



ICRC IN ACTION



ICRC

IN BRIEF



WHO WE ARE

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a Swiss-based humanitarian organization and founding member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (1863). This Movement is composed of the ICRC, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The ICRC is mandated by the international community to be the guardian and promoter of international humanitarian law.

We work around the world providing assistance to people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence.

WHAT WE DO

- Try to ensure civilians not taking part in hostilities are spared and protected
- Visit prisoners of war and security detainees
- Transmit messages to and reunite family members separated by armed conflict
- Help to find missing persons
- Offer or facilitate access to basic health-care services
- Provide urgently needed food, safe drinking water, sanitation and shelter
- Promote respect for international humanitarian law
- Monitor compliance with and contribute to further development of international humanitarian law
- Help reduce the impact of mines and explosive remnants of war on people
- Support National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to prepare for and respond to armed conflict and other situations of violence

HOW WE WORK

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence guide our work and enable us to fulfil our humanitarian mission: to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. In order to assist people affected by armed conflict, we speak with all parties. We support the efforts of arms carriers to respect international humanitarian law or other fundamental rules protecting persons in situations of violence.

We visit prisoners of war and security detainees and register them to prevent disappearances. We work with the authorities to ensure that people deprived of their liberty are treated humanely and according to recognized international standards, which forbid torture and other forms of abuse.



Carlos Pinos/ICRC



Marko Kovic/ICRC

WHERE WE WORK

Our global presence is adjusted to respond to armed conflicts and other situations of violence. Currently, we have offices in over 80 countries with some 11,000 staff worldwide.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit our website at www.icrc.org. Contact the ICRC delegation nearest you, or your local Red Cross or Red Crescent Society.

Order our catalogue of selected publications and films from our website or by writing to us at the following address:



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