

# ANKARA



ICRC mission

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	102
Assistance	-
Prevention	678
Cooperation with National Societies	131
General	-

► **912**

of which: Overheads 56

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	85%
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## PERSONNEL

Expatriates	1
National staff (daily workers not included)	4

## KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- helped families in Turkey stay in touch with relatives detained/interned in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Iraq via RCMs and/or telephone calls
- submitted to the Turkish authorities a consolidated list of activities it would like to carry out in Turkey
- participated in IHL training for more than 200 military officers from 22 countries taking part in courses run by NATO's Ankara-based Partnership for Peace Training Center
- provided relevant authorities and civil society circles with various publications
- gave financial and editing support to academics at Galatasaray University to produce a Turkish translation of the ICRC's study on customary IHL
- continued to support the integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary school curricula by the Ministry of Education and the Turkish Red Crescent Society

In direct relation to the armed conflict in neighbouring Iraq, the ICRC opened a temporary mission in Ankara in 2003. ICRC activities in connection with the situation in Iraq focus mainly on protection issues. ICRC activities in Turkey include supporting the authorities in the promotion of IHL and assisting the armed forces in integrating IHL into their training programmes. The ICRC stands ready to work with the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

## CONTEXT

In 2010, Turkey continued to assert its position as an influential political player at regional level and worldwide and to play an important mediation role in defusing tensions in the region and beyond.

The country further strengthened its political, economic and military ties with the Syrian Arab Republic and worked towards the creation of a free trade zone with Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Turkish leaders contributed proactively to efforts to reconcile rival groups in Iraq.

High-level talks were also held with the Chinese and Russian governments in Ankara and in Beijing and Moscow respectively.

Armenia and Turkey had not yet ratified the protocols they signed in October 2009 to normalize their bilateral relations.

Turkey's relations with Israel remained strained following an Israeli commando attack on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla in May, in which several Turkish nationals were killed.

### MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

#### PROTECTION

##### CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)

Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*
RCMs collected	17	
RCMs distributed	5	
Phone calls facilitated between family members	12	

\* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC maintained its temporary presence in the Turkish capital to support operations in neighbouring conflict-affected Iraq.

Dialogue with the Turkish authorities centred mainly on operational matters related to the armed conflict in Iraq. ICRC activities in relation to the situation in Iraq included visiting Turkish nationals detained/interned there and enabling them to exchange news with their families in Turkey through RCMs.

The ICRC briefed the authorities on its mandate, activities and IHL, and in its dialogue with them explored possibilities for developing ICRC activities inside Turkey.

The Ministry of Education and the Turkish Red Crescent Society received technical support to facilitate the integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary school curricula.

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Turkish families were able to renew or maintain contact with relatives detained/interned in Iraq, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan – and visited by ICRC delegates – through the ICRC family-links service.

Such families received 5 RCMs from and sent 17 RCMs and 3 family parcels to detained/interned relatives. Four of them spoke from the ICRC's Ankara office to relatives interned in the Bagram Theater Internment Facility in Afghanistan (12 calls altogether); the calls

lasted for an hour and each detainee/internee was allowed to make one call a month to family (see *Afghanistan*). In October, the mother of a Turkish citizen detained in Dohuk, northern Iraq, paid a visit to her son under ICRC auspices. The mother was accompanied during the journey by an ICRC representative from the Ankara office.

### AUTHORITIES

At the beginning of the year, following dialogue with the Turkish authorities, the ICRC provided the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a list of the activities it wished to carry out in Turkey. The ICRC also indicated through which channels and institutions it planned to carry out the proposed activities.

Published in 2009 with ICRC support, the Galatasaray University Turkish-language version of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols was circulated among relevant ministries and military circles, parliamentarians and universities.

In early April, the head of the ICRC mission in Ankara spent five days in northern Iraq, where he visited Dohuk and Erbil. In Erbil, the new Turkish consul and the ICRC representative had a meeting where they reviewed humanitarian issues of mutual concern.

### ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

More than 200 military officers from some 20 countries, including members of the Turkish Armed Forces, received training in IHL

and related issues during six courses run by NATO's Partnership for Peace Training Center in Ankara. In March, the ICRC took part in a one-week field exercise in the framework of courses on the provisions of IHL applicable in armed conflict. Participants were informed about the ICRC, its roots, mandate, services and IHL and received various ICRC publications, including *Discover the ICRC* and *Emblems of Humanity*.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

A team of academics from Galatasaray University completed the translation of the ICRC study on customary IHL into Turkish for publication in early 2011, with ICRC support.

Fifty students at Gazi University's communications faculty in Ankara learnt about the ICRC, its mandate, its activities and basic IHL during an ICRC presentation. Galatasaray University, Istanbul Kultur University, Istanbul Koç University and the Marmara University law faculty each received a full set of reference materials in support of their IHL teaching.

A four-member team (one lecturer and three students) from Marmara University law faculty took part in a regional moot court competition organized by the ICRC in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (see *Western Balkans*).

Representatives of several national and international NGOs attending a three-day conference on the role of humanitarian organizations in international politics, organized by the governor of the southern city of Şanlıurfa, were familiarized with the ICRC and its mandate and activities, which contributed to better mutual understanding. In June, a senior ICRC delegate also met members of various think-tanks and other foreign policy experts to gain a better understanding of Turkish views on matters of concern to the ICRC.

With ICRC support, the Ministry of Education and the Turkish Red Crescent pursued their commitment to integrate the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary school curricula, although the testing and integration of the programme were delayed. The ministry's new coordinator visited the Austrian Ministry of Education and National Society, at the ICRC's invitation, to learn about how the programme had been integrated in Austria.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Turkish Red Crescent finalized and began to implement its five-year strategic plan focusing on disaster preparedness and response.