INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ICRC

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Who are they?

The ICRC works worldwide and they help those who are effected from the Geneva Conventions of 1949. More than 16,000 people are employed in more than 80 countries but they are mainly based in Switzerland and Geneva. They are mainly funded through donations from governments, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. They additionally accept donations from individuals and from fundraising.

Founding

The Red Cross came into being at the initiative of a man named Henry Dunant, who helped wounded soldiers at the battle of Solferino in 1859 and then lobbied political leaders to take more action to protect war victims.

His two main ideas were for a treaty that would oblige armies to care of all wounded soldiers and for the creation of national societies that would help the military medical services. Thus leading to the establishment of the ICRC in 1863

Battle of Solferino, June 1859 (ICRC, 2010)

When WWII concluded, the ICRC began expanding the Geneva Conventions, aiming to avoid issues seen in the war. To meet new challenges the ICRC became a "large" humanitarian organization learning how to cope with dangers of humanitarian activities becoming politicized.

Who they help

(ICRC, 2019)

There are 18,000 staff in over 90 countries, helping people affected by armed conflict and violence

Civilians, Women, Children, Detainees
Internally displaced people, Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers,
People with disabilities & Missing people

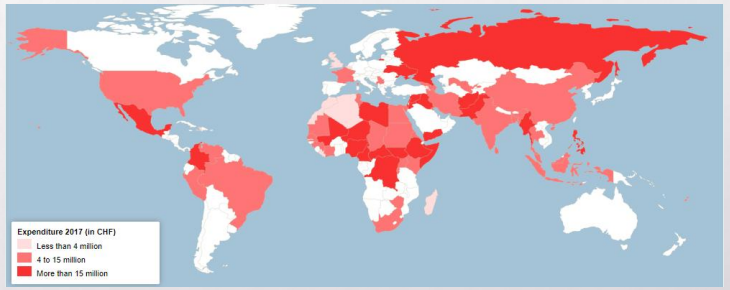
- The ICRC aim to protect many civilians but specifically those who have been arrested and detained, within the framework of armed conflict or violence.
- Also civilians who are not or who are no longer participating in violent confrontations. Special attention is paid to groups exposed to specific risks, such as staffing of minors, sexual violence, handicapped and displaced persons.
- With regard to missing persons the ICRC provides a varied range of events on behalf of the missing and their families using the humanitarian approach which is focussed on the desires of individuals affected, this including the direct victims and their families in sixty settings around the world seen in 2018.
- For disabilities, physical rehabilitation services are provided worldwide. The ICRC have their own prosthetics technology and acquired a high level of expertise, attaching great importance to upholding support.
- However, this gives a lot of responsibility to the organisation as they have an obligation to assist worldwide.

Fundamental Principles

- Humanity
- Voluntary service
- Neutrality
- Unity
- Impartiality
- Independence
- Universality

- These Fundamental Principles give ethical, operational and institutional framework to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. These are essential to the approach to assisting individuals in need through armed conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies.
- These values amalgamate the components of the Movement. Devotion to these principles ensuring the humanitarian nature of the Movement's work and conveying reliability to the wide range of activities it undertakes around the world. This is a huge strength as it has a huge range of assistance which they provide internationally.

Finances



Expenditure in 2017

The ICRC gets their funding by voluntary contributions from the States party to the Geneva Conventions to public and private sources.
The ICRC runs a number of funds from special donations from individuals or organisations. These include various aims such as to help promote and develop the activities of the Red Cross and international humanitarian law; to recognise the merits of individuals ; or to provide support to staff in difficulties.
This methods of gaining funds can be seen to have a positive impact on the organisation as each fund or medal is awarded specifically to those within that category meaning that a certain amount of money will be used on particular areas.

International Committee of the Red Cross (2019) Available at: https://www.icrc.org/en
UWTSD (2019) Logo. Available at: https://uwtsd.ac.uk/about/
International Review of the Red Cross (2017). 'The Missing'. 99 (2), 535–545. doi:10.1017/S1816383118000498