



International Geneva
Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

International Committee of the Red Cross | ICRC

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an independent, neutral organisation that ensures humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of war, armed conflict and disasters. It was founded in Geneva in 1863 by Swiss businessman Henry Dunant, who, after witnessing the horrors of the aftermath of the Battle of Solferino, wanted to work towards establishing voluntary relief organisations and advocate for the development of international treaties to guarantee the protection and neutral status of the wounded. ICRC's mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other violent situations and to provide them with assistance. Its mandate, protected under the Geneva Conventions, permits ICRC to take impartial action for prisoners of war, the wounded and sick, and civilians affected by conflict.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Adherence to the international humanitarian law (the Geneva Conventions)
- Humanitarian aid of all forms for those affected by armed conflict or disaster
- Protecting and assisting civilians during and after conflict or disaster
- Public-private partnerships
- Continuing professional development
- Digital health and innovation

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

ICRC is involved in the provision of community health services and basic healthcare for residents and displaced persons affected by armed conflict. This includes services such as antenatal and post-natal care, immunisation, and hospital support for the sick and wounded, as well as physical rehabilitation programmes including delivering prosthetic limbs for amputees and mine victims. Supplying water and food, providing and maintaining proper sanitation systems, first aid, field surgery and building and rebuilding health centres are other ways in which ICRC works to relieve suffering and improve the health of those affected by instability. ICRC also aims to end attacks on health facilities and health workers in conflict through its Health Care in Danger project. ICRC is analyzing and developing a strategy on digital technologies for health in conflict regions, and it is involved in the Global Humanitarian Lab, a multi-stakeholder innovation lab launched in May 2016.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

ICRC is governed by an assembly, which is the supreme governing body of the organisation, comprising of 17-25 Swiss nationals elected for a 4 year-term which can be renewed twice.

ICRC's president is Peter Maurer, who also serves as the chair of the assembly and the assembly council. The Director-General of the ICRC is Yves Daccord. The Directorate is the ICRC's executive body, responsible for implementing and overseeing the institutional strategy and general objectives defined by the Assembly and the Assembly Council.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

All funding to ICRC is voluntary and renewed annually. Almost 85% of the current funding comes from the States Party to the Geneva Convention, and the remaining from supranational organisations, national societies of the Red Cross and private donors. The expenditure for 2016 was CHF 1.67 billion, and the appealed budget was CHF 1.82 billion for 2017 and CHF 2.01 billion for 2018. For emergencies ICRC has reserves which can cover operations for two months before the donor funding for emergencies becomes available.

PUBLICATIONS

Find all ICRC publications at: <http://bit.ly/29DUxMD>

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