



Activity report 2025



Operational context in 2025

Present in Iraq since the Iraq–Iran war in 1980, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) focuses on addressing the consequences of armed conflicts and other situations of violence across the country. As large-scale military operations are over, more attention has been given to transfer of knowledge, recovery and reconstruction efforts, with many people across Iraq still in need of some form of humanitarian assistance and support.

As part of its operations in the country in 2025, the ICRC delegation in Iraq, while adapting its operational mode in reflection of the current environment by transitioning from direct delivery of humanitarian services to working with its partners, including the government offices and services to reinforces their capacity, sought to ensure that:

- **People deprived of freedom** benefit from adequate living conditions, access to services and protection against ill-treatment. Their whereabouts are ascertained.
- **Missing persons** are searched for, their fate and whereabouts are clarified, and the most vulnerable families of missing persons improve their capacity to cope with difficulties related to the disappearance.
- The rights of the **victims of new episodes of violence** in terms of protection and access to essential services are preserved as a result of the efforts of the ICRC and the Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement partners.
- **Persons with physical disabilities** have access to services and programmes that help them reach their full potential in society.
- The **Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS)** institutional and operational capacities are strengthened to respond to emerging needs as a result of the coordinated support of the ICRC and RC/RC Movement partners.

To achieve these objectives, the delegation engaged in dialogue with relevant authorities, concerned parties and affected populations and worked in partnership within and beyond the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, especially with Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) to increase its impact and relevance.

In 2025, the ICRC continued its activities in support of humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of past armed conflicts and other situations of violence in Iraq. It also undertook activities to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening the international humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Many of our activities were carried out in close coordination and collaboration with the IRCS and other partners.

The ICRC, as an impartial and independent organization, acts according to its mandate and mission, derived from the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, its Statutes – and those of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – and the resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. As an independent, neutral organization, it ensures humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. It takes action in response to emergencies and at the same time promotes respect for international humanitarian law and its implementation in national law.



People deprived of freedom

The ICRC remains steadfast in its humanitarian commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of detainees in Iraq, guided by the principles of the international humanitarian law. Through our regular visits conducted in agreement with the Iraqi authorities and with the utmost confidentiality, we strive to create a space for open and bilateral dialogue with the detaining authorities, aiming to identify and address any humanitarian concerns that may arise. By engaging in interviews with detaining authorities and detainees, we endeavour to ensure that fundamental rights of detainees are upheld, including access to fair judicial processes and adequate living conditions.

Additionally, we work closely with all stakeholders involved in the detention, contributing to the development of policies and legal frameworks aimed at safeguarding the rights and well-being of detainees.

We also seek to alleviate the suffering of their families, particularly by restoring communication between detainees and their relatives through Red Cross messages.

Detention visits

- **62** detention visits were conducted in **28** places of detention, for a detained population of over **52,251** individuals.
- Over **7,100** detainees were individually followed up by the ICRC delegates across the country.
- More than **1,900** Red Cross messages were collected from detainees and over **1,800** were distributed to them. Additionally, more than **130** Salamats (oral messages to family members) were exchanged in favour of visited detainees.

Healthcare in detention

- **23,675** detainees gained improved health care access through technical support and medical equipment donations to **six** detention facilities across Iraq.
- Technical support and feedback were provided to the newly established Department of Health Services in Places of Detention at the Ministry of Health.

Living conditions (Water and Habitat) in detention

- **13,100** detainees in **six** places of detention have benefited from infrastructure improvements to living spaces and designated open-air areas, alongside the promotion of design standards for more humane prison environments.
- **21** engineers and social workers from the Iraqi Correctional Services under the Ministry of Justice enhanced their capacity on the planning and design of places of detention through a dedicated three day workshop focused on international standards and humane design principles.

Material assistance in detention

- **37,710** detainees benefited from ICRC assistance, receiving hygiene items, clothing, and blankets to improve living conditions and ensure safer access to basic hygiene.

Advocacy and engagement

- The ICRC enhanced stakeholder dialogue regarding conditions of detention and treatment of detainees by conducting workshops and facilitating working groups. These sessions focused on prison planning and design, healthcare within detention facilities, including aspects of mental health and psychosocial support, and the humane management of places of detention and detainees.
- **350** detained foreigners were notified to their consular representations either in Iraq or abroad, and the UNCHR. Proactive dialogue was maintained with Iraqi authorities and embassies regarding the situation of more than **600** foreigners detained in Iraq and their children.
- **Two** roundtables were organized with security agencies and the judiciary in the Kurdistan Region, focusing on international and national standards for the treatment of detainees. Additionally, **one** roundtable was held with the judiciary in Federal Iraq. **Two** workshops were conducted for prison monitors from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior, addressing international standards for the humane management of detainees and other safeguards.

Missing persons and their families

Many people go missing in conflicts, causing anguish and uncertainty for their families and loved ones. As part of the global efforts of the Central Tracing Agency, one of ICRC's oldest institutions enshrined in the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC seeks to protect and restore contact between separated families, search for and identify missing and deceased persons, protect the dignity of the dead, and ensure that the needs of their families are addressed in Iraq.

The delegation does so through direct engagement with and accompaniment of families of missing persons, as well as support to medico-legal actors and other authorities and concerned parties. From daily operational support to policy and legal development, the ICRC seeks to ensure that obligations under the international humanitarian law are met, including the right of families to know the fate and whereabouts of their missing loved ones.

In this vein, the delegation coordinates closely with other delegations, IRCS and other RC/RC Movement partners in Iraq and beyond, to provide a comprehensive response to a significant number of missing cases resulting from decades of conflicts and violence in Iraq. This also includes the chairmanship of the Tripartite Commissions to clarify the fate and whereabouts of persons who went missing during the two Gulf wars, namely Iran-Iraq and Iraq-Kuwait wars.

Clarifying the fate of the missing

- Over **1,200** new cases of missing persons were reported to the ICRC in Iraq, while **517** cases were clarified, bringing much needed closure to missing persons' relatives and loved ones.

Support to authorities, advocacy, and engagement

- **568** participants from state agencies attended **40** thematic trainings, enhancing their technical skills for resolving missing persons cases and responding effectively to mass fatalities during emergencies.
- Ensuring sustainable long-term impact, the ICRC continued its partnership with key medico-legal actors to enhance Iraq's capacity to search for and identify missing persons' human remains.

- The ICRC provided specialized assistance and technical advice to relevant national authorities aiming at establishing a unified registry for all missing persons and facilitating coordination amongst entities.
- Representatives from the Republic of Sudan's relevant authorities visited Iraq and met with several authorities working on missing persons to exchange experiences and learn about best practices in Iraq, serving as a starting point for future collaboration with Sudan and other countries facing similar challenges regarding missing persons and mass graves.
- The efficiency and quality of the search, recovery, and identification of missing persons were strengthened through the donation of technical equipment and support for upgrading infrastructure, including storage and working spaces, interim solutions, cemetery improvements, and continued assistance in designing standards and planning with national counterparts.

Tripartite commissions

- Throughout 2025, within the framework of the Iraq/Kuwait mechanism, **five** Technical Sub-Committee (TSC) meetings and two Tripartite Commission meetings were organized. Under the same mechanism, the ICRC facilitated the handover of **18** bone samples, as well as **23** sets of human remains and personal effects, from Iraq to Kuwait.
- **Ten** drone surveys and **six** Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys were conducted across Iraq, including at the four priority sites of the Iraq/Kuwait mechanism. In parallel, a **120-hour** training course on Forensic Archaeology was also delivered to national partners in Iraq.
- Within the framework of the Iraq/Iran mechanism, **one** Joint Technical Working Group meeting was organized in Abadan, Islamic Republic of Iran, and one Blast Trauma Care training was provided to joint field teams engaged in the search for missing persons from the Iran-Iraq War.
- **Two** handover ceremonies were organized, during which **183** sets of human remains were transferred, of which **47** were formally identified by competent authorities of both countries.

Support to families of missing persons

- **794** families received support through the ICRC's extended multi-disciplinary accompaniment program, addressing their psychosocial, economic, legal, and administrative needs across various areas including Saqlawiya, North Babel, Sinjar, Tal Afar, Abu Maria, Hamam Al Alil, and Khanke.
- **67** accompaniers, including families of missing persons, were trained in Mental Health, Psychosocial Support, Protection, Legal and Forensic processes to better assist families.
- **1,273** persons benefited from mental health and psychosocial support activities that included direct psychological support (**1,066** persons), sensitization/information sessions, and trainings in four governorates of Iraq.
- As part of the ICRC's multidisciplinary accompaniment programme, rehabilitation works were carried out in **three community centres** in Mussayib, Saqlawiya and Tal Afar, where families of missing persons gather. Interventions included upgrading meeting halls and sanitation facilities, improving accessibility for elderly persons and persons with disabilities, and establishing green spaces to enhance the usability of the centres.
- **807** relatives of missing persons received tailored economic assistance to alleviate the hardships resulting from the disappearances of their loved ones.
- **137** relatives of missing persons received national identification documents, death declarations, residency cards and curatorship certificates with the support of the Iraq Bar Association and the ICRC. Additionally, **207** document requests remain in process.
- **713** families gathered in their communities to mark the International Day of the Disappeared (IDoD), while **55** families, coming from Sinjar, Khanke, Tal Afar, North Babel, and Saqlawiya, gathered for the first time in Baghdad to mark the IDoD on 28 August.



Victims of humanitarian emergencies

Protecting civilians during armed conflict, including vulnerable groups such as women, elderly, children, and displaced persons, is a cornerstone of international humanitarian law (IHL). Similarly, healthcare personnel and first responders and humanitarian workers must be protected and able to carry out their work, unimpeded at all times. As promoter and guardian of the international humanitarian law, the ICRC seeks to ensure that States Parties to the Geneva Conventions adhere to and respect them in all circumstances.

Throughout 2025, the ICRC continued its engagement with various stakeholders and actors of influence across Iraq to galvanize respect for and support of the international humanitarian law. It also continued to assist vulnerable groups, including displaced persons and returnees, and maintained its support to the authorities to address the consequences of conflict in urban areas. Collaborating with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and authorities, it also promoted emergency preparedness and response, particularly focusing on the management of mass casualty incidents and more broadly on the organisation of the delivery of emergency healthcare services.

Healthcare support

- **327** people and healthcare workers were trained in first aid and pre-hospital emergency care and emergency care specialised trainings.

Emergency assistance and sustainable livelihood support

- **125** persons received cash assistance to support crop cultivation, promoting the adoption of climate-smart farming methods that enhance their access to irrigation.
- **1,122** livestock-dependent families benefited from cash assistance to purchase breeding stock and secure feed, even in remote areas. Among these, **316** families received fodder and vouchers in Riyadh subdistrict of Hawija district, Kirkuk, to access services from the veterinary clinic, while **463** families received training in livestock management.
- **280** persons received cash assistance to restore their income-generating capabilities and support their families. All beneficiaries participated in business skills training to enhance their capacities.
- **44** victims of recent episodes of violence or vulnerable, received multipurpose cash assistance to cover their basic and immediate needs.
- **67** victims of incidents related to unexploded devices received multipurpose cash assistance to cover basic and immediate needs.
- Agro items were donated to the Ninawa Agriculture Research Department in Mosul to establish a demonstration site for sorghum cultivation and processing, ensuring sustainable fodder for livestock and rehabilitating the olive plantation as a valuable genetic resource.

Water supply and infrastructure development (Ninawa Water Project)

- Under the multi-year Ninawa Water Improvement Project, in partnership with Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the ICRC continued its support to the Ninawa Directorate of Water in

Mosul and Tel Afar to restore and strengthen water services. In 2025, works focused on reducing water losses and improving system performance in Mosul's distribution network, rehabilitating and upgrading Abu Maria conveyance system, improve the monitoring, alarm and maintenance system of bower WTP and initiating the expansion of the distribution network in Tal Afar.

- Institutional support complemented the infrastructure works, including a technical exposure mission to Jordan for Heads of Department from the Ninewa Directorate of water, focused on water monitoring and management practices. Support was also initiated to strengthen the Directorate's communication and public engagement capacity, including training and guidance on structured outreach and use of social media platforms.

Emergency care support program

- **76** frontline ambulance responders completed structured Emergency Medical Services (EMS) trainings (Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) courses) to strengthen prehospital emergency response capacity in Baghdad and Mosul. A pool of **16** EMS trainers have been developed within the MoH in Baghdad and Mosul.
- **183** healthcare professionals received Emergency Department–focused training in triage, patient flow, resuscitation, and Basic Emergency Care (BEC) course. A pool of **8** Integrated Interagency Triage Tool (IITT) trainers, **6** BEC trainers have been trained within MoH clinical staff in Baghdad and Mosul.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the ICRC organized **Iraq's first international Emergency Conference** on October 22–23 in Baghdad, bringing together over **350** participants, including senior MoH officials, hospital directors, emergency physicians, nurses, EMS responders, and international experts.
- Under the Emergency Care Support (ECS) Programme, ICRC implemented infrastructure and system improvements to strengthen emergency medical services capacity, combining rehabilitation works with technical engineering support to address facility-related gaps and accompany the Ministry of Health) in achieving programme objectives.
 - An existing floor was rehabilitated and equipped to function as an emergency medical services (EMS) training centre.
 - The Operational Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) accommodation facility was rehabilitated to host trainees from other governorates, including installation of a solar energy system to ensure power continuity.
 - Work to improve Emergency Department patient flow and internal organization was initiated in 2025, aiming to enhance efficiency and service delivery.

Water & habitat support to vulnerable communities

- **7,340** internally displaced persons residing in the Kilo 7 residential complex benefited from improvements to the power supply.
- **100** students at Kolut School in the Kurdistan Region gained a better access and improved learning conditions following its rehabilitation.
- **125** students at Sheikh Ahmed School in Diyala gained better access to sanitation and hygiene facilities.

Advocacy and engagement

- The ICRC **engaged regularly** with weapon bearers and influential actors on civilian treatment, hostilities, medical personnel safety, law enforcement, dignified returns, and durable solutions.

Weapon contamination

- Through Risk Awareness and Safe Behavior (RASB), **11,642** people living in weapon-contaminated areas were sensitized about risks and adopted safer practices to reduce vulnerability.

People with physical disabilities

In 2025, the ICRC ensured people with physical disabilities had effective access to quality and sustainable physical rehabilitation services and assistive devices. In parallel, 2025 marked a period of strategic contraction for Physical Rehabilitation Program (PRP) operations in Iraq, driven by institutional prioritisation and budgetary constraints. Consequently, a decision was taken to reduce PRP's operational footprint. All PRP service delivery activities in Federal Iraq concluded in December 2025, while the phase-out of the Erbil PRC was accelerated and a scheduled phase out is underway.

Support to operations of physical rehabilitation centres

- **13,292** women, men, and children benefited from physical rehabilitation services at two ICRC-supported governmental physical rehabilitation centres in addition to Erbil Physical Rehabilitation Centre.
- **31** beneficiaries among disabled family breadwinners were referred by the PRCs and received cash assistance to start small businesses.

Trainings

- **15** Prosthetists and orthotists from various MoH PRCs across the country are currently undergoing training in orthotics and prosthetics at Erbil Polytechnic University, as part of a bachelor's program developed in partnership with the ICRC. The first cohort of **15** students graduated successfully in June 2024. The training program is recognized and accredited by the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics. By June 2026, a total of **30** graduates will successfully complete the programme.

Financial support

- **304** people received financial support to cover transportation costs to and from the PRCs.

Reducing the impact of weapon contamination

- Nearly **11,642** individuals in at-risk or affected communities were supported with face-to-face risk awareness and safe behaviour sessions.
- Over **213** ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement staff members were trained in the field of weapon contamination hazards.





Cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society

In 2025, the ICRC continued its collaboration with the IRCS to deliver principled and effective humanitarian responses to key needs in Iraq. The focus was on enhancing coordination with other Movement partners to prepare for emergencies and strengthen programmatic responses in areas, such as disaster risk reduction, relief, health, water access, family reunification, and climate change. Additionally, the ICRC promoted national society development to bolster the IRCS's capacity for safe, principled humanitarian action and improve the sustainability of its core operations.

Partnering for humanitarian action

- **Seven** Operational Cooperation Agreements were signed with the IRCS in the areas of Cooperation, including Safer Access, National Society Development, Health Care in Danger, Health Community Emergency Preparedness, Water and Habitat, Economic Security, Protection of Family Links, Communication, and Weapon Contamination.
- **770** documents attesting to the detention of former prisoners of war or individuals who were detained during past conflicts and met by the ICRC while in detention were provided in partnership with Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS).

Healthcare, water and habitat services

- The ICRC assisted the IRCS in delivering health services by supporting **eight** ambulances deployed across **two** governorates, effectively responding to emergencies during mass gatherings. Additionally, the ICRC established Community Emergency Response Teams in Baghdad, Mosul, and Erbil, through training **80 IRCS volunteers** who conducted **100** sensitization sessions on Mass Casualty Incidents for local communities, reaching **2,310** community members.
- **Eleven** IRCS volunteers were trained by the ICRC on first Responder Trauma Course (FRTC), those are considered part of the IRCS national respond team to emergencies.
- Strengthening the IRCS emergency response contingency stock through purchasing **300** fully equipped First Aid Bags.
- In collaboration with the IRCS and Norwegian Red Cross, **75** awareness sessions focusing on the detrimental effects of attacks on healthcare personnel and institutions, as well as the importance of ensuring safe access to health services were delivered at **two** sites, reaching **932** community members. Additionally, the IRCS conducted Healthcare in danger impact survey in **four** governorates with around **400** surveys produced targeting around **64** health facility.

Infrastructure support

- The IRCS branch in Babil was upgraded with a **65 kW** solar energy system.

Emergency response

- A joint water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in Emergency workshop was organized and facilitated by the ICRC, bringing together representatives from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the IRCS to exchange knowledge and operational experience. A total of **25** IRCS WASH volunteers from various branches strengthened their emergency response capacity through this initiative.
- To strengthen IRCS readiness for emergency response, WASH contingency stocks were supplied to support immediate deployment and improve operational responsiveness in crisis situations.

Capacity building

- Safer Access Framework (SAF): **278** IRCS staff and volunteers were reached through SAF-related activities, including targeted capacity trainings for IRCS staff and volunteers and SAF roundtables with relevant stakeholders; **250** IRCS vests were provided to support visibility, and **four** small branch libraries were established to promote knowledge and awareness.
- National Society Development (NSD): **Five** IRCS branches were supported through branch development activities, alongside institutional support to the IRCS for the development of Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) and Finance plans.
- Operational Partnership: **Seven** Operational Cooperation Agreements between the ICRC and the IRCS supported joint humanitarian activities across multiple thematic areas.
- Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV): **35** IRCS participants engaged in a learning workshop and related training on safe messaging approaches related to violence based on social roles.
- **23** IRCS staff and volunteers participated in an Economic Security workshop covering emergency response, cash and voucher assistance, and climate change.

Enabling environment

Access and acceptance

- ICRC continued its engagement with all relevant actors, especially Government of Iraq to ensure unimpeded access to vulnerable populations in Iraq. In its seventh year, the Community Contact Centre (CCC) remained the first point of contact for beneficiaries, allowing affected individuals to share inquiries, requests, and complaints. The CCC also provided information on ICRC activities, eligibility criteria for programmes, and follow-up on specific cases.

Engagement and dialogue

- **150** meetings were conducted with high-level Government officials, including PMO, MFA and other partner Ministries, Security Services etc.
- **82** high-level meetings were conducted with military personnel and security authorities.
- **29** training sessions for armed and security forces were conducted with participants from the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior.
- **Seven** interlocutors from the armed and security forces were sent abroad by the ICRC for training and development.

Community feedback

- The ICRC Community Contact Centre (CCC) received over **20,026** calls, including inquiries from families of missing and detained persons, requests for inclusion in ICRC programmes and complaints against selection criteria.
- The CCC processed and resolved around **16,841** inquiries and requests, received from affected people.



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been on the front line for humanity since 1863, working to preserve human dignity and relieve human suffering whenever war or armed violence strikes.

Present in over 90 countries worldwide, we act resolutely to provide humanitarian assistance to whoever needs it most, regardless of race, religion, gender or politics. In collaboration with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners around the world, we do everything we can to deliver life-saving aid across front lines, reconnect families and locate missing people. We press authorities to give us access to detainees and strive to improve their living conditions.

We actively engage with the authorities and armed forces on all sides, urging them to fulfil their duty under the Geneva Conventions to protect those who don't fight from harm, including in the digital sphere. We hold sensitive discussions, often bilaterally and in confidence, aiming to prevent further harm and help all sides better comply with international humanitarian law.

In the darkest of times, we stand up for our shared humanity by promoting the rules of war and rallying the world to call on those with the authority to do so to enforce them effectively.

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© ICRC, April 2026

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