

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

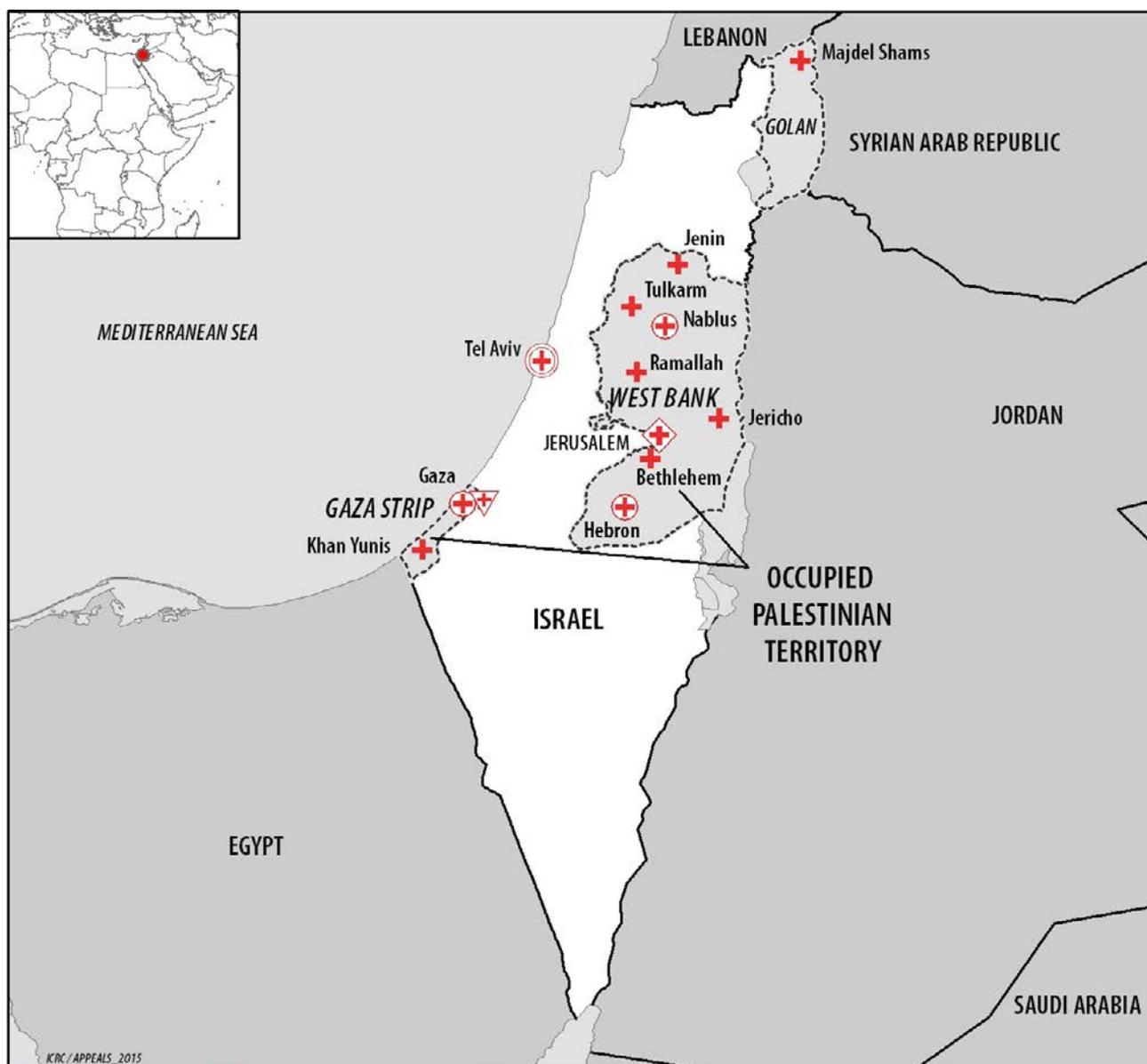
The ICRC has been present in Israel and the occupied territories since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It strives to ensure respect for IHL, in particular its provisions relating to the protection of civilians living under occupation. It monitors the treatment and living conditions of detainees held by the Israeli and Palestinian authorities and provides assistance to the Palestinian population, particularly during emergencies. As the lead agency for the Movement in this context, the ICRC coordinates the work of its Movement partners and supports the activities of the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	17,570
Assistance	22,299
Prevention	7,281
Cooperation with National Societies	3,063
General	282
Total	50,494
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>3,082</i>

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	68
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	322



-  ICRC delegation
-  ICRC sub-delegation
-  ICRC mission
-  ICRC office/presence
-  ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic project

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ the Israeli authorities act upon the consequences of occupation policies that contravene IHL, with the ICRC's confidential dialogue with them and its proactive engagement with influential actors contributing to this end
- ▶ Palestinian authorities and weapon bearers engage in dialogue with the ICRC and in dissemination sessions on fundamental IHL rules/principles and other norms, encouraging them to consider IHL in their decision-making process
- ▶ wounded and sick people in the Gaza Strip obtain emergency/medical care from the Palestine Red Crescent Society and from hospitals supported by the ICRC, including with training in emergency-room trauma care
- ▶ Gaza Strip residents improve their living conditions, as a result of renewed access to an adequate water supply, improved waste water treatment and recovery of their sources of livelihood in border areas
- ▶ detainees held by Israeli and Palestinian authorities are afforded treatment and living conditions in line with international norms and law, with those held in 2 Gaza Strip prisons seeing improvements in their access to health care
- ▶ Palestinian detainees held by Israel regularly receive family visits from relatives living in East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank

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	7,400
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	54,275
Cash	Beneficiaries	275
Work, services and training	Beneficiaries	100
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	500,000
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures	7
Water and habitat		
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	2,097
Physical rehabilitation		
Projects supported	Structures	1

CONTEXT

In August 2014, Israel and Hamas, the *de facto* authorities in the Gaza Strip, accepted an open-ended truce brokered by Egypt, ending almost two months of intense armed hostilities. Amid a still-volatile security situation, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are struggling to cope with the consequences of the fighting, particularly: an unprecedented casualty toll; widespread damage to houses and to water, electricity and health infrastructure; loss of livelihoods; and the presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW). These are in addition to long-standing problems linked to Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip and other occupation policies. Reconstruction efforts, backed by partners, are being discussed in international fora.

In East Jerusalem and the West Bank, tensions linked to the 2014 hostilities in the Gaza Strip and the ongoing occupation often lead to violence. Palestinians there also contend with a sluggish economy and a high unemployment rate.

In the Israeli-occupied part of the Golan Heights, tensions related to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) persist. Security incidents, including air strikes, have been reported along Israel's borders with Lebanon and Syria.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2015, the ICRC will continue working to promote the protection of civilians in Israel and the occupied territories, and to alleviate the humanitarian situation of Palestinians living under occupation. To this end, it will strengthen its confidential dialogue with the Israeli and Palestinian authorities on their obligations under IHL and other applica-

ble norms. The ICRC will also pursue efforts to contribute to the public debate on certain Israeli policies/practices and to build acceptance and support for its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action.

The ICRC will seek to reinforce its confidential dialogue with the Israeli authorities, to remind them to abide by their obligations under IHL – notably to respect the principles of precaution, distinction and proportionality – and to encourage the inclusion of IHL in the doctrine, training and operations of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Issues related to restrictions on movement, violence by settlers, restoration of family links and Palestinians' access to land/resources will also be addressed confidentially.

Dialogue with Palestinian authorities and weapon bearers will emphasize the need to respect and spare people not or no longer participating in the fighting. Messages on the fundamental rules of IHL will be relayed during dissemination sessions for armed groups.

The ICRC will foster wider acceptance for IHL and for its mandate/activities by contributing to the public debate on certain Israeli occupation policies – the routing of the West Bank barrier, the settlement policy and the annexation of East Jerusalem. It will do so through networking, multi-media communication campaigns and other efforts aimed at securing, over the next few years, Israel's acceptance of the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the Palestinian context and respect for its provisions. Meanwhile, engagement with Palestinian civil society actors and general public will seek to increase their understanding of and enlist their support for the ICRC's humanitarian activities, including for detainees. The ICRC – in all dialogue and activities – will stress the protection that IHL affords to medical services.

While remaining ready to respond to emergencies, the ICRC will help ease the situation of Palestinians most affected by Israeli occupation policies/practices and by the repercussions of the 2014 hostilities in the Gaza Strip. It will continue to support the Palestine Red Crescent Society in covering the operating costs of its emergency medical services (EMS) throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. In the Gaza Strip, the ICRC will help ensure that people receive good-quality emergency/medical care by providing key hospitals with staff training, technical advice and equipment. The Gaza Artificial Limbs and Polio Centre (ALPC) will receive material support/training for sustaining its services.

The ICRC will help the Gaza Strip's water board repair water-supply/sanitation systems damaged in 2014, and provide it with technical/material support for operating/maintaining essential infrastructure. It will help vulnerable households in border areas resume their livelihoods by giving them farming implements and training. People whose houses were damaged/destroyed during the hostilities will receive household essentials.

The ICRC will visit detainees held by the Israeli and Palestinian authorities to monitor their treatment and living conditions. It will facilitate family visits to detainees held by Israel and lend its expertise to all detaining authorities for ensuring that detainees' have adequate living conditions, including access to medical care. In the Gaza Strip, such support will be provided through a pilot project to help the authorities improve detainees' access to health care and by rehabilitating facilities in some prisons.

Cooperation with and support for the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent will help ensure the timely delivery of humanitarian services. The ICRC will focus on helping both National Societies strengthen their disaster-management and communication capacities. Coordination with Movement components and other humanitarian actors will continue.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

Violations of IHL – particularly abuses against civilians and destruction of civilian infrastructure – are reported/observed during confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip, and during Israeli security/law enforcement operations in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Palestinians continue to endure chronic difficulties caused by movement restrictions and other Israeli occupation policies and practices. In the Gaza Strip, protracted problems such as irregular water/power supply have been exacerbated by the hostilities in 2014 (see *Context*). Palestinians in the West Bank contend with the effects of settlement construction/expansion: confiscation/destruction of their property and lack of access to land, for instance.

Objective

The population living under occupation is treated in accordance with the relevant rules of IHL. Israeli and Palestinian civilians are spared direct and indiscriminate attacks; civilian infrastructure and property are respected. People in the occupied Palestinian territory have access

to essential services and means of livelihood; they live in a safe environment.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ urge all Israeli and Palestinian parties to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, including medical workers and facilities (see *Wounded and sick*)
- ▶ through dialogue and representations, remind the Israeli authorities to abide by their obligations under IHL and to address the humanitarian consequences of occupation, encouraging them in particular to:
 - ensure that military and law enforcement operations comply with IHL and other applicable international norms, notably the principles of precaution, distinction and proportionality
 - prevent violence by settlers against Palestinians and their property; prosecute those responsible
 - ease movement restrictions in the occupied Palestinian territory, notably to improve Palestinians' access to agricultural/fishing areas and other sources of livelihood
 - ensure that the situation of the inhabitants of the occupied Golan complies with international law
- ▶ promote respect for IHL and other relevant norms among Palestinian authorities and weapon bearers, encouraging them in particular to protect and spare people not or no longer participating in the fighting

Assistance

Economic security

- ▶ through dialogue and on the basis of market studies, persuade the Israeli authorities to address the impact of movement restrictions on the livelihoods and the quality of life of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and in Hebron Old City
- ▶ help up to 9,000 farming or herding households (54,000 individuals) in Gaza Strip border areas resume their livelihoods by, for instance, supporting the rehabilitation of infrastructure (e.g. irrigation systems, access roads) and providing them with seed/tools; train/equip some 30 farmer groups to undertake pest-control activities, enabling them to take over such tasks from the authorities
- ▶ in the West Bank, help up to 50 households (275 people) protect their livelihoods by making representations in their behalf to the Israeli authorities, and by providing assistance

With the Palestine Red Crescent:

- ▶ to help them cope with displacement as a result of damage to/destruction of their houses, provide up to 6,900 people (1,150 households) in the Gaza Strip and 550 people (100 households) in the West Bank with household essentials
- ▶ organize courses to help National Society staff enhance their needs assessment/response capacities

Water and habitat

- ▶ through dialogue, persuade the Israeli authorities to address the repercussions of their water/environmental management policies/practices in the West Bank
- ▶ to help ensure that Gaza Strip residents have an adequate water supply and a hygienic environment:
 - with the water board, repair water-supply/sewage networks serving 500,000 people

- provide the water board and the *de facto* authorities with expertise and tools/equipment for infrastructure maintenance and operation; mobilize donors and others concerned to support the water/sanitation sector

Weapon contamination

- ▶ help mitigate the effects of weapon contamination in the Gaza Strip through technical advice and risk-awareness sessions for the authorities, communities and international/humanitarian organizations

Travel to Syria proper by Golan residents is subject to Israel-imposed restrictions, as is travel by Palestinians between locations in the occupied Palestinian territory and to Israel/Jordan. Maintaining contact with relatives is difficult for Lebanese nationals living in Israel and migrants from countries without diplomatic relations with Israel.

Cases of Israeli nationals missing from past conflicts and of Arab combatants allegedly killed in action by Israeli forces remain unresolved. The remains of some of them await repatriation.

Objective

Separated family members restore/maintain contact, meet regularly or are reunited. Families know the fate of missing relatives, and take possession of their remains if they are dead.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

Restoring family links

- ▶ help vulnerable migrants and Lebanese nationals contact their relatives via tracing and RCMs
- ▶ facilitate travel for family/medical reasons between the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem/West Bank, and to Israel or Jordan; remind the Israeli and Palestinian authorities of the right of separated family members to maintain contact or be reunited
- ▶ acting as a neutral intermediary, facilitate the exchange of documents/travel across the demarcation line between the occupied Golan and Syria proper for religious/educational purposes or for weddings, and the transport of Golanese apples to Syrian markets, to help farmers increase their income
- ▶ remind the Israeli authorities of their obligation to return the remains of deceased Palestinians to their families; as a neutral intermediary, support the return/repatriation of the remains of Palestinians buried in Israel and of other nationals who die in Israel; inform Israeli families of progress, if any, in clarifying the fate of their missing relatives

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Thousands of Palestinians, and some Syrians, are held by Israel. They include people arrested during the 2014 hostilities in the Gaza Strip and during an Israeli security operation in the West Bank. Palestinian families require help to visit relatives detained by Israel.

Several hundred people are held by the Palestinian Authority and by the *de facto* authorities in the Gaza Strip.

Objective

People held by the Israeli authorities are treated in conformity with IHL, other relevant norms and internationally

recognized standards. People detained by the Palestinian Authority and by the *de facto* authorities in the Gaza Strip benefit from the protection afforded by applicable norms and internationally recognized standards, particularly with regard to their treatment and living conditions.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ following visits, conducted according to standard ICRC procedures, to monitor all detainees' treatment and living conditions, share findings/recommendations confidentially to the detaining authorities, paying particular attention to:

For people in Israeli custody:

- the rights of administrative detainees and the treatment/living conditions of those under interrogation
- the situation of detainees in long-term isolation or on hunger strike, and that of women, minors and foreigners/migrants
- access to medical care

For people held by the Palestinian Authority or the *de facto* authorities in the Gaza Strip:

- treatment during interrogation
- respect for judicial guarantees
- material conditions of detention
- ▶ help detainees maintain contact with their families through RCMs, short oral messages relayed by ICRC delegates and, for people held by Israel, regular family visits; follow up, with the Israeli authorities, delays in issuing permits for family visits

Protection and assistance

- ▶ through a pilot project, help the *de facto* authorities ensure access to good-quality health care for detainees in 2 Gaza Strip prisons, by:
 - supporting a working group in assessing health needs at the 2 sites, developing a contingency plan for emergencies and standardizing health services/guidelines for the penitentiary sector
 - helping enhance the authorities' awareness of health issues in places of detention, and of internationally recognized standards and best practices for addressing them
 - organizing health information campaigns for detainees and prison staff, and seminars on medical ethics for health workers
 - facilitating coordination among health-care providers within and outside the penitentiary sector
 - upgrading equipment/facilities in the clinics at the 2 sites, benefiting some 500 people

Assistance

- ▶ encourage the Israeli and Palestinian authorities – and, where necessary, provide them with assistance – to ensure that detainees receive recreational/educational items and essential/hygiene supplies, and that the specific needs of women, minors and people in long-term isolation are addressed
- ▶ through training/advice, help the Palestinian detaining authorities ensure that detainees have living conditions that comply with internationally recognized standards; help rehabilitate/repair facilities in 6 places of detention in the Gaza Strip, benefiting some 1,500 people

WOUNDED AND SICK

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have difficulty accessing adequate emergency, medical and specialized health care and physical rehabilitation services, especially during emergencies. Shortages of medical supplies and the fragility of water/energy infrastructure often lead to interruption in services.

The Palestine Red Crescent's EMS, which operates throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, deals with financial constraints linked to rising operating costs.

Objective

Wounded and sick people in the Gaza Strip have access to adequate treatment, including physical rehabilitation services. The Palestine Red Crescent's EMS responds to emergencies in East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Plan of action and indicators

Assistance

Medical care and Water and habitat

- ▶ in line with the goals of the Health Care in Danger project, promote respect for patients, accompanying relatives and medical staff/facilities; document obstructions to medical services and notify the authorities concerned for follow-up
- ▶ to help people in the occupied Palestinian territory obtain emergency and medical/surgical care: support the Palestine Red Crescent's EMS with funding to cover operating/vehicle-maintenance costs and to purchase medical/office equipment; and in the Gaza Strip:
 - help strengthen emergency care through: emergency-room trauma care courses and train-the-trainer workshops for doctors/nurses in 3 hospitals; an international conference on weapon-wound surgery; training in psychosocial support
 - provide the health authorities with equipment/spare parts to support patients requiring haemodialysis or other specialized treatment in up to 7 public hospitals; repair facilities in up to 2 hospitals and enable some 13 hospitals to operate and maintain water/power systems by donating spare parts for generators and exploring alternative energy sources in at least 1 of them
 - remind the health authorities of their responsibility to ensure well-functioning emergency/medical systems; donate supplies/equipment during emergencies
- ▶ with the Magen David Adom, encourage the Israeli authorities to develop a module on emergency health response for a medical university
- ▶ help ensure that wounded Syrian refugees evacuated to Israel receive adequate care, through monitoring visits and ad hoc donations of supplies to hospitals treating them; promote respect for the principle of *non-refoulement*

Physical rehabilitation

- ▶ to ease mobility and social inclusion for physically disabled patients in the Gaza Strip:
 - provide material/infrastructure-maintenance support and training for the ALPC to sustain its prosthetic/orthotic/physiotherapy services; help it develop guidelines/protocols and sponsor technicians for scholarships abroad

- support the APLC in establishing a wheelchair department; organize training in sports activities for some 60 physically disabled people

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Law-makers and political leaders draft and implement Israel's policies in the occupied Palestinian territory. Certain occupation policies in contravention of IHL – the routing of the West Bank barrier, the settlement policy and the annexation of East Jerusalem – have major humanitarian consequences.

The IDF has yet to fully incorporate IHL into its doctrine, training and operations.

The Palestinian Authority oversees security services in some parts of the West Bank; the *de facto* Hamas authorities command those in the Gaza Strip, where armed groups also operate.

In both Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, policy/decision-makers often rely on support from think-tanks, religious leaders and academics. NGOs, traditional/social media outlets, political parties, and members of the international community help shape public opinion.

Objective

Israeli and Palestinian decision-makers and weapon bearers know and respect IHL and other fundamental rules protecting people in armed conflict, and incorporate these in their decision-making processes. Think-tanks, religious leaders, academics and other circles of influence help foster awareness of humanitarian issues and IHL among all those involved in this situation and in the wider public, thus achieving greater respect for human dignity. All actors understand the ICRC's mandate and support its work.

Plan of action and indicators

Prevention

- ▶ to increase acceptance and respect for IHL among the Israeli authorities – particularly with regard to the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied Palestinian territory – and to promote the incorporation of IHL in their decision-making processes:
 - pursue discussions with the authorities on their IHL obligations (see *Civilians*)
 - reinforce confidential dialogue with IDF – at all levels, including teaching institutes – on IHL and its incorporation in doctrine/training/operations, through meetings, training/workshops and dissemination sessions; sponsor the participation of senior IDF officers in courses abroad; where possible, co-organize activities with local institutions
 - through networking and at various fora, engage influential policy/decision-makers – ministry officials, parliamentarians and members of political parties – in dialogue on certain Israeli occupation policies/practices and on the ICRC's mandate/activities
 - contribute to the debate on the applicability of IHL to the Palestinian context and the impact of major Israeli occupation policies, while also fostering broader awareness of the ICRC's mandate/activities, through the proactive use of multimedia resources and through seminars/presentations and other events for civil society and international organizations; help

law professors/students add to their IHL expertise through competitions/other events

- ▶ to build acceptance for humanitarian principles, IHL and other applicable norms among the Palestinian authorities, weapon bearers and the wider public, and to enlist their support for the ICRC and its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action:
 - develop dialogue with all Palestinian authorities and weapon bearers (see *Civilians*), including through dissemination/first-aid sessions for armed groups; be ready to provide technical advice to the national IHL committee
 - in line with a memorandum of understanding on IHL integration with the *de facto* Gaza Strip Interior Ministry, conduct train-the-trainer workshops for the security forces and support the ministry in revising training manuals
 - through dialogue/dissemination sessions, encourage the Palestinian security services in the West Bank to respect norms and internationally recognized standards applicable to law enforcement, arrest and detention
 - provide key Gaza Strip universities with capacity-building support for advancing their IHL instruction/incorporation efforts; network with and organize competitions/events for academic/religious circles, media outlets, youth movements and other civil society actors, to raise awareness of ICRC activities for Palestinian detainees, for instance
- ▶ highlight the goals of the Health Care in Danger project during all dialogue and activities
- ▶ pursue partnerships with both National Societies to promote humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent carry out humanitarian activities in response to conflict, disasters and other emergencies. The Palestine Red Crescent/ICRC partnership supports an efficient response to humanitarian needs in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Objective

The Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent have the means and the expertise to implement the full range activities of well-functioning National Societies. The activities of all Movement components are coordinated.

Plan of action and indicators

Cooperation

- ▶ develop partnerships with the National Societies; help them respond to humanitarian needs, particularly during emergencies, through training and financial and other support for:
 - the Magen David Adom to strengthen its EMS, disaster preparedness, family-links services and international operations, and its understanding of Movement policies/structure
 - the Palestine Red Crescent to improve its capacities in disaster management, IHL dissemination and communication, and increase its knowledge of the Fundamental Principles, the Safer Access Framework and the Health Care in Danger project
- ▶ support the monitoring of the implementation of the 2005 cooperation agreement between the National Societies
- ▶ promote a coordinated Movement response, particularly during emergencies