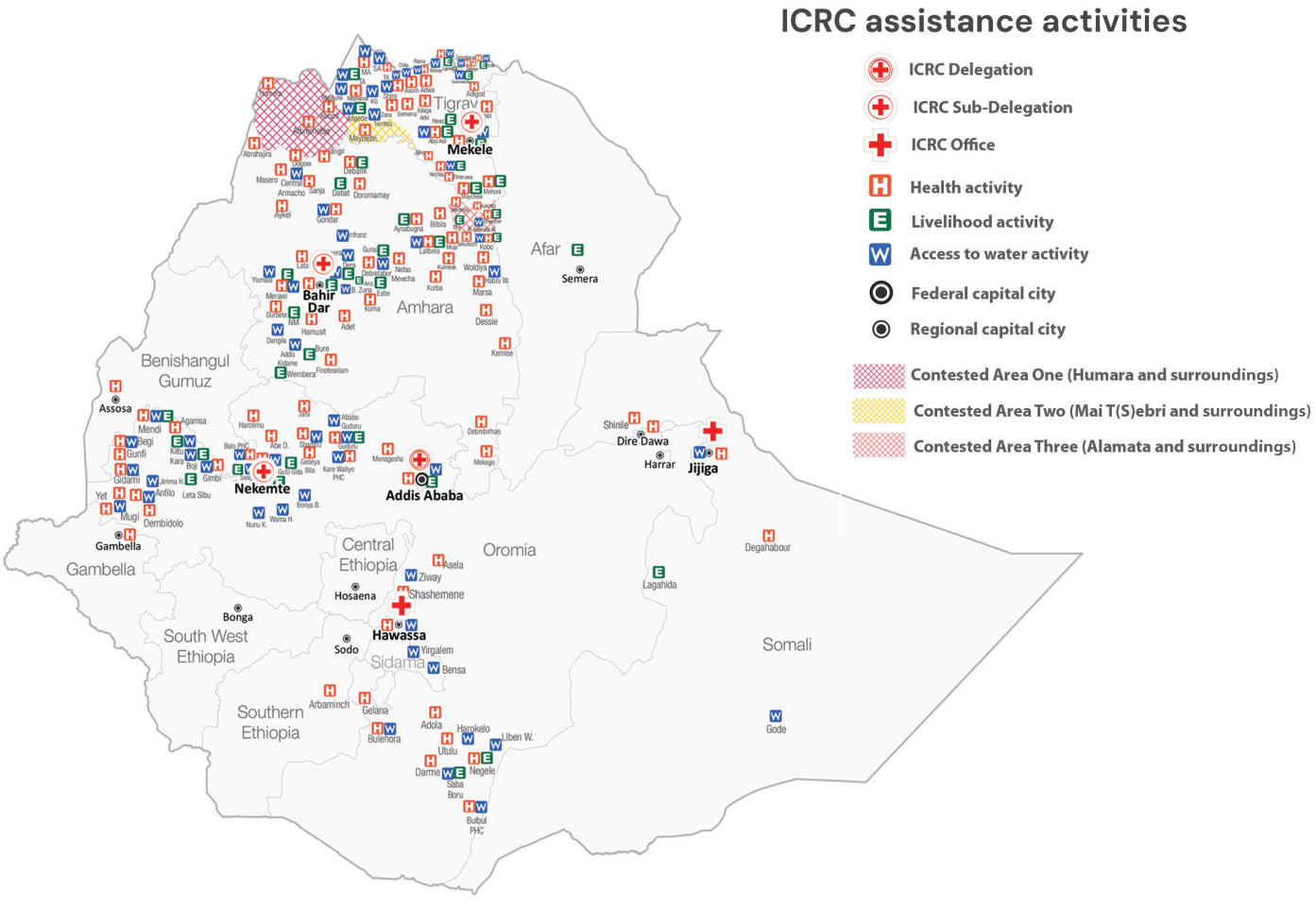
## people in emergency situations received ambulance services through ICRC's contribution to 27 ERCS branches.

The **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement** is the world's largest humanitarian network.

In addition to the ICRC and ERCS, its components active **in Ethiopia** include:

- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- The National Red Cross Societies of Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland

- **14 ambulances** provided to ERCS branches, predominantly in conflict-affected areas of Amhara and Oromia, and improved ambulance service delivery.
- Facilitated the **importation of 200 ambulances** for the ERCS Tigray regional branch.
- **33 ERCS branches**, mainly in conflict-affected regions, supported with salaries and capacity building
- ERCS branches conducted first aid training for **1,000 volunteers**, who in turn delivered vital first aid to almost **73,000 individuals**
- **Two ERCS warehouses** constructed in Bahir Dar, Amhara region, and in Harar for the eastern part of Ethiopia.
- **15 ERCS pharmacies** assisted with medical items to enable humanitarian response at branch level.

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## Supporting Health Services

# 434,000

## patients received free curative care in all supported primary health centers.

- This included **8,200 wounded patients** who received surgical care.
- **35 Primary Health Centers (PHCs), 42 hospitals and 13 One Stop Centers** (attending survivors of sexual violence) were supported.
- **3,100 wounded or sick patients** were referred from the supported PHCs to hospitals.
- **4,500 pregnant women** were cared for to ensure safe deliveries and management of complications in the supported PHCs.
- **Eight health facilities were renovated: four in Oromia region and four in Tigray region**, to ensure improved access to water, sanitation, and electrical power. **In Tigray, two hospitals** were also provided with sanitation materials.
- **7,200 wounded patients** received surgical care in supported hospitals.
- **12 surgeons** from Amhara and Oromia trained on trauma and reconstructive surgery in collaboration with the Alert Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Addis Ababa.
- **188 other health staff** from conflict affected areas trained on basic emergency care, **60 of them** specifically on emergency obstetric care.

In Eirba, Tigray region, livelihoods depend on the harvest. Following the armed hostilities, families received teff seeds, fertilizers, and cash assistance to help restore agricultural production.

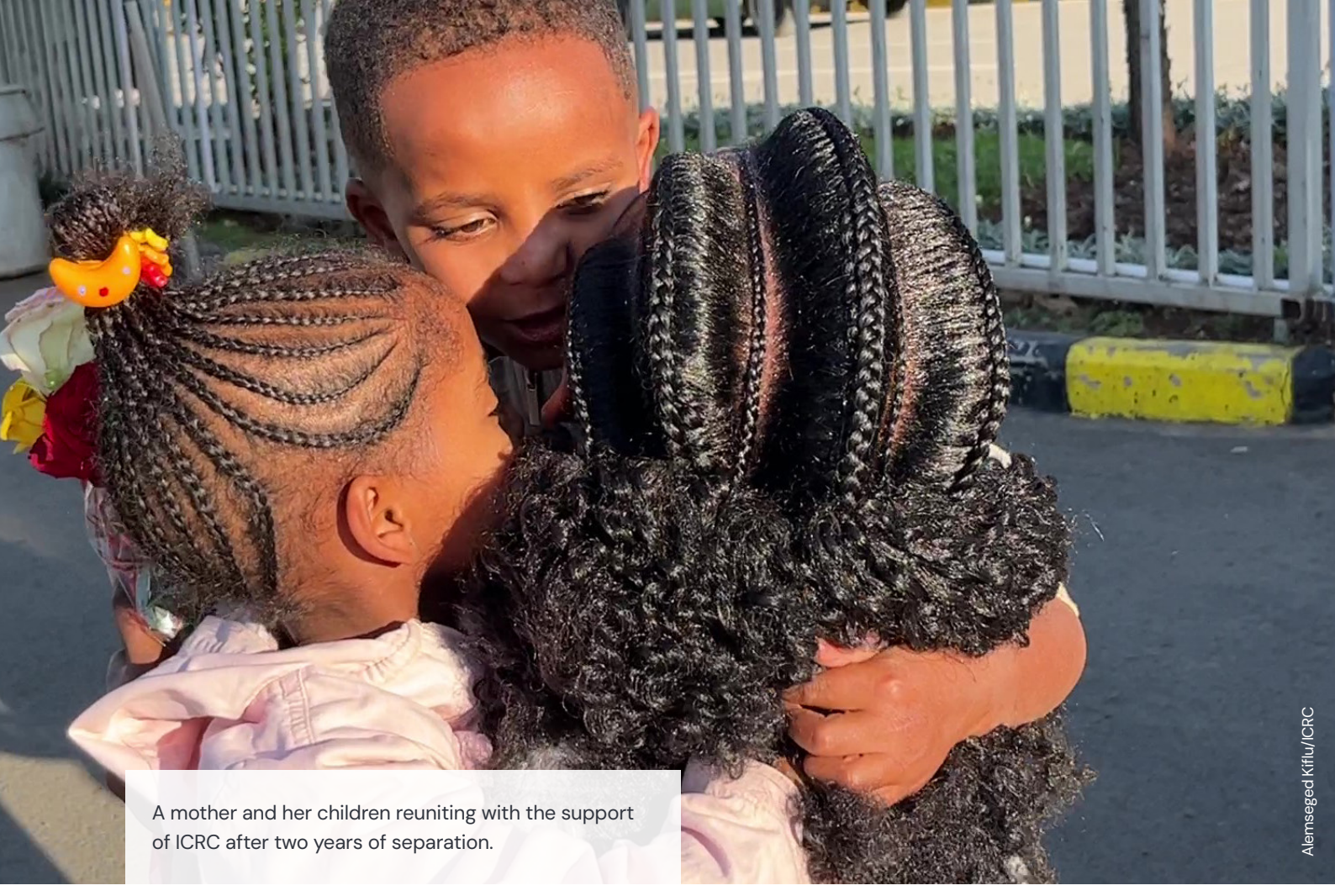
Magnum Photos for IRC

## Rebuilding Lives and Livelihoods

# 63,000

## individuals in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray regions received seeds and fertilizers in support of their agricultural production.

- **Over 31,900 vulnerable individuals** received multipurpose cash grants to address their immediate needs in Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray regions.
- **About 4,300 people** in East and Horo Guduru Zones of Oromia**, and 8,200 individuals** in Northwest and South Tigray, were supported with seed multiplication techniques.
- **1,800 individuals** in Lasta Woreda, North Wollo (Amhara), received support in enhancing their beekeeping activities.
- In Oromia, about **63,000 individuals**, including both displaced people and host communities, received food distributions to meet their immediate needs, and over **23,200 displaced individuals** were supported with essential household items to improve their living conditions, including cooking.
- In the Somali and Afar regions, approximately **200,000 people** benefited from livestock vaccination for their animals.
- In Tigray, over **12,000 people** were supported with cash and in-kind items to start an activity which can improve their access to income.
- Asset replacement assistance reached over **37,000 individuals** across Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray regions.



A mother and her children reuniting with the support of ICRC after two years of separation.

Alemseged Kiflu/ICRC

## Reconnecting and Reuniting Families

# 294,000

## calls were facilitated by ICRC/ERCS.

- This represents an average **80 calls per day** to reconnect families across **30 refugee and internally displaced (IDP) sites**.
- **395 new requests** were received from individuals requesting support to locate family members.
- **483 individuals sought by their families were successfully located** through the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement's Protection of Family Links network, in Ethiopia and abroad.
- **295 ERCS staff and volunteers** trained on Protection of Family Links.

## Physical Rehabilitation

# 11,600

## persons with disabilities benefited from 13 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centers.

- Out of these **2,510 are weapon wounded**.
- **16,000 physical rehabilitation services** delivered, including prosthetics, orthotics, and other mobility aids.
- **885 persons with physical disabilities** supported through social inclusion activities.

- **580 persons with disabilities** living in conflict-affected areas in Oromia region and North Wollo zone of Amhara region received services at Nekemte and Dessie Physical Rehabilitation Centers (PRCs) through outreach activities.
- **One Physical Rehabilitation Centre in Amhara** was renovated extensively, and **one in Addis Ababa** had access ramps and walkways repaired and upgraded.

## Saving Lives from Unexploded Ordnance

# 194

## trained ERCS volunteers actively engaged in the response to weapon contamination in Tigray region.

- They reached **105,000 people** through risk awareness sessions.
- **8 survivors of explosive remnants of war accidents** trained to co-facilitate risk-awareness sessions alongside ERCS teams.
- **120,000 leaflets, 25 billboards, 50 megaphones,** and other communication items distributed to ERCS regional branches to enhance awareness sessions and reinforce community risk messaging.
- **94 police officers and local security personnel** trained on weapon contamination response and safe ammunition storage practices.
- **4 contaminated locations** near schools secured and fenced off.

## Promoting Humanitarian Law

# 3,700

## representatives of local authorities, security personnel, community and religious leaders joined ICRC-organized sessions.

- The sessions covered the roles of ICRC and ERCS and basics of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). ICRC also supported sessions lead by ERCS to similar audiences.
- Conducted **67 training sessions** involving over **2,550 participants from the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF), Federal Police, Regional Police and Militias**.
- **40 Military Legal Advisors and Prosecutors, 40 Military Judges of the ENDF and 34 Prosecutors of the Ministry of Justice** were trained in the prevention, suppression and penal repression of IHL violations.
- **40 students and coaches from 10 universities** submitted memorials for the National Competition on IHL, out of which **24 participants from 6 universities** joined in the round organized jointly with the University of Gondar.
- **96 Members of the Parliament and technical staff** joined an awareness-raising session on IHL and the use and protection of the red cross emblem, organized with the ERCS.
- **10 government representatives of 6 Ministries** and the ERCS convened during a meeting establishing the National IHL Committee.
- **20 technical staff** of **8 departments** of the Health Ministry joined a legislative retreat, organized with the ERCS, on the integration of IHL in health-related regulations.

In Bahir Dar Zuria Woreda, Amhara region, villagers of Dahnamariam relied on just three broken pumps after years of conflict. After the ICRC's intervention, 13 fully operational hand pumps provide water closer to home.

Hanne Marleen De Ryck/ICRC

## Improving Access to Water

# 1 million

## people gained access to safe water through ICRC's interventions.

- **In rural areas of Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray regions**, renovation and construction of water systems included over **750 hand pumps** and the donation of water treatment chemicals.
- The ICRC's largest solar water project in Africa was completed **in Lalibela** town, Amhara region, benefiting over **77,000 people**.
- **In Nekemte**, Oromia region, over **230,000 people** benefited from ongoing improvements to the town's urban water supply system.

Cover photo: Alemseged Kiflu/ICRC

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