

# Jordan



The ICRC has been present in Jordan since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Its work there largely consists of visiting detainees to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention, providing tracing and RCM services to enable civilians and foreign detainees to restore family links, and promoting IHL throughout Jordanian society, in close cooperation with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society. The delegation also provides logistical support to ICRC relief operations in the region.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	2,573
Assistance	-
Prevention	1,085
Cooperation with National Societies	281
General	-

► **3,939**

of which: Overheads 240

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	102%
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## PERSONNEL

22 expatriates

119 national staff (daily workers not included)

## KEY POINTS

### In 2007, the ICRC:

- visited more than 8,500 detainees held by the Jordanian authorities to monitor their treatment and living conditions
- provided basic assistance to refugees stranded in a camp between Iraq and Jordan
- facilitated the transfer by ambulance of patients and the bodies of deceased Palestinians between Jordan and the West Bank
- enabled detainees, civilians and refugees in Jordan to restore or maintain links with family members in Jordan and abroad
- facilitated the resettlement of refugees, in collaboration with UNHCR and the embassies of destination countries
- cooperated with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in the fields of mine-risk education, IHL promotion and tracing

## CONTEXT

Jordan remained relatively calm throughout the year, although its security forces were kept on high alert and reportedly foiled a number of planned attacks against various targets in the country. Several people were arrested and put on trial for acts allegedly endangering State security.

Parliamentary elections held in November strengthened the position of tribal leaders and other pro-government candidates, while the opposition Islamic Action Front (IAF) lost a number of seats. This followed local elections in July – the first held in Jordan since 1999 – from which the IAF withdrew after accusing the government of vote-rigging, an allegation refuted by the authorities.

Faced with high levels of poverty and unemployment, King Abdullah continued to press for economic reform as an essential condition for sustained economic growth to deliver jobs and better living standards for a rapidly expanding population.

Jordan tightened entry and residency conditions for Iraqis seeking refuge inside its borders, but loosened certain restrictions on access to schools and medical services for the Iraqi population already present in the country. A study commissioned by the Jordanian authorities estimated the number of Iraqi refugees in the country at between 450,000 and 500,000. Towards the end of the year, a few Iraqis returned home, although it was uncertain whether they intended to stay there.

Some 200 refugees, essentially Iranian Kurds, stranded between the Jordanian and Iraqi borders since 2005, remained in need of assistance.

**MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS**

	Total		Total	Women	Children
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>			<b>CIVILIANS</b>		
Detainees visited	8,562	<i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>			
Detainees visited and monitored individually	467	Food	Beneficiaries	194	31%
	<i>of whom females</i>	Essential household items	Beneficiaries	194	31%
Number of visits carried out	58				
Number of places of detention visited	11				
<b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>					
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>					
RCMs collected	1,175				
RCMs distributed	1,460				
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>					
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	8				
Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)	3				
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2007 (people)	20				
<b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>					
People to whom travel documents were issued	641				
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	24				

**ICRC ACTION**

ICRC operations in Jordan focused on monitoring the treatment and living conditions of detainees, restoring family links disrupted by past and current conflicts in the region, and facilitating the transfer of medical cases between Jordan and the West Bank.

ICRC teams conducting detention visits were reinforced to enable better follow-up of issues such as respect for judicial guarantees. The ICRC acted as an important link between women imprisoned for so-called “honour crimes” and women’s organizations working to create safe environments for their transition back into society.

Growing numbers of people in Jordan were able to restore or maintain contact with family members and to exchange official documents with them through the ICRC’s tracing and family-links services. Refugees without valid identity papers were issued with ICRC travel documents to facilitate their resettlement in third countries.

Further steps were taken to promote the integration of IHL into national legislation, school and university curricula, and the theoretical and operational training of the armed and security forces.

Efforts were made to strengthen the capacity of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society to provide humanitarian services, with a focus on its tracing, first aid, mine-risk education and dissemination programmes.

The delegation in Jordan remained a key logistical and administrative hub for ICRC operations in Iraq, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories and Yemen. It also continued to be the base for training ICRC staff working in the Middle East, North Africa, the Balkans and the Caucasus.

**CIVILIANS**

**Restoring family links**

Demand rose for ICRC tracing and family-links services owing to the worsening violence in the Gaza Strip and the continuing conflict in Iraq. People in detention, both in Jordan and elsewhere, often had to rely on these services to get in touch with family members. Families in Jordan also used these services to try to re-establish contact with relatives reported missing or deprived of their freedom in Iraq.

Active tracing in Iraq remained extremely difficult in view of the prevailing insecurity. People in Jordan were nevertheless able to re-establish links with family members visited by ICRC delegates in their places of detention/internment in Iraq.

A group of 194 Iranian Kurds who had been blocked in a makeshift camp in a strip of no-man’s-land between Jordan and Iraq since they fled Iraq in 2005 were also able to restore contact with their families by means of the ICRC tracing and RCM services. They also benefited from emergency relief assistance. On three occasions, the ICRC organized medical evacuations from the camp.

At the request of UNHCR and/or the embassies concerned, recognized refugees received ICRC travel documents to facilitate their resettlement in third countries.

- ▶ 979 RCMs collected from and 1,390 RCMs distributed to civilians
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 8 people; 3 people located; 20 people still being sought
- ▶ 11 official documents relayed between family members
- ▶ 641 people issued with an ICRC travel document

**Logistics support and training**

The ICRC logistics base in Amman continued to provide key support to ICRC activities, particularly in Lebanon, Iraq and the Palestinian territories. Warehousing capacity was expanded from 4,000 to 4,900 square metres by year-end to accommodate the increased activities in Iraq.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC carried out regular visits to detention facilities run either by the General Intelligence Directorate or by the Public Security Directorate (correctional and rehabilitation centres) to monitor detainee treatment and living conditions. It maintained a confidential dialogue with the Jordanian authorities on its observations and recommendations made during the visits.

Respect for the judicial guarantees of detainees held in detention for lengthy periods without trial and the fate of women deprived of their freedom for their own protection remained priority concerns for the ICRC. The organization liaised throughout the year with the relevant authorities and with women's organizations working to find durable solutions outside of detention for the women concerned. These efforts led to the transfer of seven women from the main women's prison to safe custody for their rehabilitation and eventual reintegration into society. In December, following sustained representations by the ICRC, one long-term detainee held without trial was released from a correctional centre, and the detaining authorities agreed to review the cases of two other detainees facing similar circumstances.

As in past years, detainees were able to maintain contact with their families through the RCM service.

- ▶ 8,562 detainees visited, of whom 467 monitored individually (including 1 female) and 295 newly registered, during 58 visits to 11 places of detention
- ▶ 196 RCMs collected from and 70 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 24 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The transfer by ambulance of patients and the bodies of deceased Palestinians between Jordan and the West Bank continued to be facilitated by the ICRC, in cooperation with the Jordanian and Palestine Red Crescent Societies.

- ▶ 444 patients and 91 bodies of deceased Palestinians transferred between Jordan and the West Bank

## AUTHORITIES

A draft law on the Ottawa Convention was finalized and submitted to Jordan's Legislation and Opinion Bureau, while a draft law on the Rome Statute was under review at the Foreign Ministry. Another draft law amending the Jordan Red Crescent Law to incorporate provisions on the protection of the emblem was awaiting parliamentary approval.

The 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols were published in the March and April 2007 issues of the *National Gazette*.

Government officials and members of the national IHL committee and the military judiciary attended various regional meetings on IHL organized by the ICRC and the League of Arab States.

An agreement was signed with the Jordanian Judicial Institute to train judges in IHL, after which 25 judges, prosecutors and representatives of various government bodies attended seminars on IHL.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Following years of regular ICRC briefings on IHL, the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) took steps to introduce IHL in military teaching and training programmes on a systematic basis.

- ▶ hundreds of JAF officers, as well as Jordanian military judges and military personnel from other Arab States, attended seminars on IHL
- ▶ Jordanian military personnel attended various regional seminars on IHL
- ▶ 76 Public Security Directorate officers representing military battalions protecting prisons in Jordan attended IHL sessions at the Royal Police Academy

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### IHL teaching in universities

By year-end, 13 of Jordan's 15 faculties of law had integrated IHL into their curricula.

- ▶ lecturers and students from various Jordanian universities attended sessions on the challenges facing IHL, co-organized by the national IHL committee and the ICRC
- ▶ lecturers and students of sharia law faculties and representatives of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs attended a symposium on the protection of women, children and civilian property during armed conflict
- ▶ 12,000 students attended an ICRC photo exhibition featuring IHL and the Movement

### Exploring Humanitarian Law

The third phase of the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme ended successfully in the 73 schools where it was pilot-tested, and the Ministry of Education made plans to extend the programme to schools throughout the country.

A 12-minute video on the implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was produced in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

Jordanian education officials attended various regional seminars on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme.

### Media relations

National and international media gave regular coverage to ICRC activities in the region based on information provided to journalists through press releases and various events organized for them.

- ▶ foreign media representatives taken on field trips to highlight the plight of some 193 people stranded in a strip of no-man's-land between the Jordanian and Iraqi border posts after fleeing Iraq
- ▶ lawyers, media professionals and civil society representatives attended the Amman launch of the ICRC book *Crimes of War*
- ▶ various government departments and key civil society sectors, including the media, received 2 issues of the ICRC's Arabic-language quarterly *Al-Insani*

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Society continued to receive training, material and financial support to help strengthen its capacities in the fields of dissemination, first aid, tracing and mine-risk education.

- ▶ Jordanian and Palestine Red Crescent ambulance services transferred medical cases and human remains between Jordan and the West Bank, facilitated by the ICRC (see *Wounded and sick*)
- ▶ 2 ambulances donated to the Jordanian Red Crescent
- ▶ female-headed families in Karak assisted by the National Society, with ICRC support, to enable them to store clean water
- ▶ 20 volunteers trained in first aid in Aqaba