BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER THROUGH OUR RESTORING FAMILY LINKS NETWORK

The ICRC collaborated with the HRC to restore and maintain the family links of migrants before and during the pandemic by providing technical and financial support to the Tracing Service and also by supporting directly the response to the needs that emerged after the fire in Moria, Lesvos in September 2020.

The ICRC collected tracing requests from families regarding 161 missing relatives and managed to find information about the fate and whereabout of 93 persons (86 were located alive and 7 located dead).

The ICRC has also assisted relatives in submitting DNA reference samples to Greek authorities and has supported them with the local procedures regarding the registration of death and traceability of their deceased relatives.

PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN AND FORENSIC SUPPORT FOR MISSING MIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The ICRC, in collaboration with the Public Prosecutor of the Appeal Court of Thrace and the Democritus University of Thrace, organized a roundtable discussion with 23 participants to explore ways of collaboration to provide families of missing migrants with answers when tracing their relatives.

Similarly, a second conference was held with 85 participants, on practices relating to the management and identification of deceased migrants. These events were attended by Public Prosecutors, forensic experts, representatives of the Hellenic Police, the Coast Guard and the Fire-brigade and local authorities involved in the management of dead.
An online 2-day session on the Management of the Dead for First Responders, attended by 78 officers of the Hellenic Police, Coast Guard and Fire Brigade, was co-organized by ICRC and the University of Athens with invited speakers from the DVI unit and the Forensic Science Division of the Hellenic Police.

In relation to Covid-19, forensic materials were distributed to Greek authorities (personal protection equipment and body bags), as well as guidelines on the management of the dead for readiness during the pandemic.

Focusing on material assistance on Covid-19 prevention, personal hygiene and cleaning materials – such as soap bars, liquid soap, disinfectant fluid, etc. – were donated to help maintain hygienic conditions for some 6500 migrants and 1000 staff in 10 places of administrative detention (PRCs and police stations) where migrants are being held.

The hygiene items were accompanied by guidance letters for the relevant authorities along with 1050 stickers with visual Covid19 prevention messages. LED lighting materials were provided to help the authorities improve conditions in 2 detention facilities. Approximately 500 recreational items, such as cards, games and balls were donated to promote good mental health.

In addition, and to maintain communication with their loved ones for detained migrants without resources, 2210 phone cards were distributed.

For the short period that public health concerns allowed, 4 visits were carried out to reinforce Covid-19 messages, during which close to 900 individuals were visited.
The ICRC supported the authorities to improve healthcare in detention and the prevention and the management of the Covid-19 pandemic by conducting some 70 assessments, training sessions and activities promoting hygiene and other procedure implementation and through the provision of over 79,000 items of Personal Protective Equipment, as well as audio-visual and information material for display.

The ICRC donated essential drugs, consumables and medical equipment - over 140,000 items - to health facilities in 9 migrant detention centres, together with the necessary IT equipment assisting the medical filing and inventory systems.

The ICRC collaborates closely with the Hellenic Armed Forces for the promotion and dissemination of the International Humanitarian Law. In 2020, 107 military officers attended sessions on IHL and on ICRC’s mandate and activities in the fields of protection and prevention. Also, in 2020, ICRC discussed with 276 students from 4 Universities for its work and the contemporary humanitarian challenges.
In times of COVID-19 social media become a great way to stay close to people, and to bring them relevant and reliable information. In this context, the ICRC developed a digital strategy that included clear messages and short videos on different topics such as how to properly disinfect surfaces, ways to avoid spreading the infection and how to cope with the emotional impact of the pandemic.

With an aim to highlight the 150-years history of the Red Cross Movement in Greece, the ICRC organized a virtual 3D photo exhibition. As part of the expo 27 photos and videos retrieved from the ICRC archives and from the current activities of the Movement in Greece, take the audience on a journey down the memory lane.