

Somalia: Facts and figures 2017



The ICRC has a longstanding history in Somalia spanning over 35 years of conflict response and humanitarian relief. This has included visits to detainees during the Ogaden conflict with Ethiopia (1977-1978) as well as a major emergency assistance operations during the extended civil war and climate-related famine of the early 1990s. The ICRC continues to assist populations afflicted by a combination of protracted armed conflict and harsh climate shocks such as drought and floods. This was particularly the case of 2017 where severe drought which affected most of the country gave rise to a large scale humanitarian crisis. The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), because of its close proximity with communities plays a significant role in certain programs such as health care support services and restoration of links between separated families.

At the onset of the drought in Somalia, the ICRC assisted over [2.3 million](#) persons of which 1.3 million were assisted with financial, food, essential households, and livestock treatment campaign. Over 480,000 persons received medical assistance and more than 700,000 people received clean water and better sanitation. The detention teams made 43 visits to places of detention.

In parallel, ICRC carried out the following programs:

Developing economic security

- Distributed [emergency food](#) and essential household items to **624,376** people
- Provided economic support to **581,634** people through [cash relief](#), cash for work, and cash grants
- Delivered seeds, tools and irrigation pumps to **222,150** people to promote food production
- Supported the bolstering of riverbanks with sandbags that benefitted **247,410** people
- Supported livestock rearing for **344,412** people through [treatment of the livestock](#), [tsetse fly control](#), [animal health training](#), and providing veterinary kits
- Promoted fish farming for **5,700** people through training and provision of [fishing kits](#)

Visiting detainees and restoring family links

- Delivered meat, milk, sugar, palm dates to **5,600** detainees on the occasion of the holy month of [Ramadan](#). In addition throughout the year we provided hygiene products and occasionally bedding, educational/recreational items. A total of **60** detainees received vocational training in carpentry, masonry and welding
- Made **43** [visits to places of detention](#) to assess the living conditions of **2,732** detainees to ensure that they are treated humanely and with dignity
- Processed **1,172** tracing requests throughout the year. With the support of the SRCS, **49,367** phone calls were facilitated and **71,313** Red Cross Messages (RCMs) exchanged to connect people separated from their loved ones
- Tracing services delivered to communities across Somalia are also supported by the BBC Somali language service through a radio program which broadcasts the names of persons missing on a regular basis. In total, **7,812** names were broadcasted

Supporting health care

- Provided quality medical supplies to **10** hospitals and **29** [Somali Red Crescent Society \(SRCS\) clinics](#) that benefited more than **78,000** patients at hospital-level and **410,837** people for primary health care
- Supported four hospitals which admitted more than **71,000** people including more than **3,800** weapon-wounded cases
- Addressed over **85,400** [cases of malnutrition](#) including more than **5,000** severely malnourished children under-five with medical complications in the two stabilization centers supported by the ICRC
- Improved access to health care in five places of detention benefiting more than **13,000** people for first consultation and treat more than **1,200** severe and moderate malnourished detainees

Improving water and sanitation services

- Completed **50** borehole and **34** well projects that improved [access to clean water](#) to nearly **295,000** people in Somalia
- Over **225,000** people benefitted from **40** rainwater harvesting projects
- Hygiene promotion campaign encouraged over **526,000** beneficiaries to practice better hygiene
- Rehabilitated water infrastructure that benefitted up to **2,000** people in places of detention
- Performed vector control activities and promoted hygiene programmes which benefitted up to **4,900** people in places of detention

Promoting compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL)

- **1,056** army officers and over **1,400** community leaders, journalists, women, youth and SRCS volunteers were [sensitized on IHL](#) through education sessions and distribution of ICRC publications on code of conduct in armed conflict