



ICRC personnel deliver a large donation of medical supplies to the Al Shifa hospital in the Gaza Strip, to assist in its response to the large number of mass-casualty incidents it deals with.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SITUATION

Hostilities between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups persisted at an unprecedented level of intensity throughout the Gaza Strip. A ceasefire agreement took effect on 19 January. However, hostilities resumed in March, and severe restrictions on the entry and distribution of essential goods were imposed from March to May.

The renewed hostilities, which began on 7 October 2023, were set within the broader context of 58 years of occupation, the rapid expansion of the Israeli settlement enterprise and related settler violence in the West Bank, the closure of Gaza since 2007, and recurrent rounds of hostilities between Israel and Gaza-based armed groups.

The humanitarian toll in Gaza was immense: tens of thousands of people were wounded or killed, and thousands of others were reported missing or detained. Dozens of people, or their remains, were still held hostage in Gaza. Nearly the entire population of Gaza has suffered displacement, and many have experienced it repeatedly. People were unable to meet even their

most basic needs. Critical public infrastructure, including the health system, had collapsed and residential neighbourhoods had been reduced to rubble. The presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW) further endangered civilians' lives.

Amid prevailing security and logistical constraints, some humanitarian organizations were compelled to significantly reduce, or altogether halt, their operations in Gaza.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, longstanding Israeli occupation policies intensified. Violent clashes between Israeli forces and settlers and Palestinians increased in severity and resulted in deaths, displacement, the destruction of property, and arrests.

The situation in Israel and the occupied territories fed into other situations of humanitarian concern in the wider region. Notably, in June, hostilities between Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran sharply escalated for 12 days, resulting in deaths, injuries and property damage (see also *Lebanon, Egypt and Syrian Arab Republic*).

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC continued to implement a multidisciplinary response to the massive humanitarian needs in Israel and the occupied territories, leveraging its unique mandate, longstanding presence in the context, role as a neutral intermediary and as guardian of IHL, and proximity to and acceptance in communities affected by recurrent cycles of violence – including the ongoing hostilities – and occupation policies. It adapted its set-up and capacities to the major developments (see *Situation*) that affected its ability to carry out its work. It maintained its partnerships with the Palestine Red Crescent Society, Magen David Adom and other Movement components, working with them, whenever possible, to assist people in need. Security incidents continued to affect the facilities and personnel of the ICRC and its partners; numerous ICRC and Palestine Red Crescent staff members were killed or injured.

Advocating the protection of civilians and promoting respect for IHL and other international norms

- ▶ Through bilateral and confidential dialogue, the ICRC continued to remind the pertinent authorities and weapon bearers of their obligations under IHL and other relevant international norms, notably in connection with the conduct of hostilities, the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, the protection of the medical mission, the prohibition of hostage-taking, the treatment of people arrested and detained, and the dignified management of the dead. As part of its contact with these parties, other influential actors and the wider public, the ICRC called for: a ceasefire; the unconditional release of hostages; the safe and dignified treatment of hostages and of people detained by Israel (see also below); the safe, rapid and unhindered flow of humanitarian assistance into Gaza; and for impartial humanitarian organizations to be enabled to operate in line with their mandates, principles and working modalities. It also continued to offer its services as a neutral intermediary.
- the ICRC documented allegations of IHL violations and relayed these confidentially to the parties concerned, with a view to preventing or ending such violations
- through real-time representations, the ICRC strove to persuade the pertinent actors to uphold the protection of civilians and of health-care services – for instance, to ensure safe passage for the emergency medical services of the Palestine Red Crescent and facilitate evacuations for medical or humanitarian purposes
- ▶ Community leaders and other members of civil society were engaged by the ICRC through meetings and other initiatives, to foster support for humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement, and broaden awareness of safety risks.
- about 183,000 people in Gaza learnt safer practices around mines/ERW through in-person information sessions and communication campaigns conducted by the ICRC and the Palestine Red Crescent; the scale of this work was adapted to the opportunities afforded by the ceasefire, and it reached more people than planned

Facilitating the safe release and transfer of hostages and detainees

- ▶ In line with its neutral intermediary role, the ICRC facilitated the safe release and transfer of 39 hostages held in Gaza – including the remains of 8 who had died – and of over 1,700 Palestinian detainees in Israeli custody. Other detainees who were released also received help for their journey home (see below). The ICRC assessed people released from detention to understand their treatment and living conditions while detained, and it communicated its findings and suggestions confidentially to the pertinent authorities.

Seeking to regain access to all people deprived of their liberty within the ICRC's purview

- ▶ The ICRC maintained its dialogue, on IHL and other applicable international norms, with the actors crucial to facilitating its access to people deprived of their liberty within its purview, amid prevailing constraints on such access. It sought the resumption of its visits to detainees held by Israeli authorities, and to people held by armed groups in Gaza. It also continued to endeavour to gain access to the hostages held in Gaza and call for their humane treatment.

- ▶ People released from Israeli custody were given food, water, clothes and family-links services (see below), and were referred to other service providers for mental-health support and other assistance.
- ▶ In accordance with its standard procedures, the ICRC visited people detained by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, some of whom were individually monitored. It communicated its findings and recommendations confidentially to the authorities concerned, to help them improve detainees' treatment and living conditions.
- ▶ Two other hospitals and five primary-health-care centres in Gaza were given regular support by the ICRC. This included financial assistance; training and technical guidance in such areas as mass-casualty management; and donations of medicines and other supplies and equipment.
 - during emergencies, additional medical supplies and equipment were given to some of these facilities, and to nine other hospitals and three other primary-health-care centres

Facilitating family contact and the proper management of human remains

- ▶ Members of families dispersed by violence or other circumstances reconnected using the Movement's family-links services; notably, 1,261 phone calls were facilitated between people who arrived in Gaza, after being released from Israeli custody, and their family members. A total of 230 people were evacuated from the Gaza Strip with the ICRC's help.
- ▶ Forensic services and first responders, including the Palestine Red Crescent, received training, technical guidance and supplies — such as autopsy kits — from the ICRC to help them properly recover, manage and identify human remains.

Sustaining the provision of life-saving care

- ▶ In Gaza, the Red Cross Field Hospital — set up in May 2024 by the ICRC and the Norwegian Red Cross, in partnership with more than a dozen National Societies, and in coordination with the Palestine Red Crescent — provided patients with surgical treatment, including in response to mass-casualty incidents, and other specialized services such as obstetric/gynaecological and paediatric care. The hospital's capacity was increased from 60 beds to about 120 beds; this was made necessary by the increasing scale and frequency of mass-casualty incidents that the hospital began responding to in June, and for which it often had to function at double its occupancy rate.

- ▶ Over 1,200 people with physical disabilities obtained physical rehabilitation services and assistive devices with ICRC support at the Artificial Limb and Polio Centre (ALPC) and — for a limited amount of time, owing to security-related constraints — at the wheelchair workshop of a Palestine Red Crescent-run hospital. The ICRC provided these centres with training, equipment and expert guidance.
- ▶ Patients at some of the ICRC-supported primary-health-care centres, and at the ALPC, received mental-health and psychosocial support from mental-health professionals that the ICRC helped to train and supervise.
- ▶ The ICRC carried out infrastructural improvements at the Red Cross Field Hospital, at two other hospitals and for the wheelchair workshop mentioned above. It also provided fuel, spare generator parts and other supplies and equipment to three other hospitals to help them maintain their functioning.

Helping people in Gaza and the West Bank to meet their basic needs

People grappling with the consequences of conflict, other violence and occupation eased their immediate situation and strove to meet their longer-term needs with aid from the ICRC. In some cases, the ICRC reached more people than planned thanks to its adapted set-up (see above), its support to local structures and evolving security and logistical conditions.

- ▶ Over 1.4 million people in Gaza and, to a lesser extent, the West Bank, recovered or maintained a degree of access to water and other essential services through the ICRC's initiatives to truck in water and repair or upgrade critical water-supply, sanitation and electrical systems. It also gave local service providers supplies and equipment, which in Gaza enabled them to preserve minimum operating capacity.
- ▶ People in Gaza – including those staying at shelters not backed by other humanitarian organizations, patients at hospitals and people released from detention – were provided with relief assistance.
 - 257,817 people received household essentials, such as tents, tarpaulins, mattresses and blankets
 - 362,587 people, among them children and pregnant or lactating women, were given emergency rations, high-calorie food supplements, cash to buy food, or – through ICRC-supplied collective kitchens and communal ovens – cooked meals
- ▶ Selected households received cash grants for augmenting their income.
 - around 10,100 households (50,589 people) covered essential expenses; in Gaza, they included people with disabilities and chronic illnesses, and people who participated in garbage collection, ran communal ovens and took part in other cash-for-work activities to improve community living conditions; in the West Bank, they included people whose property had been demolished or confiscated
 - in the West Bank, ten breadwinners (supporting 51 people) started or improved small businesses and 27 people used the money for transportation to undergo internships, enhancing their earning potential
- ▶ A total of 166 farming households (830 people) in the West Bank used ICRC financial assistance to grow food.

KEY FIGURES

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS

Protection of family links



1 RCM collected



3 RCMs distributed



1,261 phone calls facilitated between family members



1,458 tracing cases closed positively



3 people reunited with their families
3 of whom unaccompanied minors/separated children

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY

ICRC visits



41 visits to **15** places of detention



3,899 detainees in places of detention visited
1,875 of whom visited and monitored individually

Protection of family links



19 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

CIVILIANS

Economic security



Food consumption
362,587 people
Target: 310,000 people



Food production
830 people
Target: 13,250 people



Income support
50,667 people
Target: 103,425 people



Living conditions
257,817 people
Target: 165,000 people

Water and habitat



1,406,927 people
Target: 1,600,000 people

Health



8 centres supported
Target: 16 structures

WOUNDED AND SICK

Medical care



12 hospitals supported
Target: 14 structures

Physical rehabilitation



2 projects supported
Target: 3 projects

Water and habitat



7 structure
Target: 7 structures