



ICRC

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

As an independent and neutral organisation, the ICRC provides humanitarian protection and assistance to the victims of armed conflict and other forms of violence. The ICRC promotes respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and urges governments to implement IHL in domestic law and to adapt IHL to changing circumstances, particularly modern developments in the means and methods of warfare.

Governance

ICRC's work is based on IHL as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement and the resolutions of the International Conferences of the RCRC. For its donors, including Switzerland, the ICRC established the Donor Support Group (DSG). It has 24 members (2023) and is a privileged platform for exchange on key ICRC policies and programming.

Strategic Objectives

ICRC's strategy for 2024-2027 aims to:

- Uphold the Centrality of Protection and the role of a neutral intermediary;
- Promote International Humanitarian Law as a global political priority;
- Enhance the response impact in acute and protracted phases of conflicts, as well as other situations of violence;
- Affirm ICRC's identity within the international RCRC Movement;
- Take a leading role in policy debates on the future of humanitarian action.

Added Value and Challenges

The ICRC's neutrality, impartiality and expertise allow it to engage all conflict parties, secure humanitarian access, protect victims of armed conflict, and conduct sensitive tasks such as detainee exchanges. However, acceptance by armed groups is sometimes contested and must be reinforced. Misperceptions fueled by disinformation, hate speech and cyber-attacks further undermine its work. At the same time, major donor disengagement is forcing reductions in global presence despite growing humanitarian needs—threatening the ICRC's ability to fully deliver on its mandate and weakening its overall impact.

Key Results in 2024

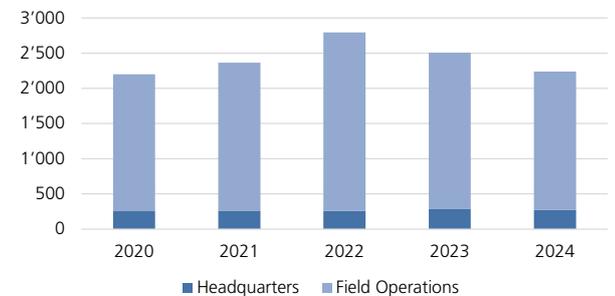
The ICRC visited 678 places of detention in 80 countries, advocating for humane treatment and IHL application for 737'212 detainees. It reunited 66 individuals with their families, provided food assistance to 3.02 million people, supported food production for 4.56 million people and facilitated 2.1 million medical consultations and 89'478 surgical operations in 704 hospitals. 34 million people benefited from ICRC water and habitat projects.

FACTSHEET

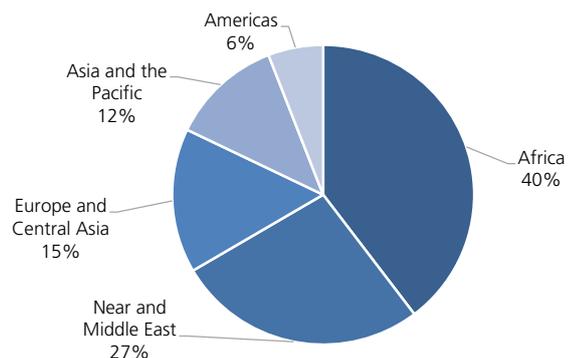
FACTS AND FIGURES

Type of organisation:
International Organisation
Head of organisation:
Mirjana Spoljaric Egger (CH), President
Headquarter:
Geneva, Switzerland
Country Offices:
Over 80
Total Personnel:
Approx. 18'000
Established in:
1863
Steering:
Assembly with members, between 15 and 25 Swiss Nationals

ICRC Budget 2020-2024, Headquarters vs. Field Operations, in million CHF



ICRC Field Expenditures 2024 by Region (%), Total: CHF 2.22 billion





Providing training on International Humanitarian Law to combatants in Colombia. ©ICRC

SWITZERLAND'S PARTNERSHIP WITH ICRC

Switzerland's Strategic Priorities

- **Centrality of Protection and IHL:** Switzerland supports the ICRC in implementing its protection centric mandate and in promoting IHL. Through its bilateral/multilateral humanitarian diplomacy, Switzerland will work on reinforcing ICRC's access to all victims of conflict and on ensuring that its mandate is understood and accepted by all.
- **Coherence within the RCRC Movement:** Switzerland ensures that the ICRC plays a leading role in strengthening and coordinating the Movement, in close collaboration with the International Federation (IFRC) and the National Societies (NS). Switzerland supports the ICRC in investing in the long-term development of NS working in conflict-affected countries.
- **Risk management:** Switzerland supports the ICRC in "derisking" its business model, in broadening its donor base, in increasing its flexible and predictable funding, in rebuilding its reserves and reducing its vulnerability to economic shocks.

Cooperation at Country Level

Regular meetings are held between the ICRC and the Swiss Cooperation Teams at country level and with SDC Desks in Bern to discuss operational activities in a given country or region. SDC supports ICRC's operations with country-earmarked contributions in most of the countries in which the ICRC is present.

Cooperation at Global Level

The ICRC and FDFA Directorates meet once a year for a strategic Senior Management Meeting. The dialogue in 2024 focused on the review of the 34th International Conference and the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, and on new opportunities for further collaboration on IHL and humanitarian diplomacy. Switzerland participates in the ICRC Donor Support Group and will hold the co-chair in 2026-2027.

FDFA's Peace and Human Rights Division (PHRD) and Directorate of International Law (DIL) support specific projects and conferences such as the IHL initiative, missing persons (Central Tracing Agency), digitalisation (Humanitarian Data and Trust Initiative) and new technologies.

SWITZERLAND AND ICRC

Contributions (2024):

Total: CHF 157 million (4th largest gov. donor)

HQ: CHF 80 million

Field: CHF 77 million

Number of Swiss staff:

612

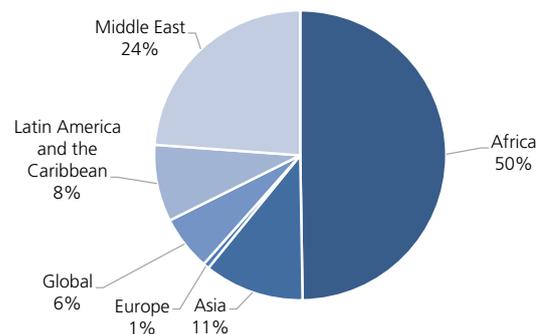
Involved Swiss government entities:

SDC, PHRD, DIL, UNO, DDPS, SEM

SDC Contributions 2020-2024, Headquarters vs. Field Operations, in million CHF



SDC Contributions 2024 by Region (%) Total: CHF 75 million



34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Switzerland played a central role in the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in October 2024, emphasising its humanitarian commitment: it hosted the event as the Depositary State of the Geneva Conventions. Switzerland actively negotiated five resolutions on IHL, digital threats, disaster governance, locally-led action and climate action, building consensus on all resolutions despite global polarisation. It also initiated and endorsed pledges, including protecting humanitarian personnel and advancing IHL compliance. Last but not least, side events on emblem respect, humanitarian education, and protection for children in conflict zones were organised.

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