

NEW YORK

The objectives and plans of action are valid for two years, while the budget presented applies to one year only.

The multiple tasks and activities of the UN often have implications of a humanitarian nature. Operating since 1983, the ICRC delegation to the UN serves as a support and a liaison for ICRC operational and legal initiatives. The delegation conveys the ICRC's viewpoint and keeps updated on trends and developments relating to humanitarian issues and promotes IHL.

BUDGET IN KCHF	
Protection	-
Assistance	-
Prevention	2,758
Cooperation with National Societies	-
General	16
Total	2,774
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>169</i>

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	3
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	11

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015–16

- ▶ UN policies, resolutions and activities reflect the ICRC's positions on humanitarian action/access, in wake of the organization sharing its expertise at multilateral/bilateral events and meetings
- ▶ through regular contact with the ICRC, UN member State representatives and other influential actors increase their understanding of and support for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, especially that of the ICRC
- ▶ the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) takes the ICRC's views/recommendations into account while developing guidelines for peacekeeping missions – particularly on internment and the use of force
- ▶ the ICRC streamlines its institutional/context-specific policies and practices, drawing on insights gleaned from its multi-tiered interaction with various UN actors and members of the diplomatic community

CONTEXT

The UN and the diplomatic community continue to grapple with cross-cutting humanitarian concerns, including women and children in armed conflict and the legal processes protecting victims of armed conflict. They also contend with context-specific crises throughout the world, particularly in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC), Israel and the occupied territories, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and South Sudan and Sudan, as well as with the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and its regionwide consequences.

Humanitarian access to violence-stricken areas figures prominently on the UN's agenda. As the international community faces shifting power dynamics, national sovereignty is increasingly invoked, particularly by emerging States; debates cover, *inter alia*, the leeway host States have to consent to humanitarian activities and the applicability of IHL in these situations. These issues delay, limit or block responses to the crises mentioned above.

Peacekeeping missions authorized to use force at the tactical level, as in the cases of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), have received extensions of their "robust" mandates. Plans are under way for a review, to take place in 2015, of peacekeeping missions.

Preparations are ongoing for the World Humanitarian Summit, scheduled for 2016, with current discussions tackling the summit's main themes of: humanitarian effectiveness; reducing vulnerabilities and managing risks; transformation through innovation; and serving the needs of people in conflict.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2015–16, the ICRC will seek to help shape the agenda of UN bodies, member States and groups thereof, observers and civil society organizations, so that IHL and humanitarian principles and issues are at the forefront of discussions and decision-making processes. On the basis of its operational and legal expertise, it will offer these actors support in the formulation of their policy documents, resolutions and other relevant outputs. At the same time, its interaction with UN bodies and its contacts with actors of influence in New York will help it follow developments in the humanitarian landscape, which will contribute to streamlining the ICRC's institutional policies and context-specific activities.

The delegation's work will be structured along five main axes: humanitarian action, particularly its own operations; humanitarian coordination mechanisms; development and promotion of IHL; peacekeeping missions; and broad protection-related issues. It will aim to promote the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent approach to humanitarian action; keeping in contact and engaging

with influential actors will enable it to contribute to the coherence and effectiveness of international efforts to protect and assist people affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

In particular, the ICRC's regular participation at UN events – for instance, making presentations or serving as an expert briefer at the Security Council's debate on the protection of the civilian population – will see it draw attention to and provide input on specific operational contexts and on thematic priorities, such as insecure health care delivery and sexual violence during armed conflict. Likewise, it will pursue bilateral and multilateral contact with UN member States, such as during its monthly meeting with the serving Security Council president, and with the various UN bodies, departments and agencies, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), OCHA, the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) and UNICEF. It will continue to follow the development of guidelines for peacekeeping missions, focusing on those with “robust” mandates and/or on those holding people in their custody; it will discuss these issues with the DPKO, including through annual workshops.

It will continue to mobilize the wider diplomatic community and other influential actors to promote the development and implementation of IHL, particularly with regard to laws governing the use of weapons and to the “Strengthening IHL” process. It will organize, with the New York University School of Law, the 32nd and 33rd annual IHL seminars for diplomats.

The ICRC will complement these efforts by encouraging representatives of the UN system, member States and NGOs to take account of its positions or to consult it on matters within its remit. It will also raise awareness of its own work across the world, with a view to increasing support for its operations from those who can influence humanitarian action. For instance, briefings by ICRC delegates will help concretize its experiences in the field.

ICRC representatives will attend humanitarian coordination meetings, such as those of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), to discuss specific operational contexts and to promote understanding of and respect for the Fundamental Principles. To secure similar support from the wider public, the ICRC will maintain contact with influential think-tanks, NGOs and UN-accredited media, and participate in events organized by them.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The UN, with its bodies, secretariat, agencies, programmes and member State representatives in New York, conducts activities and drafts/enforces decisions, policies and programmes that have a bearing on the humanitarian situation and access worldwide (see *Context*). These actors are also crucial to the development, promotion and implementation of IHL. Notably, the DPKO and OLA develop procedures and guidelines for UN peacekeeping missions and monitor the implementation/refinement of existing ones.

Think-tanks, the media, academic circles and NGOs influence opinion and policy decisions on humanitarian issues. Major international NGOs operating in volatile

situations or focusing on thematic issues play a role in mobilizing UN member States and its secretariat to address humanitarian challenges.

Objective

Permanent and observer missions to the UN and UN bodies, including its secretariat, agencies and programmes, take humanitarian concerns into consideration, support and respect IHL, understand the ICRC's unique mandate and facilitate neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action. Think-tanks, NGOs, academic circles and UN-accredited media also have a sound grasp of humanitarian issues and respect the ICRC's specific nature and expertise. These actors' understanding and support are reflected in their decisions, resolutions, policies, programmes, discussions and other activities.

Plan of action and indicators

Prevention

- ▶ help position IHL and humanitarian principles at the forefront of the UN's agenda through regular interaction with UN bodies, departments and agencies, including the Security Council, the DPKO, ECOSOC, OCHA, OLA and UNICEF; specifically:
 - whenever possible and relevant, address the UN Security Council or the General Assembly, including as an expert briefer at the Security Council's debates on the protection of civilians; attend other UN sessions that affect humanitarian action/issues
 - organize or coordinate events – including monthly meetings with the Security Council president and the annual meeting of Council members with the ICRC president – to draw attention to and exchange information on: neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action (see below); specific operational contexts, such as those in the Middle East; and thematic concerns, such as sexual violence and health care insecurity during armed conflict
- ▶ on the basis of its operational/and legal expertise, regularly contribute to the drafting/formulation of resolutions, policy documents and other outputs of the General Assembly, secretariat, and other UN bodies/agencies and member States; in particular:
 - hold technical briefings on humanitarian access and coordination, women and children in armed conflict, and other protection-related issues
 - engage these actors in discussions on matters including the “Strengthening IHL” process; the laws governing the use of weapons such as nuclear weapons or remotely piloted aircraft; and counter-terrorism efforts; in particular, share the results of expert meetings in 2014 on these weapons
 - address the 6th Committee of the UN on legal issues of interest to the ICRC, such as the rule of law and universal jurisdiction
 - exchange insights, notably with OLA, on the conduct of hostilities in particular contexts, and, as appropriate, their legal classifications
- ▶ pay specific attention to matters linked to peacekeeping by pursuing targeted discussions and by working with the DPKO and OLA on these issues, especially in relation to IHL applicability; by:
 - following the latest guidelines on UN peacekeeping operations with “robust” mandates and/or on mis-

- sions holding people in their custody; providing advice on the drafting of these guidelines whenever possible and appropriate
- continuing to explore the possibility of systematically conducting predeployment briefings and post-deployment debriefings for UN force commanders to help them further their understanding of IHL and the ICRC
 - organizing the 5th and 6th annual IHL seminar with the DPKO to stimulate discussion on the aforementioned topics
- maintain or strengthen bilateral and multilateral linkages – including through the 32nd and 33rd annual IHL seminars for UN diplomats to be organized jointly with the New York University School of Law – with UN staff and representatives of Security Council and General Assembly member States, the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT), the Office of Disarmament Affairs (ODA), OLA and OHCHR, to further raise awareness of the ICRC’s work and to encourage them to consult it when tackling matters falling within its legal and operational expertise
- promote wide-reaching, coherent and coordinated international responses to humanitarian challenges; work to ensure respect for IHL and to gain support for the ICRC’s activities and the neutral, impartial and independent approach it espouses to meeting those challenges; specifically:
- participate in meetings of inter-agency coordination mechanisms (such as the IASC), thematic task forces and the UN Mine Action Service
 - organize briefings for representatives of permanent missions to the UN, particularly of those States that could have a bearing on the ICRC’s activities; continue to hold meetings with representatives of influential States to understand their priorities and the impact on humanitarian situations
- through regular contact with the International Federation’s New York delegation, coordinate efforts in areas of common interest; jointly explore the opportunities and risks arising from partnerships between Movement components and UN bodies
 - in view of the 32nd International Conference in 2015 and the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, monitor developments in the humanitarian field and seek to shape the agenda (see above)
 - contribute to streamlining the ICRC’s humanitarian diplomacy and the efficiency of its institutional policies and context-specific practices by exchanging information regularly with ICRC headquarters and field delegations on initiatives and decisions affecting the organization’s activities
- maintain regular contact with influential think-tanks, academic bodies and NGOs, and participate in their events, to keep abreast of the latest developments in the humanitarian sphere and to foster mutual understanding of each other’s roles and priorities, especially with regard to children and sexual violence in armed conflict and other protection-related matters, as well as humanitarian coordination mechanisms; specifically, work to secure the support of NGOs active in promoting international criminal justice for the ICRC’s mandate and positions in these domains
- encourage UN-accredited media to report accurately on humanitarian and other IHL-related issues through regular contacts and briefings and the provision of relevant information