

**DELEGATIONS**

Colombia  
Haiti

**REGIONAL DELEGATIONS**

Brasilia  
Caracas  
Lima  
Mexico City  
Washington  
New York

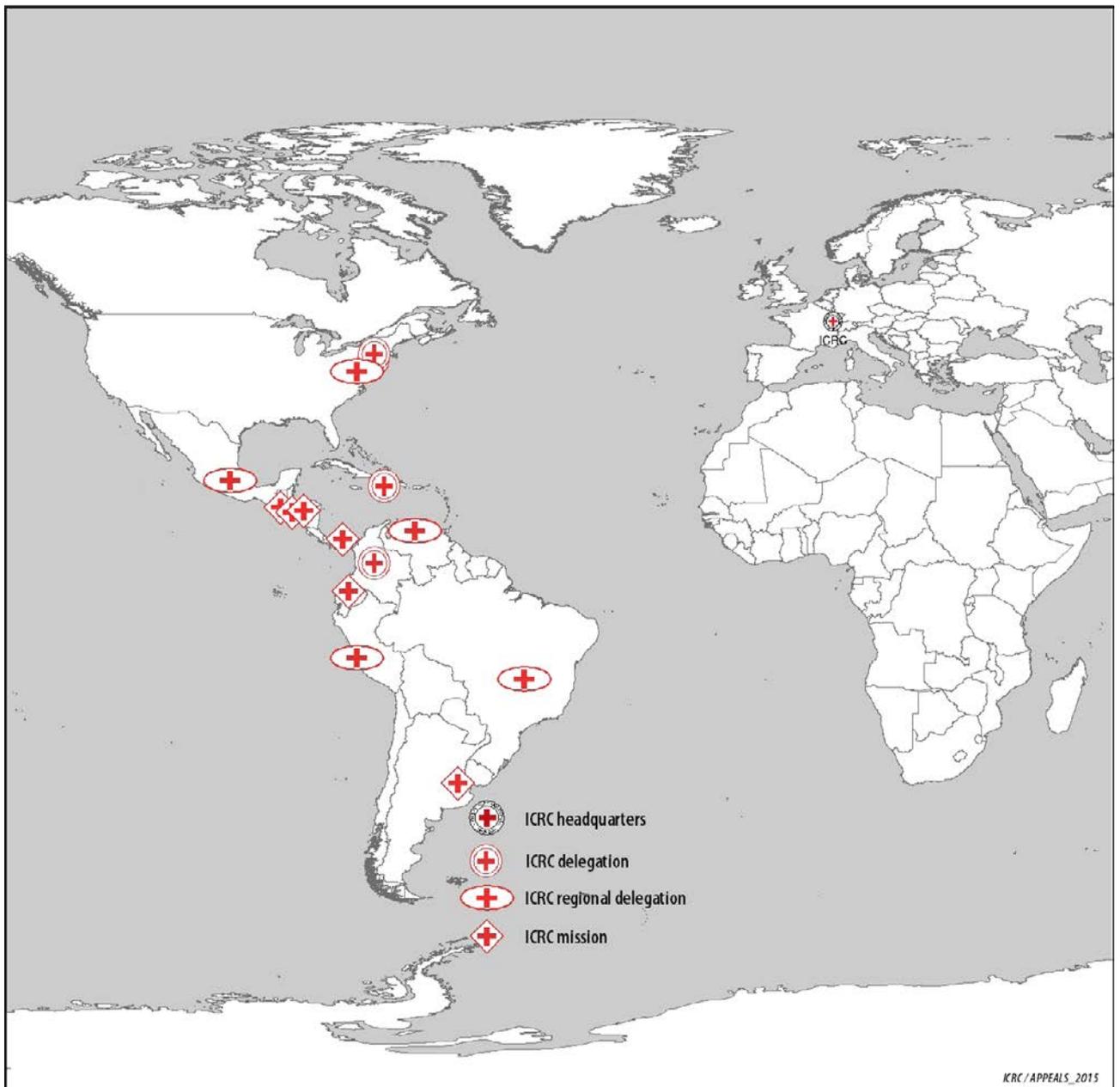
**BUDGET IN KCHF**

Protection	23,846
Assistance	29,320
Prevention	20,189
Cooperation with National Societies	7,718
General	1,369
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,442</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>5,032</i>

**PERSONNEL**

Mobile staff	126
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	649

# AMERICAS





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Tegucigalpa, neighbourhood of Vista Hermosa, games library of the “Expanding Opportunities Project” of the Honduran Red Cross. Crafts activities are organised for the residents of the five neighbourhoods that the project covers.

## MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ vulnerable people, including those affected by the Colombian conflict and migrants in Mexico and Central America, receive protection and assistance via the National Society/ICRC, or from State bodies/NGOs with ICRC support
- ▶ throughout the region, capacity-building initiatives, legal frameworks/coordination mechanisms and material/financial support enable progress towards clarifying the fate of missing persons and assisting their families
- ▶ detainees’/internees’ treatment and living conditions improve, partly through ICRC visits/recommendations, notably in Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras and the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba
- ▶ State authorities and intergovernmental organizations like the UN address humanitarian concerns and support ICRC views, particularly on issues affecting humanitarian access to conflict- or violence-affected people/communities
- ▶ armed/security forces, including those involved in deployments/training abroad or joint law enforcement operations, take steps to improve compliance with IHL and other applicable norms and internationally recognized standards
- ▶ the region’s National Societies strengthen their capacities to address humanitarian needs, particularly in the areas of emergency response and restoring family links, and engage in mutually constructive partnerships with the ICRC

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
<b>CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPs, RETURNEES, ETC.)</b>		
<b>Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</b>		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	14,000
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	12,000
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	9,100
Cash	Beneficiaries	5,440
Work, services and training	Beneficiaries	480
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	79,450
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>		
Projects supported	Structures	13
Patients receiving services	Patients	12,520

## HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND RESPONSES

In 2015, the ICRC's priorities in the Americas will be to protect and assist people affected by violence, including the following: vulnerable communities dealing with the humanitarian consequences of the armed conflict in Colombia and its spillover effects in border areas of neighbouring countries; people whose access to health care and other essential services is disrupted by violence arising from social, economic or land issues; and migrants attempting to reach the United States of America (hereafter US), who risk abuse along their route. Throughout the region, the ICRC will also work to ensure that people separated from their families as a result of such situations and people deprived of their freedom benefit from appropriate protection and assistance.

Policy debates in the Americas exert a major influence on the global humanitarian landscape. It is therefore crucial for the ICRC to be present in the region and develop high-level contacts with State authorities, multilateral bodies and other stakeholders that play prominent roles in international issues affecting its operations, particularly the security of its personnel and their access to people affected by armed conflict or violence. Likewise, ICRC delegations engage in dialogue and cooperation with armed/security forces, and provide support for National Society capacity-building efforts, *inter alia* to encourage awareness of and compliance with IHL and to help ensure relevant and coherent Movement responses to humanitarian needs during armed conflicts and other situations of violence, natural disasters and other emergencies.

The delegation in Colombia will continue to implement the ICRC's largest field operation in the Americas. The ICRC will maintain its role as a neutral intermediary, particularly in the context of the peace process between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army, and will stand ready to act in this capacity in the event of further peace negotiations with the National Liberation Army and/or a transition to a post-conflict phase. Its confidential dialogue with the parties to the conflict will focus on the protection of civilians and access to health care, and on securing support for its work in both rural areas and urban centres such as Medellín. With the Colombian Red Cross, the ICRC will work with public services to develop their capacities to directly meet humanitarian needs. By providing emergency assistance, particularly to newly displaced households, it will fill gaps and help IDPs and returnees restore their livelihoods, including through infrastructure rehabilitation, vocational training and micro-economic initiatives. In line with the objectives of the Health Care in Danger project, it will facilitate safe access to health care, particularly for people in remote communities. It will give particular attention to the needs of people affected by sexual violence and weapon contamination, primarily by facilitating victims' access to health care and other forms of assistance, raising awareness of these issues among community members and health personnel, and mobilizing key stakeholders to tackle these concerns.

As the spillover effects of the Colombian conflict persist in neighbouring countries, the ICRC – in cooperation with the National Society concerned – will help border communities strengthen their resilience. In Ecuador's northern border areas, it will support National Society efforts to design and implement projects to assist particularly vulnerable residents, while in Panama's Darién region, it

will rehabilitate health structures and train local personnel to promote proper waste management, water storage/treatment and hygiene practices. Besides helping the Venezuelan Red Cross boost its emergency preparedness and response capacities – particularly in light of tensions and protests in Venezuelan cities in 2014 – it will train community first-aiders and conduct basic health education sessions in the border states of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereafter Venezuela).

In Peru, the ICRC will encourage the authorities to take comprehensive measures to address the needs of communities in the Apurímac-Ene y Mantaro Valley, which are affected by fighting between government troops and the militarized Communist Party of Peru. It will also contribute to improving the living conditions of the local population in that area by constructing/rehabilitating water supply and sanitation facilities and providing training and basic medical materials to local health personnel.

In response to the humanitarian consequences of armed violence and social unrest in other contexts in the region, the ICRC will apply a multidisciplinary approach, working with Movement partners or local players to provide the necessary assistance. Its initiatives will focus on reinforcing the resilience of vulnerable communities to cope with the effects of violence, and will be complemented by continuous dialogue with local/national authorities, weapon bearers and other stakeholders.

To help alleviate the effects of social tension and violence on members of indigenous Mapuche communities in Chile, the ICRC will facilitate their access to basic health services and psychosocial support by providing training and material assistance to local personnel. In areas of Paraguay where clashes arising from land disputes and armed attacks by the Paraguayan People's Army disrupt agricultural activities and/or access to public services, the ICRC will help local water committees improve and maintain their facilities, and farming households increase their production and income.

Projects implemented with Movement partners in violence-affected neighbourhoods in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico – including in urban areas such as Ciudad Juárez, Mexico – will focus on promoting humanitarian principles and safer behaviour among community members and vulnerable young people, and on training them in first aid and psychosocial support. Following the conclusion and handover of a pilot project with similar aims in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2014, the ICRC will help local institutions continue or replicate the activities initiated in violence-affected *favelas* (shantytowns). By maintaining its financial support for a school run by the Jamaica Red Cross, it will provide opportunities for informal/alternative education to young people in Kingston, whose schooling had been interrupted owing to violence.

Through its regional delegations based in Mexico City (Mexico) and Washington (US), the ICRC will strive to implement responses to the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants. Working with the National Societies in Mexico, Central America and the US, it will facilitate contact between migrants – including unaccompanied minors and those in detention – and their families, and pursue confidential dialogue with State authorities on the humanitarian consequences of specific deportation/repatriation practices.

While orienting migrants on the risks they face during the journey and the importance of keeping their families apprised of their whereabouts, it will also support National Society assistance posts in Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, enhancing their capacities to provide first aid and other assistance along migratory routes. At temporary shelters in Mexico, it will carry out repairs on facilities, helping to ease migrants' living conditions.

At 13 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres in four countries, persons with disabilities, including victims of mines or explosive remnants of war and migrants who have suffered injuries or amputations, will have access to assistive devices and services. In Colombia and Mexico, health personnel will be trained, supplies provided to hospitals and specialized courses included in medical curricula so as to strengthen the casualty-care chain, and thus improve access to timely and appropriate treatment for weapon-wounded people.

Families in the region continue to search for information on relatives who remain unaccounted for owing to past or current conflicts/violence (in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru), migration-related risks (Mexico and Central America), or natural disasters (regionwide). Family-links and tracing services, along with technical/material support for building National Society capacities in these fields, will thus remain central features of the ICRC's operations in the Americas. Pursuing the work already started, and with an emphasis on bolstering local capacities, the ICRC will support efforts to trace missing persons and address the needs of their families. To that end, it will promote the adoption of relevant frameworks and mechanisms, facilitate coordination among State and civil society bodies at the national and regional levels, provide training in forensic procedures, human remains and data management, and psychosocial support, subsidize burial/administrative/travel costs, and guide families through administrative processes to enable them to claim State assistance.

Visits to people deprived of their freedom, including migrants, and confidential dialogue with detaining authorities regarding treatment and living conditions, including respect for judicial guarantees, will be pursued in 12 contexts, notably in Colombia, Haiti and the US internment facility at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba. Where requested, the ICRC will help detainees/internees maintain contact with their relatives, including through RCMs, family visits, and phone or video calls. Working with local partners and/or mobilizing the diplomatic/international community to provide funding and other assistance, the ICRC will help detention authorities improve prison management, health care and infrastructure. To address context-specific needs in detention facilities – such as access to health care in line with applicable national/internationally recognized standards, including on medical ethics (Colombia, Haiti, Peru and the Guantanamo Bay internment facility) and vocational training/support for social and economic reintegration (for economically vulnerable/recently released de-

tainees in Chile, detained minors in Colombia and female inmates in Paraguay) – it will offer recommendations and expertise to the authorities concerned, and material support where necessary. It will seek to regain access to people held on security-related grounds in Venezuela.

At local, regional and global level, the ICRC will raise humanitarian concerns, share its positions on key issues affecting humanitarian action, promote IHL and other relevant norms and standards, and seek support for its mandate and the Movement's activities, notably through its presence in Brasilia (Brazil), Caracas (Venezuela), Mexico City (Mexico), New York (US), Ottawa (Canada) and Washington (US). This will involve various activities: sustained dialogue with intergovernmental organizations such as the Caribbean Community, the Central American Integration System, the Organization of American States, and the UN and its bodies; exchanging views and fostering cooperation on issues of common concern with NGOs, think-tanks and academics; and spreading awareness of IHL and mobilizing public support for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action through various media platforms.

As the region's armed and police forces often work alongside each other – particularly in law enforcement operations such as in Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago – the ICRC will encourage them to integrate IHL, international human rights norms and internationally recognized standards on the use of force into their doctrine, training and operations. To this end, it will support these institutions' efforts to organize training activities for their personnel, aiming to build their capacities to conduct such training independently, and provide guidance on the inclusion of such norms and standards in their guidelines and operational procedures. ICRC engagement with regional organizations such as the Conference of Central American Armed Forces and the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police will be supplemented by regular contacts with armed forces operating domestically, or involved in military operations abroad or in training weapon bearers in other contexts. Dialogue with armed groups will also seek to improve respect for humanitarian principles and access to conflict- or violence-affected people.

With the help of local IHL experts, the ICRC will offer technical advice to governments on ratifying IHL treaties – including the Arms Trade Treaty, which enters into force in December 2014 – and enacting implementing legislation, and will encourage academic institutions to become centres of IHL expertise.

In coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC will develop its existing partnerships with National Societies working in the region and help them build their capacities to assist victims, restore family links, promote IHL, prepare for emergencies and apply the Safer Access Framework. It will continue to coordinate with UN agencies and other humanitarian players in fields of common interest in order to ensure coherence and avoid duplication of responses.