

WHAT IS THE ICRC?

- Independent, neutral organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of war and armed violence.
- Permanent mandate under international law to take impartial action for prisoners, the wounded and sick, and civilians affected by conflict.
- Based in some 80 countries, with a total of more than 12,000 staff overseas - plus some 800 at HQ in Geneva, Switzerland.

HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION

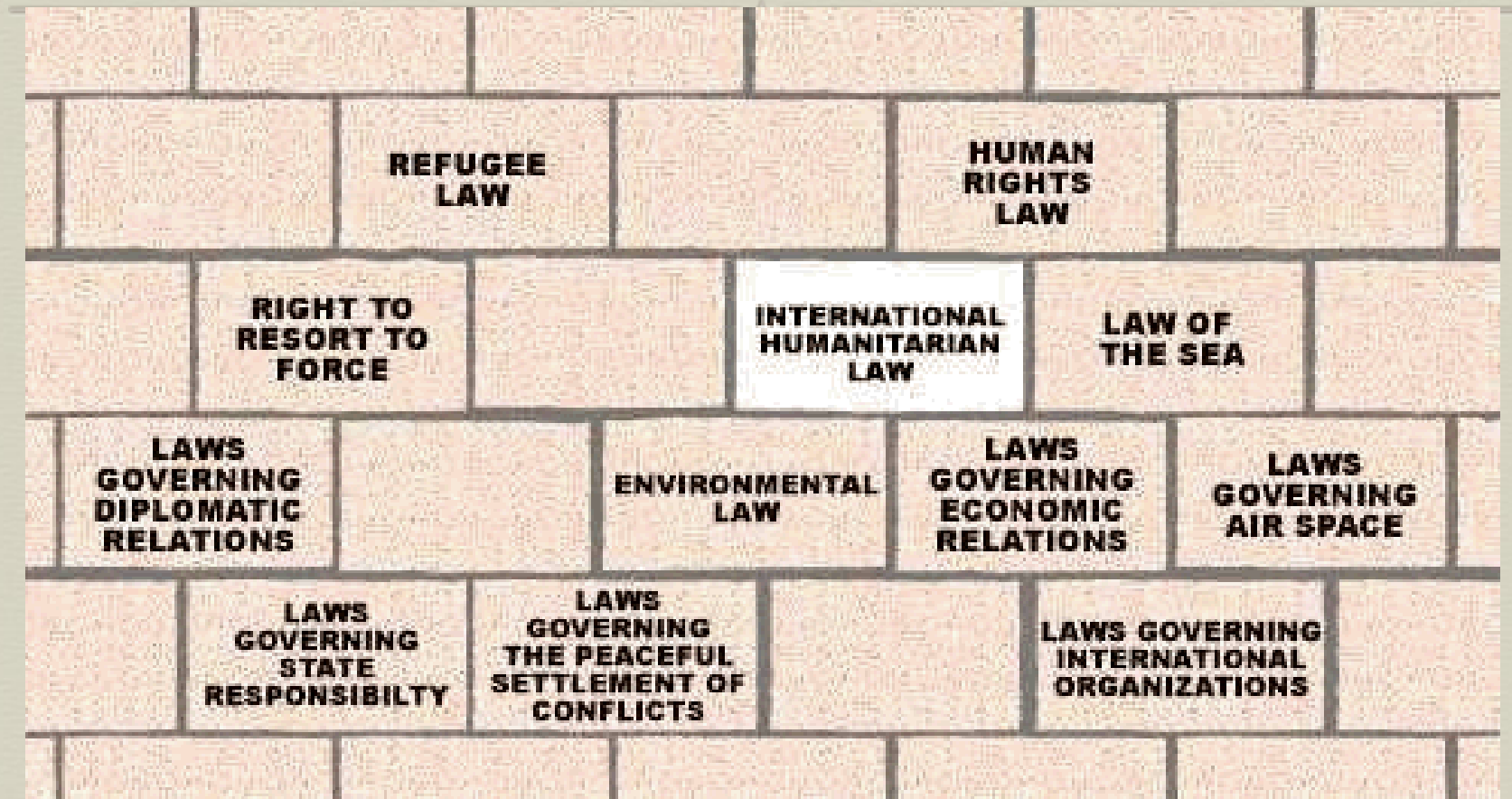
- ❧ 1, Resort to arms continues to be a means of settling differences.
- ❧ 2. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was founded nearly a century and a half ago (1863) in recognition of this sad reality.
- ❧ 3. It seeks to preserve a measure of humanity in the midst of war.
- ❧ 4. Its guiding principle is that even in war there are limits.
- ❧ 5. The set of rules that were established with this in mind and endorsed by nearly every nation in the world is known as international humanitarian law (IHL), of which the Geneva Conventions are the bedrock.



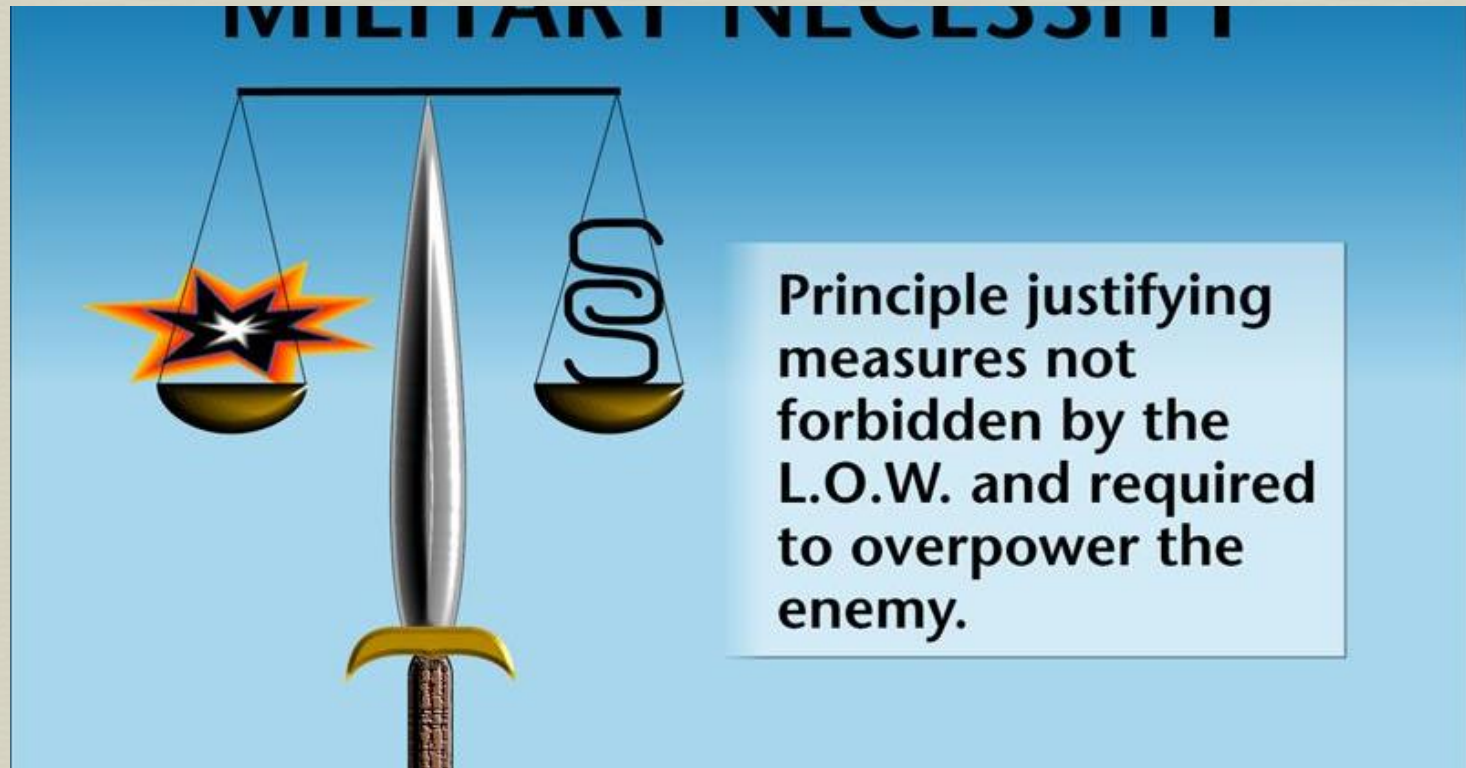
IHL – GENEVA CONVENTIONS

- ✧ After World War II, a 4-month conference results in Four Geneva Conventions of **1949**, reinforcing protection of civilians in wartime.
- ✧ **1977**, Conventions are supplemented by two Additional Protocols.
- ✧ Geneva Conventions and Protocols are a part of a large body of international humanitarian law (IHL).

Situating IHL within Public International Law

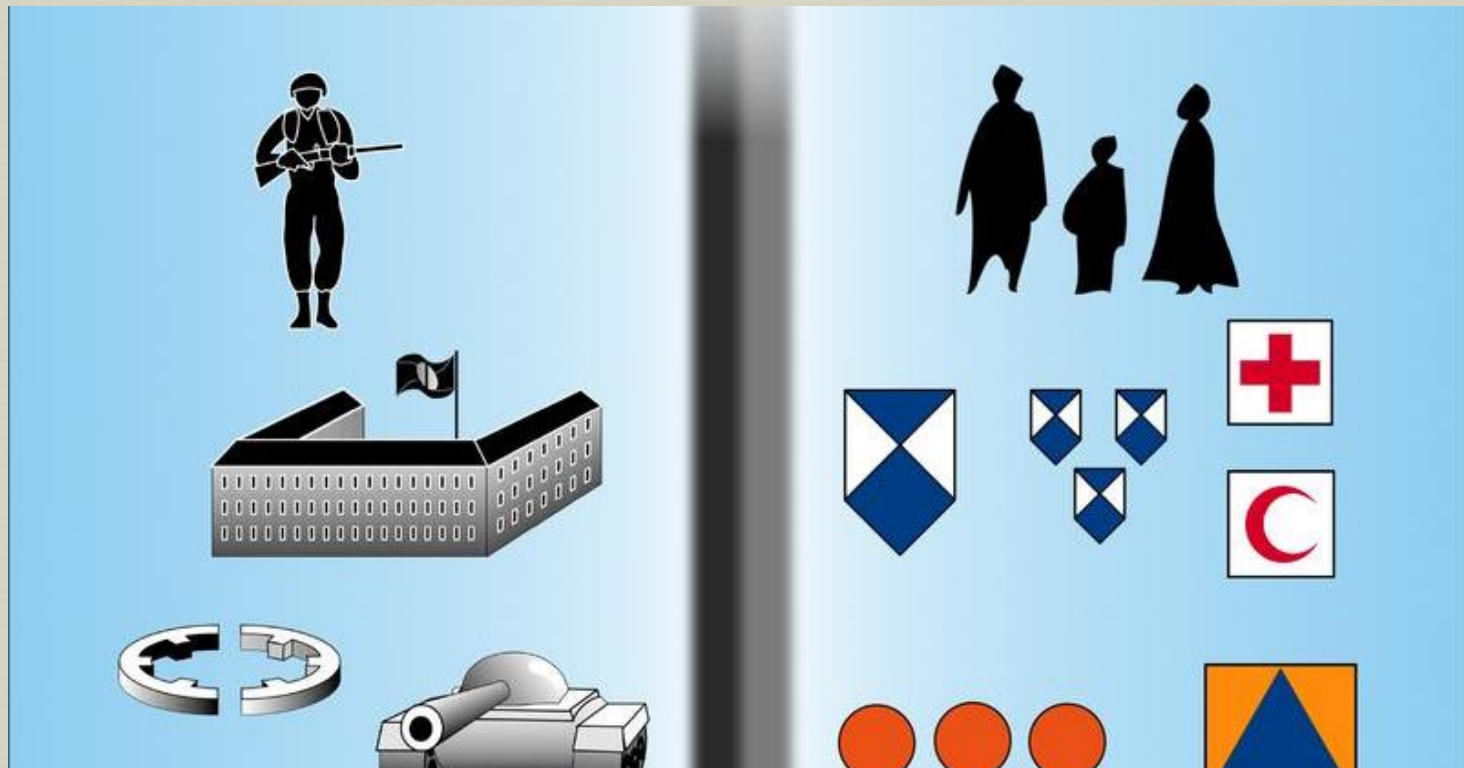


PRINCIPLE NUMBER ONE OF IHL

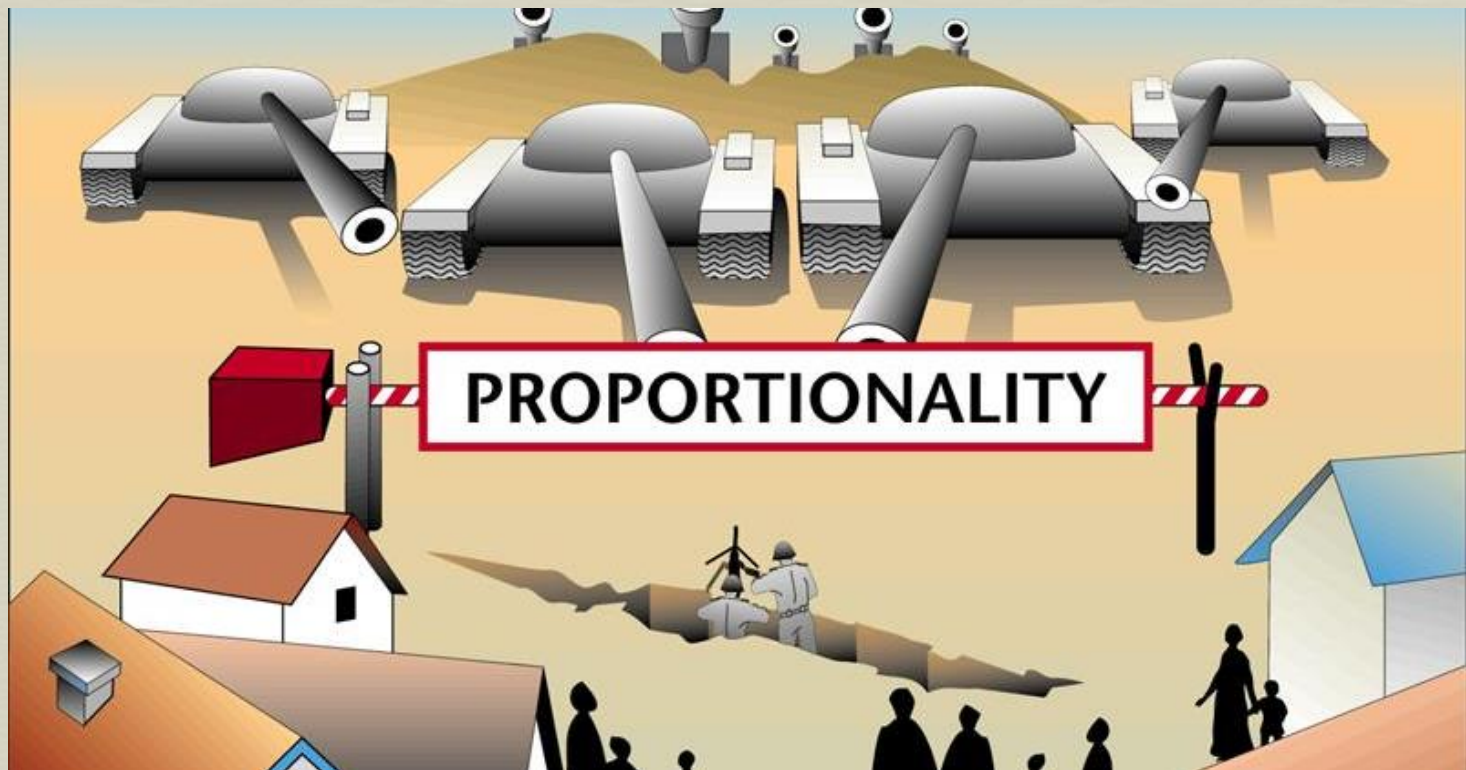


PRINCIPLE NUMBER TWO OF IHL

DISTINCTION



PRINCIPLE NUMBER THREE OF IHL



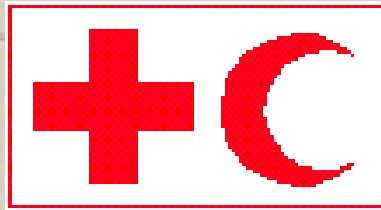
MANDATE OF THE ICRC



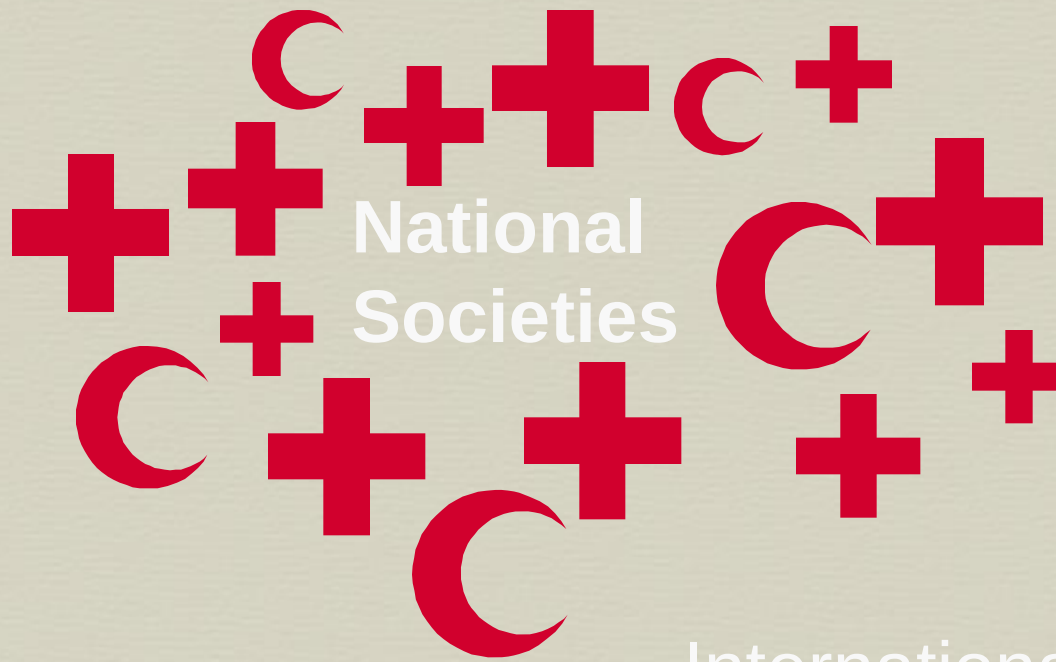
- ✧ The ICRC's mission is to protect and assist the civilian and military victims of armed conflicts and internal disturbances on a strictly neutral and impartial basis, and to promote compliance with international humanitarian law.
- ✧ The ICRC's special role was assigned to it by States through the various instruments of humanitarian law.

The Movement:

Composition



International Federation of Red
Cross and Red Crescent
Societies



National
Societies



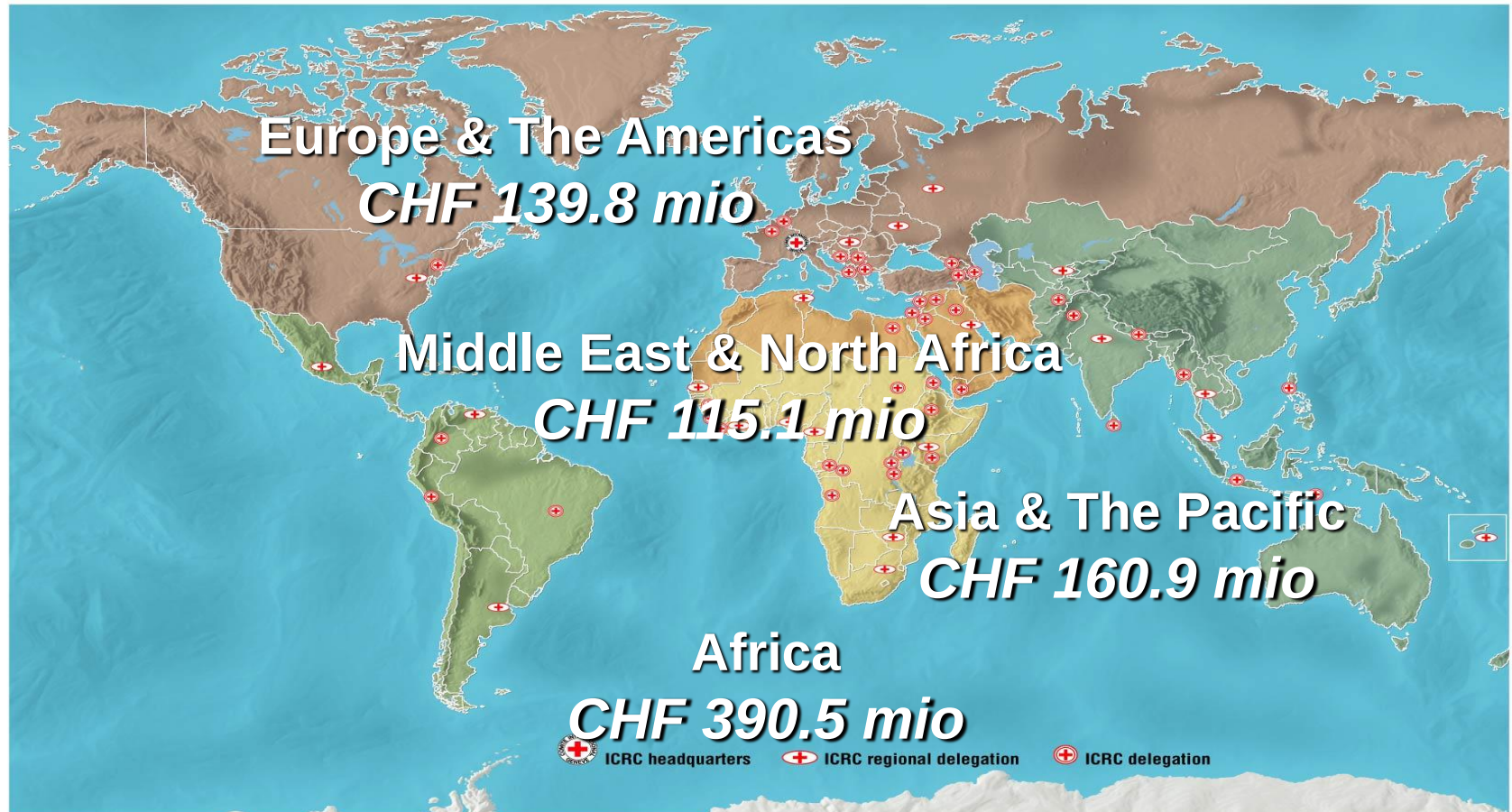
ICRC

International Committee of
the Red Cross

The Movement: Fundamental Principles

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

ICRC AROUND THE WORLD 2005



THE LARGEST ICRC OPERATIONS

The 10 largest ICRC operations in 2019:

Syria

Afghanistan

DRC

Somalia

South Sudan

Iraq

Mali

Israel and Occupied Territories

Sudan

Colombia

Emblems

☞ Recognized and used emblems



☞ Indicative use

- ▶ Protective use
- ▶ Misuse of the emblem



The ICRC: Action

At the beginning of hostilities, the ICRC

- ✧ Reminds the parties of their obligations
- ✧ Offers its services
- ✧ Makes an assessment of the needs
- ✧ Acts in favour of victims according to the needs

Activities

☞ Protection in war

- ☞ protection of civilians

- ☞ protection of prisoners of war and detainees

- ☞ restoring family links

☞ Assistance for armed conflict victims

- ☞ economic security

- ☞ water and habitat

- ☞ health services

☞ Preventive action

- ☞ Promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL)

- ☞ National measures of implementation of IHL

- ☞ Mine/UXO (ERW) awareness programs

Activities: Protection in war



Activities: Protection in war

Protection of civilians

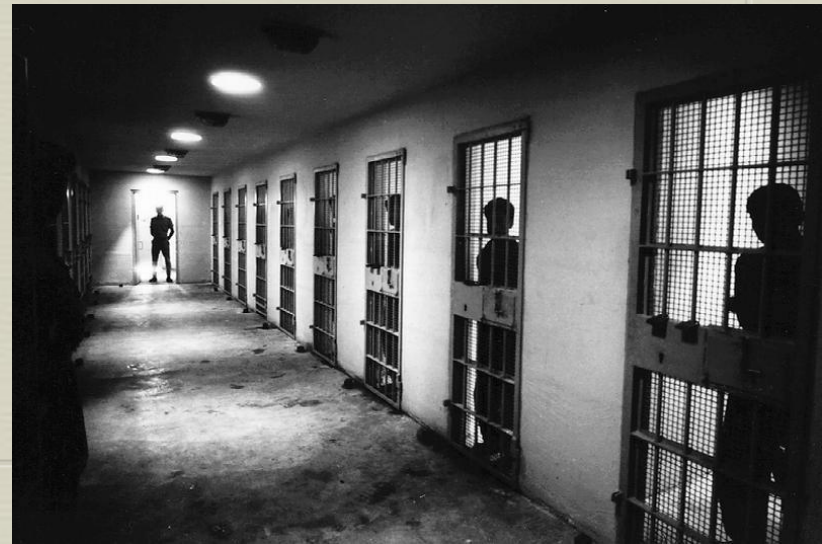
- ❧ Collect information on abuses
- ❧ Recommendations to the responsible party
- ❧ Action in favour of most vulnerable
 - ❧ Internally displaced persons
 - ❧ Women
 - ❧ Children
- ❧ Fourth Geneva Convention and Additional Protocol I



Activities: Protection in war

Protection of detainees

- ✧ Visits of detainees
- ✧ Confidential approaches to the authorities to improve detention conditions
- ✧ Prevent disappearances, summary executions, torture and ill-treatment
- ✧ Restore family links



Activities: Protection in war

Restoring family links

Central Tracing Agency

- ✧ Restore contact between people separated by conflict
 - ✧ Red Cross messages
- ✧ Collect information on people sought by their relatives (detainees, displaced persons)
- ✧ Trace missing persons



Activities: Assistance for conflict victims



Activities: Assistance for conflict victims

- ❧ Economic security
- ❧ Economic support
- ❧ Survival relief
- ❧ Economic rehabilitation



Activities: Assistance for conflict victims

- ☞ Water and habitat
- ☞ Ensure access to clean drinking water and
- ☞ decent sanitation, waste disposal
- ☞ Proper housing
- ☞ Rehabilitation of infrastructures
- ☞ Camps for displaced persons



Activities: Assistance for conflict victims

- ❧ Health services
- ❧ Primary health care
- ❧ War surgery
- ❧ Health in prisons
- ❧ Physical rehabilitation



Activities: Prevention



Activities: Prevention

- ∞ Awareness-building
- ∞ Promotion and implementation of IHL
- ∞ Integration of IHL into official legal,
- ∞ educational and operational curricula



Activities: Prevention

☞ Armed forces, police and security forces

☞ promote the inclusion of IHL and human rights in

☞ military/police training and procedures

☞ Decision-makers and opinion-leaders

☞ humanitarian diplomacy

☞ Tomorrow's decision-makers and opinion-

☞ leaders

☞ schools and universities

☞ Civilian populations

☞ mine-awareness programmes



All contributions by type of donors in 2004

* Unaudited as of 31.12.04

80.03%

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sources

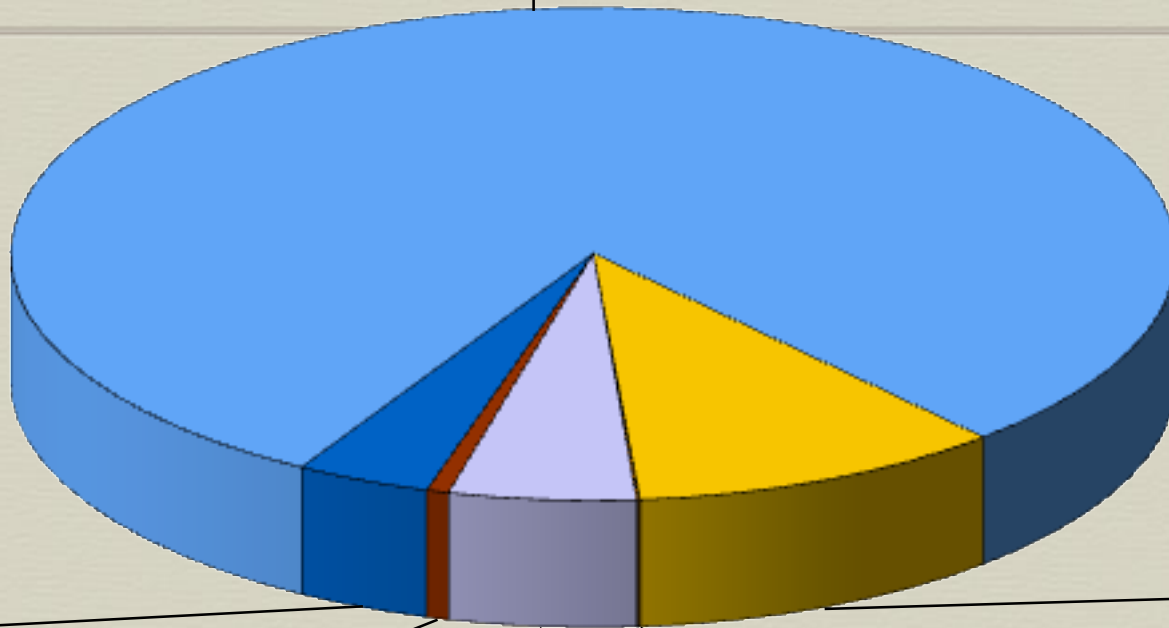
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**National
Societies**

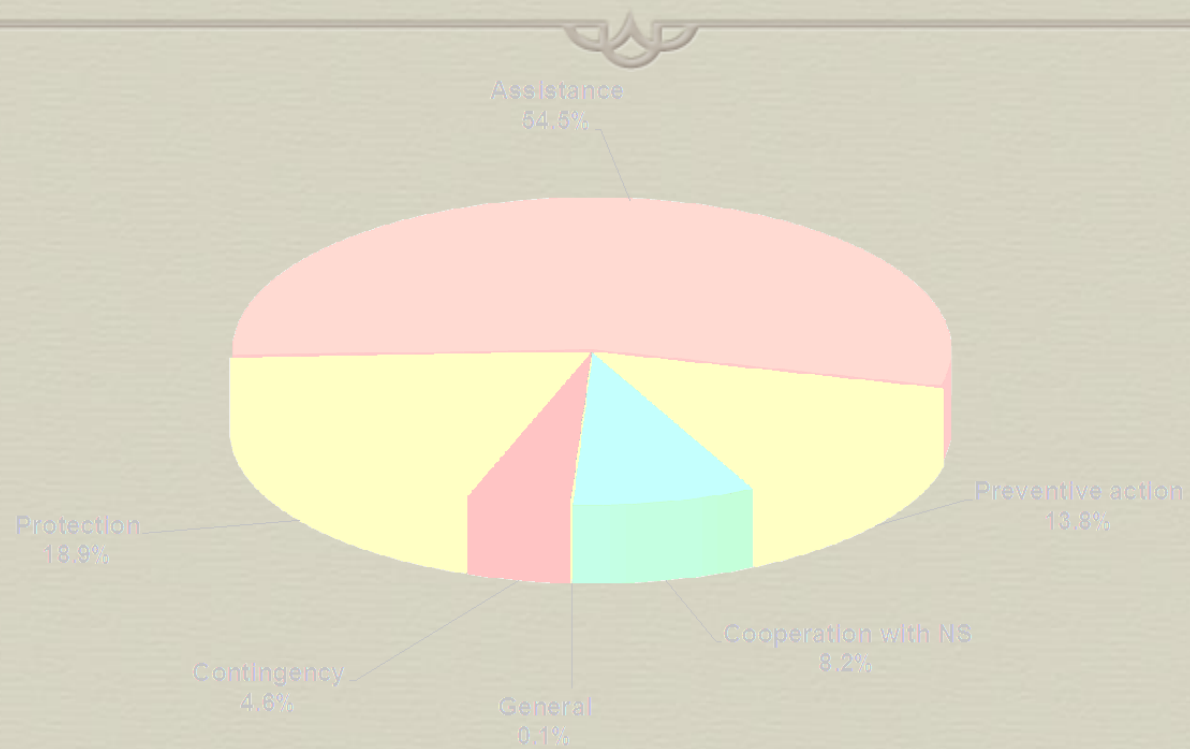
**Supranational
organizations**

**International
organizations
0.03%**

**Europe
commiss
10.37%**



ACTIVITIES PER PROGRAMME, 2015





WWW.ICRC.ORG

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