

KUWAIT (REGIONAL)

COVERING: the member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates

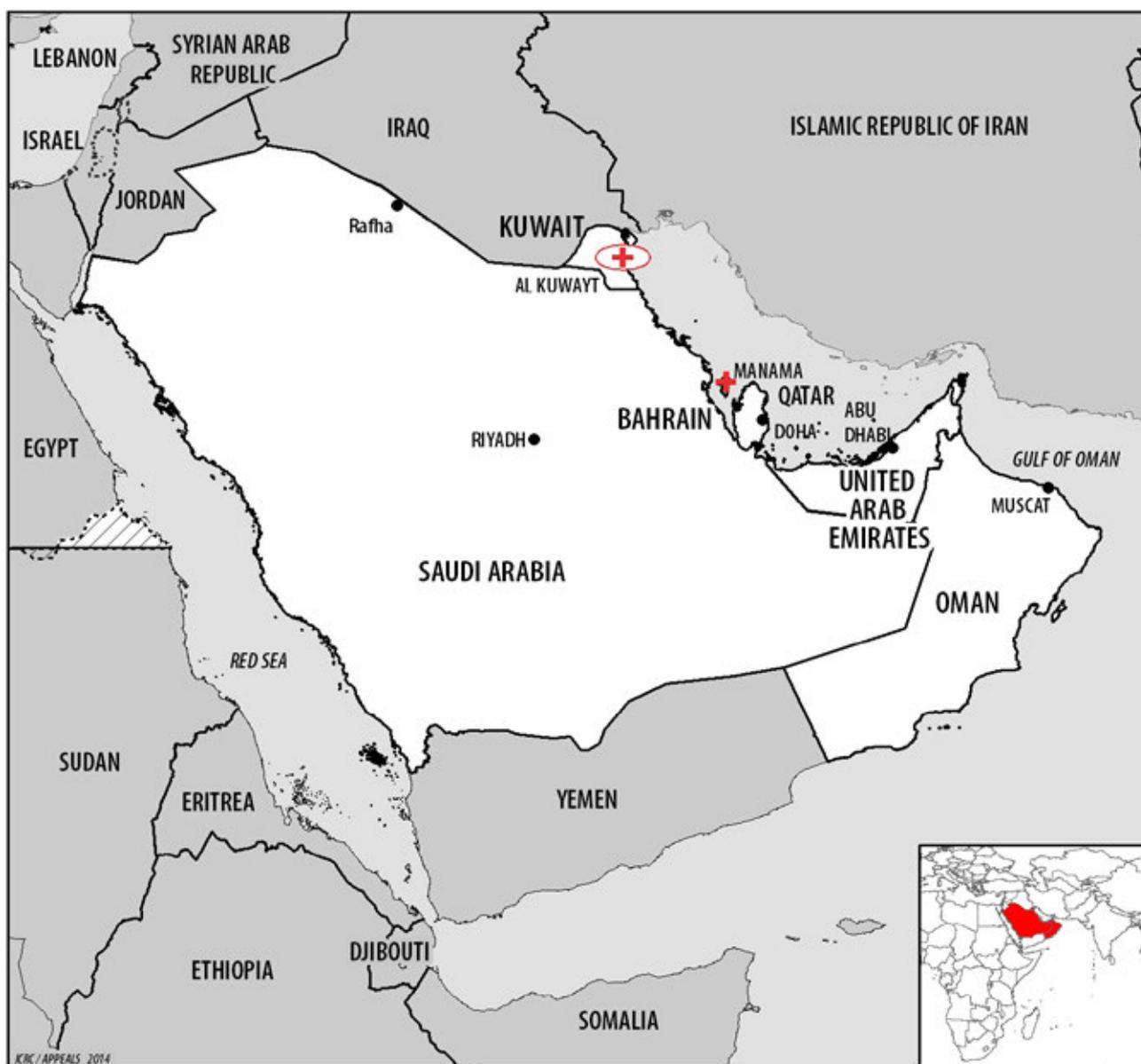
The ICRC has been in Kuwait since the 1990–91 Gulf War. It focuses on humanitarian needs remaining from that war or arising from current armed conflicts and other situations of violence in the wider region. Its work includes activities for people deprived of their freedom in the countries covered and the promotion of IHL and its own role as a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organization, among governments and other circles. Strengthening partnerships with the Red Crescent Societies of the region is another priority, along with resource mobilization and coordination with other actors.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	2,193
Assistance	255
Prevention	1,796
Cooperation with National Societies	619
General	-
Total	4,863
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>297</i>

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	12
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	28



 ICRC regional delegation  ICRC presence

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2014

- ▶ detainees, particularly in Bahrain and Kuwait, benefit from ICRC visits to monitor their treatment and living conditions, including their timely access to health care
- ▶ families in Gulf Cooperation Council member States maintain contact with relatives detained/interned abroad, helping alleviate the psychological impact of the detention/internment on both parties
- ▶ the region's National Societies strengthen their family-links services and disaster response capacities by implementing comprehensive emergency preparedness/response plans and co-organizing related events
- ▶ the authorities and other stakeholders' understanding and acceptance of the ICRC's humanitarian role during armed conflict and other situations of violence facilitate the organization's access to people affected by ongoing violence



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CONTEXT

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member States continue to exert influence in the region and beyond, with Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates reaching out to countries experiencing armed conflict, situations of violence or political transition, such as Egypt, Libya, Mali, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria), Tunisia and Yemen. Notably, the GCC member States, their national aid organizations and National Societies have mounted joint and individual humanitarian operations to assist conflict-affected people in Syria and other countries.

High oil and gas prices continue to keep the region economically stable, but tensions persist, especially in Bahrain, where demonstrations and violence continue despite ongoing talks between the government and those calling for reforms. Law enforcement operations to quell protests often lead to arrests.

Saudi Arabia hosts the secretariats of the GCC and of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and its Humanitarian Affairs Department (ICHAD). Iraq and Kuwait continue to work together to recover and repatriate the remains of people presumed killed during the 1990–91 Gulf War.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The ICRC's regional delegation in Kuwait will continue to focus on maintaining or strengthening its activities for detainees, particularly in Bahrain and Kuwait, and on resolving the lingering humanitarian consequences of the 1990–91 Gulf War. With the National Societies concerned, where possible, it will pursue efforts to build support for IHL and the ICRC among the region's authorities and armed forces, while endeavouring to extend its reach to security forces in light of the disturbances occurring in the region.

Building on its expanded access to detainees in Bahrain, the ICRC will pursue its multidisciplinary approach to detention-related activities in the country. It will visit, according to its standard procedures, detainees of different categories, focusing on the most vulnerable, including those held in connection with the unrest. Visits to detainees in Kuwait, particularly security detainees and migrants in deportation centres, and to those in Qatar will continue. On the basis of delegates' findings and recommendations, the ICRC will engage in confidential dialogue with the authorities to help improve, where necessary, detainees' treatment and living conditions, including in terms of respect for judicial guarantees and access to health care. The authorities will be encouraged to address overcrowding in prisons and participate in regional workshops, such as those on health in detention. Efforts to expand the scope of the ICRC's activities for detainees, including migrants, across the region will continue.

National Society/ICRC family-links services will remain available to families to restore/maintain contact with relatives detained/interned abroad or living in countries affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence. Families will be assisted in visiting relatives detained/interned abroad and in sending parcels to those held in Afghanistan or the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba.

ICRC activities relating to the 1990–91 Gulf War will concentrate on helping clarify the fate of people still unaccounted for in relation to the conflict, in order to help

relieve the families' anguish. The ICRC will chair meetings of the Tripartite Commission, the official framework set up by Iraq, Kuwait and former coalition States (France, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America) to deal with the issue. It will facilitate the search for and identification of human remains by encouraging further joint exploratory missions in Iraq and Kuwait.

The GCC member States' armed and security forces will be encouraged to integrate IHL, other international law and internationally recognized standards, including those applicable to law enforcement and the treatment of detainees, into their training and operations. Efforts will include pursuing dialogue with and offering training and other support to the region's Defence and Interior Ministries. Together with the region's National Societies, and working with existing national IHL committees whenever possible, the ICRC will encourage the authorities to accede to IHL treaties and to incorporate those already ratified into national legislation. To support these efforts, the ICRC will co-organize workshops and other events for the authorities and armed/security officers and sponsor their participation in IHL events abroad.

The ICRC will maintain regular contact with Islamic institutions and regional organizations, notably the Saudi Arabia-based secretariats of the GCC and the OIC and their subsidiary bodies, to enlist their help in relaying humanitarian messages and reinforcing support for IHL and neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action in their member States. Events organized for and with the media, religious leaders, universities, NGOs and other circles of influence will aim to bolster awareness of and support for IHL and the ICRC.

The ICRC and National Societies in GCC member States will endeavour to work together to improve coordination and cooperation at the international level, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles and Movement policies.