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THE ICRC AROUND THE WORLD IN 2020

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The boundaries, names and designations used in this document do not imply official endorsement or express a political opinion on the part of the ICRC, and are without prejudice to claims of sovereignty over the territories mentioned.

The financial figures have been rounded off and may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents. Sum totals may be marginally different from the totals presented.
In 2020, the ICRC was present in more than 100 countries through its delegations, sub-delegations, offices and missions. It had over 18,800 staff members working around the world, including in armed conflict settings, in humanitarian diplomacy hubs and at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
Over 100 armed conflicts were being fought around the world in 2020. Many of them remained increasingly protracted in nature, with over a billion people living in countries affected by longstanding crises. The needs of communities enduring such situations went far beyond what can be addressed by what has often been considered emergency response and called for more sustainable approaches: beyond survival, people were concerned about earning a stable living, having access to essential services, sending their children to school, and living in safety and security. In some contexts, humanitarian needs have existed for decades, affecting generations: in 2020, the ICRC marked 40 years of humanitarian action in Iraq, 60 in Yemen and 33 in Afghanistan. The conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) approached its tenth year in 2021. Other situations of violence persisted across the globe, involving hundreds of armed groups and affecting the daily lives of tens of millions of people.

In 2020 alone, some 79.5 million people were displaced by conflict and other circumstances, nearly 9 million more than in 2019. Internally displaced people and migrants, including refugees and asylum-seekers, endured desperate conditions in camps and settlements, and along precarious routes, for instance, in Southern Europe and in Central and South America.

The past year also saw flare-ups in hostilities, increased violence or other emergencies that resulted in acute humanitarian needs in contexts such as the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Mozambique, the Nagorno–Karabakh conflict and the Sahel region of Africa. In some places, such as eastern Ukraine and in the context of the Nagorno–Karabakh conflict, the ICRC was the only, or one of the few, humanitarian organizations on the ground. Its presence on the front lines and its close proximity to communities in the latter enabled it to rapidly step up its response to the needs of those most affected by the escalation of hostilities during the year.

Much of 2020 was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, a global health crisis that quickly devolved into a socio-economic one. It exacerbated the needs of people already struggling to cope with the consequences of conflict and violence, deepened inequality and sharply increased the number of people needing humanitarian assistance and protection. While several ceasefires were declared at the beginning of the pandemic, the pause in fighting was temporary and conflict patterns quickly resumed.
PROTECTION

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

Around the world, members of families separated as a result of armed conflict or other situations of violence, detention, migration or other circumstances restored or maintained contact with one another through various services offered by the ICRC and its partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- 136,353 Red Cross messages (RCMs) collected
  - of which 11,762 from detainees
- 122,140 RCMs distributed
  - of which 9,503 to detainees
- 25,563 phone calls made by the ICRC to inform families of the whereabouts of a detained relative
- 8,616 detainees visited by their families with ICRC support
- 1,504,199 phone and video calls facilitated between family members, including migrants, people in quarantine or COVID-19 treatment facilities, and detainees who could not receive family visits owing to COVID-prevention measures

Colombia. We provided computers, headsets and televisions to over 40 prisons so detainees could keep in touch with their loved ones.
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

The ICRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked to reunite unaccompanied minors with their families, where appropriate, or to identify other long-term solutions in the best interest of each child. They also helped people search for their relatives, including those missing in connection with past or ongoing armed conflicts.

For over 150 years, the ICRC, via the Central Tracing Agency, has been tracing people sought by their relatives. The agency is one of the ICRC’s oldest institutions enshrined in the Geneva Conventions.

- **19,364** people for whom a tracing request was newly registered
- **9,801** people whose names were listed on the Movement’s [family-links website](#)
- **7,974** people whose fates or whereabouts were established
- **1,049** people, including children, reunited with their families
- **152,410** tracing cases still being handled at the end of the year
  - **33,974** minors at the time of disappearance
Yemen. People formerly detained in relation to the conflict in Yemen reunite with their families. More than 1,000 former detainees were transported back to their region of origin or their home countries by the ICRC, which acted as a neutral intermediary. Read more about the operation [here](#).

Mali. Five children have just arrived from Niger. They are about to be reunited with their parents. 5,772 children whose cases were still being handled at the end of the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied or separated children newly registered</td>
<td>1,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OF WHOM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ Girls</td>
<td>797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ Demobilized children</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children reunited with their families</td>
<td>892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children whose cases were still being handled at the end of the year</td>
<td>5,772</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a neutral intermediary, the ICRC facilitated the transfer or repatriation of people across front lines, borders or boundary lines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People transferred or repatriated under ICRC auspices</td>
<td>1,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detainees after their release</td>
<td>1,108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The ICRC carried out forensic activities in over 80 countries or territories around the world to ensure the proper and dignified management of human remains and to help prevent and resolve cases of missing persons. These consisted primarily of promoting best practices in collecting, analysing and managing forensic data, and in recovering, managing and identifying human remains in the context of armed conflict, other situations of violence, natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic or other circumstances, such as shipwrecks involving migrants. Training and information sessions helped build local and regional forensic capacities.

As a neutral intermediary, the ICRC facilitated the transfer or repatriation of the remains of 2,917 people.
PROTECTION

VISITS TO DETAINEES

ICRC delegates visited people deprived of their freedom, including those held in relation to armed conflicts and other situations of violence. The ICRC checked on their treatment and living conditions and discussed its observations with the authorities concerned, working with them to address any humanitarian issues and make improvements in this regard. In line with infection prevention and control measures against COVID-19, the ICRC temporarily put on hold its visits to detainees in certain contexts.

- the ICRC visited 1,043 places of detention holding 860,094 detainees in 78 contexts
- 21,677 detainees monitored individually

OF WHOM

- 11,223 detainees visited and registered for the first time in 2020
- 1,026 women; 995 minors
- 41 prisoners of war; 1,339 civilian internees
**ECONOMIC SECURITY**

The ICRC, often in cooperation with National Societies, worked to help vulnerable individuals, households and communities, including those in hard-to-reach areas, meet their basic needs, sustain themselves or their families, and cope with emergencies. Among them were internally displaced people (IDPs), residents, returnees, refugees and people deprived of their freedom.

**ASSISTANCE**

- **4,214,606** people received **food assistance**, whether through food distributions, cash transfers, vouchers or other support
  - of whom IDPs: **2,474,466**

- **6,991,691** people were given basic household items, such as blankets, mats, cooking sets and hygiene kits, to help improve their **living conditions**
  - of whom IDPs: **4,053,848**

- **5,209,767** people received support for **food production**, primarily through material, financial or technical assistance for crop cultivation, fishing or livestock breeding

- **1,006,645** people benefited from **income support**, such as cash-for-work projects, business grants, equipment or raw materials for micro-economic initiatives, and other assistance aimed at protecting, restoring or augmenting their household income

- **140,155** people benefited from **capacity-building** initiatives — such as skills training or support for community-based cooperatives — that enhanced their livelihoods, helped them make the most out of their trade or boosted their employment prospects

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Lebanon. The pandemic was tough on local farmers. In 2020, the ICRC distributed over 1.5 million seedlings (lettuce, cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower) to help them grow enough food for their households.

The ICRC carried out **4,474 distributions** of food, hygiene items or other essentials for civilians and detainees to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their access to basic goods, and to help them maintain safe and sanitary living conditions.
ASSISTANCE

WATER AND HABITAT

ICRC engineers and technicians built, rehabilitated, installed or helped maintain water-supply systems, sanitation facilities and other essential infrastructure in urban and rural areas, camps and other places hosting displaced people, and places of detention. Many of these projects were complemented by hygiene-promotion activities. It also built or provided materials for building shelters, particularly for returnees. It worked closely with the relevant authorities and community members, involving them in project design and technical training whenever possible to promote local ownership and sustainability.

34,962,961 people gained clean water for drinking, irrigation or household use, reduced their exposure to environmental health risks or saw improvements to their general living conditions

- 34,062,998 civilians (residents, IDPs, returnees, refugees)
- 899,963 detainees

Close water and sanitation is a lifeline, especially in times of #COVID19. Today I’m at a pumping station damaged by the fighting in Benghazi #Libya to see how short-term repairs can bring better health – and a little hope – for tens of thousands of residents.

- Peter Maurer, ICRC President

Syria. The cumulative impact of ten years of active conflict has severely crippled essential services. The ICRC helped stave off the collapse of critical infrastructure by providing supplies and spare parts, repairing key facilities and carrying out complex engineering projects aimed at increasing the resilience of interconnected service networks on which millions of people depended.
ICRC construction and repair projects contributed to improving services at hospitals and physical rehabilitation facilities with a total capacity of **40,179 beds**

Projects in about **52%** of these facilities (with a combined capacity of **20,699 beds**) helped them to better accommodate and treat cases of COVID-19.

ICRC water and habitat projects aren't limited to water, sanitation and shelter; energy supply is also a key component. Access to electricity supports people returning to areas damaged by hostilities and can contribute to enhancing security, productivity and health for populations in urban areas. It can also serve to bridge the gap between humanitarian response and development-related interventions, for example by enabling students to continue their education and by supporting small businesses. Electricity powers health facilities — including life-saving equipment and medications — and other services critical to the population, such as water-pumping stations, waste-water-treatment plants, bakeries and irrigation facilities.

Yemen. The ICRC helped repair the water treatment facility at the Al-Thawra hospital, which provides medical services to thousands of people in Hodeida and neighbouring areas.

Syria. The ICRC rehabilitates an electrical power network and water-pumping station. See more [here](#).

Q. Almoayed/ICRC
HEALTH

Community health programmes, in many cases run with the help of National Societies, brought quality services to millions of people in need of basic health care, including in remote or hard-to-reach areas. The ICRC supported primary-health-care centres regularly or on an ad hoc basis, providing supplies, equipment, financial assistance and technical support, training local health staff, and carrying out repairs or improvements to the facilities. Consultations at the centres led to treatment and recommendations, including therapeutic feeding for malnourished children and mothers; vaccinations, including those for children under five; and referrals for higher-level care.

Somalia. A health worker shares her diagnosis and recommendations for treatment with the child’s parents.
HEALTH CARE FOR DETAINEES

Complementary to detention visits, the ICRC checked on the health situation of detainees in 329 places of detention and provided various forms of support – medical donations, technical assistance – to 134 prison health facilities, with the aim of ensuring timely medical treatment for detainees, including those with chronic conditions and those requiring referrals for specialist care.

Philippines. The ICRC has been working with the authorities for years to improve health services in detention facilities, where conditions favour the spread of disease. Lessons learnt from fighting tuberculosis in prisons informed the ICRC’s global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
ASSISTANCE

HOSPITAL SERVICES AND FIRST AID

The ICRC supported hospitals regularly or on an ad hoc basis, enabling them to provide timely, life-saving treatment, including weapon-wound surgery. They included field hospitals, teaching hospitals and referral hospitals that received influxes of patients during mass-casualty situations.

ICRC personnel provided on-site support or directly monitored activities at 101 of these hospitals, which registered:

- **599** hospitals provided with regular or ad hoc support

  19,033 surgical admissions for weapon wounds

  132,736 operations performed (weapon wounds and other cases)

  51,608 admissions for gynaecological/obstetric care

  4,130,719 consultations

  167 hospitals, and a COVID-treatment centre in Yemen, were given particular support for treating COVID-19 patients

  184 hospitals established COVID-19 infection prevention and control systems with expert guidance from the ICRC

  1,785 first-aid training sessions for 37,553 people, including National Society volunteers
MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

The ICRC built up local capacities to stabilize and improve the mental health and psychosocial well-being of individuals and communities affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence. Its interventions were culturally adapted and employed a participatory approach that supported their own coping mechanisms.

Directly or through its support to service providers, the ICRC provided mental-health support to help people process their experiences and alleviate the psychological, psychosocial and emotional consequences of conflict and violence on their well-being; among them were:

- 32,338 civilians, including families of missing persons, victims/survivors of sexual violence and unaccompanied minors
- 1,212 detainees
- 14,604 people who had sustained debilitating or life-changing injuries and were undergoing treatment at ICRC-supported hospitals and physical rehabilitation centres

Over 800 support sessions were carried out for health workers and first responders, individually or in groups, to help them cope with the toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on their mental health.

3,349 people, including health-care workers and first responders, underwent training in the provision of psychosocial support or other mental-health services.

Where necessary, support sessions and training courses were held online, in line with COVID-19 prevention measures.

South Sudan. Community-based awareness sessions encourage people to seek support and overcome negative perceptions of mental-health issues.
PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

Through ICRC-supported projects, people with physical disabilities obtained good-quality rehabilitative services and access to further support. Local technicians, some of whom had physical disabilities themselves, strengthened their skills through ICRC training, helping to ensure sustainable service delivery. Patients at ICRC-supported facilities benefited from a range of services, including physiotherapy, custom-fit artificial limbs, walking aids and other mobility devices; they also took part in various activities that promoted their inclusion and active participation in community life.

Myanmar. A three-year-old boy tries out his new prosthesis at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre in Kachin State.
In 2020, the ICRC launched Vision 2030 on Disability, a new ten-year strategy aimed at transforming the way it addresses disability inclusion in humanitarian operations. It has four key aims:

- design and deliver inclusive, people-centric programmes and services that are accessible to people with physical, psychosocial, intellectual and sensory disabilities, and promote their protection and safety, as well as respect for their dignity;
- deliver and develop targeted physical rehabilitation services;
- build an enabling work environment for people with disabilities.
- contribute to a legal and policy environment that promotes, in armed conflicts and other situations of violence, the inclusion of people with disabilities in humanitarian activities, and their protection and safety.

5,235 referrals for social inclusion initiatives

- Mental health and psychosocial support: 782
- Vocational training: 352
- Micro-economic initiatives: 1,570
- Sports activities: 1,316
- Education: 1,215

In Niger, women with physical disabilities seized the opportunity presented by COVID-19 to produce face masks. "Normally we are the ones relying on help from others, but now we are helping our country. This makes us feel proud!"
WEAPON CONTAMINATION

The ICRC carried out activities for people living in areas contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war in 52 countries and territories. These included mine-risk education sessions, collecting and analysing data on mine-related incidents and contaminated areas, clearance activities and training for local actors. Where relevant, risk education sessions included information on measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The ICRC also worked with the UN and NGOs to further develop and strengthen international mine-action standards and coordination.

1. Gaza Strip. In areas contaminated by unexploded ordnance, people have more than just COVID-19 to worry about. These double-sided leaflets advise people on how to protect themselves from both threats. They also come with free soap.

2. Myanmar. Children learn about safe behaviour around weapon-contaminated areas. Hundreds of landmine accidents take place in Myanmar each year.
STATE PartICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) TREATIES AND DOMESTIC IMPLEMENTATION

The ICRC continued to engage with governments, intergovernmental bodies and other key actors to promote state ratification of or accession to IHL treaties and their domestic implementation. It provided legal and technical advice to governments and supported them in their endeavours to establish interministerial committees entrusted with the national implementation of IHL.

PrevenTion

42 ratifications of or accessions to IHL treaties or other relevant instruments (or amendments to them) by 35 States

8 domestic legal instruments adopted or amended by at least 7 countries to implement IHL and other relevant instruments

115 national IHL committees worldwide

“The COVID–19 pandemic is not the first global threat that we face together, nor will it be the last. Many of today’s challenges — pandemics, climate change, misinformation — are not confined to state borders. We must change the reality where people who are already among the most vulnerable and have the fewest resources bear the brunt of global shocks. We must act where humanity and dignity are violated in contravention of our shared norms and legal frameworks. This implies, first and foremost, respect for IHL, by which every country in the world is bound.”

-Peter Maurer, ICRC President
**PREVENTION**

**RELATIONS WITH WEAPON BEARERS**

The ICRC continued to engage with weapon bearers – including state forces, peacekeeping troops and members of non-state armed groups or coalitions of armed groups – to promote respect for IHL and other applicable norms, broaden understanding of the ICRC’s mandate and activities, and facilitate safe passage for ICRC staff in the field. These activities tied into the ICRC’s prevention approach, which encapsulated integrated efforts to influence the behaviour of parties through bilateral dialogue, systemic measures and humanitarian diplomacy.

Engagement with all sides is crucial to the ICRC’s ability to carry out neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action in favour of people affected by armed conflict and other violence.

- Based on the ICRC’s legal reading, around 100 armed conflicts are being fought globally, to which 60 states and more than 100 non-state armed groups are parties. Hundreds or armed groups were involved in other situations of violence.

- Per ICRC analysis, there are more than 600 armed groups of humanitarian concern operating in countries where the ICRC works. The ICRC has contact with approximately 465 of those groups and engages in protection dialogue with 32% of them. Over 60 million people worldwide are living under the control of armed groups.

Even in the most deadly and polarizing conflicts, we see how dialogue on shared humanitarian objectives can help parties find common ground, whether to enable evacuation of the wounded, cross-line humanitarian activities or the respectful exchange of human remains.

- Peter Maurer, ICRC President
**PREVENTION**

**LAW AND POLICY EVENTS AND RESOURCES**

The ICRC convened public events on IHL and humanitarian policy – at which policy-makers, humanitarian professionals and members of aid, diplomatic and academic circles reflected on solutions to current challenges to IHL and humanitarian action and sought to ways to address them. Most events were conducted online virtually, reaching larger and more diverse audiences than before.

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One of the challenges at the core of our identity as the ICRC is the behaviour of warring parties and to what extent they respect IHL. Recent conflicts, particularly in urban areas, have demonstrated how much suffering could be prevented if the laws of war were better respected. That is why we in the ICRC continue to strongly prioritize activities that are seeking to influence the behaviour of warring parties, be it through direct interventions with military commanders on the ground or interventions in the realm of law and policy.

- Dominik Stillhart, ICRC Director of Operations

From *Contemporary armed conflict: A discussion with two ICRC directors on Intercross*
COOPERATION

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

ICRC delegations implemented wide-ranging activities in cooperation with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. These activities were implemented in close coordination with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and with National Societies working internationally. An important dimension of the ICRC’s collaboration with National Societies aimed to strengthen the latter’s capacities to carry out their activities – for example, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic – either independently or jointly with the ICRC.

In 2020, the total expenses devoted to cooperation with National Societies in the field amounted to CHF 97.6 million.

Ukraine. The ICRC provides electric bicycles for two local branches of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society. These bikes are intended for the home-visiting nurses who support lonely elderly people living along the line of contact in eastern Ukraine.
The COVID-19 pandemic took a heavy toll on people around the world, claiming millions of lives and crippling many livelihoods. For people enduring the effects of armed conflict and other situations of violence, the pandemic was yet another threat that compounded the difficulties they already faced.

The ICRC incorporated COVID–19 as an important new parameter in its operations, adapting its programming to factor in the urgent and longer-term needs created by the global crisis. Because of its unique mandate and its neutral, impartial and independent approach, as well as its longstanding presence and sustained engagement with key actors on all sides, the ICRC was able to act quickly and had access to areas that were generally hard to reach – for example, places where hostilities were ongoing, areas not under government control, and certain detention facilities. It focused its response in such settings, where it was one of only a few actors providing humanitarian assistance.

The ICRC revised its set-up and working procedures as the situation evolved, balancing operational continuity with the need to ensure the health and safety of its staff and the people it worked with. It launched specific responses to the pandemic, centred around its areas of expertise: support to vital health infrastructure; disease-prevention and –management in places of detention; ensuring access to clean water and essential goods and improving hygiene conditions; protecting and restoring family links; supporting the safe and dignified management of human remains; and promoting the protection of people at risk and facilitating their access to aid.

While certain activities were paused, postponed, reoriented or cancelled, the ICRC maintained key activities that were at the core of its mandate, and which were critical to helping people and communities build their resilience to the multiple shocks caused by conflict, violence and COVID–19. It stepped up its efforts to help people meet their basic needs with dignity, sustain their means of earning a living and ensure their access to basic services in the face of movement restrictions and the massive socio-economic fallout of the pandemic.

Read more about the ICRC’s response here.
The ICRC opened the year with an initial budget of CHF 2.16 billion: CHF 1.91 billion for its field operations, and CHF 246.5 million for headquarters. Budget extensions launched in the course of the year – in response to emergencies or operational shifts in a number of contexts, and for certain headquarters activities – brought the total budget up to CHF 2.21 billion. A separate budget of CHF 3.1 million was allocated for initiatives to foster innovation at the ICRC.

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICRC carried out a prioritization exercise, adjusting its programmes and reallocating its resources to enable it to launch a robust response. It presented a revised appeal amounting to CHF 1.19 billion to address the immediate effects of the pandemic and its wider consequences on community resilience and basic services. The revised appeal remained within the ICRC’s initial 2020 budget.
Largely owing to operational adjustments and constraints brought on by the COVID–19 pandemic, the ICRC ended the year with an implementation rate of 87.3%, with total expenditure amounting to CHF 1.93 billion.

- **FIELD OPERATIONS**
  CHF 1.69 billion

- **HEADQUARTERS**
  CHF 244.06 million

- **INNOVATION**
  CHF 1.55 million

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**
(IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES)

1.93 BILLION

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

87.3%

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3. Implementation rate = final expenditure/final budget x 100
BREAKDOWN OF FIELD EXPENDITURE
In CHF millions

TOTAL FIELD EXPENDITURE
CHF 1.69 billion

BY GEOGRAPHICAL REGION

- Africa: 41% - 687.8 CHF
- Near and Middle East: 30% - 510.8 CHF
- Asia and the Pacific: 14% - 243.4 CHF
- Europe and Central Asia: 8% - 132.5 CHF
- Americas: 7% - 111.9 CHF

BY PROGRAMME

- Protection: 19% - 328.2 CHF
- Assistance: 64% - 1,080.3 CHF
- Prevention: 10% - 162.4 CHF
- Cooperation with National Societies: 6% - 97.6 CHF
- General: 1% - 18.0 CHF
15 LARGEST OPERATIONS IN 2020 IN TERMS OF EXPENDITURE

In millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>CHF</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>155.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>115.5</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>113.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>99.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>81.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>78.7</td>
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<td>Afghanistan</td>
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<td>Somalia</td>
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<td>Ukraine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
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<td>Libya</td>
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<td>Mali</td>
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<td>Israel and the Occupied Territories</td>
<td>46.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>37.6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4. Exchange rates: USD 1.00 = CHF 0.943; EUR 1.00 = CHF 1.071
FINANCE

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN 2020

CHF 1.87 billion

total for headquarters and field operations, in cash, kind and services

IN CHF MILLIONS

- 1,634.6 (87.5%) Governments
- 122.7 (6.6%) European Commission
- 62.1 (3.3%) Private sources
- 29.1 (1.6%) National Societies
- 11.9 (0.6%) Supranational organizations and international institutions
- 6.9 (0.4%) Public sources
Earmarking is the practice whereby donors require that their funds be allocated for specific ICRC operations.

Flexible funding, in the form of unearmarked and loosely earmarked contributions, is essential for the ICRC to fulfil its exclusively humanitarian mandate. It enables the ICRC to rapidly deploy resources in sudden-onset crises; ensure operational continuity in protracted situations; take preventive action, including through legal and policy engagement; and respond to needs as they arise, irrespective of the level of political or media attention the situation attracts. In many contexts, particularly those that are chronically underfunded, the ICRC’s ability to maintain its presence and sustain meaningful activities is due in large part to flexible funding. To preserve its operational flexibility and ensure that funding goes where it is needed most, the ICRC aims to receive unearmarked contributions amounting to 40% of its total funding each year.

The graph below shows the earmarking levels of cash contributions to the ICRC in 2020.
These are extraordinary times, in which, more than ever, neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian action has a crucial role to play. I am deeply grateful to all of our supporters for championing and resourcing the work of the ICRC. Your contributions are critical to ensuring that the ICRC can pursue its life-saving work to protect and assist the millions around the globe facing the horrors of war and violence.

– Peter Maurer, ICRC President
MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.