



ICRC

2021 in numbers

In an increasingly complex global environment, the humanitarian situation for millions of people remains dire. People continue moving across borders in their efforts to find safety and a dignified life for them and their families. In their endeavor, they are often forced to take highly dangerous routes risking their lives, they become victims of exploitation from criminal networks or they get separated from their family members only to find more challenges in countries of transit or destination. In the last two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated people's vulnerabilities.

To alleviate some of the effects of these challenges, the ICRC remains present in Greece and provides support to migrants, in cooperation with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners and the authorities, through a variety of services.

[Here are our 2021 activities at a glance:](#)

PROVIDING FORENSIC SUPPORT



The ICRC organized a hybrid 2-day workshop on the “*Management of the Dead (MotD): Best Practices*” for first responders with about **100 participants** from the Hellenic Police, Coast Guard and Fire Brigade. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the best practices in the field of MotD and the processes involved in the forensic human identification for resolving and preventing the missing.



In collaboration with the Greek forensic authorities, the ICRC has supported families of missing migrants in their search for answers. The ICRC has assisted families to provide their DNA Biological Reference Samples and has supported them with the relevant procedures regarding the registration of death and traceability of the body.

In total, the Forensic team supported in the treatment of **119 tracing requests** relating to **228 sought persons** in order to clarify their fate. Additionally training material, including forensic guidelines and training videos on the proper and dignified management of the dead were shared with **100 first responders**.



Forensic expert advice on proper MotD and identification process was provided to Greek authorities.

Forensic equipment was also provided **to forensic authorities in 5 different locations** to ensure capacity building, in order to reach appropriate standard in responses.

Finally training/user testing was provided to Hellenic Police representatives about the use of the **Resolve Platform**, a comprehensive, web-based solution for managing information on missing persons and human remains.

BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER



The ICRC continues to collaborate with the Hellenic Red Cross to restore and maintain the family links of migrants by providing technical and financial support to the Tracing Division. A **3-day workshop** was jointly organized to reflect on the past challenges and successes of our collective response to those in need of our services as well as to focus on the opportunities that lay ahead.



In addition, in 2021 the ICRC collected or received an additional **55 tracing requests** from families searching for their missing relatives and managed to find information about the fate and whereabouts of **24 persons (22 were located alive and 2 located dead)**. At the same time, the ICRC continues seeking information on the fate and whereabouts of **478 people** for whom their families remain desperate for news. As such, the ICRC has submitted **223 requests, written or oral**, to authorities in order to obtain further information. **5 persons have been reunified with their loved ones** with the support of the ICRC.



In 2021 the ICRC has had increasing exchanges with the Hellenic Police and more specifically with the Missing Persons Unit to explore ways of collaboration to provide families of missing migrants with answers when tracing their relatives.



WORKING IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION



In 2021, the ICRC delivered a series of 9 workshops for staff of 3 places of administrative detention. The workshops looked at the important role of police staff in ensuring humane and safe conditions of detention of the migrants detained under their responsibility. In addition, the ICRC organized a roundtable discussion for administrative judges where the international and national legislation on the use of detention for administrative purposes was presented and the challenges that arise in the legal review of detention decisions were discussed.



More than 1,300 phone cards were distributed in migrant detention centers in order to ensure that detained migrants can communicate with their families. To strengthen measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 9,000 items of personal hygiene and cleaning products were distributed to migrant detention centers. In addition, 14,500 recreational items were donated to support the mental health needs of migrants in detention, as well as 130 household heating and kitchen appliances to cover related needs.



Healthcare in Detention



In 2021, the ICRC held over 150 assessments, training sessions and workshops (face-to-face and online) for health staff in 7 places of detention and health facilities on specific Healthcare in Detention topics such as COVID-19 updates, management of vulnerabilities, inventory systems monitoring, etc.



In December, the ICRC organized a roundtable discussion for health organizations and institutions, health experts, representatives of relevant Ministries, regional health authorities, etc. The event aimed at exchanging ideas, practices and proposals that will ensure quality and equivalence of care in detention centers.



To support medical filing, tele-health services and inventory systems, the ICRC donated essential medications, consumables and medical equipment (over 216,700 items) to health facilities in 9 migrant detention centers, as well as 217 items of IT equipment to health authorities. Also, the ICRC donated 75,880 Personal Protective Equipment and hygiene items to the detention centers to strengthen the COVID-19 containment measures.

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The ICRC collaborates closely with the Hellenic Armed Forces for the promotion and dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).



In 2021, 399 military officers attended sessions on IHL and on ICRC's mandate and activities in the fields of protection and prevention.



Also, in 2021, the ICRC discussed with 93 law and international relations students about its work and the contemporary humanitarian challenges. It also participated to online events on IHL organized by other institutions and student societies.



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