

# EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS</b>	
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	2,587
RCMs distributed	2,134
Phone calls facilitated between family members	3,621
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	1,602
People reunited with their families	13
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Places of detention visited	99
Detainees in places of detention visited	44,536
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	578
Visits carried out	208
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	669
RCMs distributed	752
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	21

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF	
Protection	70,174
Assistance	379,436
Prevention	28,334
Cooperation with National Societies	25,105
General	939
<b>Total</b>	<b>503,988</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>30,070</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	105%

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	412
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	1,498

ASSISTANCE		2022 Targets (up to)	Achieved
<b>CIVILIANS</b>			
<b>Economic security</b>			
Food consumption	People	284,360	941,695
Food production	People	29,763	16,858
Income support	People	403,707	412,771
Living conditions	People	217,452	997,682
Capacity-building	People	6,086	4,710
<b>Water and habitat</b>			
Water and habitat activities	People	7,600,002	10,850,113
<b>Health</b>			
Health centres supported	Structures	63	144
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>			
<b>Economic security</b>			
Food consumption	People		1,777
Living conditions	People	33,500	28,920
<b>Water and habitat</b>			
Water and habitat activities	People	7,944	11,558
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>			
<b>Medical care</b>			
Hospitals supported	Structures	58	123
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>			
Projects supported	Projects	11	34
<b>Water and habitat</b>			
Water and habitat activities	Beds (capacity)	5,412	24,675

**DELEGATIONS**

Armenia  
Azerbaijan  
Balkans (regional)  
Brussels  
Budapest (regional)  
Central Tracing Agency bureau  
for the international  
armed conflict between  
the Russian Federation  
and Ukraine

Georgia  
Greece  
London (regional)  
Moscow (regional)  
Paris (regional)  
Republic of Moldova  
Tashkent (regional)  
Ukraine

-  ICRC delegation
-  ICRC regional delegation
-  ICRC mission



The boundaries, names and designations used in this document do not imply official endorsement or express a political opinion on the part of the ICRC, and are without prejudice to claims of sovereignty over the territories mentioned.

# ARMENIA

The ICRC has been working in Armenia since 1992 in relation to armed conflict in the region. It works to protect and assist communities affected by conflict and seeks to address the issue of missing persons. It visits detainees held for conflict-related or security reasons. It promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into the armed and security forces' doctrine, training and sanctions and into academic curricula. The ICRC works in partnership with the Armenian Red Cross Society and aims to help strengthen its capacities.

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

**HIGH**

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2022

- The ICRC maintained dialogue with the sides to the conflict (see also *Azerbaijan*) on IHL, the conduct of hostilities during escalations of the conflict and the situation of civilians affected.
- The ICRC gave the sides to the conflict guidance and other support for recovering human remains with due regard for their dignity, identifying these remains and resolving missing-persons cases.
- Tens of thousands of people severely affected by the conflict were able to meet their basic needs and maintain or improve their livelihoods with hygiene items, cash grants and other support provided by the ICRC.
- Schools near the eastern border with Azerbaijan maintained adequate learning environments and were better protected against possible emergencies thanks to the ICRC's renovation work, material support and training for teachers.
- People wounded during the September 2022 escalation of the conflict were treated at ICRC-supported hospitals. Potential first responders learnt about first-aid and/or emergency care at ICRC training sessions.
- Particularly vulnerable detainees, and families of people detained in Azerbaijan, were able to maintain contact with their relatives using prepaid phone cards, video calls and other means provided or facilitated by the ICRC.

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	3,572
Assistance	5,969
Prevention	1,633
Cooperation with National Societies	985
General	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,212</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>745</i>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	105%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	23
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	103



PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS</b>	
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	914
RCMs distributed	623
Phone calls facilitated between family members	672
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	66
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Places of detention visited	9
Detainees in places of detention visited	1,936
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	21
Visits carried out	16
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	8
RCMs distributed	6
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	2

ASSISTANCE	2022 Targets (up to)	Achieved	
<b>CIVILIANS</b>			
<b>Economic security</b>			
Income support	People	6,660	15,368
Living conditions	People	80	10,932
Capacity-building	People	4,500	1,625
<b>Water and habitat</b>			
Water and habitat activities	People	1,800	3,604
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>			
<b>Economic security</b>			
Living conditions	People		5
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>			
<b>Medical care</b>			
Hospitals supported	Structures	6	5
<b>Water and habitat</b>			
Water and habitat activities	Beds (capacity)	89	10

## CONTEXT

An escalation of armed conflict in September 2020 resulted in thousands of military and hundreds of civilian casualties, according to the sides. A ceasefire agreement, brokered by the Russian Federation, led to changes in territorial control and the deployment of Russian peacekeeping forces. Another escalation in September 2022, along the eastern border with Azerbaijan, resulted in further casualties. Thousands of people remained displaced by the escalations. The situation in areas near military positions remained tense; skirmishes took place periodically, and people were detained in connection with the conflict.

In December, the regular passage of civilian and commercial goods along the Lachin corridor was discontinued, and most of the energy supply was disrupted.

Civilians living near the eastern border with Azerbaijan were endangered by mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and military activity, which narrowed access to basic services, hindered the pursuit of livelihoods and caused psychological distress. In border areas, water resources were sometimes difficult to access.

Members of the international community endeavoured to facilitate political dialogue between the sides, and meetings between senior officials from Armenia and Azerbaijan took place.

Thousands of people in the region remained missing in connection to the conflict. Most have been missing since the 1990s, while hundreds went missing during the 2020 escalation of the conflict.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC monitored the situation of civilians living near the eastern border with Azerbaijan and that of people who had fled to Armenia. It maintained discussions with the sides to the conflict (see also *Azerbaijan*) on IHL, the conduct of hostilities during escalations of conflict and the presence of armed forces in civilian communities. Border guard and civil-defence troops and officers learnt more about IHL, and about the ICRC's mandate and its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, at workshops and other events organized by the ICRC.

Thousands of people who were severely affected by the conflict – for example, following displacement, exposure to military activities or loss of contact with family members – were given support by the ICRC to meet their basic needs and/or restore their livelihoods; its efforts were adjusted according to the needs of conflict-affected communities, and included ad hoc distributions. Together with the Armenian Red Cross Society, the ICRC provided them with hygiene items, food parcels, cash grants and other support; with this help, some of them were able to start small businesses, or raise their farm yields. The ICRC also renovated water infrastructure that served thousands of people.

Hundreds of people learnt safe practices around mines and ERW through ICRC social-media posts and at information sessions organized by the National Society and the ICRC.

Together with the National Society, the ICRC worked to ensure safe access to educational opportunities for children affected by the conflict. It provided schools with face masks, hygiene items, heaters, fire extinguishers and other material support; it also renovated water and sanitation infrastructure at schools and taught teachers to organize evacuation drills. Children also attended learning activities organized by the National Society with training and expert advice from the ICRC.

The ICRC urged the authorities to adopt up-to-date methods for ascertaining the fate of people missing in connection with the conflict, including those who had gone missing in the 1990s. It provided them with training, expert guidance and material support for managing and identifying human remains, and shared with them information that it had collected on missing-persons cases. Members of families separated by armed conflict, detention or other circumstances located or contacted their relatives through family-links services provided by the National Society and the ICRC. In its capacity as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC observed cross-border transfers of human remains after the September 2022 escalation of conflict.

Potential first responders near the eastern border with Azerbaijan learnt about first-aid and emergency care from the National Society and the ICRC, respectively; the ICRC provided the National Society with financial support for its training sessions. When the conflict escalated in September 2022, the ICRC helped to treat the wounded by providing health facilities with medical supplies. ICRC material support, and its renovation and construction work for emergency rooms, also helped health facilities to be better prepared for potential mass-casualty incidents.

The ICRC visited, in accordance with its standard procedures, people detained in connection with conflict and, to a limited extent, other detainees who were particularly vulnerable. It communicated its findings to the authorities. Particularly vulnerable detainees, and families of people detained in Azerbaijan, were able to maintain contact with their relatives using prepaid phone cards, video calls and other means provided or facilitated by the ICRC.

The ICRC gave the National Society financial and other support to advance its organizational development and strengthen its operational capacities, particularly among its branches and disaster-response teams near the eastern border with Azerbaijan.

## CIVILIANS

The ICRC assessed the situation of civilians living near the eastern border with Azerbaijan, and that of displaced people who had fled to or within Armenia during escalations of conflict, and communicated its findings to the sides to the conflict (see also *Azerbaijan*). It maintained its dialogue with them on IHL and the conduct of hostilities during escalations of conflict. It also discussed with them the presence of armed forces in border areas and its potential impact on the civilian population in case of escalation. It covered some of these topics in its information sessions for border troops (see *Actors of influence*).

### **Members of separated families maintain contact with relatives**

Members of families separated by armed conflict, detention or other circumstances located and/or contacted their relatives through tracing, phone calls and other Movement family-links services. The ICRC helped the National Society strengthen its capacity to deliver these services; for example, it provided technical support to National Society disaster-response teams on providing family-links services during emergencies.

### **Authorities strive to prevent and address disappearances**

The ICRC reminded the sides of their obligation to ascertain the fate of people missing in connection with conflict, including those who went missing in the 1990s and had not yet been accounted for; as part of this effort, it maintained contact with the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons, a government inter-agency commission that was established during the year and tasked to address, among others, the issue of missing persons (see *Actors of influence*). It urged the sides to adopt up-to-date methods for their work, and shared with them information it had collected on missing-persons cases. In its capacity as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC observed cross-border transfers of human remains after the September 2022 escalation of conflict (see *Azerbaijan*).

The authorities managed human remains, and worked to identify them, with training, expert guidance and material support, including donations of personal protective equipment and DNA testing equipment, from the ICRC. Notably, the ICRC financed the installation of cold-storage equipment on a truck for the transport of human remains. It also gave the health ministry's Scientific-Practical Center of Forensic Medicine – Armenia's main medico-legal institution – expert advice for refining its standard operating procedures in such areas as calibration and maintenance of equipment.

The ICRC also reminded the authorities to address the needs of missing people's families. Together with the National Society and the authorities, it piloted, in the town of Armavir, an accompaniment programme for families of people who went missing in 2020, to help them with their legal, administrative, mental health (see below) and other needs.

### **Vulnerable communities cope with the consequences of conflict**

The ICRC, in cooperation with the National Society, continued to help communities to cope with both the conflict's immediate and long-term effects on their lives, particularly on their safety, mental health and socio-economic situation, and on children's access to education; its efforts were adjusted according to the needs of conflict-affected communities, and included ad hoc distributions. It focused on particularly vulnerable groups of people, such as those who were displaced by the escalations – or severely affected by it in other ways – or who lived near the eastern border with Azerbaijan. The ICRC sought to involve the authorities, local and international NGOs, and other organizations in its initiatives. It also kept up its efforts to persuade the authorities to take measures to make long-term improvements to the circumstances of these vulnerable groups.

Farmers grew crops and raised bees more effectively with seed, supplies, equipment and cash provided by the ICRC, which also repaired and renovated irrigation systems for them, and gave them expert advice for reducing their exposure to military activities. People displaced by the escalations of the conflict met their basic needs using cash grants given to them by the ICRC. These activities helped some 15,100 people. About 260 more people – with relatives who were missing, detained or recently released from detention – covered their essential expenses with ICRC cash grants, or started small businesses with ICRC cash grants and/or vocational training.

ICRC training enabled National Society personnel to develop their ability to design and implement similar programmes.

The ICRC gave about 360 small-scale-farming households (1,625 people) cash grants, agricultural supplies and/or training to help them improve their yields and make their businesses more profitable.

Around 10,900 people improved their living conditions – sometimes in ways that also helped them to protect themselves against COVID-19 and other infectious diseases – with assistance from the National Society and the ICRC. Some 5,000 people – displaced by the September 2022 escalation of conflict, or living near the eastern border with Azerbaijan and temporarily without access to main roads – received hygiene items and other essentials; many of them received food parcels as well. The ICRC and an international NGO repaired homes – belonging to 63 families (309 people) – that had been damaged in the fighting. Schoolchildren benefited from hygiene-promotion sessions and/or were provided with face masks and hygiene items, and students at schools with shortages of on-site teachers used ICRC-provided laptops and other equipment to attend some classes, delivered by teachers at other schools, remotely; some 5,600 students and teachers benefited.

The ICRC renovated latrines, handwashing stations and similar facilities at four schools, which helped 900 students and teachers to maintain sanitary conditions. Renovations to water infrastructure benefited a community of some 2,700 people; the projects reached more people than envisaged, in line with the extent of the needs.

Hundreds of students had adequate learning environments and were better protected against possible emergencies while attending schools near the Eastern border with Azerbaijan that benefited from ICRC support. The schools were given heaters, furniture, blankets for safe rooms and emergency equipment such as alarms and fire extinguishers. Teachers at these schools were also trained by the ICRC to organize evacuation drills. The authorities and NGOs organized technical working groups to develop policies aimed at improving education services in the country, and the ICRC contributed expert guidance for these groups. Children who were displaced and/or living near the eastern border with Azerbaijan attended learning activities organized by the National Society with training and financial support from the ICRC.

Hundreds of people experiencing psychological distress caused or exacerbated by the conflict, including people displaced by

the September 2022 escalation and relatives of missing people, attended individual and group sessions of mental-health and psychosocial support organized by the National Society and the ICRC. The ICRC had trained the community-based volunteers who facilitated these sessions. Child witnesses of armed violence were given mental-health and psychosocial support by psychologists at the Republican Pedagogical-Psychological Center, who, too, had benefited from ICRC training and supervision. Community members learnt more about mental health, self-care and mutual support through ICRC information sessions.

Nearly 7,000 people living near the eastern border with Azerbaijan learnt safe practices around mines/ERW through targeted ICRC social-media posts and at information sessions organized by the National Society and the ICRC and held in schools and community centres or delivered door-to-door. Many of these sessions were organized after the September 2022 escalation of the conflict, to reach people in areas newly contaminated by mines/ERW. National Society personnel – and personnel from the Armenian Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise, who organized similar sessions on mine risks – benefited from ICRC training and expert guidance.

### **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

The ICRC visited people detained in connection with conflict and, to a limited extent, other detainees who were particularly vulnerable, such as detainees who were transferred to Armenia when the conflict intensified in 2020. It did so in accordance with its standard procedures. Findings from these visits, and recommendations whenever necessary, were communicated confidentially to the detaining authorities, to help ensure that detainees' treatment and living conditions complied with IHL and/or met internationally recognized standards.

#### **Detainees maintain contact with their relatives and benefit from improved living conditions**

The ICRC gave particularly vulnerable detainees prepaid phone cards, facilitated live video calls, collected and distributed RCMs and/or financially supported visits from family members. The ICRC also helped families in Armenia to maintain contact with relatives detained in Azerbaijan – via RCMs, video messages and other means.

The ICRC gave some detainees electric kettles, heaters, prepaid phone cards and other usable items to help improve their living conditions; two were given flash cards containing key phrases to help them overcome language barriers in communicating with detention staff.

The ICRC enabled a justice ministry official to attend an international conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on health care in detention (see *Headquarters – Protection and Essential Services*).

#### **Former detainees receive mental-health and psychosocial support after their release**

In its capacity as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC observed cross-border transfers of people who had been detained in connection with the September 2022 escalation of conflict (see *Azerbaijan*). It met with these returnees, and with others whose returns it did not participate in, to learn about their past

treatment and living conditions, and any pressing mental-health, legal or financial difficulties that they faced upon their release. Findings from these discussions were relayed to the pertinent authorities.

Ten such ex-detainees received mental-health and psychosocial support at group sessions organized by the ICRC. In December, together with the Swedish Red Cross, the ICRC trained government and NGO personnel to provide such care.

### **WOUNDED AND SICK**

The ICRC helped the Armenian Red Cross Society to organize basic and advanced first-aid training in dozens of communities near the eastern border with Azerbaijan. These sessions were attended by hundreds of rescue personnel, health workers, National Society volunteers, teachers and other community members; some community members were also given first-aid supplies and equipment.

The ICRC helped to form, train and equip the National Society's disaster response teams, and helped these teams to host emergency-simulation exercises jointly with rescue personnel from the Ministry of Emergency Situations, which gave the National Society and the ministry an opportunity to practice coordinating their activities.

The National Society was unable to construct new first-aid training rooms with ICRC support, as planned, owing to administrative constraints that it faced.

#### **Hospitals and health workers are more prepared for emergencies**

The ICRC helped five hospitals and one primary-health-care facility near the eastern border with Azerbaijan to provide emergency care for people wounded during the September 2022 escalation of the conflict, and to prepare for other potential mass-casualty incidents, by giving them wound-dressing sets and other medical supplies. It also trained medical staff at the hospitals in emergency care and/or mass-casualty management; the training included a course in basic emergency care that was designed jointly by the ICRC and the WHO and intended to help hospitals with limited resources improve the quality and accessibility of their services. The ICRC enabled representatives of the Armenian Society of Anaesthesiologists and Intensive Care Specialists to attend a four-week advanced course in these areas, held in the United States of America; the course also prepared them to train others.

The ICRC constructed an emergency room at one hospital and renovated emergency rooms at two health posts (total capacity: 10 beds); minor renovations planned for other health posts were not carried out because NGOs and government entities renovated those facilities instead. The ICRC also provided the regional blood-transfusion station in Goris with financial and logistical support for acquiring a new centrifuge and buying other supplies and equipment, such as blood bags and a blood-count analyser.

## ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The ICRC worked to preserve acceptance for its mandate, and for its role of neutral intermediary, among the sides to the conflict. It strove to gain support for its activities for people affected by conflict, including displaced people, border communities, detainees, and missing people and their families. To that end, it met with officials from the defence, foreign and other ministries; members of the international community, including defence attachés present in the country; and representatives of international NGOs.

Members of the local and international media drew on ICRC news releases and social-media posts, and covered ICRC events, to inform the public of the humanitarian needs created by the conflict and the ICRC's response. Together with the Armenian Red Cross Society, the ICRC used social media, distributed activity books for children and placed posters in public spaces, including schools, to disseminate useful and important information about good hygiene and safe practices around mines/ERW. The ICRC gave the National Society expert advice and other support to strengthen its public communication and broaden public awareness of its work.

### Troops attend IHL briefings and authorities work to improve IHL implementation

The ICRC pursued dialogue with defence ministry officials, to persuade them to integrate more fully IHL provisions and other applicable norms into military education, training and doctrine. Border guard and civil-defence troops and officers learnt more about IHL, the ICRC's mandate, and its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action at workshops, seminars and other events organized by the ICRC.

The ICRC also urged lawmakers to advance the implementation of provisions enshrined in IHL treaties, such as those concerning missing people and their families. These efforts contributed, in part, to the authorities re-establishing the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons.

### Students strengthen their grasp of IHL

The ICRC helped university students to strengthen their grasp of IHL: it organized a moot court competition and a summer school on IHL, enabled some of the moot court participants to attend a course, online, in public international law, and sponsored a team of students to take part in a regional IHL competition abroad.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Armenian Red Cross Society, the International Federation, the ICRC and other Movement components present in Armenia worked together to assist conflict-affected communities; they met regularly to coordinate their activities and consolidate lessons learnt.

The ICRC and the National Society worked together in many of their operational priorities, such as their economic-security and first-aid programmes, and their efforts to ensure safe access to education for children (see *Civilians and Wounded and sick*). The ICRC also provided financial and other support for the National Society to strengthen its operational capacities and advance its organizational development, with a focus on its branches and disaster-response teams near the eastern border with Azerbaijan; this support helped the National Society to, for example, renovate one of its branch offices and bring its working procedures more fully in line with the Safer Access Framework.

**MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION**

<b>CIVILIANS</b>	<b>Total</b>			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>		<b>UAMs/SC</b>		
RCMs collected	914			
RCMs distributed	623			
Phone calls facilitated between family members	672			
<b>Reunifications, transfers and repatriations</b>				
Human remains transferred or repatriated	1			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>		<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	64	1		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	1			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	66			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	718	25		7
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	4			
<b>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs)/separated children (SC), including demobilized child soldiers</b>		<b>Girls</b>		<b>Demobilized children</b>
UAMs/SC newly registered by the ICRC/National Society	28	15		
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period	28	15		
<b>Documents</b>				
People to whom official documents were delivered across borders/front lines	1			
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>				
<b>ICRC visits</b>		<b>Women</b>	<b>Minors</b>	
Places of detention visited	9			
Detainees in places of detention visited	1,936	66		
Visits carried out	16			
		<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
Detainees visited and monitored individually	21			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>				
RCMs collected	8			
RCMs distributed	6			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	2			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	11			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	10			

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS		Total	Women	Children
<b>Economic security</b>				
Income support	People	15,368	4,931	6,954
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	6,669	2,382	3,334
Living conditions	People	10,932	3,019	4,892
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	1,250	375	500
Capacity-building	People	1,625	517	612
<b>Water and habitat</b>				
Water and habitat activities	People	3,604	1,442	721
<b>Mental health and psychosocial support</b>				
People who received mental-health support		666		
People who attended information sessions on mental health		405		
People trained in mental-health care and psychosocial support		58		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>				
<b>Economic security</b>				
Living conditions	People	5	3	
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>				
<b>Hospitals</b>				
Hospitals supported	Structures	5		
<b>Services at hospitals reinforced with or monitored by ICRC staff</b>				
Consultations		301		
<b>Services at hospitals not monitored directly by ICRC staff</b>				
Surgical admissions (weapon-wound and non-weapon-wound admissions)		*		
Weapon-wound admissions (surgical and non-surgical admissions)		100		
<b>First aid</b>				
First-aid training				
	Sessions	28		
	Participants (aggregated monthly data)	529		
<b>Water and habitat</b>				
Water and habitat activities	Beds (capacity)	10		

\* This figure has been redacted for data protection purposes. See the *User guide* for more information.

# AZERBAIJAN

The ICRC has been working in Azerbaijan since 1992 in relation to armed conflict in the region. It works to protect and assist communities affected by conflict and seeks to address the issue of missing persons. It visits detainees held for conflict-related or security reasons. It promotes implementation of IHL and its integration into armed and security forces' training and into academic curricula. The ICRC works in partnership with the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan and aims to help strengthen its capacities.

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

**HIGH**

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2022

- The ICRC maintained dialogue with the sides to the conflict (see also *Armenia*) on IHL, the conduct of hostilities during escalations of the conflict and the situation of civilians affected.
- Tens of thousands of vulnerable people were able to meet their basic needs and maintain or improve their livelihoods with financial aid, food parcels, livelihood assistance, household essentials and other support provided by the ICRC.
- Schools near military positions maintained adequate learning environments and were better protected against possible emergencies thanks to the ICRC's renovation work, material support and training for teachers.
- Potential first responders developed their first-aid skills through ICRC training sessions. Hospitals developed their capacities in emergency response with material support, training, expert guidance and other support from the ICRC.
- The ICRC gave the sides to the conflict guidance and other support for recovering human remains with due regard for their dignity, identifying these remains and resolving missing-persons cases.
- Thousands of people in conflict-affected areas learnt safe practices around mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) from the ICRC and National Society, at community and door-to-door information sessions and through other means.

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	9,047
Assistance	18,913
Prevention	1,911
Cooperation with National Societies	1,286
General	86
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,243</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>1,907</i>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	95%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	42
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	220



PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS</b>	
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	15
RCMs distributed	10
Phone calls facilitated between family members	817
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	18
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Places of detention visited	26
Detainees in places of detention visited	18,200
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	331
Visits carried out	81
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	626
RCMs distributed	727
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	14

ASSISTANCE	2022 Targets (up to)	Achieved
<b>CIVILIANS</b>		
<b>Economic security</b>		
Food consumption	People	5,807
Food production	People	17,100
Income support	People	20,047
Living conditions	People	16,000
Capacity-building	People	1,580
<b>Water and habitat</b>		
Water and habitat activities	People	39,702
<b>Health</b>		
Health centres supported	Structures	13
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>		
<b>Economic security</b>		
Living conditions	People	3,108
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
<b>Medical care</b>		
Hospitals supported	Structures	3
<b>Water and habitat</b>		
Water and habitat activities	Beds (capacity)	135
		10

## CONTEXT

An escalation of armed conflict in September 2020 resulted in thousands of military and hundreds of civilian casualties, according to the sides. A ceasefire agreement, brokered by the Russian Federation, led to changes in territorial control and the deployment of Russian peacekeeping forces. Another escalation in September 2022, along the border with Armenia, resulted in further casualties. The situation at the border, and in other areas near military positions, remained tense; skirmishes took place periodically, people were detained in connection with the conflict.

In December, the regular passage of civilian and commercial goods along the Lachin corridor was discontinued, and most of the energy supply was disrupted.

Living conditions remained difficult for the tens of thousands of people displaced in connection with the conflict, or living in communities severely affected by it. Having lost property and livelihoods, and because of the damage done to civilian infrastructure, they struggled to meet their basic needs; many were in psychological distress. The dangers posed by mines/ERW, and exposure to military activity, hindered agriculture and the pursuit of other livelihoods.

Members of the international community endeavoured to facilitate political dialogue between the sides, and meetings between senior officials from Armenia and Azerbaijan took place.

Thousands of people in the region remained missing in connection to the conflict. Most have been missing since the 1990s, while hundreds went missing during the 2020 escalation of the conflict.

Some families were still waiting for news of relatives in areas of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) that were formerly controlled by the Islamic State group. Some Azerbaijanis repatriated from these countries reunited with their relatives and began reintegrating back into their communities.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC monitored the situation of civilians living near the border with Armenia and other military positions. It maintained discussions with the sides to the conflict (see also *Armenia*) on IHL, the conduct of hostilities during escalations of conflict, and the presence of armed forces in civilian communities and its effect on civilians' ability to move about freely. The ICRC strove to raise awareness of the humanitarian consequences of the conflict, and to cultivate support for its activities, among the sides to the conflict, the international community and civil society.

The ICRC served as a neutral intermediary to the sides in searching for and recovering human remains. It provided them with training and expert guidance for managing and identifying human remains, and for resolving missing persons cases. Members of separated families stayed in touch through the Movement's family-links services.

Tens of thousands of vulnerable people were able to meet their basic needs and maintain or improve their livelihoods with financial assistance, food parcels, livelihood assistance, household essentials and other support provided by the ICRC. Most of those assisted lived near military positions, had been displaced by the conflict and/or lived in areas heavily affected by it. The ICRC adjusted the scale of its relief and livelihood activities according to the needs of conflict-affected communities. Those assisted also included missing people's families, mine victims and repatriated children and their caretakers. The ICRC provided schools with furniture, school supplies and other support.

The ICRC repaired, renovated and provided other support for water and electricity infrastructure which benefited tens of thousands of people. The ICRC also carried out repairs and renovations at homes damaged by the conflict, and at schools and primary-health-care centres.

Thousands of people – students, teachers and others living near military positions, relatives of missing people, and victims of mine-related accidents and other violent incidents – received psychological and/or psychosocial care from the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, the ICRC and ICRC-trained service providers.

The ICRC provided first-aid training for hundreds of potential first responders. Hospitals developed their capacities in emergency response with material support, training, expert guidance and other help from the ICRC.

Thousands of people in conflict-affected areas learnt safe practices around mines/ERW from the ICRC and National Society, at community and door-to-door information sessions and through other means.

The ICRC visited detainees in accordance with its standard procedures. It paid particular attention to people who were held in connection with the conflict and others who were particularly vulnerable. Detainees at several places of detention were treated for mental illnesses, under an ICRC-supported programme that screened detainees for psychological difficulties. Thousands of detainees were given hygiene items and other supplies by the ICRC to help improve their living conditions.

The ICRC made follow-up visits to Azerbaijani children repatriated from Iraq and Syria and the families with whom they had been reunited. It relayed its findings to the pertinent government agencies, to help them address the complex needs of the children.

## CIVILIANS

The ICRC assessed the situation of civilians living near the border with Armenia and other military positions, and those affected by the situation at the Lachin corridor. It communicated its findings to the sides to the conflict (see also *Armenia*). It maintained its dialogue with them on IHL and the conduct of hostilities during escalations of conflict, and organized training in IHL for military and other troops (see *Actors of*

*influence*). It also discussed with the sides how the presence of armed forces affected civilians' ability to move about freely – to cultivate their land, for instance, or go to school.

### **Authorities strive to prevent and address disappearances**

The ICRC reminded the sides of their obligation to ascertain the fate of people missing in connection with conflict, including those who had been missing since the 1990s, and to address their families' needs. It aided their efforts by, for example, tracing people's missing relatives, sharing data that it had gathered on the location of gravesites and collecting hundreds of biological reference samples from missing people's relatives. Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC facilitated search and retrieval operations for human remains.

Forensic authorities and local forensic agencies managed human remains and worked to identify them with expert guidance, training and material support from the ICRC. For example, the Commission on Missing Persons was given body bags. Sponsored by the ICRC, forensic officials visited the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus to learn about forensic excavation and related matters. The ICRC prepared guidelines to enable first responders to facilitate forensic work during emergencies.

A network of accompaniers, given training and expert guidance by the ICRC, provided mental-health and psychosocial support for missing people's families and referred them to suitable service providers for their health-related, administrative and other needs.

### **Vulnerable communities cope with the consequences of conflict**

The ICRC continued to help communities to cope with the conflict's immediate and long-term consequences for their lives, particularly for their safety, mental health, socio-economic situation and access to essential services, including their children's education. It adjusted the scale of its relief and livelihood activities according to the needs of conflict-affected communities. The ICRC also sought to involve the authorities and other organizations in its initiatives. It kept up its efforts to persuade the authorities to make long-term improvements to the circumstances of conflict-affected people.

Tens of thousands of vulnerable people were able to meet their basic needs and maintain or improve their livelihoods with the ICRC's assistance. Most of them lived near military positions, had been displaced by the escalations of the conflict and/or lived in areas heavily affected by it. They included missing people's families, mine victims and repatriated children and their caretakers. Almost 4,100 households (17,900 people) improved their living conditions with hygiene items, furniture and other household essentials provided by the ICRC or bought with ICRC financial assistance. About 19,900 people bolstered their income with ICRC support: people covered their basic expenses, operated small businesses or raised livestock using ICRC cash grants; earned money while also improving communal infrastructure by taking part in ICRC cash-for-work projects (e.g. cleaning canals); learnt vocational or entrepreneurial skills at ICRC training sessions; and grew vegetables

with ICRC-provided seed and greenhouses. Some 1,120 households (5,800 people) were given food parcels.

Around 3,480 agricultural households (14,800 people) near military positions farmed potatoes and vegetables or produced honey with supplies, tools and training provided by the ICRC; for some of them, beekeeping was an alternative to traditional farming or herding activities that might have taken them to fields contaminated by ERW and endangered by military positions. The ICRC helped to build capacities among selected service providers, benefiting some 3,000 people: schools were given material aid such as furniture and school supplies; teachers were trained to protect students during emergencies; participants in cash-for-work projects mentioned above learnt first aid to keep themselves and others safe in their work; and research by an agriculture university to develop new techniques for farmers was given funding. The ICRC trained Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society volunteers to carry out economic-security projects and/or gave them on-the-job guidance.

Thousands of medical consultations were carried out at 12 primary-health-care centres that were renovated by the ICRC, nine of which were also given medical supplies, equipment, training and expert advice. This support helped the centres to carry out vaccination campaigns against COVID-19. Solar panels were installed at two of the centres, to equip them with sustainable sources of electrical power.

Water boards serving some 30,000 people improved and expanded their services with help from the ICRC, which gave them machine parts, tools and other equipment, and renovated one of their pumping stations. The ICRC also trained technicians to operate water systems. Other water and electrical infrastructure, serving over 10,000 people, was renovated or given new equipment by the ICRC. Over 1,600 children learnt about conserving water – a scarce resource – at school events and competitions organized by the National Society and the ICRC. ICRC renovations at schools – including installations of solar panels to serve as sustainable sources of electrical power – benefited approximately 4,100 students. The ICRC also made repairs to homes damaged during the conflict, or gave people construction materials for doing so, benefiting about 300 people.

Thousands of students, teachers and others living near military positions, and victims of mine-related accidents and other violent incidents, received psychological and/or psychosocial care from the ICRC and ICRC-trained service providers, including psychologists and National Society volunteers. Some community members who had obtained such care were trained to assist others and practice psychological self-care.

Schools mitigated the effects of gas shortages by using electric stoves, heaters and other equipment or appliances provided by the ICRC. Students at selected schools used laptops and other equipment provided by the ICRC for remote learning. ICRC renovations at schools (see above) improved sanitation and passive protection measures. Teachers and students also learnt first aid at ICRC training sessions (see *Wounded and sick*). Expert guidance from the ICRC helped to develop the National

Society's Education in Emergencies programme, which provided various types of support to schools and students in conflict-affected areas; for example, one project under the programme involved renovating the playground at a school.

Thousands of people in conflict-affected areas learnt safe practices around mines/ERW from the ICRC and National Society, at community and door-to-door information sessions and through other means, such as leaflets, posters, children's books and social-media posts. National Society personnel and humanitarian deminers were trained to conduct such sessions. Some humanitarian deminers – including staff from the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action – were taught about blast-trauma care (see *Wounded and sick*) and given tools and other supplies for conducting mine-clearance activities to protect civilians.

### Repatriated children receive support for social integration

The ICRC made follow-up visits to children repatriated from Iraq and Syria and the families with which they had been reunited; it relayed its findings to the pertinent government agencies and gave some families cash grants and other support (see above) for meeting their basic needs, such as paying fees for vocational training. Families kept in touch – through RCMs and other ICRC family-links services – with relatives who had not been repatriated. ICRC-trained psychologists and community members provided mental-health and psychosocial support for the children and their relatives.

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC visited detainees in accordance with its standard procedures; people who were held in connection with the conflict or serving life sentences, foreigners and other particularly vulnerable detainees were monitored individually. The ICRC communicated its findings – and where necessary, its recommendations – confidentially to the authorities concerned, to help ensure that detainees' treatment complied with IHL and/or met internationally recognized standards. Detention officials attended ICRC training sessions and seminars on internationally recognized standards for detention and international standards for arrests and/or probation.

Detainees maintained contact with their relatives through RCMs, phone calls, video messages and other means made available by the ICRC: notably, the ICRC arranged family visits for 30 detainees whose families would not have had the financial means to visit them otherwise. Some families sent pictures and miscellaneous items to their detained relatives through the ICRC.

In its capacity as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC observed cross-border transfers of people detained in connection with the September 2022 escalation of conflict (see *Armenia*).

### Detainees have better living conditions and health care

The ICRC continued to assist the authorities' efforts to bring health care for detainees up to internationally recognized standards. It provided staff at 16 places of detention with training and expert advice for treating patients with specific needs, such as diabetics and detainees on hunger strikes. Thousands of new detainees at five places of detention were

screened for psychological ailments and where necessary, treated for mental-health issues under an ICRC-supported programme that provided prison psychologists with training and expert guidance. Detention health officials from the justice ministry attended an ICRC seminar on medical ethics. The ICRC enabled officials from the justice and health ministries to attend an international conference in Geneva on health care in detention (see *Headquarters – Protection and Essential Services*).

Around 3,100 detainees were given hygiene items and recreational materials such as books and sports equipment provided by the ICRC to help improve their living conditions; some were also given food parcels. Ten ex-detainees, previously held in connection with the conflict, were included in ICRC assistance programmes and helped to meet their basic needs (see *Civilians*).

### WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC, together with the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society and other local partners, helped to prepare communities, near the border with Armenia and other military positions, to deal with mass-casualty events and other emergencies.

### Potential first responders learn first aid

Hundreds of potential first responders attended ICRC training in first aid, which included train-the-trainer sessions; health workers, students, teachers, humanitarian deminers and emergency responders were among those who took part. The ICRC provided schools with first-aid kits, and emergency responders with stretchers. Material and financial support from the ICRC helped the National Society and an emergency services agency to conduct first-aid training for school staff.

### Hospitals and health workers are more prepared for emergencies

The ICRC provided personal protective equipment, disinfectants, oxygen masks and other medical equipment to six hospitals, the emergency services agency mentioned above and a local agency providing epidemiological services, to help them tackle COVID-19. Two of the hospitals were also given wound-dressing kits and other medical items, and two primary-health-care centres were given furniture and basic medical items; these helped them to prepare for emergencies. The ICRC gave a local medical agency, that operates several hospitals, expert advice for updating its policy on maintaining contingency stocks. Several medical institutions – including some of the supported hospitals – adapted to gas shortages with heaters, electric stoves and other equipment and appliances from the ICRC. One of these institutions, a physical rehabilitation centre, was also given mannequins for its staff training programme. Emergency responders and medical staff attended ICRC training in mass-casualty management and/or in basic emergency care designed to help hospitals with limited resources improve the quality and accessibility of their services.

One hospital (ten beds) and one primary-health-care centre benefited from renovations carried out by the ICRC, which also assisted in the construction of a second primary-health-care centre. Renovation of another primary-health-care centre was delayed owing to administrative constraints. After discussing

the matter with the medical agency mentioned above, the ICRC renovated a different hospital than the one initially planned, because, though smaller, it was better situated to respond to emergencies.

The ICRC referred dozens of people, including mine victims and repatriated children, to suitable service providers and/or covered their treatment costs.

Acting as a neutral intermediary to support people affected by the situation at the Lachin corridor, the ICRC medically evacuated people in need of advanced medical care.

### **ACTORS OF INFLUENCE**

The ICRC maintained contact with the sides to the conflict, the international community and civil society, and worked to preserve their acceptance for its mandate and its role of neutral intermediary. It also strove to raise awareness of the humanitarian consequences of the conflict and cultivate support for its activities.

The ICRC kept the public informed of its work by briefing journalists regularly and via social media. It helped train volunteers at the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society to disseminate information about Movement services in conflict-affected areas. People used contact lines set up by the ICRC to enquire about the ICRC's programmes and give their views and suggestions.

### **Troops attend IHL briefings and authorities work to improve IHL implementation**

The ICRC gave senior defence ministry officials expert advice for integrating IHL into military doctrine, training and practice, and advanced their understanding of IHL at workshops and other events organized by it, including the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations held in

Indonesia (see *Headquarters – Protection and Essential Services*). The ICRC also trained military and other troops in IHL, and police officers in internationally recognized standards on the use of force.

The ICRC urged lawmakers to take steps to ratify and implement key IHL and IHL-related treaties, particularly the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and provisions pertaining to sanctions for IHL violations. It also organized specialized training in IHL for legal professionals, including members of the judiciary.

University students added to their knowledge of IHL through ICRC lectures and academic competitions organized by the ICRC or with its assistance, and through an ICRC summer-school programme.

### **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, the International Federation, the ICRC and other Movement components present in Azerbaijan worked together to assist conflict-affected communities; they met regularly to coordinate their activities.

The ICRC gave the National Society expert advice, and material and financial support, for advancing its organizational development and strengthening its operational capacities in such areas as first aid, psychosocial care, public communication and carrying out economic-security projects (see *Actors of influence, Civilians and Wounded and sick*). Much of the ICRC's support focused on the National Society's branches, and its emergency volunteer teams, in conflict-affected areas. The ICRC helped to ensure that the National Society's activities were carried out in line with the Safer Access Framework; for example, it organized basic and refresher sessions on the framework for National Society volunteers and staff, and covered some of their expenses for insurance.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION

<b>CIVILIANS</b>	<b>Total</b>			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>		<b>UAMs/SC</b>		
RCMs collected	15			
RCMs distributed	10			
Phone calls facilitated between family members	817			
<b>Reunifications, transfers and repatriations</b>				
People transferred or repatriated	10			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>		<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	44	5	3	6
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	18			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	4,611	398	87	137
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	3			
<b>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs)/separated children (SC), including demobilized child soldiers</b>		<b>Girls</b>		<b>Demobilized children</b>
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period	3	2		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>				
<b>ICRC visits</b>		<b>Women</b>	<b>Minors</b>	
Places of detention visited	26			
Detainees in places of detention visited	18,200	704	65	
Visits carried out	81			
		<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
Detainees visited and monitored individually	331	8		2
<i>of whom newly registered</i>	112	3		1
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>				
RCMs collected	626			
RCMs distributed	727			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	14			
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC	17			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	6			

**MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE**

<b>CIVILIANS</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>Economic security</b>				
Food consumption	People	5,807	1,917	1,973
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	3,116	1,029	1,058
Food production	People	14,784	5,190	4,215
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	4,777	1,579	1,620
Income support	People	19,870	7,609	4,882
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	536	180	197
Living conditions	People	17,883	5,894	6,097
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	12,461	4,104	4,254
Capacity-building	People	3,085	402	2,580
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	1,555	211	1,289
<b>Water and habitat</b>				
Water and habitat activities	People	46,296	17,997	11,293
<b>Primary health care</b>				
Health centres supported	Structures	9		
	<i>of which health centres supported regularly</i>	3		
Average catchment population		10,545		
<b>Services at health centres supported regularly</b>				
Consultations		4,432		
	<i>of which curative</i>	4,432	1,022	1,803
<b>Mental health and psychosocial support</b>				
People who received mental-health support		1,073		
People who attended information sessions on mental health		856		
People trained in mental-health care and psychosocial support		141		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>				
<b>Economic security</b>				
Living conditions	People	3,108	362	300
<b>Health care in detention</b>				
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	16		
Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	4		
<b>Mental health and psychosocial support</b>				
People who received mental-health support		2,392		
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>				
<b>Hospitals</b>				
Hospitals supported	Structures	6		
<b>First aid</b>				
First-aid training				
	Sessions	15		
	Participants (aggregated monthly data)	214		
<b>Water and habitat</b>				
Water and habitat activities	Beds (capacity)	10		

# BALKANS (regional)

**COVERING:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Kosovo<sup>1</sup>

The ICRC has been working in the Balkans since the early 1990s. It addresses lingering needs from past armed conflicts in the region by helping to clarify the fate of missing persons and address the needs of their families. The ICRC visits detainees and works with the authorities and civil society to promote IHL and other humanitarian norms. It seeks to help address the humanitarian needs of people alleged to have been involved in fighting abroad and those of their families. It supports the development of the National Societies and works with them to restore family links, and respond to the humanitarian needs of migrants.



## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

**HIGH**

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2022

- In line with its road map for the period 2018–2023, the ICRC strove to help ascertain the fate of people missing in connection with past conflicts in the Balkans. A total of 105 missing-persons cases were resolved.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo, missing people’s families and others in need coped with their situation with psychosocial support provided directly by the ICRC or by ICRC-supported local services.
- The ICRC ended its prison visits in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia and Kosovo. It informed the authorities of its preparedness to conduct ad hoc visits to people detained on security-related charges.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, household essentials from the ICRC helped ease living conditions for repatriated relatives of people alleged to have been involved in conflicts in other countries.
- Military personnel from Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries who were bound for peacekeeping missions learnt more about IHL during an ICRC lecture at the Peace Support Operations Training Centre.
- National Societies and Red Cross structures in the region worked to strengthen their ability to respond to humanitarian needs and develop their organizational and operational capacities, with various forms of support from the ICRC.

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	4,904
Assistance	756
Prevention	800
Cooperation with National Societies	717
General	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,228</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>441</i>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	93%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	25
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	73

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS</b>	
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	12
RCMs distributed	13
Phone calls facilitated between family members	225
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established) <sup>2</sup>	70
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Places of detention visited	9
Detainees in places of detention visited	3,110
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	61
Visits carried out	17
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	1

ASSISTANCE	2022 Targets (up to)	Achieved
<b>CIVILIANS</b>		
<b>Economic security</b>		
Living conditions	People	48
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>		
<b>Economic security</b>		
Living conditions	People	224

1. The boundaries, names and designations used in this document do not imply official endorsement or express a political opinion on the part of the ICRC, and are without prejudice to claims of sovereignty over the territories mentioned.
2. Not including cases of persons missing in relation to the Croatia conflict 1991–1995 dealt with by the Croatian Red Cross and the Red Cross of Serbia

## CONTEXT

Countries in the Balkans continued to deal with issues related to past armed conflicts, particularly that of missing people. A total of 9,835 people remained unaccounted for in connection with past armed conflicts: the Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereafter Bosnia-Herzegovina) conflict of 1992–1995, the Croatia conflict of 1991–1995, and the Kosovo conflict of 1998–1999. Progress in ascertaining the fate of missing people, and giving their families information continued to be hampered by socio-political tensions in the region. The dialogue facilitated by the European Union (EU) between Serbia and Kosovo did not lead to a joint declaration regarding the issue of missing people. Many missing people's families continued to have to live with the feeling of "ambiguous loss" and often needed help to meet their psychosocial and other needs.

A number of people alleged to have been involved in conflicts in foreign countries – particularly in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) – and/or their families, had returned to their countries of origin in the Balkans, but many others were still awaiting repatriation.

Migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, passed through the region. Many of those stranded in Balkan countries endured dire living conditions. The detention of migrants continued, and allegations of the use of excessive force against migrants persisted.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC strove to ascertain the fate of people missing in connection with past conflicts in the Balkans and help strengthen local capacities, in line with its road map for the period 2018–2023. It urged the authorities to take more responsibility for resolving missing-persons cases and reminded them of its plans to conclude most of its activities in this regard by the middle of 2023.

The ICRC continued to take part in the work of various mechanisms dealing with the issue of missing people. It urged pertinent parties to make more sources of information, which could help in locating gravesites for humanitarian purposes, accessible to it. Official permission to access Bosnia-Herzegovina's military archives was granted to the ICRC in December. Forensic personnel and institutions in the region bolstered their capacities in handling and identifying human remains properly with technical, material and other assistance from the ICRC. A total of 105 missing-persons cases<sup>3</sup> linked to past conflicts were resolved: 66 cases in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 37 in Croatia, and 2 in Kosovo.

Relatives of missing people in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Kosovo obtained psychosocial, legal and/or other support for meeting their needs. This support was provided by associations of missing people's families and other organizations, and National Societies and Red Cross structures, all of

which received financial, technical or other assistance from the ICRC. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo, psychosocial support provided directly by the ICRC, or by local services that it trained and assisted, helped missing people's families and others in need to cope with their situation.

The ICRC monitored the situation of migrants in the Balkans, including that of people from Ukraine. It brought up migrants' protection-related concerns with the pertinent authorities and reiterated the necessity of respecting their fundamental rights. The ICRC discussed the humanitarian needs of people alleged to have been involved in fighting in foreign countries, the needs of their families and/or other related issues with the pertinent authorities. In Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, the ICRC distributed household essentials to families with repatriated family members to help ease their living conditions. People separated from their families, by migration or other circumstances, restored or maintained contact with their relatives through the Movement's family-links services.

In accordance with its standard procedures, the ICRC visited detainees in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia (hereafter North Macedonia) and Kosovo. It communicated its findings and recommendations confidentially to the pertinent authorities, to help them improve detainees' treatment and living conditions. The ICRC ended its prison visits in Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Kosovo, as planned. The pertinent authorities were informed about the cessation of the ICRC's regular detention visits and about the continuous readiness of the ICRC to carry out ad hoc visits to monitor and address the needs of people detained in connection with conflicts in countries other than theirs or specific security-related charges. Aided by the ICRC, the Bulgarian and Croatian National Societies bolstered their capacities in visiting and assisting detained migrants and discussing their concerns with the pertinent authorities.

The ICRC strove to build support for its work and that of its Movement partners, and advance understanding of IHL and other applicable norms. It did so through dialogue and other interaction with authorities, representatives of the international community, members of civil society and other influential actors in the countries covered.

National Societies and Red Cross structures in the region strengthened their ability to respond to humanitarian needs and developed their organizational and operational capacities with material, technical and financial support from the ICRC.

## CIVILIANS

### Authorities are urged to take more responsibility for resolving missing-persons cases

The ICRC continued to pursue efforts to ascertain the fate of people missing in connection with past conflicts in the Balkans. It urged the authorities to take more responsibility for resolving missing-persons cases and reminded them of its plans to conclude most of its activities in this regard by the middle of 2023.

3. Apart from those reported by the Croatian Red Cross, all figures on missing people mentioned in this report are from the ICRC's records, which are based on tracing requests submitted by the families of missing people. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the authorities work from lists that are more comprehensive and contain higher figures.

Through a centre on missing people, which the ICRC established in June, ICRC teams in the Balkans worked with teams in other delegations to organize meetings and other events for experts and professionals to exchange best practices and technical recommendations in connection with addressing the issue of missing persons (see *Headquarters – Protection and Essential Services*). It also sponsored selected forensic professionals and other people to attend these events.

#### **Bosnia-Herzegovina conflict 1992–1995**

In 2022, 66 missing-persons cases linked to past conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina were resolved. At year's end, 6,274 cases were still open.

The ICRC searched through archives – including those of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) – for information on potential gravesites. Official permission to access Bosnia-Herzegovina's military archives was granted to the ICRC in December. The ICRC shared findings from its archival research with the Missing Persons Institute (MPI) of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Based on this information, the MPI undertook field trips and exhumed human remains, which helped resolve several tracing cases. The ICRC also trained MPI investigators to analyse documents from international archives and donated office furniture to facilitate their work.

The ICRC urged forensic professionals to adopt medico-legal frameworks and/or standard procedures to ensure that human remains were accorded the respect and dignity due to them. It worked with the Prosecutor's Office and the MPI to draft and publish guidelines for exhumations linked to past conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. To help develop local forensic capacities, it donated autopsy instruments to the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Tuzla and a portable X-ray machine to the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sarajevo. It also sponsored five pathologists from the Association of Forensic Medicine to attend advanced training in skeletal pathology and traumatology in Cyprus. Plans to establish a forensic institute in Tuzla were cancelled because of a lack of consensus among various local actors on how to establish the institute.

#### **Kosovo conflict 1998–1999**

Two missing-persons cases linked to past conflict in Kosovo were resolved; at year's end, 1,621 cases remained open.

Acting as neutral intermediary, the ICRC remained ready to chair the working group – which comprises representatives from Serbia and Kosovo – on people missing in relation to past conflict in Kosovo. However, disagreements between the parties prevented the working group from convening any official meetings in 2022. Its analysis team and the sub-working group on forensic issues, nevertheless, met several times to discuss field assessments, the issue of misidentification and other related matters. The ICRC submitted reports, based on its analyses of documents from national and international archives, to the pertinent authorities, to whom it also gave satellite images and other related materials. This helped in locating gravesites; forensic experts from Serbia and Kosovo then conducted joint field assessments and exhumations. At the request of the Government Commission on Missing Persons (GCMP) in Kosovo, the ICRC provided financial support for

hiring two researchers to assist in searching for and analysing information on potential gravesites.

Forensic personnel in Serbia and Kosovo received various forms of assistance in managing human remains. For instance, the ICRC provided the IFM with technical guidance and other support for re-examining the contents of a mortuary in Pristina and for drafting guidelines for recovering human remains in connection with past conflict. The ICRC assisted in handing over the identified human remains to the families concerned, within the framework of the aforementioned working group.

#### **Croatia conflict 1991–1995**

The Croatian Red Cross reported that 37 missing-persons cases linked to past conflict in Croatia were resolved in 2022. At year's end, 1,940 cases were still open. The Croatia-Serbia working group on people missing in connection with the Croatian conflict did not meet in 2022.

Forensic personnel in Croatia received training and other support from the ICRC.

#### **Missing people's families and others in need receive psychosocial support**

The ICRC pursued efforts to help missing people's families get the support that they need and raise awareness of their plight. In Serbia, the ICRC shared a report on the needs of missing people's families with influential stakeholders and organizations. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, post-graduate students and academics conducted research related to missing people's families with financial and other support from the ICRC. Thousands of relatives of missing people in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Kosovo obtained psychosocial, legal and/or other assistance for meeting their needs; this was provided by associations of missing people's families and other organizations, and National Societies and Red Cross structures, all of which received financial, technical or other support from the ICRC. The ICRC also helped associations of missing people's families to organize commemorative events, particularly on the International Day of the Disappeared. It informed missing people's families and its local partners that it would be concluding its support for them, in line with its road map for the period 2018–2023.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo, missing people's families and others in need coped with their situation with psychosocial support provided directly by the ICRC, or by local services it trained and assisted. The ICRC organized meetings, training and/or other events for local professionals and others on “ambiguous loss” and other pertinent subjects. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the ICRC conducted sessions for National Society staff and volunteers dealing with migrants, aimed at helping them improve their own mental well-being and enabling them to provide mental-health and psychosocial support to others; at mid-year, the ICRC shifted to strengthening the capacities of National Society staff with an educational background in psychology to help their colleagues deal with stressful situations. During a workshop organized by the health ministry and the Institute for Population and Development (IPD), for staff from the centres for social welfare and mental health, on assisting repatriated families of people alleged to have been

involved in fighting in Syria, the ICRC briefed participants on self-care and prevention of burnout. Considering strong capacities among local professionals to provide mental-health and psychosocial support for repatriated families, the ICRC concluded its involvement in helping to build those capacities.

### The Movement responds to the needs of migrants and repatriated families

In coordination with National Societies and Red Cross structures, and others, the ICRC monitored the situation of migrants in the Balkans, including that of people from Ukraine. It brought up migrants' protection-related concerns with the pertinent authorities and reiterated the necessity of respecting the fundamental rights of all migrants. Police officers in Bosnia-Herzegovina learnt more, through ICRC training, about effective methods of community-oriented policing that took into account the concerns of the local population and the needs and rights of migrants. Border police officers in Croatia, including those working at immigration detention centres, attended similar training organized by the ICRC and/or the Croatian Red Cross. Recommendations on managing the remains of dead migrants, based on an ICRC assessment and an internal report, were being finalized to be shared with the authorities.

The ICRC monitored and discussed with pertinent authorities the humanitarian needs of people alleged to have been involved in fighting in countries outside the region and those of their families. In Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, household

essentials provided by the ICRC helped to ease living conditions for families with repatriated family members (48 people in all).

People separated from their families, by migration and other circumstances, restored or maintained contact with their relatives through the Movement's family-links services (e.g. RCMs, phone calls). The ICRC, with help from National Societies or Red Cross structures in the region, provided people with travel documents and/or attestations to the disappearance or detention of relatives. National Societies and Red Cross structures in the region developed their family-links capacities and publicized family-links services with training and other assistance from the ICRC. The ICRC engaged directly with migrants – including refugees from Ukraine – to assess their family-links needs and collect their feedback to ensure that the services met their needs. The ICRC in the Balkans also supported efforts to resolve missing-persons cases connected to armed conflict elsewhere (see *Central Tracing Agency bureau for the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine*). In Kosovo, the ICRC and one of the Red Cross structures visited and provided family-links services to people from Afghanistan who were staying at two camps serving as temporary shelter for them.

The ICRC checked on the situation of people resettled in the Balkans after their release from the US detention facility at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, and helped them to maintain contact with their relatives. It informed them that its support for them would conclude at the end of 2022.

CIVILIANS	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Kosovo	Serbia
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>				
RCMs collected	6		6	
RCMs distributed	8		5	
Phone calls facilitated between family members	224			1
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons<sup>4</sup></b>				
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	67	1	2	
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	6,305	19	1,657	
<i>of whom women</i>	944	6	250	
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance – girls</i>	84		25	
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance – boys</i>	254		90	
<b>Documents</b>				
People to whom travel documents were issued				7

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

#### The ICRC ends its regular prison visits in Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Kosovo

The ICRC visited, in accordance with its standard procedures, detainees in Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Kosovo; 61 detainees, including those held in connection with fighting elsewhere, were monitored individually. The ICRC communicated its findings – and where necessary, its recommendations – confidentially to the pertinent authorities, to help them improve detainees' treatment and living conditions. The ICRC ended its prison visits in Bosnia-Herzegovina,

North Macedonia and Kosovo, as planned. It informed the authorities of this and of its preparedness to make ad hoc prison visits in the region, to people detained in connection with conflicts in countries other than theirs – or on other security-related charges – with a view to monitoring and addressing these detainees' needs.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, prison staff learnt more about health care in detention during an ICRC workshop. The ICRC enabled a prison director and two doctors to attend an international conference on health care in detention (see

4. Not including cases of persons missing in relation to the Croatia conflict 1991–1995 dealt with by the Croatian Red Cross and the Red Cross of Serbia

*Headquarters – Protection and Essential Services*). It donated equipment for the use of medical staff, and laundry powder for 224 detainees to help them maintain their hygiene.

To help detained migrants in Bosnia-Herzegovina stay in touch with relatives, the ICRC donated phone cards to an immigration detention centre.

A draft law regulating the Kosovo Correctional Service was adopted by the Kosovo Assembly in August 2022; the ICRC had provided input for revising this law back in 2020.

The Bulgarian and Croatian National Societies developed their capacities in visiting and assisting detained migrants and discussing their protection-related and other concerns with the pertinent authorities; the ICRC gave them the necessary capacity-building support. Border police officers and officials from Croatia’s interior ministry exchanged best practices at a workshop on immigration detention organized by the Croatian Red Cross and the ICRC. The ICRC helped some of its Movement partners to organize a workshop in Lithuania – on immigration detention – for European National Societies.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Kosovo	Republic of North Macedonia
<b>ICRC visits</b>				
Places of detention visited	2		4	3
Detainees in places of detention visited	341		977	1,792
	<i>of whom women</i>	4		83
	<i>of whom minors</i>			6
Visits carried out	7		6	4
Detainees visited and monitored individually	12		14	35
Detainees newly registered			4	
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>				
RCMs collected			1	
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	28	7	51	

**ACTORS OF INFLUENCE**

**Influential actors in the region learn more about humanitarian issues and IHL**

The ICRC strove to build support for its work and that of its Movement partners, and advance understanding of IHL and other applicable norms. It did so through dialogue and other engagement with authorities, representatives of the international community, members of civil society and other influential actors in the countries covered.

The ICRC organized events, and used traditional and social media and other means, to keep the issue of missing people and their families on the humanitarian agenda of national and international stakeholders. With financial or other assistance from the ICRC, National Societies and other local partners organized – for students, academic, authorities and others – events tackling such topics as IHL, migration and missing people. National Societies and Red Cross structures strengthened their capacities in public communication with training and/or other ICRC support.

The ICRC discussed the domestic implementation of IHL and the ratification of IHL-related treaties with the pertinent authorities in the countries covered and with national IHL committees. It continued to offer them its legal and technical expertise. Through bilateral contacts and forums organized by the ICRC and the National Society, Croatia was encouraged to ratify the Convention on Enforced Disappearance. The ICRC also helped national authorities to address gaps in the legal and institutional frameworks applicable to missing people. In Kosovo, it participated in the first meeting of a working group, set up within the prime minister’s office, to amend the law on missing people. In Serbia, a draft law concerning missing

people, which the ICRC provided input for, was pending adoption in parliament.

Students and academics throughout the region were involved in IHL-related activities, with a view to developing their interest and capacities in IHL research and/or teaching. For instance, 34 students of law/political science and government personnel in Bosnia-Herzegovina learnt more about IHL during an online course conducted by the ICRC.

Law enforcement officers in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia strengthened their grasp of international policing standards through ICRC training (see *Civilians*). Similar events could not be organized in Bulgaria and North Macedonia as the authorities shifted their priorities because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Two Croatian police officers attended, with ICRC help, an international workshop on international rules governing police operations (see *Headquarters – Protection and Essential Services*). Military personnel from Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other countries, bound for peacekeeping missions learnt more about IHL during a lecture given by the ICRC at the UN Military Observers Course organized by the Peace Support Operations Training Centre. During military training exercises in Serbia, the ICRC made presentations about its activities, IHL and other related topics.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The ICRC provided National Societies and Red Cross structures in the region with material, technical and financial support for strengthening their legal bases, developing their ability to respond to humanitarian needs – such as those arising from the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine – and/or developing their

organizational and operational capacities, in line with the Safer Access Framework and the Fundamental Principles. It helped Movement components in the region to strengthen coordination mechanisms and partnerships with each other, including in protection-related activities for migrants (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Red Cross structures in Kosovo supported the health authorities' vaccination

programmes against COVID-19 and distributed food and hygiene items to older people, with financial and other assistance from the ICRC.

Aided by the ICRC, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina trained police officers in first aid and helped the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre broaden public awareness of the threat of mines.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION

CIVILIANS	Total			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>		<b>UAMs/SC</b>		
RCMs collected	12			
RCMs distributed	13			
Phone calls facilitated between family members	225			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons<sup>5</sup></b>		<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	70			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	7,981	1,200	109	344
<b>Documents</b>				
People to whom travel documents were issued	7			
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>				
<b>ICRC visits</b>		<b>Women</b>	<b>Minors</b>	
Places of detention visited	9			
Detainees in places of detention visited	3,110	87	6	
Visits carried out	17			
		<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
Detainees visited and monitored individually	61			
<i>of whom newly registered</i>	4			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>				
RCMs collected	1			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	86			

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS		Total	Women	Children
<b>Economic security</b>				
Living conditions	People	48	19	28
<b>Mental health and psychosocial support</b>				
People who received mental-health support		175		
People who attended information sessions on mental health		598		
People trained in mental-health care and psychosocial support		13		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>				
<b>Economic security</b>				
Living conditions	People	224	202	

5. Not including cases of persons missing in relation to the Croatia conflict 1991–1995 dealt with by the Croatian Red Cross and the Red Cross of Serbia

# BRUSSELS

**COVERING:** *Institutions of the European Union, NATO, Belgium*

The ICRC has been working in Brussels since 1999, building strong institutional and operational relations with European Union institutions, NATO and Belgium. It aims to make the ICRC’s mandate better known, to mobilize political, diplomatic and financial support for its activities and to ensure that relevant military decision makers in Western Europe view the ICRC as the main reference point for neutral and independent humanitarian action, as well as for IHL.

YEARLY RESULT	
Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action	HIGH

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF	
Protection	445
Assistance	149
Prevention	3,231
Cooperation with National Societies	382
General	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,228</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	258

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	90%

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	2
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	40

## CONTEXT

The European Union (EU) remained involved in crisis management and conflict resolution throughout the world, and addressed various policy issues of humanitarian concern. Some 20 civilian or military missions – undertaken within the framework of the EU’s Common Security and Defence Policy, and overseen by the European External Action Service – were in progress in various parts of Africa, Europe and the Middle East. Certain EU missions aimed to provide training and other capacity-building support for government defence and security forces: for instance, in October the EU launched a military training mission in Ukraine, and EU civilian and military missions continued to advise and train defence and security forces in the Sahel region of Africa and in Mozambique.

The EU handled humanitarian affairs primarily through the European Commission’s (EC) Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). Various working parties under the Council of the EU – such as the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid and the Working Party on Public International Law – tackled humanitarian issues and IHL-related matters.

NATO – the biggest military alliance in the world – continued to tackle defence- and security-related issues, and conduct crisis-management operations and missions to train, advise and/or assist local forces. It carried out missions to build capacities among government forces – for instance, in Iraq and Kosovo<sup>1</sup>.

The international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and its ripple effects, was a major source of concern

for EU and NATO member states, particularly in relation to security. EU member states have provided unprecedented security and military support to Ukraine, including arms transfers in the framework of the newly established European Peace Facility.

Belgium maintained its commitment to supporting principled humanitarian action and the development, implementation and promotion of IHL. Its capital, Brussels, remained an important centre for diplomats, academics, NGOs and media organizations.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC continued to engage with the EU and NATO, their member states, the Belgian authorities, and other influential parties in Brussels through bilateral dialogue, participation in multilateral events and other means. It did so in order to ensure that humanitarian concerns and IHL were given proper consideration in their work and to strengthen support among them for its mandate and activities.

### Authorities in Brussels confer with the ICRC on humanitarian issues

Officials from the EU, NATO and the Belgian government heard from the ICRC about its activities in places affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence – such as Afghanistan, the Sahel region, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine. The ICRC’s aim in these discussions was to draw attention to humanitarian needs in these places and to help shape decision-making. It contributed to policy-making processes on various matters, bringing its unique humanitarian perspective, such as the impact of climate change on conflict-affected communities; food security; migration-related matters (e.g. migrants who had gone missing, lost touch with their families or died while in transit); the situation of people from Europe alleged to have been involved in fighting in the Middle East, and that of their families; sexual violence; and achieving a sustainable humanitarian impact within the context of the EU’s

1. The boundaries, names and designations used in this document do not imply official endorsement or express a political opinion on the part of the ICRC, and are without prejudice to claims of sovereignty over the territories mentioned.

commitments in relation to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The ICRC and these officials also discussed the emergence and use of new technologies in warfare, protection of the natural environment during armed conflict and other IHL-related matters.

The ICRC continued to advocate for the protection of impartial humanitarian work from the adverse consequences of sanctions and counter-terrorism measures. As a result of the collective efforts of the ICRC and other humanitarian actors, EU member states increased their understanding of these humanitarian consequences and included a clause exempting humanitarian work from two EU sanctions regimes related to the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Humanitarian diplomacy and field-level dialogue between the ICRC and the EU was reinforced through various forms of engagement in Brussels, such as the European Humanitarian Forum jointly organized by ECHO and the French presidency of the EU council, at which the ICRC made several interventions on critical IHL challenges, including the specific protection needs in urban warfare and humanitarian exemptions in international sanctions regimes to protect the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The ICRC also discussed its resilience-building approach in contexts affected by protracted crises.

The ICRC strove to reinforce its engagement with ECHO and maintained its dialogue with the Belgian government in order to strengthen support among them for its activities. It also reinforced its relationship with the EC's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and other EU institutions; notably, it piloted structured dialogues with DG INTPA to identify ways to achieve a sustainable humanitarian impact.

### **ICRC expertise in IHL helps shape various policies and military doctrine and training**

The ICRC continued to engage with EU and NATO bodies involved in planning and implementing civilian and/or military missions to strengthen compliance with IHL among parties to armed conflict supported by them. The ICRC addressed this subject when it attended NATO training and exercises, in its contributions to NATO policymaking, and during its discussions with the Council of the EU on strengthening implementation of EU guidelines for promoting compliance with IHL.

The ICRC gave NATO expert assistance in revising its doctrines for planning and implementing military operations, with a view to helping NATO strengthen IHL compliance, including in its support relationships (see also *Headquarters – Operations*). NATO also drew on ICRC support to implement IHL and NATO's protection-of-civilians policy. The ICRC provided informational materials and other support for an online NATO course on protecting civilians.

ICRC lectures, briefings, webinars and other events – some organized jointly with the African Union, the College of Europe, the World Bank, UNICEF or the Belgian Red Cross – helped

academics, legal experts, members of civil society and officials from the EU, NATO and the Belgian government to expand their knowledge of IHL and related issues such as urban warfare and autonomous weapons systems. The Bruges Colloquium on IHL drew around 400 people from 50 countries who participated either online or in person in interactive sessions where they exchanged legal perspectives on the different parties engaged in contemporary armed conflict, the principle of neutrality, the threshold for classifying a group as a party to an armed conflict, and the application of IHL to new technologies of warfare (e.g. cyber and autonomous weapons).

### **Detaining authorities strive to ensure detainees' well-being**

As per a memorandum of understanding signed with the justice minister in 2018, the ICRC visited detainees in Belgium, in accordance with its standard procedures, paying close attention to people deprived of their freedom in relation with "terrorism" charges and/or subjected to restrictive detention regimes. It conducted a total of 43 visits to 20 places of detention and discussed its findings and recommendations confidentially with authorities at prison and central levels, to help them ensure that detainees' treatment and living conditions met internationally recognized standards. The ICRC made its expertise available to detaining authorities, to help them improve the management of health-care services in prisons, including mental-health care. Prison health workers – nurses, doctors and mental-health professionals – expanded their understanding of medical ethics through ICRC seminars. The ICRC sponsored detaining officials to attend the first World Conference on Health in Detention organized by the ICRC in Switzerland (see *Headquarters – Protection and Essential Services*).

### **NGOs and Movement components work together to strengthen support for humanitarian action**

The ICRC maintained its dialogue with the Red Cross EU Office, the Belgian Red Cross, the International Federation and Movement platforms such as the European Legal Support Group, in order to present a strong and united Movement position to the EU and Belgian authorities on such issues as climate change and migration, including the humanitarian situation on migration routes in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. Together with other Movement components, the ICRC also exchanged information on humanitarian needs in connection with the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, shared policy priorities and other matters of common concern with VOICE (a European NGO network based in Brussels), Médecins Sans Frontières, relevant UN agencies and other humanitarian actors in Brussels.

The delegation used its social media account and engaged with media organizations to relay humanitarian messages and broaden awareness of the ICRC's work among influential parties in Brussels, and the general public. The ICRC also continued to conduct communication initiatives jointly with ECHO in EU member states, a communication campaign in support of vaccination against COVID-19, a photo exhibit on urban warfare in Brussels, and a digital campaign that sought to remind states of their obligations under IHL and reached around 300,000 people.

# BUDAPEST (regional)

**COVERING:** Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia

The ICRC started working in Hungary during the Second World War. In 2022, it re-established its presence as a regional delegation in Budapest. It works to address the protection needs of people – particularly migrants, including refugees – who are affected by the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. It works with the National Societies in the region and the International Federation to reconnect members of families separated by conflict. It promotes IHL and humanitarian principles among the authorities and other relevant actors in the region. The regional delegation provides logistical support to the ICRC’s operations in Ukraine.



ICRC regional delegation ICRC mission ICRC office/presence

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action **HIGH**

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2022

- The ICRC opened a regional delegation in Budapest, Hungary, to respond to the protection needs of refugees and other migrants who fled the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
- Refugees and other migrants shared their concerns with the ICRC, which relayed the information to the ICRC delegations in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, who were engaged in dialogue with the pertinent authorities.
- The National Societies in the countries covered expanded their family-links services – particularly their network of staff seeking to resolve missing-persons’ cases – with technical, material and infrastructural support from the ICRC.
- Authorities, lawmakers, members of the media and civil society, and the general public learnt more about the ICRC’s work in the region, and the importance of respecting the emblems protected under IHL.

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	2,801
Assistance	-
Prevention	388
Cooperation with National Societies	1,121
General	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,320</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	264

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	79%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	28
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	14

## CONTEXT

Millions of people fled the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The UN estimates that roughly 7.8 million refugees settled in neighbouring countries, such as Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, or passed through them on their way to other countries in the European Union (EU). EU member states activated the EU's Temporary Protection Directive (TPD), which grants refugees access to employment, housing, and other basic rights. Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia implemented national policies in line with the TPD.

As people fled the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine – which caused large-scale destruction of civilian infrastructure – many families were dispersed, and family members lost contact with one another. Unaccompanied minors, people with physical disabilities, third-country nationals and undocumented people were particularly at risk of becoming unaccounted for. Despite the implementation of policies to protect refugees and other migrants, people who had fled their homes faced many risks to their safety and well-being.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC established a regional delegation in Budapest to help people who had fled the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.<sup>1</sup> It worked with the National Societies of Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, and other Movement components working in the region, to address the safety concerns of migrants, including refugees, and enable them to reconnect with their relatives. The ICRC's medical warehouse in Budapest and its logistics hub in Debrecen, Hungary, stored and channeled aid to Ukraine.

The regional delegation supported the dialogue that the ICRC was having with the parties, through its delegations in the Russian Federation (see *Moscow*) and Ukraine (see *Ukraine*), to urge compliance with IHL. It did so by documenting the risks that refugees and other migrants had faced while they were in Ukraine, or as they fled from there, and sharing this information with the ICRC teams engaged in dialogue with the pertinent authorities.

Members of families dispersed by violence searched for their relatives with the help of the National Societies. Together with the National Societies, the ICRC publicized the Movement's family-links services among migrants, authorities and the general public, and explained how to obtain these.

The ICRC broadened awareness and acceptance of its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian activities among authorities, diplomats, academics, members of the media and civil society, and the general public. Together with the Romanian Red Cross, it strove to ensure that the authorities and journalists were aware of the respect due to the emblems protected under IHL.

The ICRC and other Movement components worked together to mount a coherent response to the effects, in the countries covered, of the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The ICRC gave the National Societies material, technical and infrastructural support to develop their capacities in carrying out humanitarian activities, such as restoring family links, and conducting public communication campaigns.

## CIVILIANS

### Migrants' needs are documented

The ICRC strove to understand more fully the protection needs of people who had fled the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. It interviewed refugees and other migrants to document the risks to their safety while they were in Ukraine or those that they encountered as they fled from the country. This information was shared with the ICRC's delegations in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, which were engaged in dialogue with the parties to urge them to comply with IHL and protect civilians from the hostilities.

The ICRC documented the needs of refugees and other migrants who had settled in or were passing through the countries in the region, with a view to addressing these; it paid particular attention to minors, third-country nationals and undocumented people. The ICRC also engaged in dialogue with border guards and other local authorities, and with Movement partners, the UN, and other humanitarian organizations in order to gain a thorough understanding of refugees and other migrants' needs. Some refugees secured, with the help of the ICRC, the documents necessary to cross borders safely.

### People search for their families using the Movement's family-links services

Members of families dispersed by the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine searched for their missing relatives using the tracing services provided by the National Societies of Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. With various forms of support from the ICRC (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*), the National Societies expanded their family-links services – particularly their network of staff seeking to resolve missing persons cases – in order to make these accessible to more people.

Together with the National Societies, the ICRC publicized – through outreach, social media, radio spots and other means – the Movement's family-links services among refugees and other migrants, the authorities and the general public and explained how to obtain these (see *Actors of influence*). Local officials and others also learnt, at round tables with the National Societies and the ICRC, about the other humanitarian services available to refugees being offered by the National Societies.

## ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

### Influential actors learn about the ICRC's work

The ICRC strove to expand its network of contacts among national authorities, diplomats, journalists, academics and other members of civil society, in order to discuss its humanitarian response for conflict-affected people. Wherever possible,

1. See the [budget extension documents](#) on the ICRC Extranet for Donors.

it met with members of the foreign, interior or defence ministries, and with diplomats and academics, to explain its work in the region, in order to broaden acceptance for its principled humanitarian approach, particularly in connection with the effects of the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Together with the National Societies, the ICRC produced radio spots and other informational materials to alert refugees to the humanitarian services available to them, particularly the Movement's family-links services, and explain how to obtain these services (see *Civilians*). It engaged with educational institutions, think tanks, and members of the media – both local and regional – to explore possibilities for broadening awareness of its humanitarian activities in the region among a wider audience.

The ICRC worked to address allegations of misuse of the emblems protected under IHL. Lawmakers and journalists in Romania participated in workshops, organized by the Romanian Red Cross and the ICRC, on the significance of these emblems and the necessity of respecting them. At these events, the ICRC also urged lawmakers to adopt new laws to ensure the protection of these emblems.

The ICRC provided the National Societies with financial support for developing their public communication (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The ICRC – together with the National Societies of Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia – worked to respond to the protection needs of refugees and other migrants who had fled the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. It worked closely together with the National Societies to carry out and publicize humanitarian activities, particularly in connection with restoring family links. To that end, it drafted and signed a number of partnership agreements with them. It helped the National Societies to improve their financial policies and develop their operational capacities and their human resources, with a view to expanding their family-links services. For example, the Hungarian and Polish National Societies learnt of best practices in restoring family links at a three-day workshop organized by the ICRC, at which they also discussed child protection and other basic principles of protection work. The ICRC helped the National Societies to hire and train personnel, donated vehicles and, wherever needed, provided infrastructural support and funds for covering staff salaries. With ICRC support, the National Societies explored ways to integrate the Safer Access Framework into their operational strategies.

Movement components in the countries covered met regularly to exchange updates and coordinate their activities. They also worked to develop mechanisms for strengthening the Movement's collective response to the needs of people who had fled as a result of the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

# CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY BUREAU FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND UKRAINE

Established in 2022, the Central Tracing Agency bureau for the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine takes its mandate from the 1949 Geneva Conventions, Additional Protocol I and the Statutes of the Movement. The bureau collects and centralizes information about the fate or whereabouts of people protected under IHL who are in the hands of the parties, and acts as a neutral intermediary in the transmission of this information between them. In coordination with ICRC delegations and National Societies, it helps families who have been separated by the international armed conflict to find their missing relatives.

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

HIGH

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	6,671
Assistance	207
Prevention	294
Cooperation with National Societies	138
General	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,324</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>436</i>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	107%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	-
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	41

## PROTECTION<sup>1</sup>

	Total
<b>CIVILIANS</b>	
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	289
RCMs distributed	278
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	1,526
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Places of internment/detention visited	25
People deprived of their freedom in places of internment/detention visited	20,736
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	<i>3,008</i>
Visits carried out	82
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	553
RCMs distributed	212
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of an interned/detained relative	910

## CONTEXT

The international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine dispersed many families. According to UN estimates, roughly 5.9 million people remained displaced within Ukraine and around 7.8 million had fled to other countries in Europe. People lost contact with their families while fleeing and/or were unable to reach relatives in areas affected by ongoing hostilities. Many people were reported missing.

Both parties captured soldiers and interned civilians in connection with the international armed conflict. The families of people held by the opposing party found it difficult to obtain news of their relatives.

A number of people who had died were also in the hands of the parties. The volatile security conditions and the large number of deaths made it difficult for the pertinent authorities to ensure that human remains were handled and identified properly. All this made it challenging for people to confirm the death of relatives allegedly killed during hostilities.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

As part of the ICRC's response<sup>2</sup> to the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) set up a dedicated bureau for the international armed conflict, and gave it the task of fulfilling the CTA's mandate in situations of international armed conflict, as stated in the 1949 Geneva Conventions, Additional Protocol I and the Statutes of the Movement. The bureau was established in Geneva, Switzerland – outside the areas directly affected by the international armed conflict – to ensure operational continuity, maximize data exchange and serve as a safe, long-term repository of information. It sought to keep track of people protected under IHL and ensure that their families were notified of their situation – thereby preventing their disappearance – and to help members of separated families find missing relatives and reconnect with them.

1. Figures include data collected by the Central Tracing Agency bureau, the delegation in Ukraine and the regional delegation in Moscow, in relation to the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Figures related to RCMs refer mainly to the exchange of family news between POWs and their families.
2. See the [budget extension documents](#) on the ICRC Extranet for Donors.

### **The parties are reminded of their obligations under IHL towards the separated, missing and dead**

The bureau worked with the ICRC's delegations in the Russian Federation and Ukraine to promote understanding of, and acceptance for, the bureau's mandate and role among the parties to the international armed conflict, and remind the parties of their obligation to account for the protected people in their hands, so that their families could have news of them.

Upon the escalation of the armed conflict, the parties were given guidance in establishing national information bureaus (NIBs) to collect information about people protected under IHL – whether deprived of their freedom, wounded, sick or dead – who were in their hands, convey such information to the CTA, and reply to enquiries about these people. Together with the ICRC's delegations, the bureau regularly met with the NIBs to give them technical advice and other support for improving the quality and scope of the information transmitted to the CTA. During these discussions, it also emphasized the necessity of ensuring that the bodies of protected people who had died were properly managed and identified, and that information about them was sent to the bureau.

### **People receive news of relatives held by the parties and are able to contact them**

The CTA bureau collected information on people protected under IHL, in order to prevent disappearances and clarify the fate of missing people. The NIBs sent pertinent information – such as lists of protected people in their hands and of those whose remains have been transferred between the parties, capture cards, and news on the health of POWs – to the bureau. The ICRC gathered information during visits carried out by its delegations in the Russian Federation and Ukraine to places holding people in connection with the international armed conflict: it made a total of 82 visits to 25 places of internment/detention collectively holding some 20,700 people deprived of their freedom, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. It monitored 3,008 people, including POWs and civilian internees, individually. The ICRC discussed its findings confidentially with the parties concerned and reminded them of their obligation to ensure that all people deprived of their freedom were treated in accordance with IHL and other applicable norms (see *Moscow* and *Ukraine*). The bureau also centralized requests to trace missing people – those protected under IHL and others, such as displaced people – that were collected by 17 ICRC delegations and 40 National Societies around the world (see, for example, *Budapest*, *Moscow*, *Republic of Moldova* and *Ukraine*), and coordinated efforts to find these missing people.

By analysing the information in its possession, the CTA bureau was able to determine the fate or whereabouts of a number of missing people and inform their relatives. It submitted allegations of arrest or internment/detention to the parties and relayed the information it received to the families concerned. The fate or whereabouts of 1,526 people were ascertained, and the bureau worked to find more than 5,700 others. As a neutral intermediary, the ICRC transferred information on protected people between the parties, through their NIBs, for communication to their families. ICRC travel documents issued by the CTA enabled seven people to reunite with their families.

The CTA bureau facilitated the transmission of RCMs, letters and/or short oral messages between people held in connection with the international armed conflict and their families, and between members of other families dispersed by the hostilities. A total of 553 RCMs were collected from POWs and civilian internees, and 212 RCMs were distributed to them. People held in connection with the international armed conflict were also able to contact their families through phone calls arranged by the authorities.

### **Families express their needs and learn how to obtain the bureau's services**

The ICRC sought to raise awareness of the CTA bureau's mandate and role among influential actors and the general public, in order to secure acceptance for its activities and counter misinformation/disinformation about its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian work. To this end, it published content on social media, briefed national and international media organizations, and arranged visits to the CTA bureau's office for diplomats and journalists.

The bureau used various means to engage with families to learn about their needs, address their concerns, deliver news of relatives separated from them, inform them about the ICRC's activities, and collect their suggestions. It adapted its activities based on the feedback it received. People got in touch with the bureau through its hotline; via email, online forms and letters; or by visiting the bureau's office. They learnt about these communication channels through the ICRC's website, social media, or radio spots, and from leaflets included in hygiene kits or other items distributed by the ICRC to people affected by hostilities (see *Moscow* and *Ukraine*).

People with needs beyond the CTA bureau's remit were encouraged to contact their local ICRC delegation or National Society, who worked to include them in existing support programmes or refer them, when needed, to other organizations, while the bureau focused on its primary task of ensuring that people received news of relatives separated from them by the hostilities.

### **Movement components coordinate their response**

The CTA bureau coordinated the Movement's worldwide efforts to restore family links among people separated by the international armed conflict. Together with ICRC delegations, it also provided other Movement components with capacity-building support to this end; for example, it briefed National Societies on such matters as information-sharing processes between National Societies, the bureau, NIBs and the families concerned, and responding to the needs of unaccompanied minors and separated children.

The bureau organized coordination meetings with ICRC delegations and National Societies in the Russian Federation, Ukraine and neighbouring states, in order to ensure coherence in their public communication about the Movement's family-links services and the bureau's activities. The National Societies also received communication materials, information on best practices and other support.

**MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION<sup>3</sup>**

<b>CIVILIANS</b>	<b>Total</b>	
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>		
RCMs collected	289	
RCMs distributed	278	
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>		
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	7,314	<b>Women</b> 767
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	53	
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	1,526	
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	26	
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	5,734	540
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	26	
<b>Documents</b>		
People to whom travel documents were issued	7	
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>		
<b>ICRC visits</b>		
Places of internment/detention visited	25	<b>Women</b>
People deprived of their freedom in places of internment/detention visited	20,736	791
Visits carried out	82	
<b>Women</b>		
Internees/detainees visited and monitored individually	3,008	61
<i>of whom newly registered</i>	3,008	61
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>		
RCMs collected	553	
RCMs distributed	212	
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of an interned/detained relative	910	

3. Figures include data collected by the Central Tracing Agency bureau, the delegation in Ukraine and the regional delegation in Moscow, in relation to the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Figures related to RCMs refer mainly to the exchange of family news between POWs and their families. The information on tracing cases includes data collected by National Societies.

# GEORGIA

The ICRC has been present in Abkhazia, Georgia proper and South Ossetia since 1992. It helps the authorities and *de facto* authorities resolve cases of missing persons and respond to the concerns of their families. It acts as a neutral intermediary to help mitigate the impact of the demarcation of administrative boundaries. It visits detainees and provides assistance to families of people alleged to have been involved in conflicts abroad. It promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into armed and security forces' operations and into academic curricula. The ICRC helps the Georgia Red Cross Society strengthen its capacities.

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

**HIGH**

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2022

- In Abkhazia and Georgia proper, over 370 families of missing people were informed of ongoing search efforts and were helped to cope with their situation through different kinds of support provided by the ICRC and its local partners.
- Guided by the ICRC, the Georgian authorities moved towards taking over some of the ICRC's tasks in ascertaining the fate of missing people and supporting their families; they established three technical working groups to this end.
- Household essentials and other ICRC aid helped ease the living conditions of people in Abkhazia and South Ossetia affected by the demarcation of administrative boundaries, particularly older people and people with disabilities.
- People rejoined relatives, or received medical treatment, across administrative boundaries after the ICRC, acting as a neutral intermediary, made the necessary arrangements with the pertinent authorities.
- Detainees maintained contact with relatives on the other side of administrative boundaries through the ICRC's family-links services. In South Ossetia, detainees also received material assistance to improve their living conditions.
- During their joint military exercises, the Georgian armed forces and NATO forces learnt more about the ICRC's mandate, IHL, protection of civilians and other humanitarian issues through an ICRC briefing.

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	5,260
Assistance	686
Prevention	1,074
Cooperation with National Societies	237
General	153
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,411</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	452

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	99%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	21
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	105



PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS</b>	
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	17
RCMs distributed	17
Phone calls facilitated between family members	53
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	44
People reunited with their families	13
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Places of detention visited	6
Detainees in places of detention visited	4,261
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	14
Visits carried out	12
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	6
RCMs distributed	7
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	5

ASSISTANCE	2022 Targets (up to)	Achieved
<b>CIVILIANS</b>		
<b>Economic security</b>		
Food consumption	People 360	277
Income support	People	62
Living conditions	People 372	313
Capacity-building	People 6	
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>		
<b>Economic security</b>		
Living conditions	People	50

## CONTEXT

Demarcation of the administrative boundaries between Abkhazia and Georgia proper, and between Georgia proper and South Ossetia, continued. Movement across the administrative boundary line between Abkhazia and Georgia proper remained limited mostly to people crossing for medical reasons or to visit relatives in Georgia proper. Restrictions on movement across the boundary line between Georgia proper and South Ossetia were eased slightly; from August 2022 onwards, the *de facto* authorities in South Ossetia temporarily reopened two crossing points for ten days a month. Restrictions on crossing the administrative boundary lines continued to make it difficult for people to meet their basic needs, particularly medical care, or to stay in touch with relatives.

About 2,300 people remained unaccounted for in connection with the 1992–1993 armed conflict in Abkhazia and the armed conflicts of the 1990s and 2008 in South Ossetia. During the year, a total of 11 sets of remains, recovered during the search for missing people, were identified and returned to the families concerned; however, some 380 sets of remains were still unidentified.

People were detained in Abkhazia, Georgia proper and South Ossetia on charges of unauthorized movement across the administrative boundary lines or for security reasons.

A number of Georgian nationals were alleged to have been involved in armed conflict in other countries. Some members of their families, including children, returned to Georgia proper. Some others were still unable to do so.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC provided technical guidance and other support for two coordination mechanisms that enabled the exchange of information for ascertaining the fate of people missing in connection with past conflicts. It held discussions with the Georgian authorities and the *de facto* authorities in Abkhazia and South Ossetia on developing and agreeing on a new set-up and working methods, under which the sides would take more responsibility for ascertaining the fate of missing people and supporting their families, and gradually take over the ICRC's tasks in this regard. The Georgian authorities established three technical working groups on forensics, searching for missing people and helping their families.

Forensic experts, local specialists and others involved in searching for, recovering and identifying human remains developed their capacities to improve the process of search and identification, and in data management. The ICRC, together with local specialists, continued to recover and identify the remains of missing people. A total of seven burial sites were excavated. The ICRC-supported process of comparing and analysing the data on missing people and human remains led to 11 sets of human remains being identified and returned to their families.

In Abkhazia, Georgia proper and South Ossetia, the families and other local stakeholders organized and launched, with financial and other support from the ICRC, various events and initiatives to commemorate their relatives. Over 370 families

of missing people in Abkhazia and Georgia proper were informed of ongoing search efforts and helped to cope with their situation with assistance in memorialization efforts and psychosocial and/or other support provided by the ICRC and its local partners.

The ICRC strove to draw authorities' attention to the needs of people affected by the demarcation of administrative boundaries. Acting as a neutral intermediary, it facilitated the reunification of families separated by an administrative boundary line. In coordination with the pertinent authorities, it enabled people in South Ossetia to cross the administrative boundary line to reach health facilities, and return afterwards. People in Abkhazia and South Ossetia eased their living conditions with hygiene items, household essentials and other aid from the ICRC.

Ukrainian refugees in South Ossetia bought hygiene items, clothes and other essentials with cash from the ICRC. The ICRC discussed the situation of the refugees with the *de facto* authorities, who gave them food and shelter, and covered some of their other needs, including children's schooling.

The ICRC urged the authorities to facilitate the repatriation of the families of Georgian nationals alleged to have been involved in conflict in other countries.

The ICRC visited detainees at four facilities in Georgia proper, to check on their treatment and living conditions; findings and recommendations were communicated confidentially to the pertinent authorities. It conducted ad hoc visits to detainees at two detention facilities in South Ossetia, while maintaining dialogue with the relevant *de facto* authorities on gaining broader access to places of detention. The ICRC met detainees and facilitated their contact with relatives through the ICRC's family-links services in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. It provided detainees in South Ossetia with hygiene kits, bedding and cleaning materials.

In all its interactions with the Georgian authorities, the *de facto* authorities in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, members of the international community and other parties, the ICRC sought to gather support for IHL and its own humanitarian activities and draw attention to issues of humanitarian concern.

The Georgia Red Cross Society advanced its organizational development and strengthened its operational capacities with technical guidance and other support from the ICRC.

## CIVILIANS

### Authorities take steps to assume more responsibility for solving missing-persons cases

The ICRC continued to provide technical guidance and other support to two coordination mechanisms that enabled the exchange of information for ascertaining the fate of people missing in connection with past conflicts: one involving Abkhaz and Georgian participants, for disappearances linked to the 1992–1993 conflict; and the other involving Georgian, Russian and South Ossetian participants, for disappearances linked to the conflicts of the 1990s and 2008. During meetings conducted within the framework of these mechanisms and on

other occasions, the ICRC held discussions with the Georgian authorities and the *de facto* authorities in Abkhazia and South Ossetia on developing and agreeing on a new set-up and working methods, under which the sides would take more responsibility for ascertaining the fate of missing people and supporting their families, and gradually take over most of the ICRC's tasks in this regard. The ICRC conveyed to the pertinent authorities and *de facto* authorities the findings of the needs assessment that it conducted among these families in 2021.

The ICRC lobbied the authorities and *de facto* authorities to allocate resources for setting up local mechanisms mandated to ensure a coordinated and multidisciplinary approach to the issue of missing people at the local level; these local mechanisms are expected to oversee the work of the local institutions taking over some of the tasks done by the ICRC, in particular the ones related to supporting the families of missing people. In June, the Georgian authorities established three technical working groups made up of the Georgian authorities and ICRC representatives focusing on forensics, on the search for missing people and on supporting the families of missing people. An additional budget was allocated by the ministry in charge of supporting families for this work and other related activities. In Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the creation of local mechanisms was discussed with the *de facto* authorities and members of civil society.

Forensic specialists and others involved in searching for, recovering and identifying human remains – including an NGO in Abkhazia – developed their capacities and took steps to improve data management and search and identification processes, with equipment, expert advice and training (including in forensic anthropology, archeology and odontology), and/or other support from the ICRC. Forensic specialists, including experts from other countries, exchanged best practices during a symposium organized by the ICRC, in Georgia, on using DNA analysis to identify human remains.

In line with forensic best practices and internationally accepted data-protection standards, the ICRC, together with local forensic specialists, kept up efforts to recover and identify human remains and match them with people who were unaccounted for. A total of seven burial sites were excavated. The ICRC helped to consolidate data collected on missing-persons cases and synchronize data between different data management tools, with a view to transferring them to a new data-management platform and handing over the most up-to-date information to the pertinent local institutions. It collected and consolidated ante-mortem data and biological reference samples from missing people's relatives, information on potential gravesites and other related data from different sources (e.g. through a helpline and boxes for collecting information anonymously in 20 locations in South Ossetia). A team of ICRC geneticists continued to review all genetic data, with a view to matching DNA samples and accounting for people still missing. The ICRC-supported process of comparing and analysing data on missing people and human remains led to 11 sets of human remains being identified and returned to their families.

An ICRC study on the legal framework governing the issue of missing people in Georgia proper, including recommendations for legislative reform, was presented to the Georgian authorities in 2022.

### **Missing people's families cope with their situation**

The ICRC kept missing people's families abreast of developments in the search for their relatives through information sessions, phone calls, visits and other means. In Abkhazia, Georgia proper and South Ossetia, associations of missing people's families and other local stakeholders organized and launched, with financial and other support from the ICRC, various events and initiatives to commemorate their relatives, including on the International Day of the Disappeared. In Abkhazia, the ICRC and its local partners organized exhibitions to launch a memory book comprised of stories of about 153 missing people that their families had shared; the ICRC had begun collecting these in 2021. The families, the *de facto* authorities and members of the public attended these exhibitions. Associations and other representatives of missing people's families strengthened their capacities in supporting and representing missing people's families through ICRC workshops and, in Georgia proper, through capacity-building support provided by the Georgia Red Cross Society.

In Abkhazia and Georgia proper, over 370 families of missing people were informed of ongoing search efforts and helped to cope with their situation with assistance in memorialization efforts (see above) and psychosocial and/or other support provided by the ICRC and its local partners. The ICRC's local partners, including the Georgia Red Cross Society, became more capable of providing such assistance through workshops and guidance from the ICRC. In Georgia proper, 33 relatives of missing people obtained mental health and psychosocial support through individual and group counselling sessions organized by the ICRC's partner organizations.

With technical support from the ICRC, a group of academics in Georgia proper finalized their field work for their research on the "ambiguous loss" experienced by missing people's families. The final report was expected to be completed in 2023. Some 350 students deepened their understanding of "ambiguous loss" through lectures conducted by academics at four universities.

### **People affected by the demarcation of administrative boundaries receive assistance**

The ICRC, with its unique role as a neutral intermediary to address people's needs, remained the only international organization doing humanitarian work in South Ossetia. In its dialogue with the Georgian authorities and the *de facto* authorities in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the ICRC emphasized the concerns of people affected by the demarcation of administrative boundaries – in particular, their access to basic services and their ability to maintain contact with relatives. It served as a neutral intermediary in facilitating the reunification of families separated by an administrative boundary line; it also delivered administrative documents across administrative boundary lines. In coordination with the pertinent authorities, the ICRC enabled people in South Ossetia – including COVID-19 patients – to cross the administrative boundary line

to reach health facilities, and return afterwards. When patients died, the ICRC helped return their bodies to South Ossetia.

In Abkhazia, 62 older people and others in the Kodori George and Primorsk received food and household essentials from the ICRC; this enabled them to protect their incomes and/or use it to cover other needs. In South Ossetia, ICRC distributions of food and household essentials helped prevent destitution among older people – including those without access to pensions – and people with disabilities. A total of 277 people received food; the same people also received hygiene kits and other essentials, including blankets, mattresses and stoves. Less people were provided with food and essential items than planned owing to decreased needs after the lifting of movement restrictions linked to COVID-19. A total of 16 people with disabilities received wheelchairs, crutches and other assistive devices. The ICRC insulated a room each in the homes of 13 families, in preparation for winter. Some older people in South Ossetia, and others, were also helped through administrative procedures (e.g. claiming pensions or renewing identity documents) or given walking aids or wheelchairs. The ICRC, sometimes together with local social workers, visited older people and people with disabilities to help them with household chores. Plans to train more social workers to provide administrative support, help with household chores, and other services for older people and people with disabilities could not be implemented.

Some 20 Ukrainian refugees in South Ossetia bought hygiene items, clothes and other essentials with cash from the ICRC. The ICRC discussed the situation of the refugees with the *de facto* authorities, who gave them food and shelter, and covered some of their other needs, including children's schooling.

The ICRC urged the pertinent authorities to facilitate the repatriation of the families of Georgian nationals alleged to have been involved in conflict in other countries. In 2021, the National Society and the ICRC had provided cash grants and training in business skills for such families that were economically vulnerable; that enabled these families to start small businesses. The ICRC worked with the National Society to monitor these businesses in 2022; as they were progressing satisfactorily, a joint decision was taken at year's end to discontinue the monitoring.

The National Society continued, with technical and other support from the ICRC, to offer tracing and other family-links services to people separated from their relatives by migration, conflicts abroad or other circumstances.

The ICRC donated personal protective equipment, disinfectant and/or other supplies to the *de facto* authorities and three health facilities in Abkhazia and to one hospital in South Ossetia, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Plans to give the pertinent authorities logistical or other support for conducting vaccinations campaigns against COVID-19 were not fully implemented owing to a lack of local interest in COVID-19 vaccination and changes in the epidemiological situation.

The ICRC donated body bags, masks and other supplies to the National Society, the national forensic bureau and other

institutions in Georgia proper and to medical facilities and the forensic bureau in Abkhazia, to help them manage the bodies or remains of people who died of COVID-19.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Detainees maintain contact with their families

The ICRC visited detainees at four facilities in Georgia proper, to check on their treatment and living conditions; findings and recommendations were communicated confidentially to the pertinent authorities. It conducted ad hoc visits to detainees at two detention facilities in South Ossetia, while maintaining dialogue with the relevant *de facto* authorities on gaining broader access to places of detention.

The ICRC met with detainees and facilitated their contact with their relatives through the ICRC's family-links services in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Detainees used RCMs to be in touch with their relatives, including those on the other side of an administrative boundary line; the ICRC also relayed parcels from their families to some detainees. The ICRC arranged for a family in Georgia proper to visit their relative detained in South Ossetia.

In South Ossetia, 50 detainees benefited from hygiene kits, bedding and cleaning materials donated by the ICRC. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in places of detention, the ICRC provided the *de facto* authorities in Abkhazia with masks, disinfectant and other supplies.

The general director of the penitentiary service and the deputy chairman of the parliament in Georgia shared their experiences at an international conference on health care in detention organized by the ICRC in Geneva, Switzerland (see *Headquarters – Protection and Essential Services*).

## ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The ICRC used dialogue and other means to engage the attention of Georgian authorities, the *de facto* authorities in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, members of the international community and other influential actors, with a view to broadening acceptance for its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, promoting IHL and discussing the plight of missing people's families and that of people affected by the demarcation of administrative boundaries. It continued to urge Georgian and *de facto* authorities to take greater responsibility in ascertaining the fate of missing people (see *Civilians*).

ICRC events, social-media posts and media interviews raised awareness of various issues of humanitarian concern. Local media organizations reported on what the ICRC was doing to ascertain the fate of missing persons and assist people affected by the consequences of past armed conflicts. In June, government officials, diplomats, academics and other members of civil society in Georgia proper attended the launch of an ICRC photo exhibit to mark the 30th anniversary of the ICRC's presence in Georgia.

### The Georgian armed forces and NATO forces learn more about IHL

Various units in the Georgian armed forces organized IHL training with the ICRC; around 570 military personnel of

various ranks learnt more about IHL through ICRC-supported training. The ICRC enabled selected military officers to attend events on international rules governing military operations (see *Headquarters – Protection and Essential Services*). In March, the ICRC attended military exercises conducted jointly by the Georgian armed forces and NATO and their commanders. It briefed them on its mandate and activities, including its role as a neutral intermediary, and on key humanitarian issues, such as protection of civilians, *non-refoulement* and IHL. Members of a military working group on IHL met with the ICRC to discuss its integration into the military's doctrine and practices.

#### **University students take part in a moot court competition**

The Georgian national IHL committee and the ICRC held meetings to discuss the state of their cooperation in various areas, such as IHL implementation; accession to international treaties such as the Convention on Enforced Disappearance; and the findings of an ICRC study on the legal framework governing the issue of missing people in Georgia proper, including its recommendations for legislative reform (see *Civilians*). Students from five universities in Georgia proper participated in an IHL moot court competition organized by the ICRC. Civil servants and around 100 local and international students learnt more about IHL implementation through lectures arranged by the ICRC. In Abkhazia, students of law and history broadened their understanding of the ICRC's mandate and activities, and strengthened their grasp of IHL, during ICRC training on IHL.

## **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The Georgia Red Cross Society used technical advice and other support from the ICRC to advance its organizational development and expand its capacities in such areas as conducting communication campaigns on the Movement's activities; organizing first aid training sessions and competitions among its branches; responding to the needs of families of missing persons; and carrying out activities in line with the Fundamental Principles and the Safer Access Framework. National Society activities in response to the pandemic were scaled down owing to the improved epidemiological situation; however, the National Society continued to disseminate information to the public about pandemic-related health risks and urged communities to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The National Society also responded to the psychosocial and other needs, including referrals, of Ukrainian refugees in Georgia and mobilized resources for the Ukrainian Red Cross Society's humanitarian response to the situation in Ukraine.

The National Society hosted the 11th conference of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from Europe and Central Asia in Tbilisi; the ICRC attended as an observer. Representatives of 53 National Societies discussed humanitarian concerns such as COVID-19, migration, climate change and the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine and its spillover effects in neighbouring countries. The ICRC initiated the revision of the Movement contingency plan, organized several meetings, and participated in a workshop, with the National Society and the International Federation, to develop contingency plans for various scenarios involving conflicts, natural disasters and health emergencies.

**MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION**

<b>CIVILIANS</b>	<b>Total</b>			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>				
		<b>UAMs/SC</b>		
RCMs collected	17			
RCMs distributed	17			
Phone calls facilitated between family members	53			
<b>Reunifications, transfers and repatriations</b>				
People reunited with their families	13			
People transferred or repatriated	329			
Human remains transferred or repatriated	36			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>				
		<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	46	11	1	1
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	2			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	44			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	2,347	380	32	28
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	2			
<b>Documents</b>				
People to whom official documents were delivered across borders/front lines	11			
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>				
<b>ICRC visits</b>				
		<b>Women</b>	<b>Minors</b>	
Places of detention visited	6			
Detainees in places of detention visited	4,261	3	30	
Visits carried out	12			
		<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
Detainees visited and monitored individually	14			
<i>of whom newly registered</i>	7			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>				
RCMs collected	6			
RCMs distributed	7			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	5			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	1			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	2			

**MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE**

<b>CIVILIANS</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>Economic security</b>				
Food consumption	People	277	117	54
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	1		
Income support	People	62	45	
Living conditions	People	313	137	64
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	1		
<b>Mental health and psychosocial support</b>				
People who received mental-health support		33		
People who attended information sessions on mental health		266		
People trained in mental-health care and psychosocial support		12		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>				
<b>Economic security</b>				
Living conditions	People	50		

# GREECE

The ICRC worked in Greece for the first time in 1912 and established a mission in Athens in 2016. It helps migrants, including those detained, restore contact with their families and engages the authorities in dialogue on their access to health care and other services. It urges the pertinent authorities to reinforce their mechanisms to clarify the fate of missing persons and helps strengthen local capacities in managing and identifying human remains. The ICRC promotes support for IHL and its integration into military operations. It supports the Hellenic Red Cross in its organizational development and its provision of family-links services.



ICRC delegation

YEARLY RESULT	Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action	HIGH
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## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2022

- The fate or whereabouts of some missing migrants and others were clarified, and their families informed, through the Hellenic Red Cross and the ICRC’s tracing services.
- First responders and others were supported by the ICRC to manage and identify human remains, including those of migrants who died at sea. Families were helped by the ICRC to bury the identified remains of relatives.
- With training and other support from the ICRC, the Hellenic Police’s missing-persons unit explored ways to adopt mechanisms essential to resolving pending cases of missing people.
- Detained migrants were able to contact their families using phone cards given by the ICRC. They had access to health services, including dental care and virtual consultations, thanks to the ICRC’s assistance to the authorities.
- Greek military and police personnel, academics and students strengthened their grasp of IHL at ICRC training sessions or presentations. The ICRC advocated among lawmakers the passage of a law for securing its legal status.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF	
Protection	1,939
Assistance	725
Prevention	298
Cooperation with National Societies	38
General	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,013</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	184

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	84%

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	5
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	21

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS</b>	
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
Phone calls facilitated between family members	18
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	31
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Places of detention visited	8
Detainees in places of detention visited	3,204
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	6
Visits carried out	18

ASSISTANCE	2022 Targets (up to)	Achieved
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>		
<b>Economic security</b>		
Living conditions	People	3,754

## CONTEXT

Migrants, including asylum seekers and refugees, continued to attempt perilous journeys – whether by sea or land – to reach Greece. A number of maritime accidents took place in 2022, particularly in the Aegean Sea. Hundreds of migrants drowned; many more were declared missing.

Families continued to search for relatives who went missing over the past several years on their way to Greece. Identifying human remains was still a challenge, partly because of insufficient data and lack of coordination among those involved.

The 2016 agreement between the European Union (EU) and Türkiye continued to govern the management of migrants arriving in Greece from Türkiye. Those who were able to reach Greece were often stranded in camps on the Greek islands – including in “closed controlled-access centres” – and on the mainland, or held in administrative detention. Many of them were still waiting for their cases to be processed. While they waited, their movements were restricted, and they were confronted with procedural and legal hurdles under legislations both old and new; some of them faced deportation. Many of them lacked the means to contact their families and had no access to health or other basic services. Because of these conditions, the physical and psychological health of these migrants was at risk.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC continued to monitor the situation of migrants in detention facilities. It strove to improve their living conditions, including their access to health care, while always acting in accordance with COVID-19 protocols. It sought to raise migrants’ protection concerns with the pertinent national authorities and urge them to ensure that all migrants, regardless of status, were treated in conformity with applicable law. However, the ICRC’s dialogue with authorities on these matters remained limited. It discussed more broadly the plight of migrants with EU officials in Brussels, Belgium (see *Brussels*). Together with the Hellenic Red Cross and the International Federation, the ICRC discussed how to address migrants’ protection needs.

The National Society continued – with training, and technical and material support from the ICRC – to provide family-links services for migrants, including survivors of maritime accidents and those alleged to have been arrested. The fates and/or whereabouts of several missing migrants were ascertained, and their families informed, thanks to the efforts of the National Society, the ICRC and, whenever possible, the UNHCR. The ICRC helped families obtain death certificates and bury their relatives whose remains had been identified.

The ICRC continued to provide forensic professionals, the police, coast guard personnel and other first responders with training, technical guidance and material support for handling human remains properly, in a manner conducive to their identification and in accordance with pertinent data-protection standards. It also reminded the Hellenic Police’s missing-persons unit, the authorities and others to adopt mechanisms that would facilitate their cooperation in

managing human remains. The ICRC continued to advocate – among the police, forensic professionals, DNA laboratories and others – the use of web-based applications for storing and analysing information crucial to identifying human remains (e.g. the Resolve Platform).

The ICRC visited migrants at several places of detention to monitor their treatment and living conditions. It reminded authorities that they must enable migrants to maintain contact with their families; seek alternatives to detention for detainees, whenever applicable; and make health services more readily available to migrants. It provided authorities technical and material support to these ends. The ICRC distributed phone cards, hygiene kits, cleaning materials and recreational items to detained migrants. It gave detaining authorities and the official agency providing health services for migrants (AEMY) the training and materials necessary to ensure provision of health services, and prevent the spread of COVID-19, at immigration detention centres. Migrants seeking legal assistance were referred by the ICRC to the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR). The ICRC discussed with health and other authorities possibilities for incorporating detention health services in the Greek public-health system, with a view to ensuring their sustainability.

The ICRC strove to advance understanding of its work, and gather support for it, in Greece. With the help of the ministry of foreign affairs, the ICRC endeavoured to gain formal recognition of its privileges and immunities. Training and presentations by the ICRC helped Greek military personnel, academics and students to strengthen their grasp of IHL.

## CIVILIANS

### The ICRC monitors the situation of migrants

The ICRC continued to monitor the situation of migrants and document their safety-related concerns, including in connection with the principle of *non-refoulement*. It also assessed the humanitarian consequences of migration policies and movement restrictions. The ICRC sought to raise these issues with the authorities, police forces and others concerned, and to remind them that they must do everything necessary to ensure that all migrants, regardless of status, are treated in conformity with applicable law. However, the ICRC’s discussions with Greek authorities about these matters remained limited. It used the information it gathered in broader discussions about the plight of migrants with EU authorities in Brussels (see *Brussels*).

The ICRC met with the Hellenic Red Cross and the International Federation to coordinate the Movement’s response to the situation of refugees and other migrants.

### Migrants receive news of their relatives

People – particularly refugees and other migrants – separated from their families were able to call their relatives using the Movement’s family-links services. The fate and/or whereabouts of around 30 people were clarified, thanks to the efforts of the ICRC and the National Society to locate missing people, including those alleged to have been arrested. The ICRC continued to give the National Society support for reuniting

families, for instance, by helping it to secure the necessary travel documents. It also kept up its initiative to distribute, at places where migrants were being held, posters publicizing the Trace the Face campaign – an online photo tracing service with a centralized database that focused on migrants who have gone missing on their way to Europe. During various working groups with the National Society, the ICRC explored means of raising awareness of the Movement's family-links services among people, in Greece and in neighbouring countries, who were trying to reconnect with relatives separated from them owing to the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine (see *Ukraine*).

The ICRC, together with the National Society and, whenever possible, the UNHCR, collected requests lodged by survivors of maritime accidents to ascertain the fate of relatives who had accompanied them. Migrants were helped by the ICRC to bury the identified remains of their relatives; others were assisted to obtain death certificates. Migrants in need of further assistance were referred by the ICRC to the GCR or other service providers. The ICRC exchanged best practices with the National Society and other organizations involved in searching for migrants reported missing.

The ICRC continued to help the National Society build its capacities in restoring family links (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). Instruction manuals, videos and other training materials on restoring family links were translated into Greek by the ICRC and distributed to the National Society.

### **Forensic services improve their capacities**

The ICRC continued to impress upon the authorities the necessity of addressing the issue of missing people and urged them to develop policies to this end. It continued to explore possibilities for helping the Hellenic Police's missing-persons unit to resolve pending cases of missing migrants – such as establishing mechanisms for coordination and data sharing. To this end, for instance, the director of the missing-persons unit, with the support of the ICRC, engaged in dialogue with coast guard personnel and others involved in identifying human remains. At a round table it organized, the ICRC drew the attention of authorities and policymakers to gaps in the Greek medico-legal system and gave them expert advice for addressing these gaps. It also urged them to adopt mechanisms for properly managing data vital to the identification of human remains, and encouraged them to share this data among themselves and with the ICRC.

Forensic professionals, the police, coast guard personnel and other first responders continued to receive technical and material support from the ICRC, for ensuring that human remains – including those recovered at sea and along other migration routes to Greece – are handled properly, in a manner conducive to their identification, and in accordance with pertinent data-protection standards. They received body bags, gloves, DNA kits, refrigerators and other equipment, and manuals and other informational materials on handling human remains that the ICRC had translated into Greek. At ICRC workshops, or at information sessions supported by the ICRC, police, forensic professionals and other first responders learnt about best practices in managing and identifying human

remains, including the proper collection of ante/post-mortem data. The ICRC advocated – among DNA laboratories, coast guard personnel, authorities, police and others involved in managing human remains – the use of web-based applications to store and analyse data necessary for identifying human remains (e.g. the Resolve Platform).

The ICRC sought to broaden awareness of the issue of disappearance, particularly in connection with migration, among authorities and the general public. It helped the National Society to produce an interactive documentary and other audiovisual content to mark the International Day of the Disappeared.

## **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

### **Detained migrants receive visits and other kinds of support**

The ICRC visited migrants at places of detention and paid particular attention to migrants with specific needs, such as unaccompanied minors, people with disabilities and people in need of psychosocial assistance. The ICRC recommended to detaining authorities – through a written report – ways to ensure the well-being of detainees: it impressed upon them the importance of enabling migrants to contact their families and to have access to fresh air and to health and other essential services. During the round table that it organized with the National School of Judges, the ICRC continued to urge members of the judiciary, the police and others to find alternatives to detention to all eligible detainees, whenever applicable. Migrants in need of legal or other assistance were referred by the ICRC to the GCR or other organizations. Around 3,700 detained migrants received recreational and cleaning items from the ICRC. Several other migrants were able to reconnect with their families using phone cards donated by the ICRC.

### **Authorities continue to provide health care to detained migrants**

The ICRC engaged health authorities, the police and others in dialogue on improving detained migrants' access to adequate health services, and on implementing public-health measures at immigration detention centres. At an ICRC round table, police, authorities, academics, and others involved in providing health care for migrants explored possibilities for ensuring the sustainability of health care in detention, such as the incorporation of detention health services in the national public-health system.

The ICRC gave detaining authorities, and a local agency, technical and material support to provide health services for migrants (e.g. teleconsultations, dental care, referrals to public health facilities) and protect them against COVID-19. It gave them personal protective equipment (PPE), hygiene items, medicine and other consumables, and IT equipment. Health staff improved their abilities to control the spread of COVID-19 and implement COVID-19 safety protocols with expert advice from the ICRC.

## **ACTORS OF INFLUENCE**

### **The ICRC seeks to gain support for its humanitarian activities**

The ICRC sought to obtain formal recognition for its privileges and immunities as a humanitarian organization. With the support of the foreign ministry, the ICRC advocated among

lawmakers the passage of a law fortifying its legal status as a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian actor in Greece.

The ICRC strove to further understanding of its work in Greece, and secure support for it and draw attention to issues of humanitarian concern – for instance, in relation to immigration detention, missing people and their families, and the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine – among the authorities, diplomats and others. However, the ICRC’s dialogue with authorities on the migration-related issues remained limited (see *Civilians*). It also produced articles and social-media posts on the humanitarian issues mentioned above, with a view to broadening awareness of them among the general public.

The Hellenic Red Cross and the ICRC worked together to ensure coherence in their public communication, which included online campaigns to mark the International Day of the Disappeared (see *Civilians*).

### Military and police officers, academics and students broaden their knowledge of IHL

Military and police personnel learnt more about IHL and other applicable norms at events organized by the ICRC or at which it was invited to speak. The ICRC donated reference materials on IHL to the Hellenic Supreme Joint War College. Sponsored

by the ICRC, some high-ranking military officials attended advanced workshops on IHL in other countries.

The ICRC maintained its activities for academics and students, with a view to stimulating discussions on IHL and IHL-related issues. It delivered lectures, both online and in person, on IHL-related issues, such as the detention of migrants. It enabled some university students to take part in a moot court competition abroad. The ICRC discussed with the foreign affairs ministry of its interest to revive Greece’s national IHL committee.

### RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The ICRC and the Hellenic Red Cross carried out humanitarian activities jointly in response to migrants’ family-links needs (see *Civilians*). They signed an agreement to ensure the continuity of their partnership in providing the Movement’s family-links services.

The ICRC continued to support the National Society’s ongoing efforts to strengthen its governance and accountability and address integrity-related issues. Together with the National Society and the International Federation, it also explored possibilities for improving the National Society’s tracing services and ensuring their sustainability. The ICRC also enabled a National Society staff member to attend a certificate programme in data protection.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION

CIVILIANS	Total			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>				
Phone calls facilitated between family members	18			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>				
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	132	Women	Girls	Boys
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	56	22	14	21
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	31			
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	12			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	560	98	85	131
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	105			
<b>Documents</b>				
People to whom official documents were delivered across borders/front lines	1			
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>				
<b>ICRC visits</b>				
Places of detention visited	8	Women	Minors	
Detainees in places of detention visited	3,204	63	58	
Visits carried out	18			
<b>Detainees visited and monitored individually</b>				
	6	Women	Girls	Boys
<i>of whom newly registered</i>	6	1		

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	Total	Women	Children
<b>Economic security</b>			
Living conditions	People	3,754	82
<b>Health care in detention</b>			
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	8	
Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	1	

# LONDON (regional)

**COVERING:** Ireland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Set up in 2003, the London regional delegation focuses on pursuing humanitarian diplomacy and facilitating ICRC operations in the field. Through contact with the British and Irish governments, armed forces and members of civil society and other relevant parties, the ICRC seeks to influence policy and decision-making, so as to bolster support for IHL and principled humanitarian action. It visits detainees in selected prisons and supports community-based efforts to mitigate consequences of violence. The ICRC works with the British Red Cross and the Irish Red Cross in various areas, notably to promote IHL and the Movement.

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action **HIGH**

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	1,614
Assistance	87
Prevention	2,568
Cooperation with National Societies	597
General	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,943</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>302</i>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget 92%

## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	3
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	36

## PROTECTION

	Total
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Places of detention visited	7
Detainees in places of detention visited	4,369
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	29
Visits carried out	7
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	1

## CONTEXT

The authorities in Ireland and in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereafter UK) remained actively involved in multilateral organizations and participated in forums to tackle issues of humanitarian concern. They provided support for humanitarian activities in conflict-affected countries. London remained a major hub for think tanks, media organizations and NGOs, all of which helped to shape discussions of humanitarian issues and policies.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and of NATO, the UK remained influential in international affairs. Ireland’s two-year term on the UN Security Council ended in December 2022.

The British military participated in coalition operations in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, supported its partners in other conflicts, and conducted training programmes for the armed forces of other countries. The UK provided significant support, including military assistance, to Ukraine.

The British government underwent major political changes: three different prime ministers were in office during the year, and the longest-reigning British monarch died in September. The UK’s withdrawal from the European Union (EU) continued to impact both the UK and the EU. A protocol under which Northern Ireland will remain bound by EU rules on trade remained a major issue throughout the year.

The British government regarded the threat of international “terrorism” in the UK as “substantial”. Enforcement of counter-terrorism laws continued to intensify. Paramilitary violence persisted in some communities in Northern Ireland; victims of the past conflict or of ongoing violence struggled to obtain essential support services.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

### Influential parties are urged to ensure respect for IHL and support humanitarian action

The ICRC kept up its dialogue with government departments, legislators and other decision makers in Ireland and the UK, to help ensure that operational, legal and policy decisions took humanitarian considerations into account and reflected respect for IHL and support for the ICRC’s mandate and activities. Briefings, high-level meetings and themed events organized by the ICRC, or with its support, helped the authorities and other influential actors to understand more fully the importance of preserving space for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, and the importance of making a sustainable humanitarian impact. The ICRC gave authorities an overview of the needs and concerns of the conflict-affected people that it helped, particularly in Afghanistan, Ukraine, and key contexts in Africa and the Middle East.

The ICRC brought up – with government officials, members of civil society and academic scholars – such matters as the development of advanced technologies of warfare, including artificial intelligence; cyber operations; autonomous weapon

systems; and misinformation, disinformation and hate speech. It also urged them to assess the consequences of the use of such weapons for civilians, humanitarian workers and organizations, and for the applicability of IHL. The ICRC drew attention to other issues as well: principled humanitarian action in Ukraine; support relationships in armed conflict; and the impact of counter-terrorism legislation on people and humanitarian action, both domestically and abroad. The ICRC engaged with authorities and members of civil society to develop key messages of humanitarian diplomacy in connection with the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and to respond to requests for specific information regarding the international armed conflict.

The ICRC discussed with several British ministries – at strategic, operational and policy levels – issues of humanitarian concern arising from their military operations overseas, their partnership with the armed forces of other countries, and other types of support provided to parties to conflict; it also discussed the integration of IHL into the training programmes of British armed forces. Armed forces personnel, including troops bound for peacekeeping operations in other countries, learnt more about IHL and IHL-related subjects at information sessions and events organized by the ICRC.

At events that it organized or attended, the ICRC discussed with policymakers, academic scholars, representatives of NGOs, community organizations and think tanks such subjects as the protection due to civilians under IHL and the issues raised by current technological developments for IHL and humanitarian action. Various audiences learnt more about issues of humanitarian concern and the ICRC's work through online articles, videos and other informational materials produced by the ICRC or by media organizations with whom it was in touch.

### **Detainees in Ireland and the UK are visited by the ICRC**

The ICRC visited, in accordance with its standard procedures, detainees at one prison in Ireland and six prisons in the UK; it paid particular attention to the situation of security detainees and people held under restrictive regimes. Findings and recommendations were communicated confidentially to the detaining authorities, in support of their efforts to ensure that detainees' treatment and living conditions met internationally recognized standards. Best practices observed in various prisons were shared with policymakers and other stakeholders.

The authorities drew on the ICRC's advice on the provision of adequate health care for detainees with due regard to medical ethics. The authorities and the ICRC discussed how to improve prison health services and address detainees' mental-health needs, including in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **The ICRC helps address humanitarian issues in the Ireland and the UK**

The ICRC expanded its contact with individuals and groups affected by counter-terrorism measures and legislation, with a view to understanding the humanitarian impact of those measures more fully. Whenever necessary, it referred them to other organizations for appropriate assistance. It also discussed their concerns with the pertinent authorities.

The ICRC discussed, with the Irish and British authorities, concerns linked to the protection of family links within the framework of the authorities' evacuation and admission programmes – for example, in Afghanistan, where some families in the UK have relatives alleged to be detained.

### **Community-based organizations are given support to help violence-affected people in Northern Ireland**

Four community-based organizations in Northern Ireland continued to receive financial and technical support from the ICRC, which enabled them to carry out humanitarian interventions and negotiations to prevent violence or mitigate its consequences. They mediated to defuse threats made by groups against individuals; as a result, one person was evacuated and brought to safety. This also helped minimize the occurrence of violence. The ICRC provided financial assistance to the organizations until September, and then ended its support as planned, with a view to transitioning to working with a network of humanitarian negotiators to continue enabling these organizations to undertake their humanitarian projects in an increasingly self-sufficient manner. Aided by the ICRC, the network held its first meeting, at which several humanitarian negotiators described or narrated their experiences.

The authorities and paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland were kept abreast, through dialogue with the ICRC, of the situation of people affected by past conflict or ongoing violence and the humanitarian activities of the Movement.

As people marked the Twelfth of July in Northern Ireland through parades and bonfires, the ICRC provided financial support for a summer intervention programme directed at young people at some bonfire sites in North Antrim; the aim of the programme was to engage young loyalists and help prevent violence at and around these sites.

### **National Societies and the ICRC work to restore family links and respond to humanitarian concerns**

The ICRC gave the National Societies in Ireland and the UK technical support for providing family-links services and worked with them to address data-protection risks in the provision of these services. It supported the British Red Cross in following up cases involving British nationals who were missing or held in conflict-affected settings. The ICRC helped ensure that the principle of "do no harm" was upheld and that the impact of counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian assistance was minimized during the delivery of family-links services. It helped broaden awareness – among NGOs, charities, family associations and others – of these services, through regular information sessions and meetings.

The British Red Cross, the Irish Red Cross and the ICRC discussed a number of subjects with authorities, most notably preventing family separation and loss of family contact, and various issues of concern associated with the restoration of family links. The tripartite working group, established to respond to humanitarian needs in Northern Ireland, continued to meet regularly.

The British and Irish National Societies and the ICRC coordinated their efforts to influence policy and decision-making pertinent to IHL and principled humanitarian action; promote the Movement; and raise funds. The British Red Cross's efforts to mobilize support for addressing humanitarian needs in Ukraine

were supplemented by the ICRC's public-communication initiatives; these helped to significantly boost public donations for the response. The British Red Cross and the ICRC finalized a five-year partnership framework agreement.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION

<b>CIVILIANS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>				
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	1	1		
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	2	2		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>				
<b>ICRC visits</b>				
Places of detention visited	7			
Detainees in places of detention visited	4,369			
Visits carried out	7			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>				
Detainees visited and monitored individually	29			
<i>of whom newly registered</i>	5			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>				
RCMs collected	1			

# MOSCOW (regional)

**COVERING:** Belarus, Russian Federation

The Moscow regional delegation was opened in 1992. In the countries covered, it promotes the implementation of IHL and other relevant norms and their integration into domestic frameworks; fosters understanding of the ICRC's mandate and work; and helps National Societies build their capacities, particularly in the fields of emergency preparedness and restoring family links. It promotes the protection of civilians, helps people to contact or receive news of their relatives, and seeks to visit people deprived of their freedom. It also responds to humanitarian needs generated by armed conflict.

YEARLY RESULT	
Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action	MEDIUM

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF	
Protection	3,433
Assistance	3,510
Prevention	3,861
Cooperation with National Societies	1,862
General	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,744</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	778

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	96%

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	28
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	78

PROTECTION		Total
<b>CIVILIANS</b>		
<b>Protection of family links</b>		
RCMs collected		100
RCMs distributed		161
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		361

ASSISTANCE		2022 Targets (up to)	Achieved
<b>CIVILIANS</b>			
<b>Economic security</b>			
Income support	People	34,000	29,704

## CONTEXT

The escalation of the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine significantly increased humanitarian needs in the countries involved and the wider region (see also *Budapest, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine*). Both parties captured soldiers and interned civilians. People fleeing the hostilities in Ukraine crossed into Belarus, the Russian Federation and other states. Having abandoned their belongings and livelihoods, they had to cope with rough living conditions and were without the means to buy necessities. They also did not have ready access to health services. The international armed conflict dispersed families and many family members were unable to contact one another or confirm their relatives' whereabouts. Some people in the Russian Federation still have no news of relatives who went missing in connection with past conflicts.

In Belarus, political tensions from the presidential elections in 2020 persisted and arrests related to these tensions continued to be made. Migrants from the Middle East and elsewhere continued to get stranded at Belarus's borders with Lithuania and Poland.

The Russian Federation was a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and maintained its role in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC's regional delegation in Moscow expanded its operations in the Russian Federation and Belarus and shifted its focus to helping address the humanitarian needs created by the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. This scale-up was supported by two budget extensions<sup>1</sup> that it adopted in July and October. The ICRC's activities in the Republic of Moldova began to be managed separately by the ICRC delegation in Chisinau (see *Republic of Moldova*). The ICRC supported the Russian Red Cross Society and, to a lesser extent, the Belarus Red Cross Society in providing emergency assistance to people in need and promoting support for IHL and the Movement's work.

### Parties to the international armed conflict are urged to respect IHL and ensure protection for civilians

The ICRC closely monitored the situation of people affected by the international armed conflict – including civilians caught in the hostilities and those who fled their homes – documented their needs and concerns about their safety and discussed them confidentially with the pertinent parties. Through oral and written representations, and regular dialogue, it called on the authorities to comply with IHL, particularly to ensure protection for people who were not or were no longer participating in the fighting; refrain from attacking essential civilian infrastructure; and ensure access to essential services and humanitarian aid. The ICRC also continued to remind

1. See the [budget extension documents](#) on the ICRC Extranet for Donors.

the authorities of the protection afforded by IHL for people affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence in contexts of interest to the Russian Federation.

The ICRC organized training in IHL for Russian military officers and gave them reference materials on it. It sponsored these officers and Belarusian military officers to attend a senior workshop outside the region on international rules governing military operations (see *Headquarters – Protection and Essential Services*). Senior Russian police officers, and officials from the Belarusian internal affairs ministry, attended ICRC seminars, where they learnt more about international standards for law enforcement and international human rights law. The ICRC aimed, through these efforts, to advance their understanding of and respect for these norms.

In all its interaction with them – and through public statements, interviews with local and international media organizations, and social-media posts – the ICRC sought to increase awareness among the authorities and other stakeholders of its strictly humanitarian mandate, secure support for its activities and counter misinformation/disinformation about its work. This engagement supported the ICRC in its efforts to gain and maintain access to the people it sought to assist.

People from Ukraine and others affected by the international armed conflict got in touch with the ICRC through a community contact centre, which documented information on their needs, answered questions about the ICRC's services and collected reactions to its activities. The ICRC used this information to improve its respective programmes.

The ICRC continued to promote compliance with IHL and its integration into the training and operations of the armed forces in the region and of regional bodies such as the CSTO and the CIS. The ICRC involved think tanks, universities, academics and students in various activities, with a view to drawing their attention to issues of humanitarian concern and developing interest and expertise among them in IHL.

In the Russian Federation, because of the escalation of the international armed conflict, the ICRC was unable to continue its training sessions for representatives of local NGOs in mental-health and psychosocial support for the children and/or other relatives of people alleged to have been involved in fighting in other countries.

#### **Efforts to resolve missing-persons cases and reconnect members of dispersed families are bolstered**

The ICRC expanded its efforts to resolve cases of people missing in connection with past or ongoing armed conflicts. The ICRC's regional delegation in Moscow worked closely with the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency (CTA) bureau for the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine (see *Central Tracing Agency bureau for the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine*) and supported the establishment of a national information bureau (NIB) by the Russian authorities as set out under IHL. The NIB oversaw the collection and conveyance of information about people protected under IHL to the CTA bureau; it also

responded to enquiries of families in the Russian Federation. By engaging both parties to the international armed conflict in dialogue and coordinating with the relevant actors, the ICRC helped ascertain the fate and whereabouts of about 360 people sought by their family members in the Russian Federation.

As part of an organization-wide project to establish professional standards for addressing the issue of missing people (see *Headquarters – Protection and Essential Services*), the ICRC arranged several experts' meetings, workshops and other themed events – in person and online – and sponsored the participation of relevant actors in such events. Forensic specialists in the Russian Federation developed their capacities through training and other support from the ICRC. The ICRC continued to support a Russian NGO in collecting DNA samples from relatives of people who went missing in connection with past conflict.

The ICRC continued to provide financial and technical assistance to the Russian Red Cross's tracing services and its family-links hotline. The Belarusian Red Cross drew on the ICRC's support to enable migrants, in administrative centres or stranded in border areas, to make phone calls to their families.

#### **People from Ukraine obtain necessities and health services**

Over 28,400 people who had fled the hostilities in Ukraine covered their basic expenses and bought winter clothes and other essential items with cash or vouchers provided by the ICRC and distributed by the Russian Red Cross. Some 1,300 people from Ukraine who had sought refuge in Belarus obtained food, hygiene items and other essentials with vouchers provided by the ICRC and distributed by the Belarusian Red Cross. Fewer people than planned benefited from these activities because the number of household members were found to be fewer than expected. The Belarusian health ministry used medical consumables from the ICRC to tend to wounded and sick people from Ukraine.

#### **POWs receive ICRC visits and stay in touch with relatives**

The ICRC pursued dialogue with both parties to the international armed conflict to secure unimpeded and repeated access to all people held in connection with the international armed conflict, and to visit them in accordance with its standard procedures and its mandate under IHL. It visited, on both sides, POWs to which it was granted access; it made a total of 82 visits to 25 places of internment/detention collectively holding some 20,700 people deprived of their freedom – to monitor their treatment and living conditions – and monitored 3,008 people individually (see *Central Tracing Agency bureau for the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine*). It discussed its findings confidentially with the parties concerned and reminded them of their obligation to ensure that all people deprived of their freedom were treated in accordance with IHL and other applicable norms. The ICRC notified, including through the CTA bureau, families of the fate and whereabouts of their relatives who were held by the parties in connection with the international armed conflict. POWs kept in touch with their families through different means, including RCMs and oral messages relayed by the ICRC, and letters that the ICRC transmitted in its capacity as a neutral intermediary.

**MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION**

<b>CIVILIANS</b>	<b>Total</b>			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>				
RCMs collected	100			
RCMs distributed	161			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>				
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	2,330	214		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	856			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	361			
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	10			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	5,176	444		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	876			
<b>Documents</b>				
People to whom travel documents were issued	2			

**MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE**

<b>CIVILIANS</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>Economic security</b>				
Income support	People	29,704	11,980	11,694
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	28,405	11,360	11,362

# PARIS (regional)

**COVERING:** Andorra, Cyprus, France, the Holy See, Italy, Luxembourg<sup>1</sup>, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, San Marino and Spain (with specialized services for other countries)

With a formalized presence since 2000, the Paris regional delegation engages in dialogue on IHL and humanitarian concerns with the authorities, military and academic circles and third-country representatives, raising awareness of the ICRC’s mandate and mobilizing political and financial support for its activities. It visits people detained and/or sentenced by international tribunals. With National Societies, it helps migrants and people separated from their relatives by conflicts abroad to restore family links, and offers guidance on human remains management. It partners with National Societies in their international humanitarian activities and IHL promotion.

YEARLY RESULT	
Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action	HIGH

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF	
Protection	3,447
Assistance	-
Prevention	3,590
Cooperation with National Societies	286
General	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,342</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>448</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	79%

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	8
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	26

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS</b>	
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	1,276
RCMs distributed	1,128
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Places of detention visited	12
Detainees in places of detention visited	36
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	<i>34</i>
Visits carried out	12
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	16
RCMs distributed	5

## CONTEXT

European countries, individually or through multilateral bodies, continued to drive diplomatic initiatives, and influence policy debates and decision-making concerning humanitarian action.

The humanitarian consequences of the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine and the food crisis in parts of Africa emerged as major issues of concern.

France and other countries participated in military operations in Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere.

Migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, continued to attempt dangerous journeys to Europe from North Africa and the Middle East. They were vulnerable to abuse in transit and destination countries, and often lost contact with their families. Some of them were held indefinitely at administrative detention facilities and their movements restricted. Proper and timely identification of human remains from maritime accidents remained difficult, largely owing to insufficient information and coordination among national and regional authorities. Moreover, the bodies of many migrants who died at sea were never recovered, leaving their families without answers.

People were detained by European governments in connection with “terrorism”. International courts and tribunals also detained and/or sentenced people in connection with past conflict.

Some people alleged to have been involved in fighting elsewhere, or their relatives, returned to their countries of origin; they often encountered difficulties exercising certain rights and contacting their families.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

### The ICRC seeks to broaden support for IHL and humanitarian action

The ICRC engaged in humanitarian diplomacy – among national authorities, armed forces, multilateral organizations and other influential stakeholders in Europe – to promote respect for IHL and to gather political and financial support for its work to protect and assist conflict-affected people throughout the world.

The ICRC urged states to ensure that their policies and decision-making took humanitarian considerations and IHL into account. It discussed various matters with them, such as the consequences of the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, conflict in other contexts (e.g. the Sahel region, the Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan and Ethiopia), and the food crisis in parts of Africa. Other important topics included: protecting principled humanitarian

1. ICRC delegation for cyberspace; to be reported in a separate chapter in the Annual Report 2023.

action from the consequences of restrictive measures; compliance with IHL, including by parties to conflict that receive support from European countries, during operations by multinational military coalitions; arms-trade issues; ICRC operations in conflict-affected contexts; the consequences of the climate crisis for conflict-affected communities; and the humanitarian consequences of new weapon technologies. Notably, these topics were discussed during visits to France, Italy and Spain by senior ICRC officials.

The general public learnt more about IHL and the Movement's humanitarian work through various initiatives that aimed to gather support from civil society: a photo exhibit on migrants; a digital campaign, undertaken with National Societies, to raise awareness of the plight of missing migrants' families; news releases; and social media posts, blogs and other means of public communication, which were also produced in French for a francophone audience worldwide.

During high-level meetings with senior members of the armed forces of France and other countries, and at international conferences, the ICRC discussed IHL with European militaries and provided them with expert advice for integrating key IHL provisions into military operations.

European National Societies and the ICRC promoted IHL among academics, policy-makers and others, and urged states to implement the provisions of treaties on nuclear weapons and the arms trade; National Societies also drew on the ICRC's expertise for their own efforts to promote IHL.

The ICRC urged the authorities concerned to respond – in accordance with existing legal frameworks – to the protection-related concerns (e.g. separation from/lack of contact with family members, lack of recognition and support concerning missing-persons cases, risk of stigmatization, risk of statelessness) of citizens of European countries who had returned after allegedly taking part in fighting elsewhere, and to the concerns of their families; it also urged the authorities to ease the social reintegration of these people.

### **Efforts to address the plight of migrants and missing people's families continue**

The humanitarian consequences of migration and asylum policies, and the necessity of protecting family links, remained subjects of the ICRC's dialogue with the pertinent authorities, who were reminded of their responsibilities under international law towards refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants. Movement components met periodically to coordinate activities for migrants.

Family members separated by migration, by conflict elsewhere or by other circumstances reconnected with the help of various National Societies and the ICRC. European National Societies were given technical support for ensuring data protection, providing family-links services during emergencies, and in other areas.

National Societies assisting detained migrants, particularly in Malta and Lithuania, were guided by the ICRC – through training and joint visits, for example – to incorporate the basic

principles of protection work in their activities and to develop dialogue with authorities in such matters as alternatives to detention.

The ICRC maintained its efforts to help ascertain the fate of missing people, including via forensic work, and to provide answers to their families. In December, it published a report containing recommendations for states and pertinent organizations on identifying dead migrants and providing information to their families; for example, the ICRC recommended standardizing data collection to facilitate identification. The report was presented to the European Commission, search-and-rescue organizations, and others.

The ICRC fostered coordination among authorities, National Societies and other influential people and organizations, to facilitate the proper handling and identification of human remains along the Mediterranean migration route; Italian Red Cross staff learnt more about the collection of ante-mortem data at an ICRC workshop. The ICRC also continued to contribute to the development of innovative tools that could increase the likelihood of finding answers for missing persons' families. One project managed by the Spanish Red Cross and the ICRC – which aimed to identify migrants who went missing at sea, on their way to the Canary Islands – sought to analyze networks of social connections among victims of an incident (in addition to the usual method of analysing each case individually) to uncover more avenues of inquiry for tracing and forensic activities.

### **Vulnerable detainees are followed up**

The easing of pandemic-related restrictions meant that the ICRC could resume in-person visits to people detained and/or sentenced by international tribunals based in The Hague, the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The ICRC and detaining authorities discussed such matters as geriatric and palliative care, and family contact. At the ICRC's recommendation, the authorities continued to arrange video calls between detainees and their relatives.

The ICRC visited a few people detained in connection with "terrorism" or conflict elsewhere; it was able to gain access to some detainees in Italy. Some people contacted their families via the ICRC.

As from the start of 2022, the ICRC no longer conducted visits to follow up the situation of people who had been resettled in Europe after their release from the US detention facility at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, as the visits were no longer as needed from a protection point of view. The authorities concerned were notified, and responsibility was handed over to them as planned.

### **The ICRC establishes a delegation for cyberspace-related matters**

The ICRC sought to research, develop and test – in the areas of law, policy, operations and technology – working methods and digital tools that would enable it to meet the needs of conflict-affected people throughout the world in a more effective manner, in line with the fundamental principles of neutrality, impartiality, independence and humanity. To these

ends, it launched cooperation initiatives with universities and other partners. It began to create a neutral, impartial and independent secure digital environment, in line with data-protection standards, for testing digital tools for humanitarian action. By mid-year, the ICRC signed a headquarters agreement with the government of Luxembourg, establishing a separate delegation in that country for cyberspace-related matters. The agreement contained unique provisions, the first of their kind, for the delegation's work.

To help advance discourse on applying the principles of neutrality, impartiality, independence and humanity in a digital

context, the delegation for cyberspace sought to gather support from governments, technology companies, civil society (e.g. other humanitarian organizations and academic researchers) and others. At a symposium organized jointly by the ICRC, the government of Luxembourg, the Luxembourg Red Cross and other partners, more than 120 experts from around the world, representing the aforementioned sectors, discussed the legal, operational, strategic and technological issues confronting humanitarian organizations because of digital transformation. The delegation also held bilateral meetings, organized communication campaigns and delivered presentations at conferences to garner support for its objectives.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION

CIVILIANS		Total			
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		1,276	1		
RCMs distributed		1,128			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Places of detention visited		12			
Detainees in places of detention visited		36	7		
Visits carried out		12			
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		34	5		
	<i>of whom newly registered</i>	4	1		
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		16			
RCMs distributed		5			

# REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Present in the Republic of Moldova since 1992, the ICRC established a delegation in the country in 2022. It focuses on addressing the needs of conflict-affected people, particularly those fleeing the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The ICRC carries out activities to help people meet their basic needs, access medical care and psychosocial support and restore contact with their relatives. It promotes knowledge of and respect for IHL and humanitarian principles among the authorities and other relevant actors. It also supports the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Moldova.

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

**HIGH**

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2022

- People who fled to the Republic of Moldova (hereafter Moldova) because of the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and their host communities, met various immediate needs with the ICRC's help.
- Disabled and critically ill people obtained urgent medical care after being transported by the ICRC – acting as a neutral intermediary and working in coordination with other Movement components – from Ukraine to Moldova.
- People transported to Moldova received treatment at a hospital while awaiting onward transportation via the airlift program run by the European Union (EU). The ICRC provided material and financial support for their treatment.
- People displaced from Ukraine and other vulnerable people across Moldova, including the capital Chisinau, met their immediate needs with food and hygiene kits from the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Moldova and the ICRC.
- People in the Gagauzia and Transnistria regions, to which few other humanitarian actors were permitted entry, bolstered their economic capacities through distributions of aid conducted by the National Society and the ICRC.
- Authorities and other key interlocutors in Moldova learnt more about the Movement and the ICRC's mandate and mission through meetings, briefings and other events organized by the ICRC.

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	1,142
Assistance	8,296
Prevention	91
Cooperation with National Societies	354
General	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,904</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>604</i>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	87%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	25
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	3



 ICRC delegation

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS</b>	
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	3
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	8

ASSISTANCE	2022 Targets (up to)	Achieved
<b>CIVILIANS</b>		
<b>Economic security</b>		
Food consumption	People 44,000	51,768
Living conditions	People 41,000	64,210
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
<b>Medical care</b>		
Hospitals supported	Structures 1	1

## CONTEXT

According to the UNHCR at year's end, about 780,000 people had crossed into Moldova from Ukraine since February 2022; an estimated 107,000 people remained in the country. Some stayed with relatives or acquaintances, while others were in centres that were set up for people who had fled the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine (see *Ukraine*).

The people who fled to Moldova were mainly women, children and older people. Many had left without their belongings and lacked food and essential household items. Most of them depended on humanitarian aid and the financial assistance provided by the Moldovan authorities. Those who had fled to Moldova included people with disabilities and critically ill people who needed uninterrupted medical care. Some people needed help to contact relatives who had stayed behind; others had no news of missing relatives.

The resources of the families or acquaintances hosting displaced people were under strain. Not knowing how long the international armed conflict would last made matters worse. In the Gagauzia and Transnistria regions, where there were few humanitarian actors besides the ICRC, the situation was particularly acute: many host families were struggling financially even before the arrivals from Ukraine.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC worked to address the spillover effects of the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine in Moldova and other countries in the region. To reinforce its operational presence in Moldova, it established a delegation in Chisinau, the capital city.<sup>1</sup>

The ICRC advocated – among government authorities and other influential actors, including other humanitarian organizations – protection for people from Ukraine and others affected by the international armed conflict. It sought to foster understanding of its activities and raised awareness of IHL and other norms applicable to displaced people. The ICRC visited and engaged with displaced people in their host communities and in centres sheltering them, to understand their situation more fully and respond effectively to their needs.

People displaced from Ukraine and the families hosting them were able to meet their immediate needs with relief aid – food and hygiene kits or the means to buy them – from the ICRC and the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Moldova. People benefited from several rounds of distribution because of the scale of the needs. Among those who received assistance were people living in the regions of Gagauzia and Transnistria, where few humanitarian actors besides the ICRC were present. A mental-health and psychosocial support programme for displaced people and host communities in Transnistria – run by the National Society and the ICRC – was introduced and its implementation got under way.

People with disabilities and critically ill people who fled from Ukraine obtained medical care at an ICRC-supported hospital in Chisinau while awaiting their onward transportation to other countries via the airlift program of the EU. The ICRC – acting as a neutral intermediary, in coordination with other Movement components – transported them, along with their caretakers, from areas in Ukraine affected by the international armed conflict. After the required medical assessment upon their arrival in Moldova, they went through the medical check-ups, procedures and treatment they needed at the above-mentioned hospital. Some people with disabilities attended physiotherapy sessions. The ICRC covered all the medical expenses involved.

The ICRC monitored the situation of people separated from their families and coordinated with the pertinent Movement components in this regard. It sought to raise awareness of the Movement's family-links services among displaced people during visits to their host families or the centres sheltering them, and during other ICRC activities, such as assistance distributions. The ICRC maintained contact with other international humanitarian actors working on family separation and related issues.

The ICRC strove to expand its partnership with the National Society, with a view to delivering a broader and more effective humanitarian response in the country. It helped the National Society to strengthen its organizational development and its operational capacities, for instance, through training in first aid and IHL.

## CIVILIANS

The ICRC advocated, among the authorities, for the protection of displaced people – particularly those who fled from the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine – people in transit and host communities. It drew particular attention to the fact that these people – including residents of the Gagauzia and Transnistria regions, where few humanitarian actors besides the ICRC had a presence – had a right to access essential services and aid. The ICRC sought to establish or expand dialogue with the authorities and relevant actors, including other humanitarian organizations, in order to reiterate the necessity of ensuring that pertinent provisions of IHL, international human rights law and domestic laws concerning migrants were respected. People displaced from Ukraine, the families hosting them discussed their situation and their immediate needs with the ICRC when it visited them; the ICRC similarly approached those who were staying in centres accommodating people who fled from the international armed conflict.

### People displaced from Ukraine and their host families meet their immediate needs

Together with the Moldova Red Cross Society, the ICRC sought to address the urgent needs of people displaced from Ukraine and the families hosting them, including people in Gagauzia and Transnistria. Almost 51,800 people from throughout Moldova were able to meet their daily food needs through food parcels distributed by the National Society and the ICRC; some of them were also given fresh vegetables to cook. Around

1. For more information, please see the [budget extension documents](#) on the ICRC Extranet for Donors.

64,200 people – some of whom also received the food parcels mentioned above – improved their living conditions through hygiene kits and essential household items that they received from the ICRC, or that they obtained using means provided by the ICRC: for instance, some families used vouchers to buy warm clothes and winter shoes at local markets. Owing to the large scale of needs, the families received several rounds of the above-mentioned distributions of food and other items.

The ICRC and the National Society endeavoured to strengthen mental-health and psychosocial support for people in Moldova affected by the international armed conflict. Staff at the hospital in Chisinau (see *Wounded and sick*) started participating in psychological self-care activities organized by the ICRC. National Society volunteers in Transnistria were trained by the ICRC to provide psychosocial care for displaced people and host families. Some volunteers were able to begin providing such care.

### **Displaced families learn more about the Movement's family-links services**

The ICRC monitored the situation of people separated from their relatives by the international armed conflict. The delegation in Moldova coordinated its work with that of the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency bureau for the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine (see *Central Tracing Agency bureau for the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine*) to restore contact between members of dispersed families. The ICRC also stayed in touch with other humanitarian actors working on the issue of family separation.

During visits by the ICRC, displaced families in the centres mentioned above or in their host communities discussed their needs for restoring contact with relatives, specifically with those who had stayed behind. These families – as well as the relevant authorities – learnt more about the Movement's family-links services through information sessions organized by the ICRC and digital and printed materials (e.g. flyers, posters) it distributed. Those receiving economic aid (see above) also learnt about these services during the distributions that the National Society and the ICRC conducted. A hotline set up specifically to respond to family-links issues began operating in March; it registered more than 50 calls from people who inquired about family-links services and relayed their related concerns, and was also used to follow up on tracing cases and the status of those who sent their inquiries. National Society staff expanded their capacities in restoring family links through training organized by the ICRC.

### **WOUNDED AND SICK**

#### **People with disabilities or critically ill people displaced from Ukraine are given emergency care**

The ICRC helped ensure a continuum of care for people with disabilities or critically ill people who were transported from Ukraine to Moldova, most of whom were on their way to other countries for further care as facilitated via the airlift program run by the EU. With the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary, and in close cooperation with other Movement components such as the German Red Cross and Magen David Adom, these

people were medically evacuated with the help of ambulances, paramedics and other means.

While in Moldova, these patients and their caretakers were able to obtain the medical care they needed, with the ICRC's help. The people mentioned above had access to the necessary medical care at an ICRC-supported hospital in Chisinau; their medical condition was assessed on arrival to ensure proper treatment, and to ensure also that the critically ill among them would be attended to immediately. In order to avoid any disruption in the provision of medical attention, the ICRC gave the hospital medical and other supplies (e.g. diapers, disposable bedsheets, wheelchairs, toiletries). Besides material aid, the ICRC also gave the hospital financial assistance to cover all the expenses associated with treating the patients who arrived from Ukraine. Those with disabilities availed themselves of the physical rehabilitation services, such as physiotherapy.

### **ACTORS OF INFLUENCE**

#### **Authorities broaden their understanding of the Movement's activities in Moldova**

The ICRC strove to establish and/or expand its dialogue with government authorities, military and security forces, media organizations and other institutions in the country, including other international humanitarian organizations. It did so with a view to advancing their understanding of IHL, human rights law, domestic laws concerning migrants and other pertinent norms, especially in light of the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. During engagements with them, they were also briefed about the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, and the various ICRC programmes in the country. Key members of these groups attended meetings, briefings and other events organized by the ICRC: for instance, officers assigned to peace-keeping operations attended a training session focused on IHL, first aid and the protection of civilians. Some IHL-related events were conducted with the support of the Moldova Red Cross Society; participants included security forces personnel and academics.

To supplement the efforts mentioned above, and to broaden awareness of its activities, the ICRC carried out various public-communication initiatives on issues of humanitarian concern and related matters; it also produced publications and other informational material and maintained its presence on social media.

### **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The ICRC reinforced its partnership with the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Moldova, with a view to mounting an effective humanitarian response to the spillover effects of the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The National Society and the ICRC worked together to deliver food parcels and hygiene kits (see *Civilians*) to people displaced from Ukraine and living in Moldova in centres that were set up for them, or with host families or acquaintances. The operational presence of the National Society in, for instance, Transnistria was instrumental in the delivery of this aid.

The ICRC gave the National Society financial, material and technical support to advance its organizational development and strengthen its operational capacities. For instance, the ICRC helped to pay the salaries of some National Society staff. Around 600 National Society volunteers and staff attended 27 training sessions on basic first aid, with the ICRC also donating first-aid equipment to help them do their work. Staff and volunteers also learnt more about IHL and participated

in ICRC training to build their capacities in conducting economic-security and family-links activities (see *Civilians*); instruction in key aspects of the Safer Access Framework was incorporated in some of these sessions.

Movement components in the country met to coordinate their activities and strengthen their collective response.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION

CIVILIANS	Total			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>		<b>UAMs/SC</b>		
RCMs collected	3			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>		<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	25	7	1	4
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	8			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	16	4	1	2
<b>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs)/separated children (SC), including demobilized child soldiers</b>		<b>Girls</b>		<b>Demobilized children</b>
UAMs/SC newly registered by the ICRC/National Society	2	1		
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period	2	1		

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS		Total	Women	Children
<b>Economic security</b>				
Food consumption	People	51,768	21,222	11,911
Living conditions	People	64,210	27,452	15,587
<b>Mental health and psychosocial support</b>				
People who received mental-health support		26		
People who attended information sessions on mental health		43		
People trained in mental-health care and psychosocial support		10		
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>				
<b>Hospitals</b>				
Hospitals supported	Structures	1		
	<i>including hospitals reinforced with or monitored by ICRC staff</i>	1		
<b>Services at hospitals reinforced with or monitored by ICRC staff</b>				
Medical (non-surgical) admissions		134	76	
<b>Services at hospitals not monitored directly by ICRC staff</b>				
Patients whose hospital treatment was paid for by the ICRC		237		

# TASHKENT (regional)

**COVERING:** Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

The ICRC has been in Central Asia since 1992. It seeks to foster support for IHL and other relevant norms and for the ICRC's work. It helps the authorities and National Societies in the region to respond to emergencies. In several countries, it works with local partners to assist the repatriated relatives of people alleged to have been involved in fighting abroad, and the families of missing people. In Tajikistan, it also supports people with physical disabilities and educates communities on mine-related hazards. Throughout the region, it helps National Societies to build their capacities.

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

**HIGH**

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2022

- Following clashes at the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border, the ICRC continued to expand its engagement with the pertinent authorities, reminding them of their obligations under IHL.
- People affected by clashes at the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border obtained psychosocial support from the National Societies and the ICRC in both countries. Those in Tajikistan also received medical care at ICRC-supported hospitals.
- National Societies in the region drew on the ICRC's support to bolster their operational capacities. The Kazakh Red Crescent Society was thus able to help migrants and people affected by civil unrest to contact their relatives.
- Across the region, women and children repatriated from conflict zones received mental-health support from the ICRC or ICRC-trained providers. Those hosted in institutions were visited by their families, who were aided by the ICRC.
- The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the ICRC informed communities near Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan of weapon contamination-related risks. People with physical disabilities obtained services at ICRC-supported centres.
- Senior military officials and diplomats learnt more about the ICRC's humanitarian position on contemporary issues in armed conflict (e.g. autonomous weapons systems and partnered military operations) at regional round-tables.

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	2,788
Assistance	3,994
Prevention	1,877
Cooperation with National Societies	1,737
General	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,445</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>637</i>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	113%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	14
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	135



PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS</b>	
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	20
RCMs distributed	17
Phone calls facilitated between family members	1,757
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	18
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Places of detention visited	2
Detainees in places of detention visited	1,252
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	2
Visits carried out	2
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	10
RCMs distributed	6

ASSISTANCE	2022 Targets (up to)	Achieved	
<b>CIVILIANS</b>			
<b>Economic security</b>			
Income support	People	163	
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>			
<b>Medical care</b>			
Hospitals supported	Structures	3	16
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>			
Projects supported	Projects	5	4

## CONTEXT

Disputes over borders and natural resources remained sources of tension, especially at the Kyrgyzstan–Tajikistan border. The conflict between the two countries intensified briefly in September; a ceasefire was declared, but tensions remained.

Socio-political tensions led to violent protests or other incidents in the region, notably in Kazakhstan, Karakalpakstan in Uzbekistan, and Gorno-Badakhshan in Tajikistan. They resulted in arrests, injuries and deaths.

Migrants came from or passed through Central Asian countries on their way to the Middle East, Kazakhstan or elsewhere.

The countries covered by the regional delegation were affected by wider regional issues, such as the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, which led to incidents at the border with Tajikistan.

The governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan repatriated relatives of citizens alleged to have been involved in conflict elsewhere, particularly in Iraq and in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria). Most of the repatriated people were women and children, who were hosted by various institutions after their repatriation; some people returned from conflict zones on their own. Many of these people were traumatized and required support.

Families were dispersed, and people reported missing, in connection with the aforementioned circumstances: past or ongoing violence; migration; or alleged involvement in conflict elsewhere.

Certain communities in Tajikistan, particularly along the borders with Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan, remained at risk from mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). People with physical disabilities struggled to obtain good-quality rehabilitation services.

The five countries covered remained involved, to varying degrees, with multilateral bodies such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Union, the European Union, NATO and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC sought to foster respect for IHL and other applicable norms by strengthening its engagement with authorities and military and security forces, for instance, through briefings for border guards and meetings with officials. It worked with National Societies and other local partners to address the needs of: communities affected by surges in violence; repatriated women and children; people with disabilities in Tajikistan; and the families of missing people.

Following clashes at the Kyrgyzstan–Tajikistan border, the ICRC continued to expand its engagement with the authorities concerned, reminding them of their obligations under IHL. People on both sides of the Kyrgyzstan–Tajikistan border received mental health and psychosocial support services from the ICRC or ICRC-trained community leaders and local professionals.

In Tajikistan, casualties of violence in areas bordering Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan were treated by hospitals that received supplies and other support from the ICRC. People with physical disabilities obtained services at ICRC-supported centres. Together with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, the ICRC conducted information sessions in border communities on weapon contamination-related risks.

The ICRC monitored and discussed with Central Asian governments the situation of people alleged to have been involved in conflict in Iraq, Syria or elsewhere, and that of their families. Repatriated women and children received psychological and psychosocial support directly from the ICRC (in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) and/or from local professionals such as psychologists, social workers and others who received capacity-building support from the ICRC. The latter was the case in: Kazakhstan, where the programme was expanded; Kyrgyzstan; Uzbekistan, where the program started in 2022; and Tajikistan. Families in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan also received financial assistance from the ICRC and were referred to other services for legal or other forms of assistance.

In Tajikistan, an accompaniment programme, undertaken by local partners supervised by the ICRC, enabled the families of people missing in connection with past conflict, other conflicts abroad, or migration to obtain psychosocial support and referrals to service providers for other assistance.

Members of families separated for various reasons – such as migration, detention or armed conflict elsewhere – exchanged news through RCMs, phone calls and other family-links services provided by the Movement. Among them were migrants and people affected by unrest in Kazakhstan. In Kazakhstan, the ICRC began offering family-links services to people who had been separated from their relatives by conflict in other countries. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, it continued to advocate the rights of missing people's families.

The ICRC helped to bolster the forensic capacities of national authorities and other stakeholders in Tajikistan to ensure the safe, proper and dignified management of human remains in line with the authorities' obligations under IHL and other legal frameworks. For instance, it continued to offer support for the development of a manual on procedures for managing human remains. It also gave training and body bags to the National Society.

The ICRC visited detainees in Kyrgyzstan to monitor their treatment and living conditions.

Senior military officials, diplomats and academics learnt more about the ICRC's humanitarian position on contemporary conflict issues (e.g. autonomous weapons systems and partnered military operations) at regional round-tables organized in Kazakhstan by the ICRC.

## CIVILIANS

### Migrants and people separated from their families by conflict in other countries contact their relatives

Members of families dispersed by migration, detention or conflict elsewhere contacted one another using the Movement's family-links services. Repatriated children

and missing people's families also received other forms of assistance (see below).

Migrants at five immigration detention centres in Kazakhstan restored or maintained contact with their families through phone calls (1,651 in all) facilitated by the Kazakh Red Crescent Society, with the ICRC's support. The Kazakh Red Crescent also drew on the ICRC's support to provide family-links services in response to the unrest in the country in January.

The ICRC reminded the authorities of the importance of family contact and began offering RCMs, tracing and other family-links services to people in Kazakhstan who had been separated from their relatives by conflict in other countries.

In Tajikistan, the ICRC continued to collect cases of people missing in connection with alleged involvement in fighting abroad, and in connection with past conflict or other violence, with a view to ascertaining their fate and informing their families. Missing persons cases linked with labour migration began to be referred to the National Society.

In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the ICRC reminded the authorities of the right of missing people's families to know the fate of their relatives. It continued to offer its legal and technical expertise to help advance domestic legislation protecting the families' rights.

CIVILIANS	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>			
RCMs collected		1	19
RCMs distributed		5	12
Phone calls facilitated between family members	1,651	106	
Human remains transferred or repatriated			1
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>			
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	3	4	1,099
<i>of whom women</i>	1		44
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - girls</i>		1	19
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - boys</i>			52
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>			3
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	1	1	16
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>			2
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	46	228	4,264
<i>of whom women</i>	15	41	153
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - girls</i>	8	61	87
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - boys</i>	12	50	268
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>			7

### People repatriated to Tajikistan from Iraq and Syria are visited by their families

The ICRC monitored and discussed, with Central Asian governments, the situation of people alleged to have been involved in fighting elsewhere, and that of their families; it offered these governments its assistance for activities before and after their repatriation and/or for reuniting them with their relatives.

In Tajikistan, dozens of women and children repatriated from Iraq or Syria, who were hosted in various institutions, were visited by caregivers or family members because the ICRC covered their travel expenses. They also benefited from donations of clothes and other essentials to the institutions hosting them.

A total of 163 people – the families of repatriated children in various institutions, returnees from conflict zones and others were given financial assistance by the ICRC to facilitate their reintegration, and 98 returnees were referred to other service providers for legal and other support.

### Missing people's families and children affected by clashes receive psychosocial and other support

Across the region, people dealt with the psychological consequences of violence with the help of the ICRC and its local partners. In all, 3,150 people received mental health and psychosocial support from the ICRC or from 215 people trained by the ICRC.

In Tajikistan, an accompaniment programme enabled 874 people – whose relatives had gone missing in connection with past conflict, other conflicts abroad, or migration – to obtain psychosocial care through support groups, home visits or other means; 240 of them were referred to other organizations for legal or other support. The programme was carried out by the National Society and local NGOs, under the ICRC's supervision. Events were organized by the ICRC and its partners to mark the International Day of the Disappeared.

Following armed conflict at the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border and violence in Gorno-Badakshan, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the ICRC organized training in psychological self-care and psychological first aid for scores of medical

staff, National Society volunteers and others who were helping affected people. Hundreds of schoolchildren also obtained psychosocial support through activities organized by the National Society and the ICRC; single-session therapy was also provided to people with acute needs.

In Kyrgyzstan, hundreds of children and others affected by conflict at the border with Tajikistan received mental-health support from an ICRC-supported team of psychologists; community leaders and National Society volunteers who were helping others also benefited from such support themselves. Elsewhere in Kyrgyzstan, the children repatriated from Iraq in 2021, and their caregivers, continued to receive assistance directly from ICRC staff or ICRC-supported professionals.

In Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, mental-health professionals and community actors involved in the social reintegration of repatriated women and children were trained in the provision of mental-health and psychosocial support. The ICRC launched its training programme in Uzbekistan in May and expanded its programme in Kazakhstan to include more regions.

In Tajikistan, dozens of people – returnees, and returnee children and their caregivers – directly received psychological support from the ICRC. The staff of institutions hosting repatriated children were also trained in providing such support.

### **Communities near the Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan border learn safer practices around mines/ERW**

Some 38,200 people in mine-affected communities (including 7,000 conflict-affected people) learnt safer practices around mines/ERW through information sessions and other activities organized by the Tajikistan Red Crescent with the ICRC's support; information on COVID-19 was often incorporated in these sessions. More than 21,000 of the participants were schoolchildren. Leaflets were also distributed in conflict-affected communities.

National Society personnel improved their knowledge of safer practices around mines/ERW, and their ability to disseminate this knowledge, through ICRC training. They also learnt more about the rights of mine victims, and the assistance available to victims, at sessions organized by the ICRC and mine-action authorities. The National Society and the ICRC attended coordination meetings and other events related to mine action organized by the authorities or other actors.

### **Standard procedures for managing human remains are finalized in Tajikistan**

The ICRC sought to bolster forensics capacities in the region to facilitate the identification of the dead and notification of their families. Some activities – such as support for developing legal frameworks and standardizing procedures for managing human remains in Kyrgyzstan – had to be put on hold because of internal constraints.

In Tajikistan, the ICRC kept up dialogue with the authorities on the importance of managing human remains properly. It continued to discuss, with the committee of emergency situations and with

the health ministry, training in human remains management for first responders and forensic experts, respectively.

A manual on standard operating procedures for managing human remains, drafted in 2021 with the ICRC's help, was finalized at round tables that convened the relevant government bodies, and was tested during a simulation exercise; the ICRC organized all this. The document was then translated into Tajik; at year's end, it was ready for approval by the committee.

First responders strengthened their knowledge of human remains management during training sessions organized by the Tajikistan Red Crescent and the ICRC; they were also given body bags to help them respond to the consequences of the border clashes.

### **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

The ICRC sought to visit, in accordance with its standard procedures, people detained in connection with conflict or other violence in the region or elsewhere. Through these visits, it monitored the treatment and living conditions of detainees in Kyrgyzstan, and communicated its findings confidentially to the authorities concerned, to help them improve detainees' treatment and living conditions. The authorities were also reminded of the importance of ensuring family contact for detainees. Some detainees were visited by their relatives, with the ICRC covering the travel expenses of more than 61 people in Kyrgyzstan and 286 people in Tajikistan. In Tajikistan, the ICRC also provided the families with soap and masks for protection against COVID-19.

Though the authorities had taken over the management of TB services at detention facilities in Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC continued to monitor the situation and gave ad hoc aid: supplies and other support for X-ray services, and gloves and surgical masks to prevent cross-infection. A high-level health official from the justice ministry was sponsored to attend a conference on health in detention – organized in Geneva, Switzerland, by the ICRC (see *Headquarters – Protection and Essential Services*) – to share their research and experiences.

### **WOUNDED AND SICK**

#### **Hospitals in border areas of Tajikistan deal with an influx of casualties with the ICRC's help**

In view of repeated incidents of fighting at the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border and incidents at the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border, both resulting in a considerable number of injured, the Tajikistan Red Crescent and the ICRC arranged training sessions for health care providers, armed and security forces (see *Actors of influence*) and community members on first aid as well as on the protected status of injured and medical facilities/staff.

Casualties of violence in communities of Tajikistan near Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan were able to obtain medical treatment at 16 health facilities (initial target: 3) that received medical supplies and equipment from the ICRC. A total of 35 surgeons honed their skills through a four-day course on weapon-wound surgery, which was organized by the ICRC to

help bolster emergency preparedness in medical facilities in volatile border areas.

### **People with disabilities obtain physical rehabilitation services in Tajikistan**

In Tajikistan, a total of 782 people<sup>1</sup> with disabilities obtained rehabilitative care at three state-run orthopaedic centres in the cities of Dushanbe, Khujand and Kulob; the ICRC provided the centres some material support, organized training for their staff and assessed the quality of their services, offering advice as needed. A fourth centre – in Khorog, near the border with Afghanistan, and scheduled to begin functioning in 2023 – was equipped with machinery and components for the production of orthopaedic devices.

The ICRC met with the authorities to discuss the long-term sustainability of the physical rehabilitation sector. It also met with the National Union of Persons with Disabilities of Tajikistan to explore possibilities for advancing the social inclusion of disabled people. Social-inclusion activities were postponed, as the ICRC focused on providing technical support for raising the quality of orthopaedic devices.

### **ACTORS OF INFLUENCE**

Authorities and military and security forces personnel in the region – including peacekeepers bound for missions in other countries – and other influential actors learnt more about the Movement and IHL and other applicable norms, including international standards for the use of force in policing, through seminars, customized courses and meetings organized by the ICRC. In some cases, such as IHL information sessions for border troops, these events were combined with training in first aid. Senior officials were sponsored to attend advanced IHL workshops in other countries.

In light of the armed clashes between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the ICRC continued to expand its engagement with the parties concerned, reminding them of their obligations under IHL. It also engaged the authorities concerned in discussions about law enforcement operations in Kazakhstan and in Gorno-Badakshan in Tajikistan, and strengthened its dialogue with the military in Uzbekistan.

The ICRC was able to participate as an observer in a CSTO police exercise in Kyrgyzstan, paying particular attention to such matters as handling hostage situations and providing medical assistance to injured and wounded people.

### **Senior military officials and the ICRC discuss IHL vis-à-vis contemporary issues in armed conflict**

At two round tables in Kazakhstan, military representatives in the region exchanged views on contemporary issues in armed conflict and learnt more about the ICRC's humanitarian position on these matters; the events also enabled the ICRC to reinforce its status as the reference organization for IHL.

The first event, held in Nur-Sultan in April, covered autonomous weapons systems and the military application of artificial

intelligence; it convened 55 people – senior officers, academics and diplomats – from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, France, India, Russia, the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (USA).

The second event, held in Astana in November, covered support relationships in the context of armed conflict, partnered military operations and urban warfare; it convened 22 senior military officers and defense attachés from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Georgia, France, India, the UK and the USA.

### **National Societies and the ICRC raise awareness of the Movement's humanitarian work in the region**

The general public learnt more about humanitarian issues in the region through the efforts of the ICRC and its partners, which included joint events organized by the National Societies and the ICRC. Media organizations covered the Movement's response to these issues, particularly the violence along the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border. The ICRC helped to build the public-communication capacities of National Societies in the region; for example, it trained staff from the Tajikistan National Society in communication during emergencies and sponsored a staff member from the Kyrgyzstan National Society to attend a related seminar in another country.

### **Academics and representatives of think tanks discuss IHL and its implementation**

The ICRC discussed promotion and implementation of IHL (including key treaties such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons), with authorities in the countries covered and with the national IHL committees. It offered them its legal and technical expertise in this regard and sought dialogue on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Students and scholars engaged in discourse on IHL at events organized by the ICRC to this end, including moot court competitions in several countries and round-table discussions on IHL (in all the countries covered by the regional delegation) and on IHL and Islamic law (in Kyrgyzstan). In Uzbekistan, a university restored an IHL course to its master's degree programme after discussions with the ICRC.

### **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The National Societies in the region responded to emergencies with support from the ICRC, the International Federation and other partners. For instance, they worked with the ICRC to restore family links, raise awareness of the dangers of mines/ERW, and provide medical assistance, including mental-health and psychosocial support, to people affected by fighting near the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border (see *Civilians and Wounded and sick*). In Tajikistan, the National Society, together with the ICRC, provided food parcels and cash to families (152 people in all) who had lost their homes and/or a breadwinner. In Kyrgyzstan, the National Society, with the ICRC's support, also provided civilians affected by the conflict with hygiene items and other essentials.

1. Based on aggregated monthly data, which include repeat users of physical rehabilitation services.

The National Societies bolstered their emergency preparedness with financial, material and technical support from the ICRC. They organized first-aid training sessions for communities, weapon bearers, and their own instructors and volunteers with the ICRC's help. The ICRC also organized seminars for the National Societies on the Safer Access Framework, to help their staff and volunteers do their work safely.

Guided by the ICRC, the National Societies in the region worked towards consolidating their legal bases. They drew on the ICRC's support to promote the Movement's work and/or IHL via dissemination sessions, communication campaigns and other means.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION

CIVILIANS	Total			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>		<b>UAMs/SC</b>		
RCMs collected	20			
RCMs distributed	17			
Phone calls facilitated between family members	1,757			
Human remains transferred or repatriated	1			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>		<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	1,106	45	20	52
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	3			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	18			
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	2			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	4,538	209	156	330
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	7			
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>				
<b>ICRC visits</b>		<b>Women</b>	<b>Minors</b>	
Places of detention visited	2			
Detainees in places of detention visited	1,252			
Visits carried out	2			
		<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
Detainees visited and monitored individually	2			
<i>of whom newly registered</i>	2			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>				
RCMs collected	10			
RCMs distributed	6			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	347			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	2			

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS	Total	Women	Children
<b>Economic security</b>			
Income support	163	79	29
<b>Mental health and psychosocial support</b>			
People who received mental-health support	3,150		
People who attended information sessions on mental health	1,207		
People trained in mental-health care and psychosocial support	215		
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>			
<b>Hospitals</b>			
Hospitals supported	Structures	16	
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>			
Projects supported		4	
<i>of which physical rehabilitation centres supported regularly</i>		3	
People who benefited from ICRC-supported projects	Aggregated monthly data	782	
<i>of whom service users at physical rehabilitation centres (PRCs)</i>		782	73
			203
<b>Services at physical rehabilitation centres supported regularly</b>			
Prostheses delivered	Units	207	
Orthoses delivered	Units	1,864	
Physiotherapy sessions		978	
Walking aids delivered	Units	1,627	
Wheelchairs or postural support devices delivered	Units	324	

# UKRAINE

Having worked in the country since 1993, the ICRC expanded its presence in Ukraine in 2014. It delivers vital humanitarian assistance to people affected by armed conflict, promotes the protection of civilians and urges compliance with IHL. Its multidisciplinary response addresses emergency and longer-term needs, providing relief, supporting livelihoods and improving access to water, medical care and other essential services. It visits people deprived of their freedom and restores family links. It supports missing people's families and efforts to clarify the fate of missing persons. The ICRC works closely with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society and helps build its capacities.

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

HIGH

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2022

- The ICRC responded to the increased humanitarian needs stemming from the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine by significantly scaling up its operations and expanding its presence in Ukraine.
- The ICRC reminded both parties of their obligations under IHL, particularly to protect civilians and key infrastructure from attacks. Local mine-action personnel were better equipped to conduct their activities, thanks to the ICRC's help.
- The ICRC helped to ensure that persons protected under IHL were accounted for and to prevent disappearances, such as by urging both parties to notify it of people's whereabouts, bolstering local forensic capacities, and visiting POWs.
- People affected by hostilities met their urgent needs, became more self-sufficient, accessed water, health and other basic services, and stayed in touch with their families, thanks to the ICRC's multidisciplinary response to their needs.
- The ICRC sought to clarify its mandate and secure acceptance for its strictly humanitarian activities among the authorities and other influential actors, to gain or maintain access to people in need and ensure the safety of its staff.
- The ICRC and the Ukrainian Red Cross Society co-convened the Movement's response to humanitarian needs in Ukraine. The ICRC helped the National Society to develop its ability to provide humanitarian aid to those in need.

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	23,109
Assistance	336,143
Prevention	6,716
Cooperation with National Societies	15,364
General	298
<b>Total</b>	<b>381,630</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>22,614</i>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	108%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	188
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	603



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC office/presence

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS</b>	
<b>Protection of family links</b>	
RCMs collected	230
RCMs distributed	165
Phone calls facilitated between family members	79
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	1,048

ASSISTANCE	2022 Targets (up to)	Achieved
<b>CIVILIANS</b>		
<b>Economic security</b>		
Food consumption	People 240,000	883,843
Food production	People 12,663	2,074
Income support	People 343,000	347,604
Living conditions	People 160,000	904,296
<b>Water and habitat</b>		
Water and habitat activities	People 7,558,500	10,800,213
<b>Health</b>		
Health centres supported	Structures 50	135
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
<b>Medical care</b>		
Hospitals supported	Structures 45	95
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>		
Projects supported	Projects 6	30
<b>Water and habitat</b>		
Water and habitat activities	Beds (capacity) 5,188	24,655

## CONTEXT

The international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine affected vast sections of north-eastern, eastern and south-eastern Ukraine. Both parties captured soldiers and interned civilians. People fleeing the hostilities became displaced within Ukraine or had crossed into neighbouring countries. According to UN estimates, roughly 5.9 million people remained displaced within Ukraine and around 7.8 million had fled to other countries in Europe (see *Budapest, Moscow and Republic of Moldova*, for example).

The consequences of the international armed conflict were widespread and devastating for civilians. Having left their belongings behind, IDPs faced difficult living conditions without stable access to water, heating or electricity. Homes were destroyed and essential services disrupted, as the fighting caused massive damage to water, power and other public utilities, and to medical facilities and schools. Health services had to cope with shortages of supplies and influxes of patients; as a result, wounded or sick people, including the chronically ailing, did not always get the medical attention they needed. Closure of stores, breakdown of local supply chains, and accelerating inflation made it difficult for most people to obtain food and other basic goods. Many people lost contact with their families or were unable to locate relatives who had gone missing. Weapon contamination was pervasive.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC significantly expanded its presence and operations in response to the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. To support this scale-up, it adopted two budget extensions<sup>1</sup> in July and October. The ICRC focused its attention on meeting needs not covered by other humanitarian actors. The Ukrainian Red Cross Society and the ICRC co-convened the Movement's response to ensure that people received timely and well-coordinated assistance. The ICRC provided the National Society with comprehensive support for strengthening its organizational and operational capacities, and its security management.

The ICRC reminded both parties of their obligations under IHL, particularly to protect civilians and refrain from attacking civilian infrastructure providing essential services during hostilities. It used various means – for example, meetings, training sessions and social media – to broaden acceptance for its mandate, counter misinformation/disinformation about its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian work, and secure support for IHL and other relevant norms among the authorities, military and security personnel and other actors. The ICRC stayed in touch with communities affected by hostilities – using a community contact centre, maintaining proximity to these communities through its sub-delegations, and other means – to understand their needs and concerns more fully and share information that could be useful to them. It acted as a neutral intermediary in overseeing safe passage for civilians.

The ICRC helped to prevent disappearances and ensure that protected persons under IHL – civilians, POWs, and the wounded and the sick – were accounted for. It did so by helping the Ukrainian authorities establish the national information bureau (NIB) and by setting up the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency (CTA) bureau for the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine (see *Central Tracing Agency bureau for the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine*). Through the concerted efforts of these structures, families received news about the fate and/or whereabouts of their relatives who had gone missing or were held by the parties in connection with the international armed conflict. Members of separated families also reconnected through the Movement's family-links services. Forensic specialists developed their ability to manage human remains with technical and other support from the ICRC.

The ICRC visited – in accordance with its standard procedures – POWs and others held by the parties in connection with the international armed conflict to monitor their treatment and living conditions. It discussed its findings confidentially with the authorities concerned and supported them in ensuring that people deprived of their freedom had access to health services, clean water and food, and were treated in accordance with IHL.

Together with the National Society, the ICRC distributed food and household essentials, or cash for buying them, to people affected by hostilities. Such support helped families cope with their situation and get through the winter season. ICRC assistance enabled households – including those from which people had gone missing – to maintain or increase their income or, to a much lesser extent, food production. The ICRC gave hospitals, IDP shelters and other community-based facilities material and financial support to ensure maintenance of their services. It provided material and infrastructural support for renovating water-supply systems and other essential facilities, which benefited millions of people. Students continued their education with material, financial and other support from the ICRC.

Wounded and sick people – those with diabetes or other chronic diseases, for instance – obtained appropriate services at ICRC-supported clinics, hospitals, blood banks and other health facilities. Personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be made available to these facilities. The ICRC also assisted projects or facilities serving people with physical disabilities. More health facilities than planned were supported, as the ICRC bolstered its ad hoc activities. ICRC-trained community members and service providers extended mental-health and psychosocial support to missing people's families and others who were in distress. Medical staff were trained to cope with work-related stress and preserve their psychological well-being.

People learnt about the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), and safe practices around them, through National Society/ICRC risk-education sessions. The ICRC provided training or material support for local mine-action personnel involved in surveying, marking or clearing weapon-contaminated areas.

1. See the [budget extension documents](#) on the ICRC Extranet for Donors.

## CIVILIANS

The international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine created humanitarian needs on a massive scale. The ICRC responded by expanding its operations in Ukraine, supported by a budget extension that it adopted in July. In order to increase its proximity to people affected throughout the country, the ICRC deployed additional staff and opened sub-delegations in Dnipro, Kyiv, Lviv and Odesa, and an office in Vinnytsya. Owing to developments in the situation, it closed its sub-delegations in Mariupol, Sieverodonetsk and Sloviansk. It increased its budget for Ukraine again, in October, in order to reinforce its assistance activities during winter.

The ICRC focused its response on needs that were not covered by other humanitarian actors, especially in areas that few organizations were able to reach. Together, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society and the ICRC co-convened the Movement's response to ensure that people received timely and coordinated assistance. The ICRC provided the National Society with comprehensive support to assist people affected by hostilities (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

### Parties to the international armed conflict are urged to respect IHL and ensure protection of civilians

The ICRC reminded both parties to the international armed conflict of their obligations under IHL, particularly to ensure the protection of people who were not or were no longer participating in hostilities and to refrain from attacking civilian infrastructure. It closely monitored the situation of people affected by hostilities – including those who had fled to other countries – and raised their concerns confidentially with the pertinent authorities. Through various means, it sought to secure support for its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action among the authorities and other influential actors, and to gain or maintain access to people in need. For instance, it engaged in dialogue with Ukrainian authorities, and the ICRC's president held bilateral talks, on issues of humanitarian concern, with government officials in Ukraine. The ICRC intensified its public communication on social media and through international news organizations, to counter misinformation/disinformation about its work. Civilian victims and their families received ad hoc support from the ICRC's economic-security teams (see below).

People affected by hostilities got in touch with the ICRC through a community contact centre, which documented information on their needs and answered questions about the ICRC's services. The ICRC used this information to improve its respective programmes. The centre also responded to calls and email from members of the media and the wider public (see *Actors of influence*).

The ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary in various settings. For instance, it helped facilitate safe passage for over 10,000 civilians – mainly from Mariupol and, with the National Society, from Sumy – to other locations in Ukraine or to the Republic of Moldova (hereafter Moldova), where some of them obtained medical treatment (see *Republic of Moldova*). Among them were wounded or sick people and people who were particularly at risk, such as people with physical disabilities and older people.

### Families receive news of relatives who were separated from them or went missing

Members of families separated by conflict, migration and/or other circumstances reconnected through RCMs, phone calls and other Movement family-links services. Families exchanged RCMs, delivered and collected by the ICRC, with relatives who were being held by the parties in connection with the international armed conflict. The ICRC gave the National Society technical and material support, and training, to strengthen its family-links services. Around 7,000 tracing cases were lodged with the National Society and the ICRC by families searching for missing relatives. By engaging both sides in dialogue and coordinating with the relevant actors, the ICRC helped ascertain the fate and/or whereabouts of over 1,000 people.

With ICRC support, the Ukrainian authorities established the NIB tasked to collect information about persons protected under IHL and communicate this to the CTA bureau, and to respond to enquiries received from families in Ukraine. The ICRC's delegation in Ukraine worked closely with the CTA bureau and the NIB to advance efforts to give families answers about the fate and/or whereabouts of their relatives. To that same end, the ICRC cooperated with two other national mechanisms set up by the Ukrainian government in 2022: the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War and the Commissioner for Missing Persons; it organized regular meetings, information sessions and training for and with these two mechanisms.

Missing people's families received ICRC support for meeting their psychosocial, financial and other needs (see below). The ICRC met with missing people's families to discuss their needs and gather their views on the services available to them. It used its findings to draw the attention of authorities to the plight of these families.

The ICRC bolstered its efforts to build local capacities in searching for, recovering, managing and identifying human remains. It had discussions with various forensic personnel on increasing coordination, centralizing information and other best practices. Forensic specialists, first responders, authorities, DNA laboratories and others developed their ability to handle and identify human remains – safely and with due regard for dignity – with technical support, training and material aid (PPE, body bags, refrigerated vehicles, etc.) from the ICRC.

### Communities affected by hostilities meet their immediate needs

Together with the National Society, the ICRC scaled up its emergency assistance for communities affected by hostilities. It prioritized helping people – particularly IDPs, people living near front-line areas, civilian victims and/or their families, and other vulnerable people – to meet their immediate needs, for instance, for food and more humane living conditions; as a result, significantly more people than initially planned benefited from the ICRC's activities in these areas. About 884,000 people received food parcels or cash for buying food. Around 904,300 people were able to ease their circumstances to some degree, protect themselves from harsh weather and get through power outages with financial and material

assistance from the ICRC: hygiene kits, cooking utensils, mattresses, winter essentials, school kits and other items, or cash for buying them or for repairing their damaged homes.

The ICRC also continued to help people build their self-sufficiency and some degree of resilience to the effects of hostilities. Roughly 140,000 households (347,600 people in all) were given multipurpose cash grants – and a few, vouchers – for supplementing their income or covering daily or winter-related expenses. Most of these people – low-income households, people with physical disabilities, and single mothers – were under the government’s social protection list and assisted under a tripartite agreement with the National Society and the social policy ministry. Among those who received cash were around 400 families of missing people who had been assisted by the ICRC in previous years; some 2,250 civilians wounded in the fighting; and 92 families of people deprived of their freedom or of those newly released. Some of the families also received financial assistance for ensuring their children’s continued education (see below). A total of 656 households (supporting over 2,000 people) were given greenhouses or cash for buying fodder; this helped preserve their ability to produce food or maintain the health of their livestock. Fewer people than planned benefited from this activity, as the ICRC focused on scaling up its relief efforts.

### **Community members learn safe practices around hazardous weapons**

Local emergency or mine-clearance personnel bolstered their ability to mark and/or clear areas littered by mines/ERW. The ICRC supplied them with materials and protective gear for dealing with conventional and non-conventional weapons. They were also trained to treat blast-related injuries. Thousands of people, including first responders and community members, learnt about risks associated with mines/ERW and how to mitigate them, through information sessions or informational materials from the ICRC. ICRC weapon-contamination specialists assisted in clearing unexploded ordnance to help ensure that both civilians and aid workers were protected during the conduct of humanitarian activities. They also carried out road assessments and accompanied ICRC assistance teams on humanitarian convoys and during aid distributions and field visits.

In Kyiv and Luhansk, children took part in creative and educational activities on risk awareness and safe practices organized or supported by the ICRC. Owing to volatile security conditions, the ICRC was not able to conduct awareness-raising activities in person for as many people as in the past.

### **Public utilities maintain their services for millions of people**

The ICRC provided material and/or financial support to about 425 key institutions across Ukraine, including hospitals, IDP shelters, nursing homes for older people, and veterinary clinics. ICRC support made them more capable of ensuring continuity of their services for communities affected by hostilities, even during power outages and the winter.

With the help of the National Society and other local partners, the ICRC significantly bolstered its efforts to help public utilities ensure that basic services were available throughout

the country. Its approach was three-pronged: helping mitigate disruptions in the supply of water, electricity and other essential services; making service providers more capable of preparing for or responding to emergencies; and restoring infrastructure damaged by the fighting. This approach enabled the ICRC to reach approximately 10.8 million people, most of whom got their water from networks renovated or supported in other ways by the ICRC. The ICRC gave water boards financial and material support – such as spare parts, tools, water-treatment chemicals and other consumables, and specialized equipment – to cover large operational costs; it also undertook major repairs to damaged water and electrical systems. These activities also continued to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The ICRC trucked in water, or delivered it through other means, for communities, patients in health facilities and students in areas where the water supply had been disrupted. It also helped make clean water available in some health centres (see below).

The people mentioned above also included over a million people who benefited from centralized heating systems restored by the ICRC, and over 165,000 people who repaired their damaged homes (over 55,000 buildings) with construction materials and/or cash from the ICRC. As a result, they were also better protected against the harsh Ukrainian winter.

Health centres and emergency services maintained and repaired their critical infrastructure with generators and other equipment from the ICRC.

### **People with diabetes and other chronic medical conditions continue to receive suitable care**

People with chronic illnesses and other medical conditions obtained suitable care through ICRC-supported facilities or services: 135 primary-health-care centres, ambulatories and other health facilities (with an average catchment population of 12.5 million people). The ICRC provided them – regularly and on an ad hoc basis – with material support such as drugs, consumables, medical equipment and hygiene items; it also covered staff salaries at one facility. The ICRC donated larger stocks of medicine than usual, enabling them to ensure the availability of care despite shortages of supplies. Altogether, these ICRC-supported facilities, which were situated near front-line or hard-to-reach areas, conducted 237,711 curative consultations and made 14,727 referrals to secondary facilities. The ICRC undertook repairs at, or donated construction materials to, certain facilities damaged by shelling. It also distributed medical reference books, leaflets and other informational materials on diagnosing and treating people with non-communicable diseases and other medical conditions. Boreholes drilled by the ICRC gave patients and staff at some of the centres stable access to drinking water.

Diabetics were able to continue their treatment with material support from the ICRC (over 268,000 doses of insulin, some 2,800 glucometers, and about 856,600 glucose test strips). Together with the Ukrainian Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and local health authorities, the ICRC provided support for sending nine mobile health units into areas heavily affected by hostilities or an influx of IDPs.

Around 900 people in psychological distress – including missing people’s families, people formerly deprived of their freedom and people severely affected by hostilities – obtained mental-health and psychosocial support, or information on stress management, through services provided or supported by the ICRC. The ICRC ran a hotline and gave the National Society technical support to do the same; this ensured that mental-health and psychosocial support was more widely available and accessible. Community volunteers, National Society staff, health workers and others learnt how to cope with work-related stress and preserve their psychological well-being through training or information sessions.

### **Students continue their education in person and online**

Thousands of students in areas affected by hostilities were able to continue their education because of the ICRC’s infrastructural and material support for schools, kindergartens, colleges and other educational institutions. The ICRC undertook major repairs at facilities damaged by hostilities and provided the materials necessary for making provisional/emergency repairs or for reinforcing buildings’ security measures. It also provided furniture, school supplies, hygiene kits, kitchen items and other things for use in classrooms and cafeterias. It gave the education ministry generators to ensure the availability of electricity in schools during nationwide power cuts. Medical students received books distributed by the ICRC. As some schools employed distance learning, students and teachers were given laptops, tablet computers, printers and other ICT devices. Some families were given cash to pay school fees.

### **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

The ICRC pursued dialogue with both parties to the international armed conflict to secure unimpeded and repeated access to all people held in connection with the international armed conflict, and to visit them in accordance with its standard procedures and its mandate under IHL. It visited, on both sides, POWs to which it was granted access; it made a total of 82 visits to 25 places of internment/detention collectively holding some 20,700 people deprived of their freedom – to monitor their treatment and living conditions – and monitored 3,008 people individually (see *Central Tracing Agency bureau for the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine*). It discussed its findings confidentially with the parties concerned and reminded them of their obligation to ensure that all people deprived of their freedom were treated in accordance with IHL and other applicable norms. At the request of the justice ministry, the ICRC organized workshops for the authorities on the treatment of POWs.

The justice ministry, with financial support from the ICRC, transferred POWs from places of internment in Donetsk, particularly in areas heavily affected by hostilities, to internment facilities in other regions. The ICRC notified, including through the CTA bureau, families of the fate and/or whereabouts of their relatives who were held by the parties in connection with the international armed conflict. POWs kept in touch with their families through different means, including RCMs and oral messages relayed by the ICRC, and letters that the ICRC transmitted in its capacity as a neutral intermediary.

### **Living conditions improve for POWs and others deprived of their freedom**

Around 11,600 people deprived of their freedom benefited from ICRC-led renovations to premises at selected places of internment/detention, and from the ICRC’s donation of generators and materials for carrying out emergency or provisional repairs to damaged facilities, water tanks and other elements of critical infrastructure. The ICRC’s efforts helped to broaden access to clean water and prevent the spread of disease; ensure that heating systems and cooking facilities could function; and improve living spaces for people deprived of their freedom. The ICRC distributed food to about 1,800 people; and hygiene items, blankets and other items essential for improving living conditions, to some 22,000 people.

Financial and material support (e.g. drugs, medical consumables, clinic beds, medicine cabinets) were given to a Ukrainian government agency in charge of providing health care to people deprived of their freedom, including POWs and security detainees. The ICRC also provided individual assistance – spectacles, for instance – to POWs with specific needs. The ICRC provided support for training some of the agency’s health personnel in emergency care and wound management. It monitored the health of POWs and reported its findings confidentially to local health authorities. At the ICRC’s urging, the pertinent authorities released, on humanitarian grounds, some severely wounded people who had been deprived of their freedom.

### **WOUNDED AND SICK**

#### **Efforts to reinforce the treatment of wounded and sick people are bolstered**

Aided by the ICRC, first responders and other service providers tended to people in need of urgent medical attention. At training sessions organized by the ICRC, sometimes with the National Society, about 950 people, including border guards and law enforcement officers, learnt how to provide first aid or basic life-saving care to wounded or injured people. Over 17,200 first-aid kits were distributed throughout Ukraine – to communities, local emergency services, the medical service of the Ukrainian armed forces, the National Society and others. Wounded or sick people were transported from areas affected by hostilities in ambulances that had been fully equipped by the ICRC, and/or were treated by paramedics and doctors assigned by the ICRC in coordination with the German Red Cross and Magen David Adom.

Wounded people obtained surgical treatment or other medical care at 89 hospitals situated near front-line areas; the hospitals received medical supplies, such as wound-dressing kits, and equipment from the ICRC, which helped them to sustain their services amid influxes of people needing medical attention. The ICRC sent its personnel to 13 of these hospitals, to reinforce their capacities or provide expert supervision. Several of the hospitals received ICRC support for repairing structural damage and strengthening security measures (see below). More hospitals than initially planned were supported, because the ICRC expanded its ad hoc donations in response to the intensification of hostilities. The construction of an emergency department at the Bakhmut Hospital, which was

nearing completion, had to be put on hold because of developments in the situation in Ukraine; nevertheless, the ICRC trained some personnel from the emergency department in emergency care. All the ICRC-supported facilities also received PPE and hygiene kits for checking the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

Six blood banks received equipment, and technical support for maintenance, from the ICRC; this helped ensure the availability of safe blood for treating surgical patients and others. The ICRC gave wounded civilians and/or their families financial assistance to cover their medical and other expenses (see also *Civilians*).

The ICRC's water-and-habitat projects enabled 36 hospitals and other health facilities (with a total capacity of 24,655 beds) to continue functioning, and ensured the availability of potable water for patients and staff. In particular, the ICRC made repairs to facilities damaged by fighting or improvements to infrastructure that could help prevent casualties and property damage during hostilities. It also distributed jerrycans, water bottles, construction materials and bomb-blast protection film.

The ICRC donated wheelchairs, mobility aids, and equipment for physiotherapy, and/or provided other kinds of assistance, to 30 projects or facilities, which helped around 1,600 people<sup>2</sup> with physical disabilities. Security-related constraints hindered the organization of events to advance the social inclusion of people with disabilities. The ICRC, together with the National Society, enabled people with disabilities and older people with limited mobility to be taken from Ukraine to Moldova (see *Republic of Moldova*). It also covered transport expenses for 301 people with physical disabilities who had to travel to obtain rehabilitative services.

## ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

### Influential actors learn more about the ICRC's principled humanitarian work

The ICRC expanded its efforts to broaden acceptance for its mandate and activities, counter misinformation/disinformation about its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian work and that of the wider Movement, and secure support for IHL and other relevant norms. It sought to broaden its network of contacts – such as various authorities, the military and security forces, and key members of civil society – and met with these people periodically to discuss humanitarian issues of common concern. The ICRC president and other ICRC representatives visited Ukraine and met with officials from the president's office in Ukraine and other government agencies, families of POWs and of missing people, communities affected by hostilities, and Ukrainian Red Cross Society staff.

The ICRC also pursued various other efforts, and used both traditional and social media, to broaden public awareness of humanitarian issues in Ukraine and the ICRC's principled humanitarian approach. For instance, it gave interviews

to local and international media organizations and drew attention to matters of urgent humanitarian concern, such as the impact of the conduct of hostilities on civilians and essential infrastructure. It also made public statements reiterating its readiness to act as a neutral intermediary between the parties and to visit more POWs and other people deprived of their freedom. The ICRC coordinated its public communication with that of its Movement partners in Ukraine and gave the National Society support for its public communication. Movement components made joint statements on IHL and on matters concerning the delivery of humanitarian aid.

By running a community contact centre, the ICRC kept itself abreast of the needs of people affected by hostilities; informed them of its activities and other humanitarian services; collected tracing and other requests; shared potentially life-saving information (e.g. how to take shelter during shelling); and heard the concerns, views and suggestions of the communities it sought to serve.

### Authorities, weapon bearers and students learn more about IHL

At ICRC training sessions, nearly 600 military officers and 50 police officers and border guards furthered their understanding of IHL and/or international human rights law. These sessions also aimed to increase their compliance with international norms. The ICRC sought to develop its dialogue on IHL and protection-related matters with the Ukrainian military (see *Civilians*).

Reference materials on IHL, including the updated Commentary on the Third Geneva Convention (for the treatment of POWs), were translated into Ukrainian and distributed to the authorities. Owing to the volatile security situation, several planned activities to promote IHL – such as round tables for experts in international law and members of the Ukrainian parliament – were suspended. ICRC information sessions enabled members of the Ukrainian parliament and students from the national research university to add to their knowledge of IHL. Selected students were given support to participate in IHL-related academic events and competitions abroad.

The ICRC continued to give government officials expert advice for drafting relevant laws and advancing domestic implementation of IHL. Key pieces of legislation were adopted by the government, for instance, in connection with POWs, the establishment of the NIB, the issue of missing people, and the management of human remains.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society and the ICRC expanded the scope of their partnership to address the massive scale of humanitarian needs created by the international armed conflict; they adapted their partnership and cooperation agreements to this end. Together with the International Federation and other Movement components, they co-convened the Movement's response to the needs of people affected by the hostilities in Ukraine. The ICRC gave the National Society extensive financial, material and technical support, and training, to strengthen its operational and organizational

2. Based on aggregated monthly data, which include repeat users of physical rehabilitation services.

capacities and its security management. It gave the National Society support for its activities in these areas: emergency relief, water and sanitation, health care, restoring family links, public communication, and IHL promotion. In accordance with

the Seville Agreement 2.0, Movement components in Ukraine coordinated their activities and strove to increase the impact of the Movement's collective response.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION

CIVILIANS	Total			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>				
RCMs collected	230			
RCMs distributed	165			
Phone calls facilitated between family members	79			
<b>Reunifications, transfers and repatriations</b>				
People transferred or repatriated	252			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>				
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	7,116	576		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	2,077			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	1,048			
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	38			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	6,835	429		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	2,082			
<b>Documents</b>				
People to whom travel documents were issued	7			

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS		Total	Women	Children
<b>Economic security</b>				
Food consumption	People	883,843	383,136	209,637
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	102,902	42,467	21,949
Food production	People	2,074	969	355
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	19	7	4
Income support	People	347,604	139,201	70,011
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	328,437	131,360	66,075
Living conditions	People	904,296	386,040	217,726
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	136,721	56,131	29,901
<b>Water and habitat</b>				
Water and habitat activities	People	10,800,213	4,212,369	3,132,274
<b>Primary health care</b>				
Health centres supported	Structures	135		
	<i>of which health centres supported regularly</i>	38		
Average catchment population		12,457,586		
<b>Services at health centres supported regularly</b>				
Consultations		237,741		
	<i>of which curative</i>	237,711	103,503	26,189
	<i>of which antenatal</i>	30		
Vaccines provided	Doses	2,355		
	<i>of which polio vaccines for children under 5 years of age</i>	611		
Referrals to a second level of care	Patients	14,727		
	<i>of whom gynaecological/obstetric cases</i>	233		
<b>Mental health and psychosocial support</b>				
People who received mental-health support		954		
People who attended information sessions on mental health		502		
People trained in mental-health care and psychosocial support		103		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>				
<b>Economic security</b>				
Food consumption	People	1,777	178	
Living conditions	People	21,779	1,860	
<b>Water and habitat</b>				
Water and habitat activities	People	11,558	116	
<b>Health care in detention</b>				
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	13		
Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	12		

<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>Hospitals</b>				
Hospitals supported	Structures	95		
	<i>including hospitals reinforced with or monitored by ICRC staff</i>	13		
<b>Services at hospitals reinforced with or monitored by ICRC staff</b>				
Surgical admissions				
	Weapon-wound admissions	1,451	*	*
	(including those related to mines or explosive remnants of war)	993	*	*
	Non-weapon-wound admissions	5,607		
	Operations performed	5,117		
Consultations				
		16,678		
<b>Services at hospitals not monitored directly by ICRC staff</b>				
Surgical admissions (weapon-wound and non-weapon-wound admissions)				
		478		
Weapon-wound admissions (surgical and non-surgical admissions)				
		75		
Weapon-wound surgeries performed				
		38		
<b>First aid</b>				
First-aid training				
	Sessions	68		
	Participants (aggregated monthly data)	952		
<b>Water and habitat</b>				
Water and habitat activities				
	Beds (capacity)	24,655		
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>				
Projects supported				
		30		
People who benefited from ICRC-supported projects				
	Aggregated monthly data	1,601		
	<i>of whom service users at physical rehabilitation centres (PRCs)</i>	1,601	155	
<b>Services at physical rehabilitation centres supported regularly</b>				
Walking aids delivered				
	Units	408		
Wheelchairs or postural support devices delivered				
	Units	75		

\* This figure has been redacted for data protection purposes. See the *User guide* for more information.