

**DELEGATIONS**

Egypt  
 Iran, Islamic Republic of  
 Iraq  
 Israel and the Occupied Territories  
 Jordan  
 Lebanon  
 Syrian Arab Republic  
 Yemen

**REGIONAL DELEGATIONS**

Kuwait

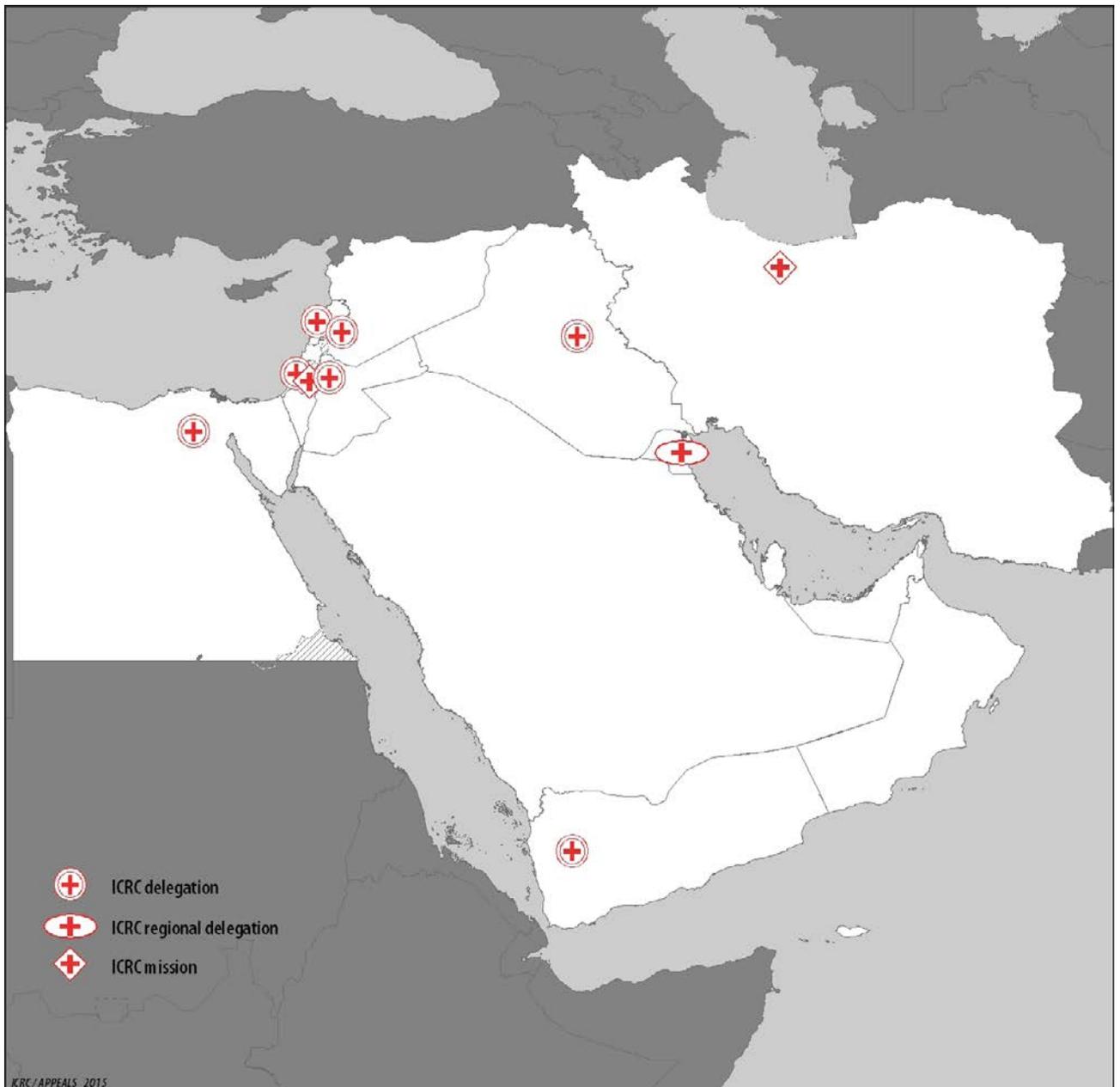
**BUDGET IN KCHF**

Protection	51,957
Assistance	310,425
Prevention	30,241
Cooperation with National Societies	19,700
General	2,099
<b>Total</b>	<b>414,421</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>25,293</i>

**PERSONNEL**

Mobile staff	429
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	2,346

# NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST





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Assembly point in Bustana, Jordan. ICRC trucks regularly deliver blankets, jerrycans and hygiene items to refugees fleeing the Syrian Arab Republic.

### MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ millions of people affected by the Syrian armed conflict regionwide are able to meet their most urgent needs for food, water and other essentials, thanks to National Society/ICRC operations supported by all parties concerned
- ▶ wounded and sick people receive timely treatment thanks to first-aid and health services in Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen
- ▶ in places of detention visited by the ICRC, people deprived of their freedom benefit from steps taken by the authorities to improve their treatment and living conditions, particularly their access to health care
- ▶ governments in the region, particularly those dealing with armed conflicts, express their willingness to respect IHL and support ICRC operations and other humanitarian initiatives
- ▶ weapon bearers in the region – armed/security forces and armed groups opposing them or other armed groups – take into account humanitarian/IHL principles in their conduct of hostilities and facilitate impartial humanitarian action
- ▶ National Societies in the region provide an effective humanitarian response to needs arising from armed conflicts, disasters and other emergencies, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles and the Safer Access Framework

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	10,286,000
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	3,109,400
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	172,775
Cash	Beneficiaries	180,175
Vouchers	Beneficiaries	5,000
Work, services and training	Beneficiaries	12,180
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	23,219,900
<b>Health</b>		
Health centres supported	Structures	47
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
<b>Hospitals</b>		
Hospitals supported	Structures	17
<b>Water and habitat</b>		
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	2,697
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>		
Projects supported	Structures	21
Patients receiving services	Patients	92,950

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

In 2015, ICRC operations in the Near and Middle East will continue to focus on addressing the humanitarian consequences of ongoing and past armed conflicts, situations of occupation, internal strife and unrest in the region. The ICRC will protect and assist conflict- or violence-affected people, paying particular attention to the most vulnerable: the wounded and sick, detainees/internees, IDPs/refugees, migrants and households headed by women and disabled persons. Highlighting the protection owed these people under the applicable law or standards, it will seek the support of governmental authorities, weapon bearers and others who can influence their fate. Major operations will be undertaken to keep up with the humanitarian needs arising from the non-international armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria), whose burgeoning effects require the ICRC to continue adopting a region-oriented approach, to ensure that operations cover needs not only in Syria but also in neighbouring Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

Gaining safe access and maintaining proximity to people affected by ongoing armed conflicts, such as in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, are crucial to ensuring timely delivery of humanitarian aid. To overcome security- and other access-related constraints, the ICRC will continue to develop and sustain relations with the authorities at all levels, weapon bearers from all sides and other influential stakeholders. It will seek, through dialogue and networking, the commitment of all parties to respect IHL and other applicable norms and to accept – if not actively facilitate and support – the Movement’s humanitarian activities. Whenever necessary, it will remind the authorities and weapon bearers of their obligations under IHL and other norms to respect people not or no longer participating in the hostilities and, including through the Health Care in Danger project, the protection due to patients and medical services.

In Syria, for example, the ICRC will urge all parties to the conflict to respect IHL rules in the conduct of hostilities and, more particularly, to end and prevent abuses against civilians and facilitate civilian access to impartial medical/humanitarian aid. Elsewhere, it will encourage the authorities to respect the principle of *non-refoulement* in relation to the people fleeing the Syrian armed conflict. In Israel, the ICRC will pursue its efforts to contribute to the public debate on Israeli policies/practices in contravention of IHL and their humanitarian consequences, in a bid to get the Israeli authorities to improve respect for IHL. It will seek to establish dialogue with the armed/security and police forces in Bahrain, Egypt and Yemen on internationally recognized standards applicable to law enforcement, including during mass demonstrations.

The region’s National Societies will remain the ICRC’s main partners. In coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC will provide them with technical advice, training and material inputs in fields such as family-links services, first aid, emergency preparedness/response and dissemination, to bolster their capacities to carry out humanitarian activities in line with the Fundamental Principles and the Safer Access Framework. Meetings with other humanitarian actors on the ground will aim to coordinate efforts and avoid duplication.

ICRC support for casualty care will benefit weapon-wounded people across the region. The provision of medical supplies and training, including in the Safer Access Framework,

will reinforce the first-aid capacities of National Societies, medical personnel/volunteers and weapon bearers. The ICRC will also cover the running costs of the emergency medical services of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and contribute to those of the Lebanese Red Cross, the Magen David Adom of Israel, and the emergency action teams of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society. It will help ensure that patients requiring secondary care, especially in Iraq, Jordan and Syria, and wounded evacuees arriving from Syria in Lebanon and, to a lesser extent, in Israel, are referred and safely evacuated to hospitals. Hospitals will receive medical materials/consumables and technical advice; their staff will participate in training in mass-casualty management and war surgery. Hospitals in the Gaza Strip (occupied Palestinian territory) and Syria will be provided with medical equipment and spare parts, including for haemodialysis machines, to help ensure the uninterrupted delivery of medical services.

The ICRC will continue to respond to the most urgent needs of people affected by conflict/violence and other emergencies. In Syria, for example, distributions of food, water and essential household items, and emergency repairs of water/sanitation/shelter infrastructure will help IDPs cope with their immediate situation. The ICRC’s growing assistance initiatives in Jordan and Lebanon will supplement the aid being received by people from Syria taking refuge in those countries. In the occupied Palestinian territory, Palestinians displaced owing to the destruction of their houses will receive household materials.

The longer-term needs arising from the protracted nature of some of the situations in the region will also be addressed. This will be done in cooperation with local leaders/institutions, and will take into account the resilience and coping mechanisms of the populations concerned.

Micro-economic and cash-for-work initiatives, productive inputs and infrastructure rehabilitation will empower vulnerable households, including those of IDPs or headed by women or disabled persons, to improve their livelihoods and gain self-sufficiency. Water/sanitation projects conducted with local water boards will help the latter boost their own capacities and ensure that the necessary services and structures are in place. In the Gaza Strip, Iraq, Syria and Yemen, for example, the construction/rehabilitation/maintenance of water and sanitation facilities will enable millions of people to maintain/gain safe access to water, both for household and livestock/agricultural use. Besides medical assistance in the field of primary health care, capacity-building and structural support, particularly for facilities in poorly served or conflict-stricken areas, will develop services in line with local health policies. Such assistance will focus on mother-and-child care, immunization, chronic illnesses and victims of sexual violence. It will include staff training in preventive, diagnostic and curative care and the upgrade/rehabilitation of health centres.

ICRC support for physical rehabilitation services in the Gaza Strip, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen will help the injured and disabled receive appropriate treatment/therapy and mobility devices. In parallel, National Societies, government bodies and other stakeholders, such as the Iranian Mine Action Centre and the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation in Jordan, will be encouraged to expand their roles in addressing the risks of weapon con-

tamination and the needs of victims. The ICRC will back their efforts to pursue preventive action and train trainers and volunteers in mine-risk education.

Owing to the large numbers of people detained in relation to the ongoing conflicts and disturbances in the region, the ICRC will aim to visit more detainees to monitor their treatment – including respect for judicial guarantees and, in relation to foreign nationals, for the principle of *non-refoulement* – living conditions and access to health care. Its delegates' findings and recommendations will be shared confidentially with the detaining authorities. In Syria, the ICRC will encourage the authorities and armed groups to grant it regular access to detainees in their custody, on the basis of IHL. Similar discussions will be pursued with the Egyptian authorities based on the ICRC's right of initiative. The ICRC, focusing on people held on security-related charges, foreigners/migrants and other vulnerable inmates, will continue to visit people held in Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory, Qatar and Yemen. In Jordan, the situation of Palestinians from Syria and Syrian ex-servicemen held in *de facto* internment will also be monitored.

Where it visits detainees, the ICRC will offer the authorities support to improve detainees' treatment and living conditions, concentrating on access to primary and mental health care and essential infrastructure. In Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon and Yemen, it will work with them to implement comprehensive prison health-care systems, including by co-organizing seminars/workshops on health in detention. It will help upgrade water/sanitation infrastructure and address the particular needs of vulnerable inmates, such as women, children and migrants/foreigners.

National Society/ICRC-run family-links and tracing services will help ease people's anguish over family members they have lost contact with. Detainees and their families, IDPs and other civilians, including refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, will be able to maintain contact through RCMs, phone/video calls and family visits. In Syria, the ICRC will forward to the authorities requests for information from families of people allegedly arrested/detained – and follow up previously submitted requests that remain unanswered – while stressing the importance of facilitating contact between families and their detained relatives. Acting as a neutral intermediary, it will facilitate travel for Palestinians between Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and Jordan, and, for residents of the Israeli-occupied Golan, to Syria proper for educational/religious purposes.

Addressing the issue of people missing in connection with earlier armed conflicts, notably the numerous Arab-Israeli conflicts from 1948 onward, the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war, the 1990–91 Gulf War and various armed conflicts in Lebanon, will remain an ICRC priority. During meetings of the ICRC-chaired Tripartite Commission, the official body set up in 2001 for discussions among the parties concerned regarding persons missing in relation to the 1990–91 Gulf War, the ICRC will press for the continuous mobilization of all means necessary to facilitate the search for and identifica-

tion of human remains. Acting as a neutral intermediary in the framework of a tripartite agreement signed in 2008 with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, it will chair meetings and support work to clarify the fate of persons unaccounted for as a result of the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war and to identify and repatriate human remains. It will support joint exhumations, provide forensic training, including in ante/post-mortem data management, for local experts and encourage the authorities to conduct such operations in line with internationally recognized standards. It will also work with the authorities and National Societies, for example, in Syria, to improve the management of the remains of people killed in conflict/violence, to ensure that the families concerned are informed of their fate or, at the very least, that human remains are stored in a manner that will facilitate future identification. It will persuade the authorities, notably in Iraq and Lebanon, to address the specific concerns of the families of the missing.

The ICRC will pursue its cooperation with the Cairo-based League of Arab States and enhance relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council States, including for broadening their support for ICRC activities worldwide. It will offer advice to governments, including through the national IHL committees, on accession to IHL treaties and the incorporation of ratified treaties into national legislation. Activities will include encouraging academic institutions to integrate IHL into their curricula and to contribute to the IHL discourse, notably during co-organized events, for example, an international conference on the similarities between Islamic jurisprudence and IHL in Qom, Islamic Republic of Iran. The ICRC will also seek to increase coordination on common concerns with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. It will work with the region's armed and police forces on assimilating IHL and international human rights law into their doctrine, training and operations.

The ICRC will develop its contacts among and networking with key civil society stakeholders to enlist their support for IHL and Movement initiatives. Journalists, for example, will be encouraged to provide accurate coverage of the humanitarian concerns arising from armed conflicts and other situations of violence, including those outlined in the Health Care in Danger project, as well as of ICRC operations in the region and beyond. Dedicated events will be held to raise awareness of and support for the Movement and its activities.

The regional resource and communication centre in Cairo, Egypt, will produce multimedia IHL materials in Arabic for distribution to governments and civil society groups, help organize regional IHL seminars and keep the ICRC's Arabic-language website updated. The ICRC will continue to collect relevant legislative practices in selected countries to update its study on customary IHL.

Amman, Jordan, will remain a key logistical hub and will contribute to the ICRC's humanitarian operations in Syria and the region and beyond. It will continue to host the main training centre for ICRC delegations working in the Balkans, the Caucasus, and the Near and Middle East.