

# ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES



At IDP camps in Gaza, the ICRC has installed communal ovens and gives selected community members cash to use them for baking bread. This helps ensure the availability of food for displaced people and enables the bakers to cover their basic needs.

The ICRC has been present in Israel and the occupied territories since 1967. It works with parties to conflict to ensure respect for IHL provisions protecting civilians living under occupation and during hostilities, and assists civilians to live in dignity and meet their needs during acute phases of violence and to cope with the occupation's impact. It monitors the treatment and living conditions of detainees held by Israeli and Palestinian authorities. It helps establish missing persons' fate and ensure the dead's dignified management. The ICRC coordinates with Movement partners and supports Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

## BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	19,557
Essential services	123,323
Prevention	5,194
Cooperation with National Societies	5,795
General	302
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154,172</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>9,410</i>

## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	150
Resident staff	568



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation ⊕ ICRC mission ⊕ ICRC office/presence

## ESSENTIAL SERVICES TARGETS

### CIVILIANS

#### ECONOMIC SECURITY



**Food consumption**  
310,000 people



**Food production**  
13,250 people



**Income support**  
103,425 people



**Living conditions**  
165,000 people

#### WATER AND HABITAT



**Water and habitat activities**  
1,600,000 people

#### HEALTH



**Health centres supported**  
16 structures

### WOUNDED AND SICK

#### MEDICAL CARE



**Hospitals supported**  
14 structures

#### PHYSICAL REHABILITATION



**Projects supported**  
3 projects

#### WATER AND HABITAT



**Water and habitat activities**  
7 structures

## SITUATION

- ▶ On 7 October 2023, Hamas launched a large-scale attack against Israel. Israel responded with a massive military operation in the Gaza Strip. Both operations are unprecedented in scale and nature. Despite the extreme human cost, the ongoing hostilities are expected to continue.
- ▶ The current hostilities are taking place against the backdrop of 57 years of occupation, the rapid expansion of the Israeli settlement enterprise and related settler violence in the West Bank, more than 17 years of closure of the Gaza Strip, and recurrent rounds of hostilities between Israel and Gaza-based armed groups. In the West Bank, longstanding Israeli occupation policies and practices – some of which contravene IHL – have intensified and violent clashes between Israeli forces and settlers and Palestinians have been increasing in severity.
- ▶ Access, security and logistical constraints in Gaza hamper humanitarian actors' ability to deliver a response that meets people's needs.
- ▶ The hostilities in Gaza have also fed into other situations of humanitarian concern in the wider region. Notably, hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah and other armed actors in Lebanon had escalated since October 2023, affecting northern Israel, the occupied Golan Heights and, to a lesser extent, the West Bank, as well as Lebanon. A ceasefire agreement was reached between Israel and Lebanon in November 2024, but some attacks persist as of this writing.

## HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS

- ▶ The human toll of the ongoing hostilities in Gaza has been massive and continues to grow. Tens of thousands of people have been killed or wounded. Thousands more have been reported missing or been arrested. Over 100 people are still held hostage in Gaza. Numerous allegations of violations of IHL and other abuses have been reported.
- ▶ Civilians in Gaza are bearing the brunt of the hostilities. Displacement continues to affect nearly 2 million people, many of them repeatedly. People struggle to meet even their most basic needs. Critical public infrastructure – for health care, water, wastewater and power – has collapsed and residential neighbourhoods have been reduced to rubble. The presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW) further endangers civilians' lives.
- ▶ In the West Bank, the intensification of occupation policies and practices – settlement expansion, inadequate zoning and planning, destruction of property, and restrictions on movement, use of land, and productive assets – threaten Palestinians' ability to maintain their lands, livelihoods, and access to essential services. High levels of violence, including settler violence, have resulted in record numbers of deaths and injuries, and have impeded people from meeting their basic needs.
- ▶ Thousands of Israeli and Palestinian families remain without news of relatives who have gone missing. Still others have no means to contact family members deprived of their liberty. Many have been unable to recover the remains of their deceased relatives.

## ICRC OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

In 2025, the ICRC will continue leverage its role as guardian of IHL and a neutral intermediary, and its unique mandate and access; its main priorities will be to:

- ▶ urge parties to the conflict, through bilateral and confidential dialogue, to ensure better respect for IHL and other applicable international norms – notably in connection with the conduct of hostilities, the use of force in law enforcement operations, protection of the medical mission, occupation policies, access to essential services, deprivation of liberty, family contact, and management of human remains;
- ▶ respond to the massive protection-related needs of people affected by ongoing hostilities and the broader conflict in Israel and the occupied territories, in particular: civilians; medical workers; and people detained, taken hostage or otherwise separated from their families;
- ▶ help people in Gaza to obtain food, water, health care – including preventive, curative, surgical and mental health care – and other essential services, and better cope with the consequences of the hostilities, by supporting primary-health-care facilities, hospitals, and physical rehabilitation centres, maintaining or upgrading water, sanitation, and power systems, and delivering relief and livelihood assistance;
- ▶ enable particularly at-risk communities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, to maintain access to their lands and to essential services, sustain or recover their livelihoods, mitigate the adverse consequences of occupation policies, and protect them from settler violence; help people in particular need, including those whose homes have been demolished or who have been displaced by violence, meet their basic needs and restore their livelihoods;
- ▶ continue its efforts, supported by dialogue with parties to the conflict and undertaken with local actors, to enable people to know the fate of their missing relatives and recover the remains of those who have died, and to help prevent loss of family contact and disappearances; and
- ▶ ensure coordination between Movement partners, to promote an effective collective response; support the Palestine Red Crescent Society to safely respond to humanitarian needs amid hostilities and other emergencies; and pursue opportunities to strengthen dialogue and work together with Magen David Adom.

The ICRC's response to the situation in Israel and the occupied territories will be supported by other ICRC delegations in neighbouring countries (see *Egypt*) and the regional logistical hub in Jordan.

## ICRC ACTION

### CIVILIANS

**Objective: Civilians are not subjected to direct or indiscriminate attacks; civilian infrastructure and property, and health facilities and personnel, are respected and protected in accordance with IHL. People living under occupation are treated in accordance with the applicable provisions of IHL, and are able to pursue livelihoods and access essential services. Members of families separated by the conflict maintain or restore contact and are reunited or able to meet regularly. Families are informed of the fate of their missing relatives, and are able to recover and bury the remains of those deceased.**

The ICRC delegation in Israel and the occupied territories will continue to work with parties to the conflict to improve respect for IHL and ensure protection for civilians throughout the context. It will also advocate protection for people affected by the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah and other armed actors in Lebanon, in coordination with the ICRC delegation in Lebanon (see *Situation*).

In the occupied Palestinian territory, the ICRC will assist the people most affected by hostilities and other violence and by occupation, using an approach that prioritizes their safety and takes into account their specific needs, and fosters synergies between its different fields of expertise. It will focus on where it can make the greatest and most sustainable impact, and maintain flexibility and adaptability in the face of considerable, and constantly evolving, security and other constraints. Where conditions permit, the ICRC will strive to scale up its response to the immense needs caused by ongoing hostilities and further emergencies.

#### **Urging all parties to improve the protection of civilians in Israel and the occupied territories**

In the face of the challenges posed by highly volatile security conditions, the ICRC will step up its efforts to engage the authorities and weapon bearers concerned in bilateral and confidential dialogue – including through real-time representations on the basis of urgent requests from people in areas affected by heavy hostilities – to remind them to fulfil their obligations under IHL and other applicable international norms (see also *Actors of influence*). It will urge parties to the conflict to ensure that hostilities are conducted in line with IHL, and that the use of force in law enforcement operations is in line with relevant international standards. It will further urge them to uphold IHL in connection with the treatment of people – especially children, elderly people, people with physical disabilities and others with specific needs – so that communities throughout the occupied Palestinian territory can safely access adequate health care (see also *Wounded and sick*) and other essential services, and are able to maintain or recover livelihoods that are affected by the occupation or the hostilities; people under occupation are able to live and meet their needs with dignity, and are protected from settler violence and unauthorized outposts; people deprived of their liberty or held hostage have humane living conditions and can re-establish or maintain contact with their families (see *People deprived of their liberty*); and people are informed of the

fate of missing relatives and can recover the remains of those who have died.

Leveraging its mandate, its long-standing presence in the context, and its proximity to and acceptance in communities affected by recurrent cycles of violence – including the ongoing hostilities – and occupation policies, the ICRC will document allegations of violations of IHL and other pertinent international norms, and raise its legal and humanitarian concerns regarding civilians with the parties concerned, with a view to preventing unlawful conduct and limiting or addressing its humanitarian consequences. It will continue to offer to act as a neutral intermediary to facilitate dialogue between parties to the conflict, for example, in connection with the prospective cessation of hostilities; support safe and unimpeded access to emergency medical services (EMS) in Gaza and the West Bank; and enable the safe evacuation of civilians for medical or humanitarian purposes (see also *Wounded and sick*). Together with local actors, the ICRC will help limit civilians' exposure to ERW and other weapons and to the effects of hostilities.

The ICRC will continue to work closely with conflict-affected people in Israel and the occupied territories, with a view to understanding more fully their protection-related concerns and coping strategies to reduce their exposure to risk, and to involving them in the design and implementation of its activities. It will also engage with them more generally through, for example, meetings, and its community call centres and crisis hotlines (see *Actors of influence*). This engagement will enable the ICRC to identify those whom no or few other humanitarian organizations can reach or support and for whom the ICRC's efforts will have the most significant impact, and to gather feedback on the effectiveness and adequacy of its humanitarian response.

The ICRC will endeavour to carry out its activities with the Palestine Red Crescent Society, whenever relevant and possible. It will also pursue opportunities to work with Magen David Adom – for instance, in response to the humanitarian needs of people in northern Israel. The ICRC will coordinate with the two National Societies and other Movement partners working in the context, and with other humanitarian actors, to ensure efficiency and complementarity in its response (see also *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

#### **Assisting people in Gaza to access life-saving aid and essential services**

In Gaza, the ICRC will work with community members and local organizations to ensure that people most affected by hostilities have access to food, water, medical care and other essential services. It will support primary-health-care centres and other health facilities throughout Gaza (see *Wounded and sick*). It will seek to respond to humanitarian needs by carrying out initiatives aimed at enabling conflict-affected people to help one another: it will support collective kitchens, install communal ovens in IDP camps, and involve people in cash-for-work projects to benefit their communities. Where conditions allow, people will be assisted to restore their livelihoods. It will also provide people in need with emergency aid, such as: essential household items, to enable displaced people to ease their living conditions; cash support, to help households in particular need to cover medical and other immediate

expenses; and ready-to-eat food, for patients at ICRC-backed health facilities. Amid widespread destruction and supply shortages, the ICRC will continue to truck in water, facilitate the installation, repair, or upgrading of critical infrastructure – including at health facilities – and support local providers of essential services in maintaining minimum operating capacity.

Civilians will learn more about safer practices around ERW and other weapons, through information sessions and communication campaigns organized by the ICRC and the Palestine Red Crescent. First responders, including Palestine Red Crescent volunteers, forensic professionals, and others who work in weapon-contaminated areas will be provided with training and other support to protect themselves against risks.

### Helping people in the West Bank maintain access to their lands and to essential services

Through a protection-driven multidisciplinary response – which combines protection dialogue with Israeli authorities and forces, and sustainable agricultural, livestock, and infrastructural projects – the ICRC will support particularly at-risk communities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, to maintain access to their lands and essential services, and their livelihoods. It will enable them to mitigate the consequences of settlement expansion, outposts and violence, and of other occupation policies and practices, such as movement restrictions, inadequate zoning and planning, and theft or destruction of private property, including homes and productive assets. Farmers and herders – especially those affected by settler violence and the existence of outposts – will be assisted in maintaining or recovering their productive activities and increasing their yields in a manner that takes into account prevailing security and climatic conditions, with a view to helping them maintain their presence on, and use of, their farmland and traditional grazing areas. People in particular need – including those whose homes or productive assets were demolished or confiscated, or who were displaced by violence – will be provided with support to cover their immediate needs, restore their livelihoods and access primary health care.

### Enabling families to reconnect, reunite and recover the remains of deceased relatives

Through its own family-links services and those of the wider Movement, the ICRC will enable people throughout Israel and the occupied territories to restore or maintain contact or reunite with relatives separated from them in connection with conflict. In coordination with the parties concerned, the ICRC will serve as a neutral intermediary to help people in particular need to cross borders or demarcation lines to return home, and will facilitate the delivery of official documents necessary for medical, academic, financial or legal purposes.





Over the years, many people have gone missing in connection with longstanding conflict in Israel and the occupied territories, including as a result of the ongoing hostilities. The ICRC will keep up its work, supported by dialogue with parties to the conflict and undertaken with local actors – for instance, the authorities in Israel and first responders in Gaza – to enable people to learn the fate of their missing relatives and recover the remains of those who have died, and to help prevent loss of family contact and disappearances. In parallel, it will

assess the needs of missing people's families and respond to these by providing referrals to pertinent organizations or direct assistance.


In Gaza, the ICRC will provide technical and material assistance to forensic services and first responders, and encourage coordination among them, to promote proper management of the remains of people who have died, notably those buried under rubble and in other areas heavily contaminated by ERW. It will help facilitate the collection of ante-mortem data from people seeking their missing relatives, towards the identification of human remains and their subsequent handover to the families concerned.

## PLAN OF ACTION AND INDICATORS



### PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND RESPECT FOR THE LAW

-  remind parties to the conflict of their obligations under IHL and other applicable international norms, and of relevant international standards
-  document allegations of violations of IHL and other unlawful conduct, and their humanitarian consequences
-  raise legal and humanitarian concerns regarding civilians and share recommendations for preventing unlawful conduct and minimizing the humanitarian consequences for civilians, through bilateral and confidential dialogue with parties to the conflict, preventively, in real time, and through continuous engagement at both tactical and strategic levels
-  conduct briefings and engage in discussions with weapon bearers on IHL and other norms applicable to the conduct of hostilities and the use of force in law enforcement operations (see *Actors of influence*)

### PROTECTION OF FAMILY LINKS

-  provide family-links services, notably to members of families separated by conflict; for example:
  - provide tracing services for people whose relatives have gone missing; follow up with the pertinent authorities, including detaining authorities (see *People deprived of their liberty*), and other ICRC delegations to establish the fate and whereabouts of those reported missing
  - whenever possible, facilitate travel for humanitarian purposes within and to or from Israel and the occupied territories
  - issue, or facilitate the issuance of, official documents, such as attestations of detention

### PROTECTION FOR THE DECEASED

-  work with pertinent local actors to ensure the proper recovery, handling, identification, and return to their families of the remains of people who have died; serve as a neutral intermediary to facilitate the handover of human remains to the families concerned
-  in Gaza, collect ante-mortem data from people seeking their missing relatives, and provide training and other support to forensic services and first responders (see *Water and habitat*)



## HEALTH



### Health centres supported 16 structures

- E** in Gaza and the West Bank, provide up to six primary-health-care centres with support for delivering preventive and curative care; more specifically:
  - donate key supplies and equipment
  - organize training for health personnel, to help them hone their skills in, for instance, mother-and-child care and infection prevention and control
  - help facilitate the referral of patients for higher-level or specialized care
  - conduct information sessions for the centres' staff on their rights and duties as health-care providers
- E** in the event of an emergency, provide material and other assistance to up to 16 primary-health-care centres, including those mentioned above
- E** for patients at the regularly supported centres mentioned above, and at other ICRC-backed health facilities (see *Wounded and sick*), organize some 5,300 mental-health and psychosocial support sessions, led by ICRC staff or ICRC-trained health-care workers

## ECONOMIC SECURITY



### Food consumption 310,000 people



### Food production 13,250 people



### Income support 103,425 people



### Living conditions 165,000 people

- E** help ensure the availability of food for around 62,000 households (up to 310,000 people) by:
  - supplying collective kitchens with food and other assistance to help sustain their operations (see *Water and habitat*)
  - installing communal ovens at IDP camps and providing support for community members to operate them (see below)
  - providing displaced households with rations, good for one month
  - distributing therapeutic or supplementary food to patients, including children and pregnant or lactating women, at ICRC-backed health facilities
- E** give some 32,000 IDP households (up to 160,000 people) tents and other household essentials, or cash for buying them
- E** provide about 17,040 households (up to 85,200 people) with cash or other assistance, to help them cover their basic needs; they include:
  - households in Gaza who have been particularly affected by hostilities, or whose members are involved in cash-for-work projects, such as baking bread using communal ovens at IDP camps and collecting garbage

- households in the West Bank whose homes were demolished or whose assets were confiscated, or who have otherwise been affected by violence

- E** assist approximately 3,650 households (up to 18,225 people) in Gaza and the West Bank in establishing or improving their livelihoods, through cash grants and/or vocational training
- E** enable roughly 2,650 households (13,250 people) to produce more food by providing technical assistance, cash grants, tools and/or supplies; they include: in the West Bank, farming and herding households affected by settlement expansion, outposts and settler violence and, in Gaza, farming and fishing households in need

## WATER AND HABITAT



### Water and habitat activities 1,600,000 people

- E** help up to 1.6 million people – mostly in Gaza, and especially in communities hosting displaced people at informal shelters – maintain or recover a degree of access to clean water and other essential services; notably:
  - in Gaza, truck in water, and facilitate the installation, repair or upgrading of water-supply and wastewater networks, including at ICRC-backed health facilities and collective kitchens; enable local providers of water, sanitation and power services to maintain minimum operating capacity and strengthen their systems against recurrent shocks by giving them technical, material and other support
  - in the West Bank, broaden access to water for household and livelihood use by improving water systems, and make electricity more readily available by installing solar panels
- E** in Gaza, build one cemetery and upgrade three morgues, in line with best practices and internationally recognized forensic standards

## WEAPON CONTAMINATION

- E** with the Palestine Red Crescent, promote safer practices around ERW throughout Gaza by organizing information sessions for about 15,600 people and conducting communication campaigns via social media and other means
- E** provide training and other support to first responders to help them work in safety (see also *Wounded and sick*)

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY

**Objective: The treatment and living conditions of people during arrest/capture and detention in Israel and in the occupied Palestinian territory are in line with IHL and other relevant norms and standards. Their judicial guarantees, procedural safeguards and their right to maintain contact with their families are respected. The ICRC is granted access to all detainees within its purview, notably those held in relation to conflict.**

## Seeking to regain access to people deprived of their liberty

Amid prevailing constraints on its access to people deprived of their liberty – including hostages held in Gaza and Palestinians in Israeli detention – the ICRC will keep up its dialogue in connection with IHL and other pertinent international norms with the parties concerned. Its aim will be to gain or regain such access to all people deprived of their liberty within its purview, conduct visits to them in accordance with its standard procedures, and monitor their treatment and living conditions.

In places of detention under Israeli authority, the ICRC will pay particular attention to: Palestinians held in administrative detention; people under interrogation and in long-term isolation; hunger strikers; and minors, and other detainees with specific needs. In places of detention under the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, it will pay close attention to the treatment of people under interrogation. In Gaza, the ICRC will follow the situation of people held hostage by armed groups and other people deprived of their liberty in connection with the conflict.

Based on its visits, interviews with people released from detention, and other available sources of information, the ICRC will relay its concerns and recommendations to pertinent Israeli and Palestinian authorities and weapon bearers as part of its bilateral and confidential dialogue with them. It will remind them of their obligations, under IHL and other applicable international norms, and provide concrete recommendations to prevent ill-treatment; ensure respect for judicial guarantees, the principle of *non-refoulement* and procedural safeguards; and ensure adequate access to health care in detention. The ICRC will also provide advice to ensure that people are held in humane conditions.

Detaining authorities will be reminded by the ICRC of their responsibility to ensure that people deprived of their liberty can stay in touch with their families, including by providing notice of people's arrest, capture, whereabouts, transfer or death to the families concerned. It will keep up its efforts to facilitate family contact for people deprived of their liberty, notably by seeking to resume its family-visit programme, which enables monthly family visits for Palestinian detainees in Israel. The ICRC will stand ready to act as a neutral intermediary to facilitate the safe transfer, after their release, of hostages and detainees.

The ICRC will give the Palestinian detaining and other pertinent authorities support for making system-wide improvements in detention, notably for developing and implementing minimum standards for prison infrastructure.

## PLAN OF ACTION AND INDICATORS

### PROTECTION OF PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY

- P** visit people deprived of their liberty and communicate findings and recommendations regarding their treatment and living conditions confidentially to the pertinent authorities and weapon bearers; seek to gain or regain access to all people, within the ICRC's purview, who have been deprived of their liberty

- P** help detainees to stay in touch with their families through RCMs, phone calls and other means
- P** act as a neutral intermediary to facilitate the safe transfer, after their release, of hostages and detainees
- P** as necessary, provide material and other aid to detainees in selected detention facilities and to people recently released from detention

### WATER AND HABITAT

- E** provide Palestinian officials, and prison staff and managers, with technical advice on minimum standards for prison infrastructure

## WOUNDED AND SICK

**Objective: Wounded or sick people, particularly in the Gaza Strip, have timely access to quality life-saving and rehabilitative care and psychosocial support. The Palestine Red Crescent Society's emergency medical services are able to safely deliver much-needed medical care to people throughout the occupied Palestinian territory.**

The ICRC will remind parties to the conflict of their responsibilities under IHL and other applicable international norms to safeguard access to health care, and ensure the safety of people providing and seeking health care. It will serve as a neutral intermediary to enable the Palestine Red Crescent Society to safely deliver EMS in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and, where necessary and possible, support medical evacuations. In coordination with pertinent authorities and the Palestine Red Crescent, the ICRC will continue to step up its emergency health response for people affected by hostilities, other conflict-related violence, and restrictions of movement throughout the occupied Palestinian territory.

### Helping to secure the continuum of care

In Gaza, the ICRC will use a patient-centred approach in its efforts to broaden the availability of life-saving care and secure the continuum of care. It will give material and technical assistance to the Palestine Red Crescent and other EMS providers, and functioning hospitals, with a view to strengthening their ability to respond to mass-casualty incidents, outbreaks of communicable disease and other emergencies, and to carry out referrals and transfers of patients. A field hospital in Rafah – set up 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 – will continue to operate, to help ensure people's access to surgical care and other specialized services.

To reduce the likelihood of complications for patients who have lost the use of their limbs, the ICRC will support the provision of physical rehabilitation services and assistive devices at the Artificial Limb and Polio Centre (ALPC) in Gaza City, the wheelchair workshop at a Palestine Red Crescent-run hospital in Khan Yunis, and an ICRC mobile clinic based in Rafah; the mobile clinic will be set up to reach more people in need. The ICRC will continue to work with local partners to broaden

awareness of these services, ensure their sustainability and promote the social inclusion of people with disabilities.

Patients at the Rafah field hospital and their caregivers, and service users at ICRC-backed physical rehabilitation facilities, will have access to mental-health and psychosocial support from ICRC or ICRC-trained counsellors (see *Civilians*).

In the West Bank, the ICRC will provide medical supplies and equipment to selected trauma centres on an ad hoc basis – for instance, in the event of violent clashes between Israeli settlers and forces and Palestinians. It will also encourage Movement partners to work together to make EMS more readily available.

## PLAN OF ACTION AND INDICATORS

### MEDICAL CARE



**Hospitals supported**  
14 structures

- E** ensure that patients and medical staff and facilities, are better protected against the effects of hostilities, and against attacks or threats by weapon bearers, or obstruction by them; to that end:
  - remind weapon bearers of their obligations, and health staff of their rights, under IHL and other applicable international norms
  - document attacks, threats and instances of obstruction to the delivery of medical services, make real-time representations to the pertinent authorities to prevent or address them, and raise legal and humanitarian concerns regarding civilians, including those seeking and providing health care, with the parties concerned
  - advise and support health services in developing and establishing passive security measures
- E** help facilitate access to life-saving care and ensure the continuum of care in Gaza; more specifically:
  - coordinate with the pertinent actors to ensure that ambulances have safe and unimpeded access – throughout the occupied Palestinian territory – to people needing urgent medical attention
  - give the Palestine Red Crescent and other EMS providers in Gaza material, financial and technical assistance, notably to improve their ability to work in safety and coordinate with health facilities for referrals and transfers
  - give three hospitals various forms of support, such as supplies and equipment, staff training – for example, in emergency care, trauma care and mass-casualty management – financial incentives, and/or technical advice for developing contingency plans; in the event of an emergency, provide additional material and other assistance to these and up to ten other hospitals
  - continue to bolster the delivery of surgical, obstetric/gynaecological, paediatric, mental-health and other

specialized services at the Rafah field hospital, including by systematically collecting feedback from patients

### WATER AND HABITAT



**Water and habitat activities**  
7 structures

- E** maintain, repair or upgrade infrastructure at up to seven hospitals in Gaza, including the Rafah field hospital

### PHYSICAL REHABILITATION



**Projects supported**  
3 projects

- E** provide the ALPC and the wheelchair workshop of a Palestine Red Crescent-run hospital with material, technical and other support, and set up a mobile clinic based in Rafah, to help up to 11,765 people<sup>1</sup> with disabilities to obtain physical rehabilitation services and assistive devices, free of charge; together with local health structures and other pertinent organizations, work to broaden awareness of these services and establish a referral system

## ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

**Objective: Israeli and Palestinian weapon bearers and decision-makers understand and respect IHL and other rules protecting people affected by armed conflict, and incorporate them in their normative frameworks, decision-making and operations. Other influential actors are aware of humanitarian concerns and take action to improve respect for IHL among parties to the conflict, and thereby secure greater respect for human dignity and prevent more human suffering. All actors of influence understand, accept, and support the ICRC and National Societies' mandates, working modalities and activities.**

Within the complex and challenging humanitarian environment engendered by ongoing hostilities and occupation policies and practices, the ICRC will strive to use all means at its disposal to engage in and sustain dialogue, including real-time representations, with a wide range of influential actors (see also *Civilians*). They include, but are not limited to, weapon bearers, authorities, policymakers, representatives of the international community and members of civil society. These actors are critical to facilitating safe, timely and sustainable humanitarian access to people affected by the conflict in Israel and the occupied territories, and to those affected by the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah and other armed actors in Lebanon (see *Situation*).

The ICRC's aims for such dialogue are to deepen understanding of its mandate and its role as a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian actor; secure acceptance for its work and that of other Movement components; and uphold

1. Based on aggregated monthly data, which include repeat users of physical rehabilitation services.

the safety of its staff. Throughout its contact with these actors, the ICRC will also underscore the necessity of ensuring respect and protection for people not, or no longer, taking part in hostilities, as required by IHL, and of complying with other applicable international norms (see above).

### **Increasing respect for IHL and other relevant international norms**

In Israel, the ICRC will endeavour to broaden its network of contacts within the Israeli Defense Forces and work with them to integrate IHL and other pertinent international norms – governing the conduct of hostilities, the use of force in law enforcement operations, the law of occupation, deprivation of liberty, family contact and management of human remains – more fully into their doctrine, training, and, in particular, their operations.

In the occupied Palestinian territory, the ICRC will conduct training and information sessions on international policing standards – particularly those on the use of force, arrest, and detention – for Palestinian security forces personnel, including senior officers. Where security conditions permit, it will seek to hold dissemination sessions with members of armed groups on humanitarian principles and the fundamentals of IHL, especially those governing the conduct of hostilities, deprivation of liberty, and preservation of family links.

The ICRC will work with judges, prosecutors, and health and other pertinent officials in the occupied Palestinian territory on their respective roles in strengthening respect for international norms on arrest and detention, including respect for judicial guarantees and humane treatment.

The ICRC will continue to seek opportunities to encourage Israeli authorities to integrate IHL and other applicable international norms more fully into their legislation, policies and operational decision-making, notably in connection with ongoing hostilities and occupation policies and practices. It will support Palestinian authorities in advancing the incorporation of provisions of IHL and international human rights law in national laws and policies, and implementing domestic legislation to protect and regulate the use of the red cross and red crescent emblems.

### **Gathering support for the work of the ICRC and the wider Movement**







The ICRC will seek to draw the attention of influential actors and the general public to humanitarian issues in Israel and the occupied territories – primarily those arising from the conduct of hostilities, occupation policies, the use of force in law enforcement operations, and the plight of people who have been deprived of their liberty or whose relatives have gone missing in connection with conflict. It will also endeavour to foster understanding and support for the ICRC's and the wider Movement's activities. To this end, the ICRC will continue to interact with authorities, weapon bearers, policymakers, diplomats, journalists, civil society organizations, young people and other pertinent actors. It will contribute to and reinforce the work of think-tanks and universities on issues related to IHL or to the broader humanitarian situation in Israel and the occupied territories. The ICRC will provide training

to religious scholars on IHL, its relevance to the Palestinian context, and its points of correspondence with Islamic law.

The ICRC will proactively engage with conflict-affected people to further their understanding of the ICRC, the wider Movement, and the Fundamental Principles – particularly neutrality – and to inform them about the humanitarian services available to them. It will continue to involve them in making decisions that concern them, for example, by ensuring their participation in needs assessments and in the design and implementation of its activities, and by providing various channels through which they can communicate their views, suggestions and complaints on the ICRC's activities.

The ICRC will coordinate its public-communication initiatives with the Palestine Red Crescent and other Movement partners, and, where relevant and possible, work jointly with them to produce harmonized communication on subjects of mutual concern.

### **PLAN OF ACTION AND INDICATORS**

-  engage Israeli and Palestinian authorities and others of influence, and representatives of the international community, in dialogue on humanitarian concerns, and the necessity of respecting IHL and other pertinent international norms
-  organize meetings and training sessions on IHL, other applicable international norms and/or international policing standards for Israeli forces personnel and Palestinian security forces personnel, and make the ICRC's legal and technical expertise available to them; sponsor senior officers to attend ICRC-organized global or regional workshops on these norms and standards; give them support for the integration of IHL into their doctrine, training and operations; where security conditions permit, hold IHL dissemination sessions with members of armed groups
-  together with the Palestine Red Crescent Society, support the Palestinian Authority and the national IHL committee in advancing the implementation of IHL and other relevant international treaties, and of domestic legislation protecting and regulating the use of the red cross and red crescent emblems
-  brief community and religious leaders, academics, journalists and other members of civil society on key humanitarian and legal issues, and the ICRC's work in Israel and the occupied territories; organize, with universities, IHL competitions for Israeli and Palestinian students
-  enhance tools and mechanisms for engaging with and ensuring accountability to conflict-affected people (see *Civilians*); maintain community call centres and crisis hotlines in Gaza and the West Bank, and in Israel
-  disseminate informational materials in various formats to the general public – on IHL, the ICRC, and the wider Movement – in Arabic, English, and Hebrew







## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

**Objective: The Palestine Red Crescent Society and Magen David Adom can fulfil their mandates as National Societies and carry out their humanitarian work safely. All Movement components in Israel and the occupied territories coordinate their activities with each other, and to ensure an efficient and impactful collective response.**

The ICRC will maintain its partnership with the Palestine Red Crescent Society and, wherever relevant and possible, work with it to assist people affected by hostilities, other violence or natural disasters. The Palestine Red Crescent will continue to receive ICRC assistance for reinforcing its emergency preparedness and response capacities, and ensuring the ability of its staff and volunteers to apply the Safer Access Framework while working in conflict-affected areas. The ICRC will leverage its role as a neutral intermediary to facilitate communication between the Palestine Red Crescent and pertinent authorities and weapon bearers, with a view to ensuring the safe, efficient and unimpeded delivery of aid, particularly EMS, throughout the occupied Palestinian territory (see also *Wounded and sick*). In parallel, it will continue to engage with Magen David Adom, pursuing opportunities to strengthen dialogue between them and work together to respond to humanitarian needs (see *Civilians*).

The ICRC will support both National Societies' efforts to remain neutral, impartial and independent, and will facilitate their participation in Movement operations and processes. It will help track their implementation of the pledges and resolutions that they had made at past statutory meetings of the Movement. In consultation with them and the International Federation, the ICRC will coordinate with and support other Movement partners working in Israel and the occupied territories.

## PLAN OF ACTION AND INDICATORS

-  provide the Palestine Red Crescent with financial, technical and material support, within the framework of existing agreements
-  act as a neutral intermediary to facilitate the Palestine Red Crescent's timely, safe and unimpeded delivery of EMS and other aid
-  help monitor implementation of the 2005 memorandum of understanding between the two National Societies
-  ensure coordination with the two National Societies and other Movement components, to promote an effective collective response