September 2026

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

ICRC

FACTSHEET

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

As an independent and neutral organisation, the ICRC provides protection and assistance to those affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence. It promotes respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) and supports its implementation at national level, while contributing to its adaptation to contemporary challenges, including developments in the means and methods of warfare.

Governance

The ICRC's work is grounded in IHL, notably the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, as well as the Statutes and resolutions of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement. To foster structured dialogue with its key donors, including Switzerland, the ICRC established the Donor Support Group (DSG), a forum currently bringing together 26 major donors, which provides a platform for strategic dialogue.

Strategic Objectives

ICRC's strategy for 2024-2027 aims to uphold the centrality of protection and its role as a neutral intermediary; promote international humanitarian law as a global political priority; enhance the response in acute and protracted phases of conflicts and situations of violence; affirm ICRC's identity within the international RCRC Movement; and take a leading role in policy debates on the future of humanitarian action.

Added Value and Challenges

The ICRC's neutrality, impartiality and expertise enable it to engage with all parties to armed conflict and provide humanitarian access and protection, including in sensitive contexts such as detention. In increasingly politicised environments, maintaining acceptance by state and non-state actors requires sustained effort. Misperceptions – amplified by disinformation and harmful narratives – must also be addressed. At the same time, funding constraints are putting pressure on operational capacity across the sector, including the ICRC's, despite rising humanitarian needs. This could limit the ICRC's ability to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it by States through the Geneva Conventions and, ultimately, reduce its operational reach and impact in situations of armed conflict.

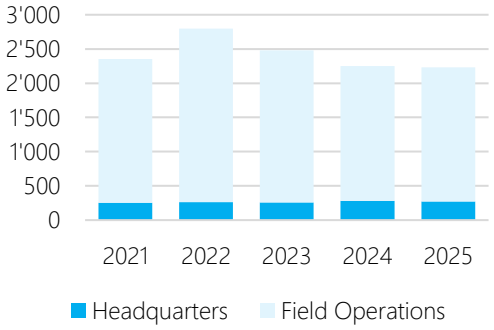
Key results in 2025

The ICRC visited 557 places of detention in 80 countries, monitoring conditions for 678,337 detainees and advocating for humane treatment and respect for IHL. It reunited 796 individuals with their families, helped 3.09 million people improve their food consumption and 4.59 million with food production. It also supported 669 hospitals, enabling 3.57 million medical consultations and 246,900 surgical operations.

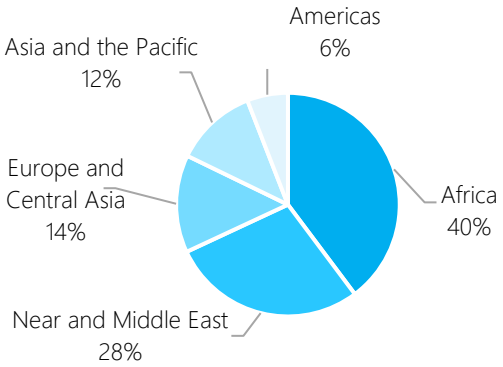
FACTS AND FIGURES

Type of organisation
International organisation
Head of organisation
Mirjana Spoljaric Egger (CH), President
Headquarters
Geneva (CH)
Country offices
Over 80 around the world
Total Personnel
approx. 18'000
Established in
1863
Steering
Assembly with members between 15 and 25 Swiss nationals

ICRC Budget 2021-2025, in million CHF



Field Expenditures by Geographical Region 2025 (ICRC regional breakdown)





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

Switzerland's partnership with ICRC

Switzerland's strategic priorities

1. Centrality of protection and IHL: Switzerland supports the ICRC in upholding its protection mandate, promoting international humanitarian law, and strengthening access to affected populations through humanitarian diplomacy.
2. Red-Cross Red-Crescent Movement coherence: Switzerland encourages close coordination between ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and National Societies, including through strengthened Movement coordination and sustained investment in the long-term development of National Societies.
3. Risk management: Switzerland encourages the ICRC to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of its operating model by broadening its donor base, enhancing cost efficiency and increasing the share of flexible and predictable funding.

Cooperation at country level

Regular dialogue is maintained between the ICRC and Swiss Embassies at country level, as well as with SDC in Bern, to exchange on operational priorities in specific contexts. Switzerland supports the ICRC's operations through country-specific contributions in many contexts where the organization operates.

Cooperation at global level

The FDFA and the ICRC maintain a regular dialogue on strategic and policy issues related to humanitarian action. The FDFA Directorates meet annually at Senior Management level to review priorities and further strengthen collaboration. In 2025, discussions focused on reinforcing the shared commitment to IHL, principled humanitarian action and Movement coherence, as well as on revising the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding and advancing joint engagement on humanitarian diplomacy and International Geneva. Switzerland will co-chair the Donor Support Group in 2026–2027, with a thematic focus on protection. Several FDFA entities maintain close strategic and operational cooperation with the ICRC, including through initiatives in the areas of IHL, missing persons (Central Tracing Agency), technologies and broader humanitarian policy engagement.

SWITZERLAND and ICRC

Contributions (2025)

Total: CHF 182.3 million (3rd largest donor)

HQ: CHF 80 million

Field: CHF 102.3 million

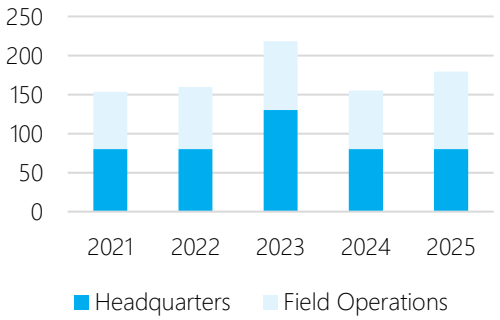
Number of Swiss staff

612

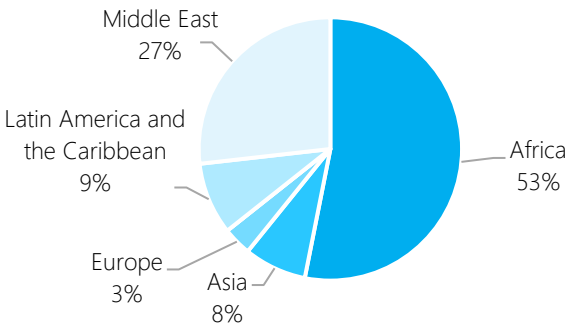
Involved Swiss government entities

SDC PHDR, DIL, UNO, DDPS

SDC Contributions 2021-2025, in million CHF



SDC Contributions 2025 by Region (%)
Total: CHF 99.26 million



Global Initiative IHL

Switzerland and the ICRC work closely together to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law. In this context, Switzerland actively supports the Global Initiative to galvanise political commitment to IHL, launched by the ICRC and six States in 2024 and now supported by 118 States. Switzerland co-hosts the Global IHL Dialogue in Geneva in November 2026, which will help prepare the High-Level Conference in Amman in December 2026 and the adoption of a political declaration in support of IHL.

Contact:

Multilateral Humanitarian Affairs Section

Multilateral Affairs and NGOs Division

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Email: sdc.multi-ngo@eda.admin.ch

Website: https://www.sdc-multilateral.ch