



# **HUMANITY IN ACTION 2023: A YEAR IN REVIEW**



**ICRC**

**HUMANITY IN ACTION  
2023: A YEAR IN REVIEW**

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DANIEL LITTLEJOHN-CARRILLO



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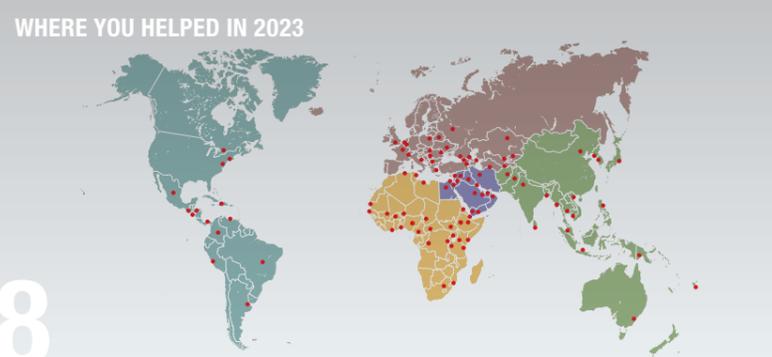


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# MESSAGE FROM DANIEL LITTLEJOHN-CARRILLO



Dear fellow humanitarian,

Throughout history, war has had a profound impact on society, and today's conflicts are no exception: right now, approximately 120 armed conflicts around the world are creating staggering humanitarian needs. While modern technologies present untold opportunities, they also pose new challenges, with the modern battlefield expanding into cyberspace. Amid heightened hostilities and drawn-out crises, sustainable humanitarian interventions are more vital than ever.

In 2023, your commitment to humanity enabled the ICRC to navigate an increasingly complex world. Your support has been instrumental in addressing the ever-evolving challenges posed by armed conflicts amid deteriorating global economic conditions, ensuring that we can continue to come to the aid of those most in need.

With your help, we achieved significant milestones this past year. Notably, we facilitated the repatriation of over 970 people who had been detained in connection with the conflict in Yemen, the evacuation of 310 children from Sudan, and the transfer of 109 hostages from Gaza and 154 Palestinian detainees from Israel. Our Central Tracing Agency Bureau for the International Armed Conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine brought news of more than 5,000 missing people to their loved ones. Together with our partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement around the world, we reunited 816 people with their families. We also visited 22,000 people deprived of their liberty to ensure they were being treated humanely, and we helped maintain essential infrastructure to bring clean water and improved living conditions to more than 36 million people worldwide.

International humanitarian law provides a vital framework for upholding human dignity and fostering dialogue. Together with the ICRC's commitment to neutrality, impartiality and independence, it enables us to work in the most challenging of environments, bringing help where others often cannot. These principles guide us in creating humanitarian spaces that facilitate dialogue and protect those affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence.

Looking forward, the ICRC Strategy 2024-2027 builds upon our organization's strengths and lays a robust foundation for our future work on behalf of those in need. The ICRC is a privately funded organization relying entirely on voluntary donations, and your trust and support empower our teams to reach the most vulnerable – to bring not just aid but hope, and to build resilience in the face of adversity.

On behalf of the individuals, families and communities touched by your support in 2023, I extend my deepest gratitude. Together, we will continue to make a profound difference in the lives of people whose lives have been upended by conflict.

**Daniel Littlejohn-Carrillo**  
ICRC Head of Resource Mobilization

# WHO WE ARE

## A VISION FOR HUMANITY

The ICRC owes its existence to the vision and determination of one man: Henry Dunant.

The date: 24 June 1859. The place: Solferino, a small town in northern Italy. The Austrian and French armies were locked in bitter battle and, by day's end, 40,000 soldiers lay wounded or dead. That same evening, Henry Dunant, a Swiss businessman who was passing through the area, was horrified by the sight. He appealed to the local people to help him tend the wounded, insisting that soldiers on both sides be treated equally.

His conviction led to the birth of the ICRC in 1863. Later that same year, 16 states and four philanthropic institutions sent representatives to an international conference in Geneva, where the distinctive Red Cross emblem came into being.

## A UNIQUE HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION

The ICRC is a neutral, impartial and independent Swiss humanitarian organization whose historic mandate has been to protect and assist victims of armed conflict since 1863.

**160 years on the side of humanity:** The ICRC strives to bring humanity to the most challenging and dangerous situations. We do so in close collaboration with other members of the Movement, which also consists of 191 National Societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

**Go where others cannot and give help without asking who:** The ICRC is named in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as an authority on the rules of war. We work to ensure compliance with IHL by regulating the use of weapons and the means and methods of warfare. We talk to all sides and strive to save lives, without fear or favour. Our neutrality enables us to cross front lines and we are often the only ones able to reach and help victims of conflict.

**People at the heart of our operations:** In the midst of warfare, we assist people in need by supplying food, shelter and health care to help them survive the horrors of war. When the last shot has been fired, we are there to support those whose lives have been changed forever.



# HOW YOU HELPED IN 2023



J. Bundi/Kenya Red Cross Society

## RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

**1,873,156** phone calls were facilitated between family members and **816** people were reunited with their families



M.M. Samimi/ICRC

## PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

**287,838** people received support through **289** physical rehabilitation projects

## PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE AND PROMOTING THE LAW

**885** places of detention holding **837,029** people deprived of their liberty were visited by ICRC delegates in **84** countries and territories



A. Aljeyvs/ICRC

## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

**30,898** people received mental health services and psychosocial support



Y.E. Yacoub/ICRC



T. Orlimy/ICRC

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

**2,709,770** people received food or assistance to buy food and **6,247,125** people received support for food production



A.K. Lagatou/ICRC

## WATER AND HABITAT

**36,281,293** people gained access to clean water, proper sanitary facilities or other assistance to improve their living conditions

## HEALTH CARE

**734** hospitals received support, including **149** hospitals reinforced with, or monitored directly by ICRC staff, where **2,970,671** consultations took place and **113,703** operations were carried out



D.S. Guepaur/ICRC

## WEAPON CONTAMINATION

**46** countries and territories were covered by the ICRC's activities on behalf of people living in areas contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war

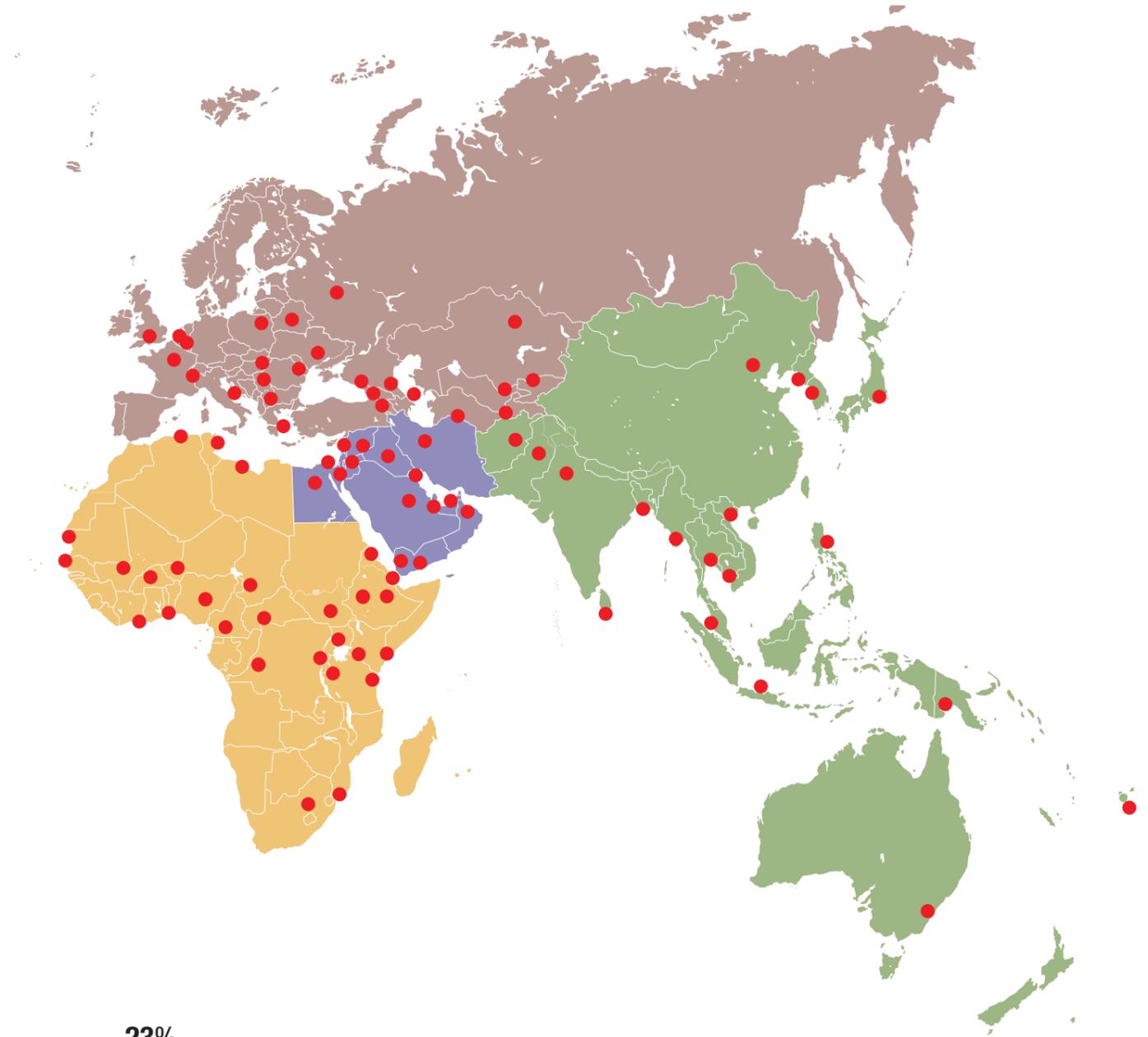
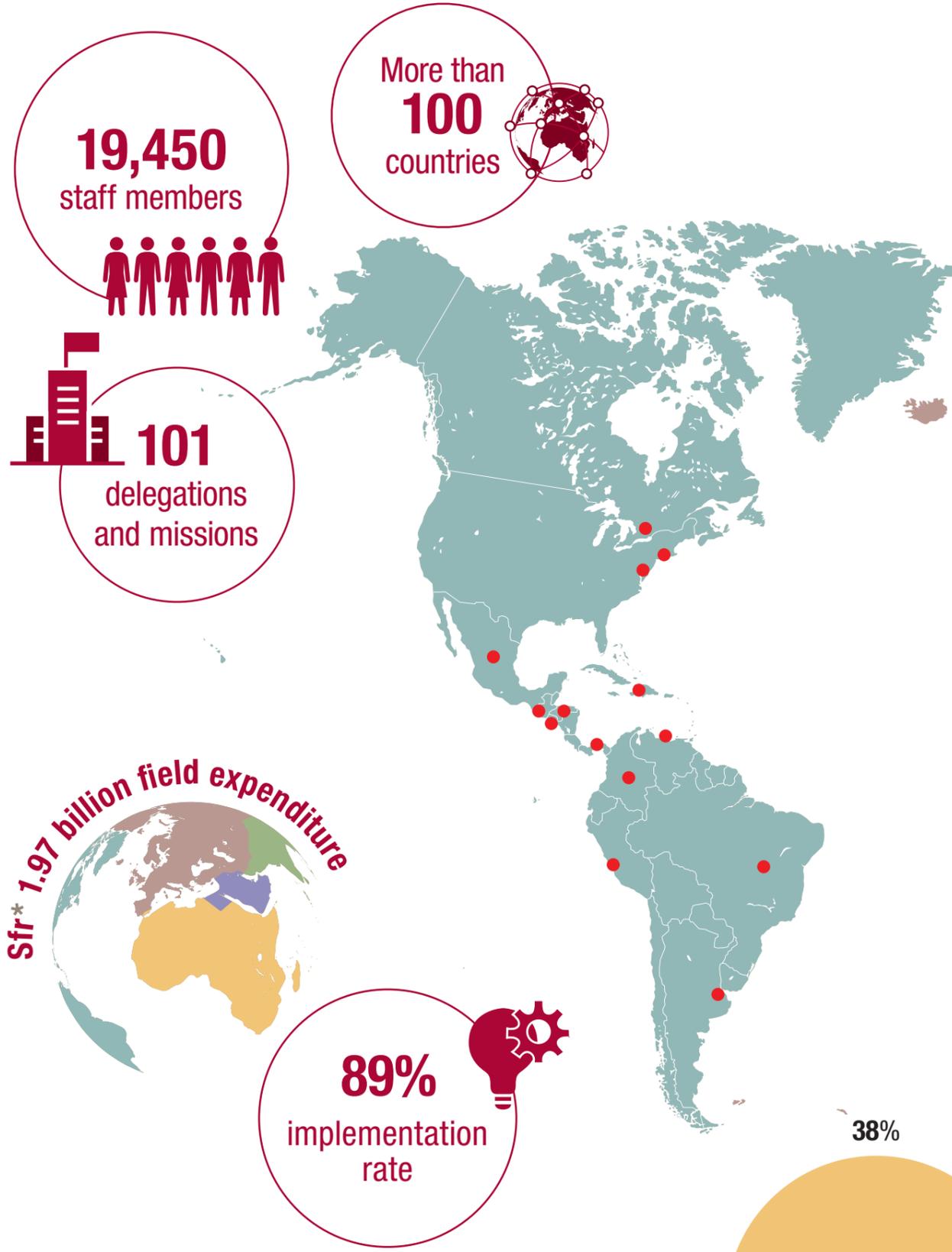


J. Fuimwi/ICRC

# WHERE YOU HELPED IN 2023

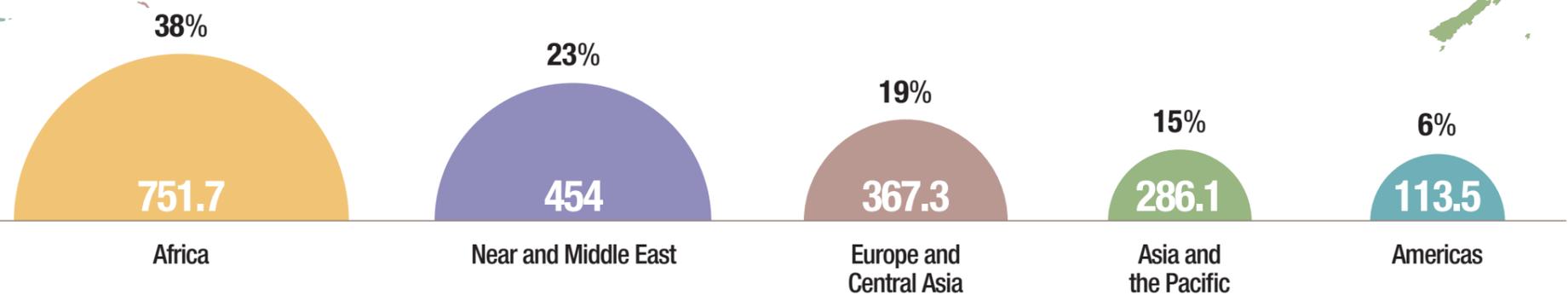
**6.5%** of every donation was used at headquarters

**93.5%** of every donation went to the field



## FIELD EXPENDITURE IN 2023

Note: 2023 field expenditure by region is in millions of Swiss francs.  
The percentage given above the regional total is the percentage of overall expenditure by region.  
\* Swiss franc





Amid the violence and suffering in Gaza, one-and-a-half year-old Ziad was wounded in the face in a bomb blast. At the ICRC-supported European Gaza Hospital, Ziad underwent successful surgery with ICRC surgeon Jan Wynands.

Since November 2023, the ICRC war surgery team has been tirelessly treating wounded patients – including at the European Gaza Hospital – confronting first-hand the harsh realities of the conflict. Despite extremely challenging circumstances, including a critical shortage of medical resources and daily necessities, ICRC medical teams have adapted and continue to provide care and support to those in need.

T. Glass/ICRC

## IN FOCUS: ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Since 7 October 2023, countless people, families and communities have had their lives shattered as hostilities between Israel and Hamas, along with other armed groups, have carried on with an alarming intensity. The fighting has led to immense human suffering. In Gaza, well over a million people have been displaced, sometimes four times or more, and must grapple with severe shortages in necessities critical to their survival. Meanwhile, Israeli families are worried sick about their loved ones who have been taken hostage.

In response to this humanitarian catastrophe, the ICRC and our Movement partners continue to bring help to those affected and to ensure amid the chaos that aid is delivered where it's needed most. Thanks to your support, we have been able to keep up our life-saving work and alleviate the suffering of civilians in Israel and the occupied territories.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



### FACILITATING HOSTAGE RELEASE

**109** hostages in Gaza and **154** Palestinians detained in Israel were safely released and transferred during a ceasefire in November, thanks in part to our work as a neutral intermediary



ICRC



### PROVIDING LIFE-SAVING CARE

**66,331** operations were performed and **14** hospitals were provided with medical materials, equipment and staff training



P. Ley/ICRC



### HELPING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE REGAIN AUTONOMY

**1,927** people regained mobility and improved their quality of life through **6** ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation projects



K.M. Chittarat/ICRC



### HELPING PEOPLE MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS

**142,196** people in Gaza and the West Bank received household essentials or cash grants to ease their immediate situation

Over **2.43 million** people gained access to clean water and proper sanitary facilities



ICRC



### RECONNECTING SEPARATED FAMILIES

**1,575** communications were facilitated between family members with details or news about their loved ones



H. Mhanne/ICRC



# HEALTH CARE

Amid the dangers of war, the ICRC steps in to ensure that health care is not denied through attacks or obstruction. We provide emergency care to the wounded and sick, and support hospitals in maintaining a continuum of essential health services. With our expertise in war surgery, we train local staff so that they can provide the specialist treatment needed by wounded patients.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**679**

primary-care facilities received medical supplies and other support



**10,474,110**

people received curative consultations



**864,372**

antenatal consultations were carried out

## WHO YOU HELPED

In 2023, millions of people in Nigeria were caught up in the ongoing conflict, alongside a spike in food prices and an economic crisis.

Hamsatu, a mother of four in north-east Nigeria, fled with her family from the conflict and sought refuge in the town of Biu, in Borno State. When her daughter fell ill, Hamsatu sought care at the ICRC-supported Biu General Hospital. Thanks to swift treatment, her daughter's life was saved.

At the hospital, Hamsatu also received information on preventing disease in the future. Empowered by the education she received, Hamsatu now not only works proactively to keep her family safe but also shares vital information about health and nutrition with her community, ensuring every parent has the knowledge they need to protect their children from disease and keep them healthy.

In Nigeria, the ICRC supports 13 health centres and nine hospitals, making life-saving care more easily accessible to the wounded and sick in violence-affected areas.

# PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE AND PROMOTING THE LAW

International humanitarian law (IHL), often referred to as the rules of war, is a body of law that is designed to prevent harm and suffering during armed conflict.

The ICRC works to influence people's attitudes and behaviour so that they comply with IHL in times of war. In so doing, we improve the protection of civilians and other people afforded protection under the law, we facilitate access to the victims and improve security for our staff and other humanitarian workers. The rules of war are universal. The Geneva Conventions, as the cornerstone of IHL, have been ratified by all 196 states worldwide. Very few international treaties have this level of support.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**22,624**

people deprived of their liberty received visits and follow-up from the ICRC in places of detention



We engaged with states, intergovernmental bodies and other key entities to promote state ratification of, or accession to, IHL treaties and their domestic implementation

## WHO YOU HELPED

In mid-April 2023, planes shuttled back and forth between Yemen and Saudi Arabia 18 times to bring home more than 950 recently released detainees who had been held in relation to the conflict in Yemen. Hundreds of families were reunited just in time for Eid, one of the most important holidays in Islam.

In the days and weeks leading up to the transfer, ICRC delegates visited each detainee in their place of detention to confirm that they wished to return home and to guarantee their safety. Our teams also evaluated the detainees' health and ensured they had basic necessities.

On 14 April 2023, ICRC delegate Fatima Sator accompanied ex-detainees to Sana'a, Yemen, and gave them phones to notify their families. "They were euphoric at the idea that they would see their families in the next few hours, after years of captivity. It was a moment of true humanity," says Fatima. During the flight, one person confided in her, "I have waited for this moment for years, and I only want one thing – to hug my children."

On arrival in Aden, the tarmac was rushed by a crowd of government officials, military personnel and exuberant family members. People hugged, kissed each other on the forehead and broke out in traditional dance, says Fatima. "The families cried so much with joy that they could no longer speak."





# ECONOMIC SECURITY

Armed conflict and other violence wreak havoc on the ability of families and communities to sustain themselves. People are often brutally forced to abandon their homes and belongings. Even if they are able to take some of their possessions with them, it is likely that they will have to sell or exchange them along the way in order to survive. Those who can stay in their homes are rarely spared hardship: their livelihoods are frequently disrupted or become impossible.

We work to ensure people's ability to sustain their lives and help them recover from the chaos of armed conflict. We help families and communities meet their essential needs through relief aid, livelihoods support programmes and by providing structural support to local service providers.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**6,247,125**

people received farming tools, livestock, seed or other support to produce food



**2,709,770**

people received food and/or cash or vouchers to buy food



**27,087**

people benefited from capacity-building initiatives that bettered their livelihoods or employment opportunities

## WHO YOU HELPED

Amid ongoing armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Esther's life took a tragic turn when her village was attacked. Her brother was killed trying to protect her and her three children. Esther and the children hid in the forest for four days, surviving on flour they had taken with them. Eventually, they made their way to the eastern village of Lofou, in North Kivu, where they were taken in by Esther's uncle.

At first, Esther worked other people's land to make money to feed her children. Then she joined the ICRC's innovative fishing programme. She learned to tend fish and received a small grant for equipment along with 200 juvenile fish. After establishing a small pond near her home, Esther raised the fish until they grew large enough to be bred, cooked or sold.

Using the profits from her fish sales, Esther bought a sewing machine and set up a small workshop, making dresses and other womenswear. Now, Esther enjoys sharing her expertise, inspiring others to sew and empowering people around her to build their own futures.



# RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

The suffering of war goes far beyond physical pain – the uncertainty of not knowing what happened to a loved one can leave deep psychological scars. The ICRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies work together to help reconnect families who have become separated in the chaos of war, putting family members back in touch through telephone calls and handwritten Red Cross messages.

Our online tracing platforms allow people to search for their missing relatives, and our local staff and volunteers search for people who are unaccounted for. When tracing is successful, families are informed where their loved ones are, put back in touch and, when possible, reunited.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**1,873,156**

phone calls were facilitated between family members



**98,967**

Red Cross messages were delivered



**816**

people were reunited with their families

## WHO YOU HELPED

Because of the ongoing conflict in Sudan, Limia, a mother of six, had to leave her husband behind in Khartoum and flee to South Sudan. She settled at the Doro refugee camp, in Maban. Using the ICRC and South Sudan Red Cross's Restoring Family Links phone services, Limia was finally able to speak with her family for the first time since she fled to South Sudan a month before.

There are too many people who do not know the fate of their loved ones – whether they are wounded or detained, alive or dead. Together with the South Sudan Red Cross, we are providing phone services to refugees to reconnect them with their children, parents, partners, sisters and brothers, and to give them peace of mind.

*“ Thank God, and thanks to you,  
I was finally able to hear my family’s voices. ”*

*- Limia*



# PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

Physical rehabilitation is a way of helping people with disabilities to reintegrate into society. It seeks to eliminate – or at least minimize – restrictions on their movement and activities so that they can become more independent and enjoy the highest possible quality of life.

In the conflict-racked countries where the ICRC works, physical rehabilitation is needed not only by people whose disabilities are the direct result of the fighting (landmines, bombs, etc.) but also by people who become physically disabled because normal health care breaks down and they fail to receive vaccinations or treatment.

Our aim is to bolster countries' physical rehabilitation services in order to make society more inclusive for people suffering disabilities and to help them participate more actively in society by improving the quality, accessibility and sustainability of the country's services.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**289**

physical rehabilitation centres, component factories and training institutes received support



**287,838**

people benefited from physical rehabilitation services supported by the ICRC

## WHO YOU HELPED

After decades of still-ongoing conflict, Afghanistan is littered with landmines and other explosive devices, making even simple journeys perilous.

While his father was away, 16-year-old Haroon had to take care of his family, so he took their cattle to graze in Logar, in eastern Afghanistan. There, he stepped on a mine, which blew off his hand and both his legs.

In the aftermath, Haroon went to the ICRC's physical rehabilitation centre in Kabul, where he received physiotherapy and learned to walk again with prostheses. Of his experience at the centre, he says, "They have treated me so well. They gave me a bicycle, a wheelchair, the facilities I needed. When there's a problem with my artificial leg, they fix it. I'm very happy – I can walk on my own now."

Now, Haroon wants to go to school and on to university so that he can achieve his goal of becoming a doctor. His family is thrilled, his father says. "Seeing Haroon walk again gives us life."

In 2023, our physical rehabilitation teams in Afghanistan helped 206,128 patients at seven ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres.

# MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Proximity to combat, forced evacuation, separation from relatives, rape and other violence leave deep psychological scars and vulnerabilities that can remain long after hostilities have ended.

The ICRC's mental health and psychosocial support projects respond to the needs of different groups affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, including detainees who have endured ill-treatment, victims/survivors of sexual violence, families of missing people, people who have lost a limb in war and those forced to flee their homes and start all over again in a community or country that is not their own.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**36,049**

people received mental health and psychosocial support



**5,285**

people benefited from training in mental health and psychosocial support

## WHO YOU HELPED

The earthquakes that ravaged northern and western Syria last year inflicted a new psychological wound on countless Syrian children, many of whom have suffered deeply amid conflicts that have lasted longer than their lifetime.

From a young age, Ibrahim grappled with health issues that significantly hindered his mobility. He received orthotics to improve his movement from an ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre in Aleppo, but following the earthquakes, Ibrahim and his family were displaced within their own neighbourhood. Ibrahim started to experience psychological problems that kept him from leaving the house.

“I was scared to go out at night, so I wouldn't go out at all,” he says.

Through counselling, Ibrahim was able to overcome these challenges and go back to being a child, including attending school.

“I'd go to the ICRC, and they'd give us snacks, we'd play basketball, and they'd paint our faces. And then I started going to school again,” says Ibrahim. “Little by little, I started feeling happier.”



# EDUCATION

When hostilities break out, education is often one of the first services to stop and the last to resume. For us, as humanitarians, education is a priority because of the environment, knowledge and skills it provides, which help children develop the coping mechanisms they will need to sustain their lives and livelihoods. That, in turn, makes them more resilient to the effects of conflict and violence.

We therefore work around the world to prevent armed conflict and violence from affecting schooling, or to limit the impact if it does. Specifically, we remind weapon bearers and others to abide by their obligations under IHL and other norms. We help students and teachers take measures to reduce their exposure to conflict and violence and cope with its effects. And, in some places, we help schools maintain or improve the quality of education.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**3,345**

students in nine conflict-affected communities in Azerbaijan received general school supplies and sporting goods



**600**

copies of a handbook on mine-risk awareness and safer behaviour and 100 related posters were printed for distribution in communities in Armenia

## WHO YOU HELPED

Ongoing conflict has made life for people living along the Armenia–Azerbaijan border uncertain and chaotic. After intensifying hostilities forced many to flee their homes and take refuge in Mets Masrik, Armenia, the local school was overwhelmed with the surge in new students.

The school lacked the infrastructure and basic necessities to accommodate so many children, including water, toilets and safe places to play.

The ICRC helped renovate a classroom and toilets and improved access to sanitary facilities within the school. We also built a safe room in the kindergarten where community members can take refuge during shelling.

Deputy principal Gasparyan says, “Our students now have an extra classroom that is bright and cosy, and our children and community have somewhere safe to be. The help gives us hope, a sense of security and the assurance that we are cared for. We associate the ICRC with a feeling of safety and peace.”

# WEAPON CONTAMINATION

During conflict, weapons kill and maim people and block access to basic necessities, but they can continue to do so long after hostilities have ended. Unexploded and abandoned weapons present a risk for years, or even decades, hindering reconstruction and reconciliation.

Moreover, weapons are not only to be found in fully fledged armed conflicts: the proliferation of small arms in many societies has increased the level of violence experienced by millions of people in their daily lives.

The ICRC employs a range of approaches to minimize the impact of weapon contamination, including risk reduction, awareness and education to help keep people safe; information-gathering and analysis to locate hazards and prioritize clearance activities; weapon clearance for all types of hazard; and building the capacities of authorities and National Societies to deal with weapon contamination.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

46



countries and territories were covered by the ICRC's activities on behalf of people living in areas contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war



The ICRC worked with the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to further develop and strengthen international mine action standards and coordination

## WHO YOU HELPED

Decades of conflict have forced some communities in Myanmar to live alongside landmines and other explosive devices. As Myanmar is susceptible to extreme weather in the rainy season, this heightens the threat, as heavy rains, flooding and landslides can wash the devices away to other areas. Daily activities are filled with fear – every trip to the mountains or forest is a dangerous one.

As one resident of Ah Htet Myat Lay village says, “There are explosive objects in the nearby mountains. People know that it’s dangerous to go there, but for those who rely on forestry for their livelihoods, it’s hard to choose between risking your life and not having anything to live on.”

To help ensure that people can live and work in safety, the ICRC works with the Myanmar Red Cross Society to promote awareness of the risks that landmines pose. By sharing life-saving information in training sessions, which the participants then pass on to their communities, we help thousands of people each year.

We provide medical and financial support to survivors of landmine incidents and their families. We also take preventive action to label and identify potentially hazardous areas near villages in order to ensure inhabitants’ safety. Through physical rehabilitation programmes, we helped 1,704 people injured by explosive hazards, and 65,949 people attended information sessions on the risks of landmines.





# WATER AND HABITAT

Our water and habitat teams work to reduce illness, suffering and death caused by damaged infrastructure and disruption to water supplies. Even in peacetime, millions of people throughout the world have difficulty accessing clean drinking water, decent sanitary facilities and well-maintained public infrastructure. The problem is further compounded in times of war and/ or natural disaster when destruction of infrastructure and mass displacement can expose millions of people to death and disease.

We carry out a range of activities to provide access to water, improve hygiene levels and maintain or create a sustainable living environment. We seek to promote respect for the environment, employ eco-friendly technologies and approaches, minimize the use of natural resources and maximize the sustainability of our projects.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**36,281,293**

people got access to clean water, proper sanitary facilities, or other assistance to improve their living conditions

## HOW YOU HELPED

Armed conflict in Niger has displaced thousands of people and forced them to take refuge in such towns as Mainé-Soroa and Boutti, in the Diffa region. The rapid influx of displaced people and refugees since 2015 has placed a serious burden on the towns' water supply. Meanwhile, climate change has reduced both arable land and rainfall. Without enough fresh water to go around, many people are forced to travel great distances to find it, risking their health and safety. Women and children are particularly at risk.

“There were already so many of us, and there wasn't enough water to begin with,” says Haida, a local villager. “When the refugees arrived, everything got worse. We'd have to wait until two in the morning to get fresh water.”

In 2023, the ICRC built the infrastructure needed to broaden access to water. The project increased the volume of water available to cover the basic needs of all inhabitants, including those most at risk, and to provide sufficient water for farming.

Now, villagers like Haida have the fresh water they need. “Thank you so much,” she says. “We finally have water from morning to night.”



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

For the millions of people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, it can already be difficult to meet their most basic needs, especially when these situations become protracted. But climate change and environmental risks only compound these challenges. That is why we address the effects of climate and environmental issues alongside the effects of armed conflict and violence.

In all our activities, we follow the three pillars of sustainability: environmental, social and economic. For example, we minimize our environmental footprint and make sure that what we do does not contribute to further environmental degradation. This maximizes the impact of our work and maintains its relevance, while ensuring that we remain accountable to our supporters and partners.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



The ICRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre developed a framework for integrating climate risks into all ICRC activities by 2025, in line with the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations

## WHO YOU HELPED

After enduring one of the most serious droughts in recent memory, farmers in Somalia last year were confronted with the threat of severe flooding from El Niño.

“Flooding is very dangerous. Your livelihood is swept away, and you have to start from scratch. Sometimes it kills people,” says Abdullahi, a farmer from Hirshabelle State.

The regularity of such extreme weather events combined with persistent conflict in the country makes everyday life difficult, putting people at risk of injury, hunger and related illnesses.

When faced with extreme weather conditions, the ICRC safeguards its activities to ensure that there are no interruptions to humanitarian efforts, and we help people like Abdullahi affected by the climate hazards.

In 2023, the ICRC and Somali Red Crescent Society worked together to distribute 75,000 sandbags to at-risk communities so they could build flood barriers to shield their crops. We also ran training sessions on how best to use the sandbags to mitigate the effects of flooding, building communities’ resilience in the long term.

# MEET ICRC SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU

*I am the granddaughter of immigrants who came to Brazil from Armenia and Syria, and I always wanted to find a way to help people who were victims of conflict. Contributing to the ICRC makes me feel closer to those who need help around the world!*

– Erika Chaquian

*I wish I could help everyone.  
With your help, I feel like I can.  
Little by little.*

– Stela Olivalves

*In this world of pain, you embody, through your commitment, my hope for humanity, like so many lights in the darkness.*

– Isabelle G.P.

*Thank you for the great work you do! You are the light that shines through the windows for millions of people on our poor planet, and you restore faith, for those who have lost it, in selflessness and humanity.*

– Géraldine

*To all of you who maintain an ounce of humanity where there seems to be none, who save lives when no one seems ready to do it anymore: thank you!*

– Gregory & Gaëtane

*As a grandfather, I constantly think about children, the most innocent of victims. I thank you for all that you do for them and those who accompany them through their lives, to ensure each one has dignity.*

– Laurent



# MEET OUR STAFF



*I could not think of another organization that would better combine my wish to have impact through my job, my moral and ethical values, and my curiosity for discovering the world. Every day, I feel extremely privileged and proud to work alongside individuals who are helping people affected by conflict in some of the most difficult moments of their lives. We often work under very trying circumstances, and I feel a responsibility to create an environment that helps my colleagues thrive and grow. I am convinced that our work is now more needed than ever. Looking ahead, we still have a lot to do.*

*– Ariane Bauer, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Switzerland*



*I feel privileged to work for this amazing organization that is on the front lines saving lives. I joined the ICRC 16 years ago, and I continue to be constantly impressed by the dedication, professionalism and commitment with which my colleagues help propel forward the organization and our unique mandate to protect and assist victims of conflict and other violence.*

*When I look at the impact we make for the people we serve, be it in emergencies saving lives or helping strengthen people's livelihoods and resilience, I can only say that working for the ICRC has been very fulfilling.*

*– John Karongo, Economic Security Coordinator, Côte d'Ivoire*

*My family fled to Europe in the 1980s. Living in exile made us obsessed with remaining connected to our roots. Even as a 10-year-old, I regularly read the international newspapers. My parents spent their lives collecting stories and articles about Niger and other West African countries. These constituted my first press reviews and shaped my interest in journalism and international relations very early on.*

*My mother was a volunteer for the Belgian Red Cross. I often accompanied her when she was meeting with migrants from many countries. For many of us, these precious moments broke through our social isolation. I learned about solidarity and what it means to belong to a community. This is certainly why I understand the significance of humanitarian work and why I feel close to the victims of conflict today.*

*– Halimatou Amadou, Communication Head of Sector for Africa, Switzerland*



*Among the things that keep me at the ICRC, the main one will always be my memory of an ICRC beneficiary I met before I joined. I asked him what he thought of aid organizations in the area. His response was, "I've been let down by so many of those international organizations. But I respect the red one because even when they couldn't do what they promised to do, they came back to say sorry for having failed us." I think that's rooted in our desire to ensure that – as wars are waged – victims of armed conflict don't become a forgotten statistic.*

*– Kunlawat Note Chittarat, Deputy Communications Coordinator, Jerusalem*





# THANKS TO YOU

The stories of survival, recovery and growth told here represent just a fraction of what was achieved in 2023. These experiences – and many more like them – are only possible thanks to supporters and partners like you. **We thank you.**

All the ICRC's funding is voluntary. With us, you know that your money will be put to work wisely. We are committed to providing the most effective and appropriate humanitarian services to people in need around the world, while at the same time offering our supporters a clear view of how their contributions have been used: 93.5% of your donation goes directly to our field operations and the rest will be used to support these operations.

In 2023, you enabled us to respond to the urgent needs of individuals, families and communities across more than 100 countries. Together, we are humanity in action.