



HUMANITY IN ACTION 2024: A YEAR IN REVIEW

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DANIEL LITTLEJOHN-CARRILLO



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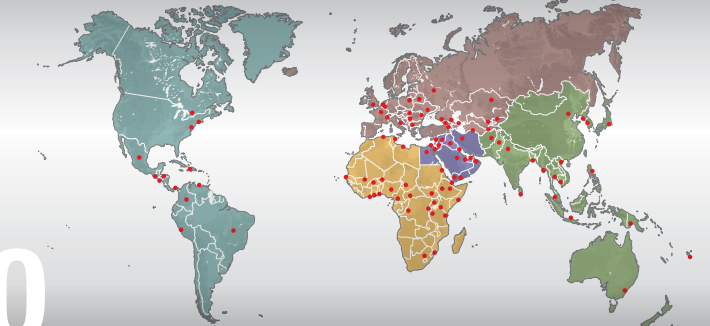


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Note
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Beirut, Lebanon. A stuffed toy lies among the rubble in the city's southern suburbs.



MESSAGE FROM DANIEL LITTLEJOHN-CARRILLO



Dear fellow humanitarian,

In 2024, your commitment to humanity, your support and your generosity enabled the ICRC to reach millions of people whose lives have been upended by war. Thanks to your partnership, we were able to make real headway against the ever-evolving challenges posed by armed conflict worldwide, bringing relief and support to vulnerable communities.

War has always had a profound impact on humanity, and today's conflicts are no exception: right now, approximately 130 armed conflicts around the world are creating staggering humanitarian needs. Escalations in fighting in such places as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Israel and the occupied territories, Lebanon and Sudan added to people's suffering. The international armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine continued to have devastating consequences. At the same time, protracted conflicts and ongoing humanitarian needs placed added strain on communities in such places as Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, and the Lake Chad and Sahel regions of Africa. The ICRC's commitment to international humanitarian law (IHL) and to the principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence facilitates our work in the most challenging of environments, enabling us to bring help where others often cannot.

The ICRC is funded entirely with voluntary donations, meaning that the success of our programmes is due to the support of our donors. It made it possible for us to bring news of more than 8,000 missing people to their loved ones, reunite more than 660 people with their families and visit more than 18,000 people deprived of their liberty to ensure they were receiving humane treatment. Thanks to your support, we were also able to bring clean water and improved living conditions to more than 36 million people worldwide, and much more.

This live-saving, transformative work would not have been possible without you. On behalf of the individuals and communities touched by your generosity in 2024, I extend my deepest gratitude. Together, we have made and can continue to make a profound difference for the suffering – bringing them not only help, but hope.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DLC'.

Daniel Littlejohn-Carrillo
ICRC Head of Resource Mobilization

WHO WE ARE

A UNIQUE HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION

The ICRC is a neutral, impartial and independent Swiss humanitarian organization that has worked since its founding to protect and assist victims of armed conflict and other violence. Since 1863, the ICRC has brought humanity to the most challenging and dangerous situations. We work in close collaboration with other members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – 191 National Societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

With a mandate drawn from the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC fulfils a unique role as a trusted humanitarian actor in armed conflicts worldwide. We talk to all sides and strive to save all lives, while promoting the knowledge, understanding and implementation of international humanitarian law. Our neutrality enables us to cross front lines, making the ICRC the only relief organization present in many areas of conflict across the globe.

In times of war, we offer life-saving and life-sustaining support by ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for the suffering. In addition to supplying essentials such as food, clean water, monetary assistance and health care, our teams help detainees, locate and reunite missing loved ones, and respond to other grave issues related to conflict and other violence. Finally our projects target long-term sustainability so affected communities can begin to function independently again.

Donors like you are essential to the success of these critical activities. In the following pages, you will learn about the extraordinary impact that you had in 2024. Because of your support, we were able to respond to the urgent needs of millions of individuals, families and communities across more than 100 countries. Your generosity made our work possible. Together, we are humanity in action.



Khan Younis, Gaza Strip. An ICRC staff member talks to a community leader.

HOW YOU HELPED IN 2024

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

1,887,421 phone calls were facilitated between family members and **666** people were reunited with their loved ones

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE AND PROMOTING THE LAW

678 places of detention holding **737,212** people deprived of their liberty were visited by ICRC delegates

ECONOMIC SECURITY

2,950,130 people received food and **4,579,795** people received support for food production

HEALTH CARE

614 health centres, where **7,385,384** curative consultations took place, were supported by ICRC staff

PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

273,482 people received support through **237** physical rehabilitation projects

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

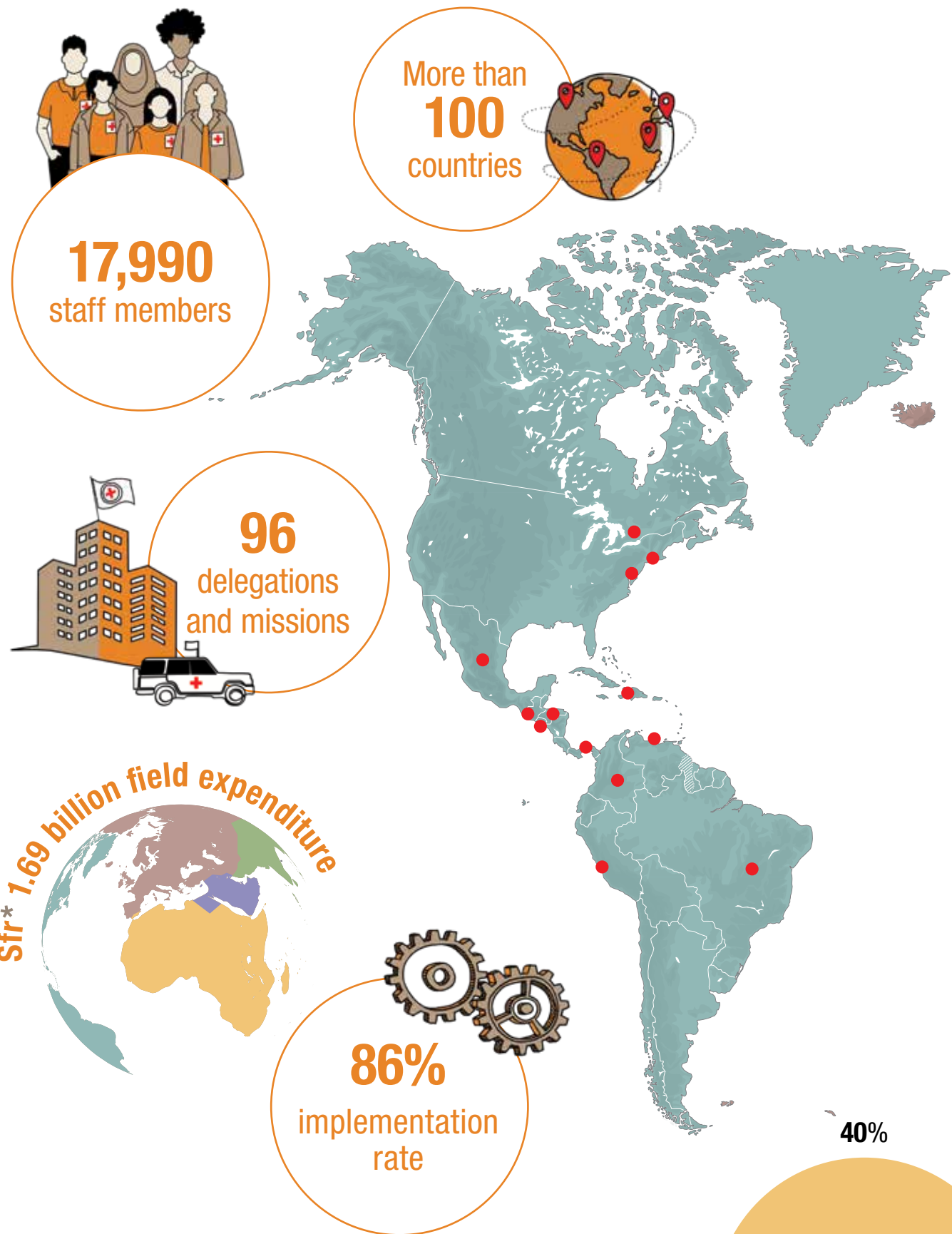
46,878 people received mental health services and psychosocial support

WATER AND HABITAT

34,183,103 people gained access to clean water, proper sanitary facilities or other assistance to improve their living conditions



WHERE YOU HELPED IN 2024

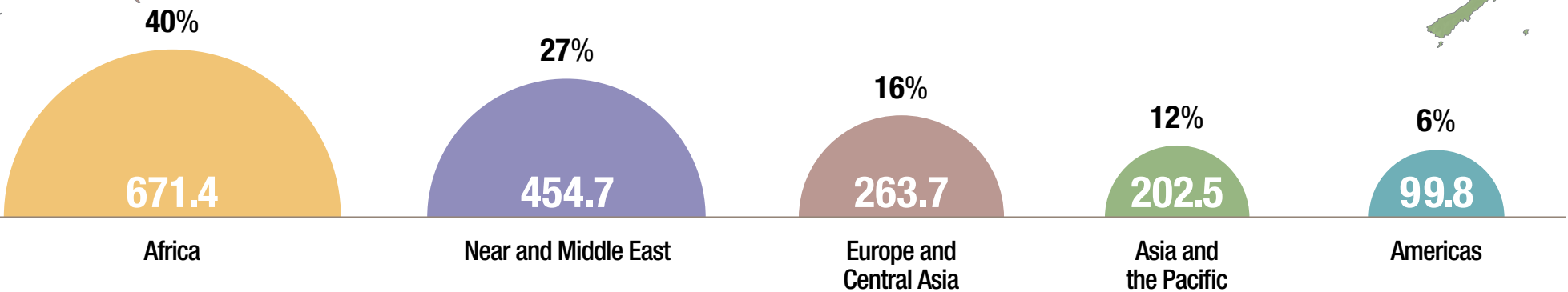


6.5% of every donation was used at headquarters

93.5% of every donation went to the field

FIELD EXPENDITURE IN 2024

Note: 2024 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



Damascus governorate, Syrian border, Masnaa border crossing. Zakieh, a displaced woman, talks on the phone with her family back in Lebanon.

A. Saboun/ICRC

IN FOCUS: NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

In the Near and Middle East, violence has disrupted countless lives and forced millions of people to flee their homes. Communities have struggled to find safety, access food and water, and secure basic medical care. Critical infrastructure, livelihoods and essential services have been eroded by years of conflict. The region has been mired in humanitarian crises for decades, with civilians in Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, Syria and Iraq paying the highest price.

Like thousands of others, Zakieh al-Saadi was forced to flee with her family from Syria to Lebanon at the onset of the Syrian crisis, leaving behind her home and belongings. When conflict arose in Lebanon years later, Zakieh had to flee yet again – once more taking with her only what she could carry, this time back to Syria.

“We lived through three days of constant shelling,” Zakieh recalls. “Fear gripped us so tightly that we couldn’t eat, especially when the sound of planes filled the air. The children were trembling with terror, their cries echoing our own despair.”

Zakieh escaped with her grandchildren, but her other family members were unable to get out. Now, she says, “we are crossing the border back into Syria, and we don’t know where we’ll go, how we’ll get through the winter, or what the future holds for us.”

Millions of people have stories of suffering that echo Zakieh’s. The ICRC is working in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to meet the immediate needs of those crossing the border, staying in shelters or hosted in communities. It is thanks to your partnership that we and our Movement partners have been able to bring life-saving aid to Zakieh and so many others in need in the Near and Middle East.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

PROVIDING LIFE-SAVING CARE

35,610 people were admitted for surgical treatment and **38,264** operations were performed

HELPING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE REGAIN AUTONOMY

76,103 people benefited from services at physical rehabilitation centres supported by the ICRC

HELPING PEOPLE MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS

4,286,228 people in the Near and Middle East received household essentials or cash grants to ease their immediate situation

More than **19,000,000** people gained access to clean water and proper sanitary facilities

RECONNECTING SEPARATED FAMILIES

73,030 communications were facilitated between family members with details or news about their loved ones

Rural Aleppo, Syria. This child's family received livestock through an ICRC economic security initiative to help them restore their livelihood.



Hurjleh shelter, rural Damascus, Syria.





SPOTLIGHT: PROTRACTED CRISIS IN HAITI

In 2024, humanitarian needs worldwide reached unprecedented levels. Amid ongoing armed conflicts, climate shocks and escalating food and energy prices, countless people suffer out of the media spotlight. In the face of overwhelming global challenges, the ICRC stays committed to bringing essential aid to these communities.

In Haiti, one of the worst humanitarian crises of the Western Hemisphere has pushed the population to the brink. Persistent armed violence continues to devastate Port-au-Prince, severely disrupting daily life and cutting communities off from critical services such as health care and clean water. Health facilities, frequently targeted by attacks, have suffered extensive damage, causing many to shut down entirely while others face crippling shortages of medicines, blood supplies, oxygen, electricity and safe water.

“You feel powerless. You’re a doctor, but you lack supplies. Sometimes I can’t hold back tears because it’s my community – my brothers and sisters,” shares Dr. Odans, who works tirelessly on the front line.

Marisela Silva, head of the ICRC delegation in Haiti, underscores the severity of the situation: “Across much of Port-au-Prince, the reality is desperate. Access to health care in violence-affected neighbourhoods is virtually non-existent, and residents live in constant fear.”

With your support, we deliver essential medical supplies to hospitals treating wounded patients and provide crucial first-aid training to community members, empowering them to stabilize injured patients before evacuation. Additionally, we bolster ambulance services and support vital emergency health care, ensuring lifesaving assistance reaches those most impacted by armed violence. In a highly polarized and volatile security environment, we work neutrally and impartially, engaging in dialogue with all parties in order to ensure access to essential services for Haitians caught in the crossfire.

Your commitment helps us remain where we are needed most – long after the world has turned its attention elsewhere.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Willy, a father of two, lives in Cité-Castro, a camp for internally displaced people on the road to the airport.

HAITI 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

HELPING PEOPLE MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS

45,000 people affected by armed violence had access to drinking water and more sanitary surroundings

2,500 households, about **12,500** people, received hygiene kits, tarpaulins and solar-powered lamps

TRAINING PEOPLE IN LIFE-SAVING FIRST AID

More than **700** people were trained in basic first aid



Haitel Camp, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Annette has lived at a camp for internally displaced people since she was forced to abandon her home in Pernier in 2024 because of armed violence.

HEALTH CARE

Amid the dangers of war, the ICRC steps in to provide emergency care to the wounded and sick. We train local staff in war surgery so they can provide specialized treatment for the wounded. We also provide supplies and other assistance in order to help regional hospitals maintain and reinforce essential health services.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



1,318
primary-care facilities received medical supplies and other support



183,491
people were admitted for surgical treatment



674,543
antenatal consultations were carried out

WHO YOU HELPED

In 2024, millions of people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) found themselves in the crosshairs of a raging conflict, leading to immense human suffering.

In the eastern town of Saké, six-year-old Jubiole came face to face with terror. Her mother was killed in front of her, and Jubiole had to flee for her life. While escaping, Jubiole sustained serious shrapnel wounds to her feet. She received essential care in an ICRC-supported hospital.

The DRC is in critical need of care facilities for people like Jubiole who have fallen victim to violence. With your help, we supported 38 health centres and 77 hospitals in the country, facilities that provide the wounded and sick with life-saving care.



ECONOMIC SECURITY

Armed conflict wreaks havoc on the ability of individuals, families and communities to sustain themselves. People are often forced to rapidly abandon their homes and belongings. Those who can stay also experience grave hardship – many lose access to basic sustenance and medical care and can no longer earn a living. The ICRC’s economic security programmes work to help individuals and communities as they endure and recover from the chaos of armed conflict. Our teams provide aid that helps them meet their essential needs and generate an income. We also offer structural support to local service providers.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



3,088,218

civilians received support from the ICRC to improve their living conditions



5,625,610

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



4,161

civilians benefited from capacity-building initiatives that improved their livelihoods or employment opportunities

WHO YOU HELPED

In March 2022, the armed conflict in Ukraine forced Halyna and Oleksandr to flee their home in the village of Mala Komyshevukha. Six months later, Halyna and Oleksandr returned to find their home in ruins. They had no other option than to turn their garage into a temporary living space with beds and a stove. So far, the couple has spent three winters there.

In spring 2024, the ICRC provided Halyna and Oleksandr with a greenhouse so they could grow their own food. This beacon of hope has helped Oleksandr focus on a long-term goal. “I don’t know if I will have enough strength and health, but I really want to rebuild the house and live there again,” he says. “That is our biggest dream now – to live in our own house.”

We have been present in Ukraine since 2014 and scaled up our response in the country following the escalation of the conflict three years ago. Your partnership has enabled us to provide essential aid such as food, clean water, shelter and medical services to the vulnerable. It has also helped us provide livelihood support to people like Halyna and Oleksandr, giving them and others the tools they need to work towards a better future.



PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE AND PROMOTING THE 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 Geneva Conventions, which form the foundation for IHL, have been ratified by 196 states worldwide. The ICRC works with parties on both sides of armed conflicts to achieve compliance with IHL in times of war. This ensures increased protection for civilians, facilitates access to victims and improves security for humanitarian workers.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



We improved the living conditions of **159,472** people deprived of their liberty and **2,094,463** internally displaced people

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

The conflict in Gaza has ravaged communities and displaced hundreds of thousands of people. 20-year-old Zeina Abu Saad Bakr suffered the loss of both her father and brother during airstrikes. She has also endured the trauma of displacement twice, first forced from her home near Shifa, and then again from Rafah. She cares for her ten siblings and has been working in the community baking facilities.

“I hope to get a tent or some plastic to cover us because in the winter, when it rains, we don’t know what to do. My siblings cry because they want something to cover themselves with. I promised them I’d get them winter clothes because they don’t have any. They didn’t ask for it, but I promised I would get each of them a tracksuit. They were so happy – I could see their joy,” says Zeina.

Donor support enabled the ICRC to provide materials and firewood to build and run a traditional communal clay oven in Zeina’s community, ensuring that displaced people can get bread and other basic sustenance.



PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

In conflict-wracked countries in which the ICRC works, physical rehabilitation is essential for those who become disabled as a result of weapons, landmines and other violence. Physical rehabilitation is also critical for those who become disabled because they were unable to get vital vaccinations or treatments following a breakdown in the health-care system.

The ICRC bolsters physical rehabilitation services, improving their quality, accessibility and sustainability, in order to make societies more inclusive for people with disabilities. Our teams also provide services and equipment for those affected to help minimize restrictions on their movement and activities, helping them enjoy the highest-possible quality of life.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



237,482

people benefited from physical rehabilitation services supported by the ICRC

21,688

prostheses were delivered, and **1,123,674** physiotherapy sessions took place

WHO YOU HELPED

Across Myanmar, ongoing armed conflict has forced people to live in precarious conditions. Every day, community members face the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance that litter the country after decades of fighting.

In Kayin State, Ko Aung Myo Htut lost his right leg to a landmine. He received medical care and a prosthetic leg at the Hpa-An Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre, a facility operated by the Myanmar Red Cross Society with the support from the ICRC. Because of the care he received, he was able to get back to daily life and has trained to become a barber.

Thanks to support from donors like you, in 2024 the ICRC was able to provide aid to 4,880 people with disabilities in Myanmar, 1,818 of whom had been injured or otherwise affected by explosive devices.

WATER AND HABITAT

Even in times of peace, millions throughout the world have difficulty accessing clean drinking water, decent sanitary facilities and well-maintained public infrastructure. The problem is further compounded in wartime and after natural disasters, when destruction of infrastructure and mass displacement can expose entire communities to disease and death.

The ICRC carries out a range of activities to ensure access to clean water and improve sanitation in affected communities, while promoting respect for the environment, employing eco-friendly approaches and minimizing the use of natural resources.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



34,183,103

people, including **204,674** people deprived of their liberty, gained access to clean water, proper sanitary facilities or other assistance to improve their living conditions

HOW YOU HELPED

In 2023, at the Mogadishu Central Prison, our teams overhauled the prison kitchen, installed two stoves and built seven chimneys. We also improved the kitchen's water system to provide access to clean water. The improvements we made with your support have been critical to ensuring better living conditions for detainees.

In early 2024, armed conflict surged throughout Somalia, and the challenges for civilians were further exacerbated by the arrival of El Niño rains and extreme flooding.

People held in detention have not been spared these hardships. Samer Jar-jouhi, who oversees the ICRC's programmes in Somalia, says that as conflict intensifies, so too does the number of detainees. In response, ICRC teams have increased the frequency of their visits to detainees to ensure they are treated humanely and live in dignified conditions.



RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

Not knowing what has happened to a loved one amid the chaos of war can cause lasting pain and deep psychological scars. The ICRC, in collaboration with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, helps reconnect families who have been torn apart by armed conflict.

Our online tracing platforms enable people to look for missing relatives, while staff and volunteers search for people who are unaccounted for. When missing individuals are located, their families are informed, put back in touch and, whenever possible, reunited with their loved ones.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



1,887,421

phone calls were facilitated between family members



81,717

Red Cross messages were delivered



666

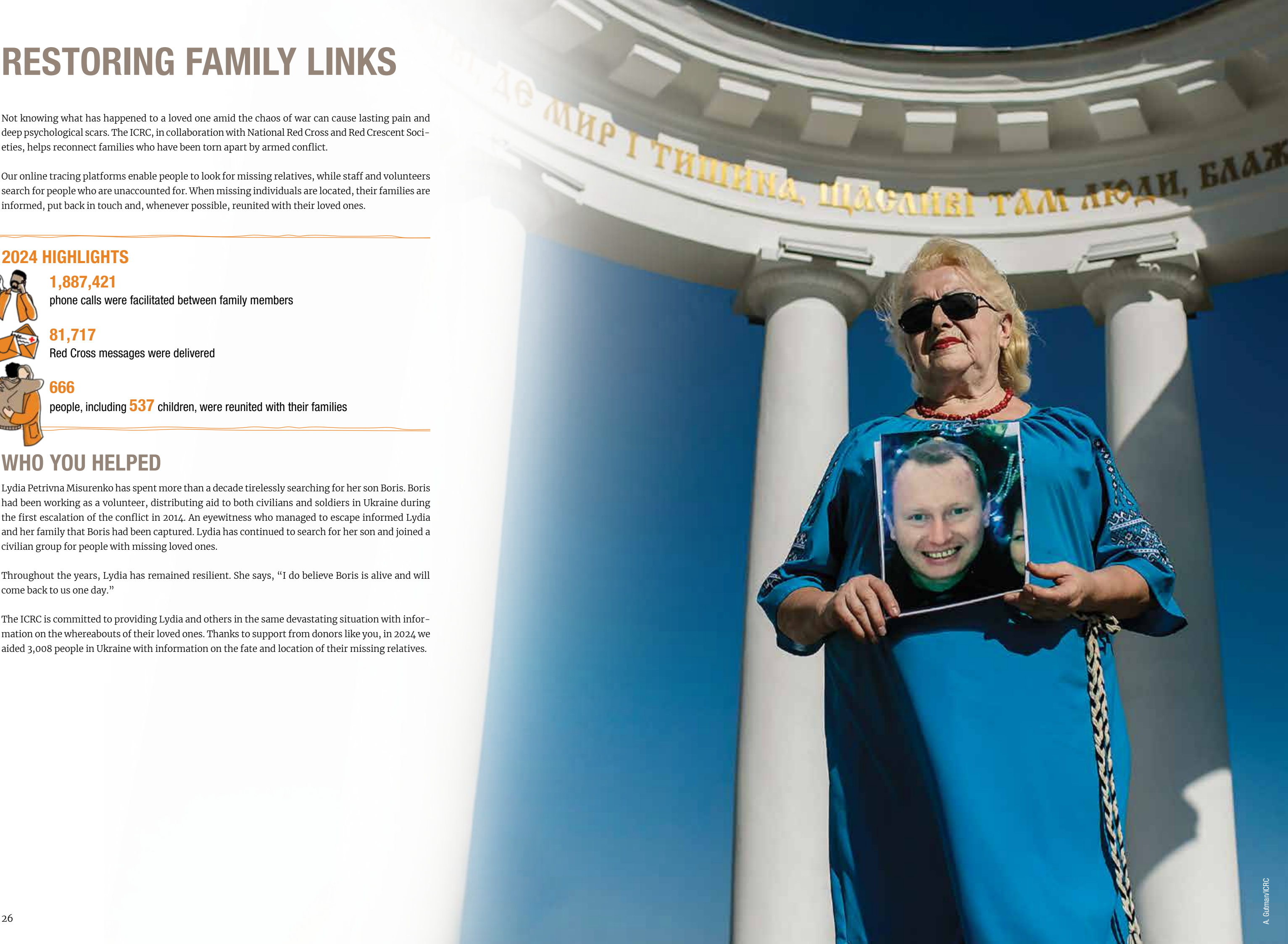
people, including **537** children, were reunited with their families

WHO YOU HELPED

Lydia Petrivna Misurenko has spent more than a decade tirelessly searching for her son Boris. Boris had been working as a volunteer, distributing aid to both civilians and soldiers in Ukraine during the first escalation of the conflict in 2014. An eyewitness who managed to escape informed Lydia and her family that Boris had been captured. Lydia has continued to search for her son and joined a civilian group for people with missing loved ones.

Throughout the years, Lydia has remained resilient. She says, “I do believe Boris is alive and will come back to us one day.”

The ICRC is committed to providing Lydia and others in the same devastating situation with information on the whereabouts of their loved ones. Thanks to support from donors like you, in 2024 we aided 3,008 people in Ukraine with information on the fate and location of their missing relatives.





MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Proximity to combat, forced evacuation, separation from relatives, rape and other violence have profound impacts and cause psychological vulnerabilities that can persist long after hostilities have ended. The ICRC's mental health and psychosocial support projects respond to the needs of various groups affected by armed conflict, including detainees who have endured ill-treatment, survivors of sexual violence, families of the missing, people who have become disabled and refugees suffering the trauma of losing their homes and communities.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

46,878

people, including **5,565** people with missing family members, received mental health and psychosocial support

3,459

people benefited from training in mental health and psychosocial support



WHO YOU HELPED

In 2024, Gaza was ravaged by conflict, inflicting devastating harm on thousands of children there. Many needed care and support not only for physical injuries but for the psychological wounds left by the horrors they endured.

Susanne Serry, an operating theatre nurse for the ICRC, wanted to strengthen the psychosocial support for children receiving treatment at the European Gaza Hospital. So, she had children of ICRC staff members create drawings to be given to children in hospital. The pictures were shared in early February 2024.

On one drawing, a child wrote, "Tomorrow this nightmare will be over and instead of just one house, we will build other houses."

The ICRC provides direct mental health and psychosocial support for those in need, along with training that enables local practitioners to offer support in the community over the long term. Donor funding has enabled our teams to extend these services in Gaza and in many other gravely affected regions.

WEAPON CONTAMINATION

Landmines, unexploded remnants of war and abandoned weapons present risks for years, or even decades, after hostilities have ended. Their presence in and near conflict zones hinders reconstruction and reconciliation. In addition, the proliferation of small arms means that millions of people experience increasing levels of violence in their daily lives.

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

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



25,220
victims of mines or explosive remnants of war benefited from services at physical rehabilitation centres



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

Heavy conflict has shaken the Tigray region in northern Ethiopia for many years, contaminating large rural areas with unexploded landmines and other weapons. The threat of landmines poses a grave risk to millions of civilians, especially children.

Tabir Gebreyohannes’s eight-year-old daughter was injured after stepping on an unexploded device. Her mother explained “She’s traumatized by what happened. When she walks, she doesn’t go far. She’s afraid of the explosion. The threat is real – it’s difficult to leave the children for work. We’re very worried one of them will pick or step on something.”

Venkatakannan Packirisamy, who manages the ICRC physical rehabilitation programme in Ethiopia, says that this is not an uncommon occurrence: “Among the people we have served, around 80% are children.”

Thanks to your support, we have been able to work with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society to help affected communities in Ethiopia and across the globe by raising awareness and reducing the risks of weapon contamination. Our teams also provide mobility devices and physical rehabilitation services to people like Tabir’s daughter who have been injured by explosive devices.







EDUCATION

When hostilities break out, education is often one of the first services to stop and the last to resume. When children’s education is disrupted, they are deprived not only of the opportunity to learn but also of the chance to develop the coping mechanisms they will need in the future to sustain their lives and livelihoods.

The ICRC endeavours to limit the impact of armed conflict and other violence on schooling. We press weapon bearers and others to abide by their obligations under IHL. We also work to reduce the exposure of students and teachers to armed conflict and other violence, and take measures to help them cope with its effects. In some cases, we help schools maintain or improve the quality of the education they offer.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- 

1,130
students in Ukraine received school supplies and devices to attend class online
- 

124
teachers in Ukraine were trained in raising awareness of the risks of landmines and explosive remnants of war

WHO YOU HELPED

The conflict in Ukraine has shattered many children’s lives, robbing them of stability and raising major barriers to learning. As the conflict continues to rage, there is an ongoing risk of children losing access to educational services altogether.

In the Sumy region of Romny, volunteers from the Ukrainian Red Cross Society organized an art lesson for schoolchildren to help relieve some of the stress and anxiety brought on by the conflict. As the children drew pictures of the most important people in their lives, air raid sirens interrupted the lesson, and the children were ushered into the school’s shelter. In a show of resilience, the lesson continued there.

Donor support has enabled us to put programmes in place in Ukraine to minimize the impact of the conflict on education. In partnership with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, our teams established agreements for eleven different projects to provide and support access to education.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

For the millions of people around the world affected by armed conflict, meeting even the most basic needs can prove to be an enormous challenge. Climate change and other environmental risks compound these difficulties even further.

When designing programmes, we target three broad types of sustainability: environmental, social and economic. In particular, our teams strive to limit the environmental impact of activities, ensuring that our work does not contribute to further environmental degradation.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



The ICRC, in collaboration with National Societies, is helping communities affected by climate change through targeted programmes in such areas as agriculture or infrastructure

WHO YOU HELPED

Decades of conflict in Afghanistan have rendered access to power erratic and unreliable. In Kandahar, the Mirwais Regional Hospital relied on an aging public voltage line for many years. The system provided power for only eight to nine hours per day throughout the autumn and spring, and a mere three to four hours per day in the summer and winter months. Backup generators attempted to bridge these gaps but fell short, despite burning 7,000 to 9,000 litres of diesel each week. The power outages disrupted medical procedures and urgent care, leaving patients at serious risk.

In 2024, we installed a new power line, boosting the energy supply to the hospital up to an average of 23 hours per day. In parallel, our teams installed a hybrid solar-power system to provide the hospital with additional energy. Any excess energy goes to the city's electrical grid, supporting essential facilities such as water pumping stations. The project meets the hospital's energy needs, has reduced particulate emissions from diesel consumption and has lowered energy costs for the hospital. Most crucially, patients can now receive treatment without the risk of a power outage.

Without your support, we could not have completed this and so many other projects that have found sustainable solutions to urgent challenges.

MEET THE PEOPLE WE REACH

I can't wait for school to start. With my new device, I can walk to school, and I can't wait to see my teacher. I want to become a doctor and physiotherapist. I want to help others, just like I've been helped.

– Hassan, 10, who has a congenital malformation and received a motorized mobility device from the Red Cross Physical Rehabilitation Centre in Aleppo, Syria

The journey has been difficult, and I struggled to provide for my children. However, starting my livestock business with the ICRC's help has been transformative. When the lambs are ready to be sold, I'll be able to invest in my children's education so that they don't have to endure the hardships I have faced.

– Muzhda Ahmadi, 30, who lost her husband amid armed conflict in Afghanistan and is now the sole caregiver for their five children

The ICRC played a crucial role in helping me start my bakery. With their support, I was able to buy the equipment and furniture I needed to get going. And now, after a month of business, I can say that it has been a success.

– Alina Voskanyan, whose son went missing in 2020 following an escalation in hostilities in Armenia

I was convinced that my 15-year-old son had died because I hadn't been able to contact him for so long. When you can't communicate with someone for that much time, it feels like they're gone forever. Then, after three long years, the ICRC told me they had found him, safe and well. When I finally spoke to him, it was as if he had been reborn. My whole family is incredibly grateful for everything the ICRC did to find my son.

– Detainee in Sarpoza Prison in Kandahar, Afghanistan

I was sitting, looking at a photo of my son and imagining talking to him. And suddenly the phone rang. It was the ICRC, and you told me that my son had been visited on his birthday, and that he had sent me his greetings. Of course, I didn't sleep the whole night. I laughed and cried and danced and kissed his photo. But when you said that you would pass a message to my son, well, I was overcome with emotion.

– Iryna, who was separated from her son in Ukraine



MEET OUR STAFF



KATHARINA RITZ

HEAD OF DELEGATION IN AFGHANISTAN

In times when many of my deeply held beliefs are challenged and put under pressure, what strengthens me in my work is my faith in the goodness of our shared humanity. This conviction is rooted in the resilience of my colleagues who, despite their own struggles and the many challenges they face, consistently show compassion. They are always looking out for vulnerable people and communities and often go above and beyond to offer support. Witnessing such strength and hope in the darkest moments of people's lives inspires me to contribute in my own way. It is this sense of purpose that fuels my commitment to the humanitarian work of the ICRC.

I was at university when I met an ICRC delegate for the first time. He explained his work, and I immediately connected with the humanitarian values and principles of the organization. I also shared a taste for the many adventures he recounted from the field: I wanted to do the same.

I embarked on my first assignment in the field four years ago and have not looked back since.

As I recently arrived in Haiti, where the humanitarian situation is extremely dire, what inspires me the most is our direct and privileged access to communities. This is especially true in areas controlled by armed groups, where the ICRC is one of the only organizations to maintain a presence, engage with weapon bearers in a protection dialogue, and deliver direct humanitarian assistance.



JEAN-RENÉ BEAUCHEMIN

FIELD TEAM LEADER, HAITI

In January 2025, as fighting broke out in the city of Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, many humanitarian organizations took the difficult decision to leave the area for security reasons. Two weeks later, I was sent to Goma to support our communication activities during that emergency. At a press conference with Congolese journalists, the first question to the ICRC was "Why did you stay?" That struck me to the core. I realized I worked for an organization that was truly meant to keep working in places where all the others couldn't. It made me proud, and it meant the world to me to have this journalist's recognition.



ELEONORE ABENA KYEIWAA ASOMANI

MEDIA RELATIONS DELEGATE, SENEGAL



ADHAM OKSHIYYA

CASH AND MARKET SPECIALIST, GAZA

What inspires me most about my work at the ICRC is the ability to translate humanitarian principles into action, to provide real support to vulnerable people enduring truly awful living conditions. Each and every programme we implement contributes directly to protecting those people's dignity and bolstering their resilience. Working alongside a dedicated team and affected communities reminds me daily why humanitarian action and values matter. The current conflict in Gaza has led to a near-total collapse of basic services, prolonged displacement and unprecedented humanitarian needs. Whatever we provide will never be enough to meet those needs or stop people from suffering; what I can do is to ensure our work is transparent, fair, respectful of human dignity and accountable to this community that is suffering.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Children climb the side of an extinct volcano crater over the Lushagala camp, home to over 10,000 displaced civilians who have already experienced over 30 years of war trauma as conflict rages across the eastern DRC.





S. Corallo/ICRC

The stories of survival, recovery and growth told here represent just a fraction of what was achieved in 2024. These moments of hope and resilience – and many more like them – were only possible because of supporters like you; 93.5 per cent of every donation to the ICRC goes directly to field operations, with the rest used to support those operations. Thanks to your partnership, we are able to uphold the ICRC's commitment to providing the most effective and appropriate humanitarian services to people in need around the world.

We thank you.