

EGYPT

COVERING: Egypt, League of Arab States

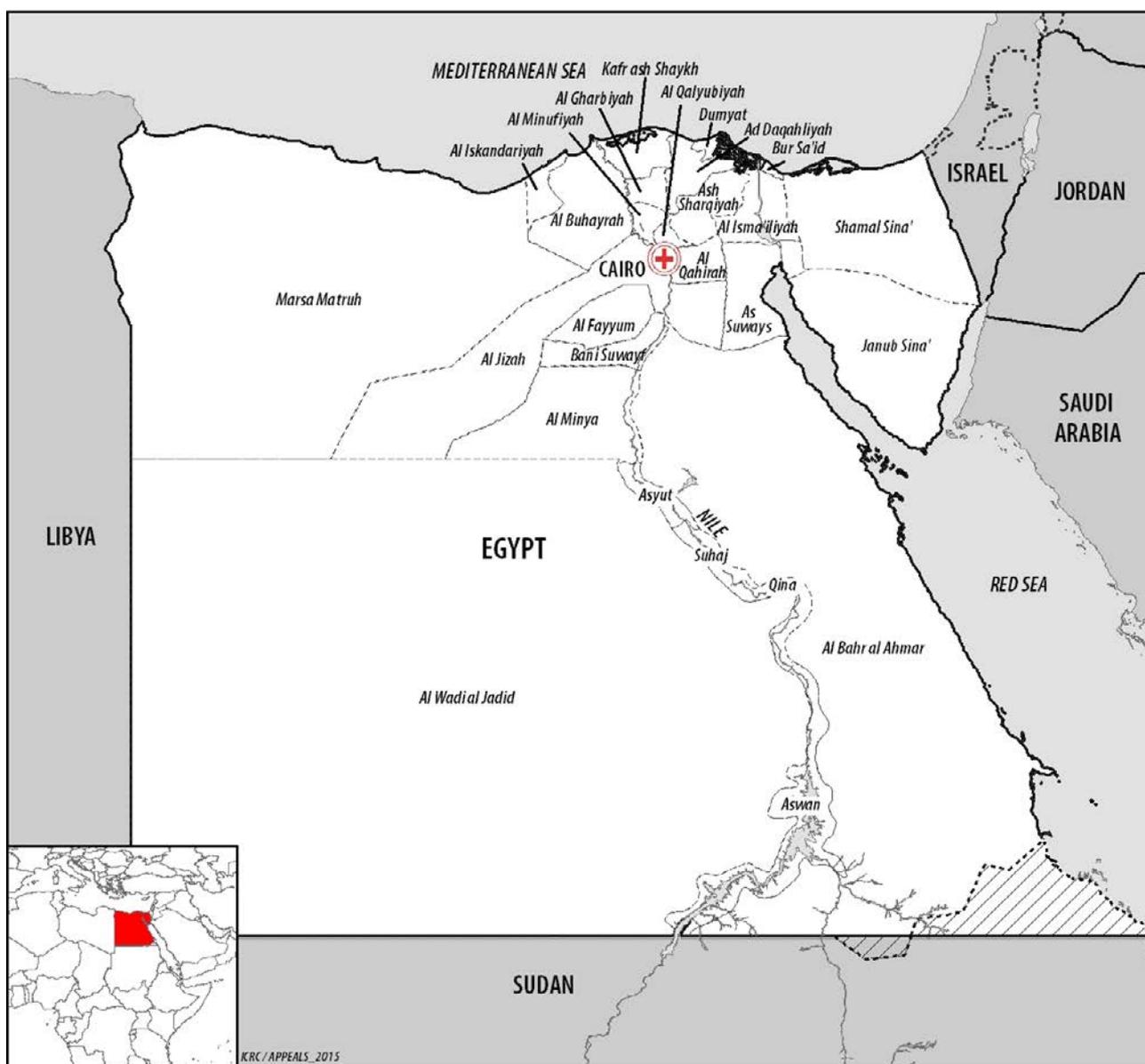
The ICRC has been in Egypt, with some interruptions, since the beginning of the Second World War. It works with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society to help it boost its emergency preparedness in relation to needs arising from situations of violence, focusing on first-aid care; as necessary, it provides support to refugees. It seeks to visit people detained in Egypt. The ICRC's regional legal advisory, communication and documentation centre works in cooperation with the League of Arab States and other ICRC delegations to promote the incorporation of IHL into domestic legislation, military training and academic curricula throughout the Arab world.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	616
Assistance	3,306
Prevention	1,215
Cooperation with National Societies	674
General	150
Total	5,961
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	364

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	7
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	56



 ICRC delegation

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ the authorities understand and accept the ICRC's mandate and humanitarian role during situations of violence, paving the way for ICRC visits to detainees and access to violence-affected people in the Sinai
- ▶ wounded patients receive appropriate treatment in medical facilities benefiting from ICRC support in the form of materials and training for medical staff in weapon-wound surgery and trauma management
- ▶ vulnerable Palestinian families from the Syrian Arab Republic meet their basic needs using vouchers distributed by the National Society/ICRC; their children obtain access to education, with ICRC support where necessary
- ▶ people separated by conflict or violence in the region restore/maintain contact through family-links services; asylum seekers without valid identification papers resettle in third countries with the help of ICRC travel documents
- ▶ key civil society actors, notably NGOs and the media, help relay key messages about the ICRC and its mandate, garnering support for and facilitating neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian action

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPs, RETURNEES, ETC.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	1,000
Vouchers	Beneficiaries	5,000

CONTEXT

The military-backed interim government that assumed office after Mohammed Morsi's ouster in mid-2013 has been replaced by elected authorities, but dates for parliamentary elections have yet to be announced. Demonstrations, fuelled by socio-economic problems and political tensions, particularly between the authorities and Muslim Brotherhood supporters, continue throughout the country, sometimes leading to clashes between the police and protesters. Bombings, reportedly by armed groups, occur in Cairo and other cities. In the Sinai, the armed/security forces carry out operations to suppress locally based armed groups. The respective situations reportedly result in hundreds of arrests and casualties. However, the security situation and access restrictions limit the ability of humanitarian organizations to fully assess the impact on people in the Sinai.

Conflict and violence in the region also affect Egypt. It remains a transit/destination country for hundreds of thousands of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, including people fleeing the Syrian conflict (see *Syrian Arab Republic*) and some wounded Palestinians transported into Egypt owing to events in the Gaza Strip in the occupied Palestinian territory (see *Israel and the Occupied Territories*).

Cairo hosts the headquarters of the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union (AIPU) and the League of Arab States (LAS).

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2015, the ICRC will respond to some humanitarian needs arising from the volatile situation in Egypt and conflict/violence in the region, while continuing to seek access to particularly vulnerable people, including detainees. To help facilitate its work, it will raise awareness of and support for its mandate and activities, and promote implementation of IHL in Egypt and the region.

To help casualties in Egypt receive adequate treatment, the ICRC, in coordination with the Movement, will help the Egyptian Red Crescent Society train/equip its emergency action teams to deliver first aid. In cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population and local organizations, medical professionals will benefit from seminars on emergency-room trauma management and weapon-wound surgery. Emergency service providers and hospitals will receive advice for developing emergency preparedness/re-

sponse plans, to help them cope with mass-casualty situations; in case of emergency, medical facilities will receive supplies. Through dialogue and dissemination sessions, the ICRC will promote respect for and protection of patients and medical staff/facilities/vehicles among the authorities and other stakeholders. Forensic experts will enhance their awareness of best practices in human remains management through courses abroad.

Family-links services will be available to migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees from neighbouring countries, and other people separated from their relatives, including those detained abroad; the ICRC will also facilitate family reunifications, repatriations or resettlement, in coordination with the authorities and other agencies. Unaccompanied foreign minors will receive assistance for their specific needs through referrals to other institutions and funding for a local organization providing psychosocial support. Similarly, local organizations engaged in efforts to help reduce the risk of sexual violence during demonstrations will receive financial support. The ICRC will remind the authorities of the protection afforded to foreigners under the principle of *non-refoulement*, and forward allegations of arrest to the pertinent authorities to enable families to receive information on their relatives' whereabouts. In cooperation with the National Society, Palestinians from Syria will receive vouchers enabling them to purchase essential household items, and support for their children's schooling. In case of conflict in neighbouring countries, it will help the National Society distribute relief items to people seeking refuge in Egypt.

In parallel, the ICRC will seek to visit detainees in accordance with its standard procedures, and gain access to violence-affected people in the Sinai, by continuing dialogue with the authorities on its potential contribution to their efforts to ensure respect for international law and internationally recognized standards, including in relation to law enforcement operations and detention; it will also take this opportunity to clarify the strictly humanitarian nature of its activities. Such topics will also be discussed during dissemination sessions for armed/security forces.

To foster support for its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, the ICRC will organize events for key civil society actors, including NGOs and the media. It will highlight the similarities between IHL and Islamic law, as well as humanitarian concerns related to the goals

of the Health Care in Danger project and preventing sexual violence. With the national IHL committee, the ICRC will continue to promote the integration of IHL provisions into national legislation, military doctrine/training/operations, and university curricula.

The ICRC will cooperate with the AIPU and the LAS to promote IHL treaty ratification/implementation among their member States, including by networking, participating in events tackling issues of mutual concern and coordinating support for national IHL committees.

The delegation's regional resource and communication centre will work with regional training institutes to organize IHL training for government officials. It will support ICRC efforts to increase knowledge and acceptance of its humanitarian activities and IHL, produce written and audiovisual materials on these topics, and keep its Arabic-language website updated.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

The ongoing confrontations between the armed/security forces and armed elements in the Sinai (see *Context*) generate consequences on the civilian population, some of whom are reportedly injured or displaced, or sustain damage to their homes/property. Elsewhere, violence related to demonstrations and bombings also causes casualties; the authorities are working to address the issue of sexual violence.

Egypt hosts hundreds of thousands of people in need of humanitarian assistance after fleeing conflict/violence in the wider region. They include people from Syria, who seek information on the whereabouts of relatives believed to be arrested/detained there. Palestinians from Syria do not systematically receive assistance besides monthly WFP food vouchers; their children are unable to attend school, owing to administrative reasons and lack of funds. Some third-country nationals lack valid identification papers to facilitate their resettlement. Irregular migrants and unaccompanied minors from other countries are particularly vulnerable to abuses, including sexual violence.

Some Egyptian families have problems communicating with relatives detained/interned abroad.

Objective

The population is respected and protected by the authorities and all weapon bearers, in accordance with IHL, international human rights law and other applicable norms. Separated family members are able to restore/maintain contact; when appropriate, they are able to reunite with their families or be repatriated or resettled. Unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable individuals receive assistance.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ pursue dialogue with the authorities and armed/security forces on the ICRC's potential contribution to their efforts to ensure respect for applicable international norms, including those relating to the use of force during law enforcement operations and the protection/respect due to those seeking/providing medical care

- ▶ remind the authorities of the protection afforded to refugees from Syria and other foreigners under the principle of *non-refoulement*
- ▶ to help reduce people's exposure to the risk of sexual violence during demonstrations, provide financial support to 2 local civil society organizations engaged in related prevention efforts
- ▶ help unaccompanied foreign minors and other particularly vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers meet their specific needs by:
 - referring them to pertinent organizations for educational/financial/health/other assistance
 - partially funding a local organization that provides psychosocial support

With the National Society:

Restoring family links

- ▶ enable people in Egypt – including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants – to restore/maintain contact with relatives living or detained/interned abroad through family-links services, such as oral messages relayed by ICRC delegates or family visits to detained/interned relatives; in coordination with UNHCR and the embassies concerned, facilitate their repatriation or family reunification and issue travel documents for the resettlement of those without valid identification papers
- ▶ help people from Syria determine the whereabouts of their relatives by collecting allegations of arrest, to be forwarded to the parties concerned (see *Syrian Arab Republic*)

Protection and assistance

- ▶ through training and material/technical support, help the National Society enhance its ability to provide basic family-links services and other forms of humanitarian assistance (see below)

Assistance

With the National Society:

Economic security

- ▶ to help conflict/violence-affected people meet some of their most pressing needs:
 - provide vouchers on a quarterly basis to some 1,300 Palestinian families from Syria (4,000 people), enabling them to obtain basic items, such as hygiene supplies, clothes and blankets; provide some 300 of the most vulnerable families (1,000 people) with additional vouchers, as needed
 - help up to 400 Palestinian children from Syria attend school by liaising with the education authorities/schools on their behalf and, if necessary, providing them with related support for up to 10 months
 - stand ready to distribute household items and hygiene kits to up to 200 families (1,000 people) fleeing conflict/violence in the region

Forensics

- ▶ help the authorities enhance their awareness of best practices in managing human remains by sponsoring representatives' attendance at courses abroad

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees, including people arrested in the wake of demonstrations, are held mainly under the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry. Little information is available on their situation. The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR)

has some access to certain prisons, while efforts by other organizations to establish monitoring mechanisms are confined mostly to public reports based on the debriefing of ex-detainees.

Objective

Detainees are afforded treatment and living conditions that comply with international law and internationally recognized standards.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ through the submission of allegations of arrest to the authorities, help families receive information about relatives believed to be arrested or detained
- ▶ to gain a favourable response to the ICRC's offer to conduct regular visits, according to its standard procedures, to detainees in Egypt:
 - continue dialogue with the authorities on the ICRC's potential contribution to their efforts to ensure that detainees' treatment and living conditions are in line with international law and internationally recognized standards, notably, by conducting a round-table on the subject, co-organized by the NCHR; emphasize the strictly humanitarian and confidential nature of the ICRC's work for detainees
 - incorporate such topics into discussions with the authorities and dissemination sessions for armed/security forces on internationally recognized standards relating to law enforcement and detention (see *Actors of influence*)
 - in cooperation with the authorities concerned, enable penitentiary officials to learn more about the ICRC's work for detainees by facilitating interaction with their peers in other countries, including through a visit to observe ICRC activities for detainees abroad

WOUNDED AND SICK

People wounded during situations of violence (see *Context*) receive first aid from the National Society's emergency action teams, and medical treatment at hospitals run by various ministries. Some of these health facilities are not used to treating large influxes of weapon-wounded patients. In the Sinai, the situation (see *Context*) makes it difficult to assess whether people have adequate access to medical attention, including emergency services and surgery. Wounded patients from the Gaza Strip are sometimes evacuated to Egypt for emergency treatment at public/university hospitals.

Objective

People wounded during situations of violence have access to timely and adequate first-aid services and medical care.

Plan of action and indicators

- ▶ through dialogue and dissemination sessions, promote respect for and protection of patients and medical staff/facilities/vehicles among the authorities and other stakeholders (see *Actors of influence*), and help health workers boost their awareness of their rights under international norms

Assistance

Medical care

- ▶ to help ensure that wounded people, including those injured during situations of violence in Egypt and medical

evacuees from conflict-affected areas in the region, have access to quality emergency medical services:

- support the National Society's emergency action teams by providing equipment/materials and training on first aid and the Safer Access Framework
- lend technical expertise to help the Egyptian Ambulance Organization and 2 hospitals develop emergency preparedness/response plans for handling mass casualties
- in case of emergency, distribute dressing materials, surgery kits and other consumables to hospitals, including in the Sinai, if possible
- ▶ with the pertinent institutions, help medical professionals boost their abilities to provide quality care to casualties by:
 - co-organizing seminars on emergency-room trauma care and weapon-wound surgery for up to 160 doctors
 - incorporating a weapon-wound surgery module into the Egyptian Fellowship Board's training programme for up to 40 doctors

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The Egyptian Armed Forces (EAF) and security forces conduct law enforcement operations countrywide, notably in the Sinai, where international organizations' access to the population is restricted. The EAF, which contributes to UN peacekeeping missions, has a committee that reviews the level of IHL integration in their doctrine/training/operations.

The national IHL committee, which includes representatives from various ministries, promotes ratification/implementation of IHL treaties, prepares draft legislation and helps disseminate IHL amongst the authorities. Major law faculties teach IHL.

Recognized Islamic circles, the media, NGOs and political parties are influential in shaping public opinion.

The AIPU and LAS encourage their member States to implement IHL by overseeing regional and national plans of action and organizing related meetings.

Objective

The authorities and armed/security forces of Egypt and other LAS member States understand and respect IHL and other fundamental rules protecting people in armed conflict and other situations of violence, and incorporate these into their decision-making processes. Religious/traditional leaders, the media, academia and other circles of influence help foster awareness of humanitarian issues and IHL among all those involved in these situations and the wider public, thus achieving greater respect for human dignity. All actors understand the ICRC's mandate and support the work of the Movement.

Plan of action and indicators

With the National Society:

Prevention

- ▶ to foster awareness of humanitarian norms and acceptance of the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, including during situations of violence, thereby facilitating access to detainees and violence-affected people:

- help government/judicial officials, parliamentarians and diplomats enhance their understanding of IHL and other relevant international norms and of ICRC activities, particularly for detainees, through dissemination sessions, events co-organized with local institutions and high-ranking officials' participation in international courses/events
 - organize dissemination/training sessions for the armed/security forces – notably military instructors, Sinai border guards, prison officers and peacekeeping troops – highlighting applicable international law and norms related to law enforcement and detention, and the goals of the Health Care in Danger project; stand ready to lend expertise to the military's IHL committee
- ▶ to raise awareness of and support for the ICRC and its mandate, Movement activities regionwide, and humanitarian issues such as sexual violence and the need to protect medical personnel/facilities:
- boost knowledge of the similarities between IHL and Islamic law among religious scholars, NGOs and political parties through dialogue and local/regional seminars
 - encourage broader media coverage of these topics, through dissemination sessions – combined with first-aid training in most cases – co-organized with the National Society and a journalists' association
 - provide the National Society with technical/material support in developing its promotional activities, particularly, operational updates and events co-organized with the ICRC
- ▶ to advance IHL implementation:
- provide the national IHL committee with technical/material support to promote the ratification/implementation of IHL treaties, notably the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Rome Statute
 - to foster support for/expertise in IHL, organize local/international competitions and other events for professors and students; sponsor professors' attendance at courses abroad; update universities' libraries with IHL publications
- ▶ promote and support IHL implementation among Arab governments in the region and network/coordinate with the LAS and the AIPU; in particular:
- work with Arab countries' national IHL committees and parliaments in overseeing national/regional plans of action to implement IHL, other applicable

international norms and related treaties; help publish an annual report assessing progress in this regard

- attend LAS meetings/events, including for military trainers and academics/scholars, to promote humanitarian principles and ICRC activities, including those related to the Health Care in Danger project and preventing sexual violence
- foster IHL expertise regionwide through support for IHL research and cooperation with regional training institutes for diplomats, magistrates and parliamentarians; organize a train-the-trainer course for participants of previous regional IHL courses, including government/military officials and academics/scholars

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Egyptian Red Crescent, the ICRC's main partner in the country, focuses on developing its emergency preparedness in coordination with other Movement partners, promoting the Fundamental Principles and responding to the humanitarian needs of people affected by conflict/violence in the region.

Objective

The National Society has the capacity to address humanitarian needs arising from armed conflict or other situations of violence, in coordination with Movement partners.

Plan of action and indicators

Cooperation

- ▶ through training and financial/technical support, help the National Society develop its operational capacities, particularly to:
 - respond to emergencies – notably, by providing relief assistance, family-links services (see *Civilians*) and first aid (see *Wounded and sick*) – in line with the Safer Access Framework and Fundamental Principles
 - enhance its communication capacities, to promote support for and acceptance of Movement activities (see *Actors of influence*)
- ▶ contribute to Movement coordination, including by organizing regional meetings
- ▶ support the National Society's participation in events related to the Health Care in Danger project and other themes relevant to the Movement