

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Protection | 14,678 |
| Assistance | 25,065 |
| Prevention | 3,774 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 5,547 |
| General | - |

▶ **49,065**

of which: Overheads 2,995

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 93% |
|---------------------------|------------|

PERSONNEL

| | |
|--|------------|
| Expatriates | 71 |
| National staff (daily workers not included) | 303 |

KEY POINTS

In 2012, the ICRC:

- ▶ during “Operation Pillar of Defense”, ensured timely and adequate care of the wounded through increased support, including its services as a neutral intermediary, to emergency medical services
- ▶ persisted in urging Israel to address the humanitarian consequences of occupation policies that contravened IHL and in impressing upon the Palestinian authorities and armed groups the obligation to respect all civilians
- ▶ shared its findings and recommendations with the detaining authorities regarding detainees’ treatment and living conditions based on visits to 20,649 Palestinian detainees held by Israel and 3,347 held by the Palestinian authorities
- ▶ through the family visits programme, facilitated 110,695 family visits to 5,601 detainees from the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights under Israeli custody
- ▶ in partnership with the Palestine Red Crescent Society, provided emergency household materials to over 4,500 people affected by bombardments/house destruction in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank
- ▶ improved sanitation services for 378,350 Gaza Strip residents through the completion of sustainable water/sanitation infrastructure projects carried out in cooperation with water boards

The ICRC has been present in Israel and the occupied territories since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It strives to ensure respect for IHL, in particular its provisions relative to the protection of civilians living under occupation. It monitors the treatment and living conditions of detainees held by the Israeli and Palestinian authorities and provides assistance to the Palestinian population. As the lead agency for the Movement in this context, the ICRC coordinates the work of its Movement partners and supports the activities of the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

CONTEXT

International efforts did not succeed in reviving the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Hamas, which controlled the Gaza Strip, and Fatah, the elected Palestinian Authority, remained divided, but developments at year-end reportedly gave new impetus to rapprochement between the two parties.

November saw the largest escalation of confrontations between Israel and the Gaza Strip since 2008, with the launch of “Operation Pillar of Defense” by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The week-long fighting left scores of dead and wounded, mainly Palestinians, before an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire decreased the tension.

At end-November, Palestine obtained recognition by the UN General Assembly as a non-member State.

Life remained difficult for the population in the occupied Palestinian territory. West Bank inhabitants continued to endure various restrictions, settler violence and settlement expansion. Inadequate basic services, partly due to the Palestinian Authority’s economic difficulties, led to widespread protests. In the Gaza Strip, an energy crisis early in the year caused prolonged outages that hindered medical and transport services.

The ongoing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) created some tension in the Golan Heights. Family visits between Golan residents and their relatives in Syria proper remained suspended.

Media reports focused on 1,500 Palestinian detainees under Israeli custody who staged a month-long mass hunger strike to demand visiting rights and the abolition of long-term isolation. It ended with an agreement that largely met the detainees’ demands. The family visits programme for detainees from the Gaza Strip resumed in July.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC, together with other Movement partners, worked to alleviate the humanitarian situation in the occupied territories. While keeping up dialogue with the relevant authorities to promote the protection of civilians, it pursued assistance programmes designed to address the population’s needs in terms of economic security, health and water/habitat, in particular during emergencies.

| Main figures and indicators | PROTECTION | Total | | |
|---|---|--------|-----------|--------|
| CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.) | | | | |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) | | | UAMs/SCs* | |
| RCMs collected | | 2,783 | | |
| RCMs distributed | | 3,779 | | |
| Reunifications, transfers and repatriations | | | | |
| People reunited with their families | | 14 | | |
| | <i>including people registered by another delegation</i> | 6 | | |
| People transferred/repatriated | | 73 | | |
| Human remains transferred/repatriated | | 6 | | |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons | | | Women | Minors |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered | | 109 | 6 | 4 |
| People located (tracing cases closed positively) | | 106 | | |
| | <i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i> | 3 | | |
| Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people) | | 20 | 2 | |
| Documents | | | | |
| People to whom travel documents were issued | | 4 | | |
| Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines | | 985 | | |
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) | | | | |
| ICRC visits | | | Women | Minors |
| Detainees visited ¹ | | 23,996 | | |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually | | 5,238 | 30 | 416 |
| Detainees newly registered | | 2,578 | 20 | 390 |
| Number of visits carried out | | 737 | | |
| Number of places of detention visited | | 106 | | |
| Restoring family links | | | | |
| RCMs collected | | 4,092 | | |
| RCMs distributed | | 3,004 | | |
| Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative | | 10,843 | | |
| Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support | | 5,601 | | |
| Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC | | 1 | | |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued | | 8,899 | | |

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. All detainees known through the authorities' notifications and followed up by the ICRC

During “Operation Pillar of Defense”, the ICRC increased its support to emergency medical services (EMS) and health facilities in the Gaza Strip, acting, when necessary, as a neutral intermediary to ensure that they had the capacities to manage the entire casualty care chain. As a result, people wounded in the fighting received emergency treatment and, where necessary, evacuation from the EMS of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and Gaza’s *de facto* Health Ministry. The severely injured were treated in hospitals provided with medical supplies and fuel imported into the Gaza Strip through the ICRC’s coordination with the Israeli authorities amid the restrictions in place. In southern Israel, the ICRC provided the Magen David Adom with some support in assisting people affected by rocket attacks.

As in previous years, the ICRC worked with the Israeli and Palestinian authorities and weapon bearers to promote respect for civilians. It pursued efforts to persuade them to address the humanitarian effects of non-compliance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, submitting oral/written representations on the impact of Israeli policies and military activity as necessary. In the West Bank/Gaza Strip, dialogue with the Palestinian authorities and armed groups emphasized the need to respect both Israeli and Palestinian civilians and their property and to ensure the safety of medical personnel.

While maintaining its readiness to provide short-term/emergency responses to needs as they arose, the ICRC undertook longer-term/sustainable projects to help people in the occupied Palestinian territory enhance their quality of life. Although it substituted for the authorities in some cases to help people meet their basic/emergency

needs, the ICRC adopted a livelihood-centred approach to boost self-sufficiency, complemented by representations to the authorities regarding people’s access to farming/fishing areas. To enhance public health/sanitation, the ICRC cooperated with water and health authorities in implementing projects aimed at alleviating the adverse water and sanitation situation of Palestinians. It furthermore provided support to EMS and key hospitals, particularly in the Gaza Strip, to boost their preparedness and capacities and to ensure uninterrupted delivery of medical services.

The ICRC pursued its partnerships with the Palestinian Red Crescent and the Magen David Adom and coordinated with other Movement partners. ICRC financial, technical, material and training support to both National Societies helped ensure their preparedness and ability to respond to a wide array of humanitarian needs, in particular during disasters/emergencies.

The ICRC continued to work with the detaining authorities to help ensure that people held by Israel and by the Palestinian authorities in the West Bank/Gaza Strip were treated in accordance with internationally recognized standards. It provided support to the Palestinian detaining authorities in improving detainees’ material conditions, including their access to health care. Its family-links services facilitated family visits and the exchange of messages/documents between detainees and their relatives.

Movement family-links services remained available for family members separated by past and present conflicts in the region. The ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary to assist Golan residents in maintaining contact with relatives in Syria proper.

| Main figures and indicators | ASSISTANCE | Total | Women | Children |
|---|---|---------|-------|----------|
| CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.) | | | | |
| Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme) | | | | |
| Food commodities | Beneficiaries | 1,405 | 39% | 42% |
| Essential household items | Beneficiaries | 4,838 | 35% | 36% |
| Productive inputs | Beneficiaries | 10,309 | 16% | 23% |
| | <i>of whom IDPs</i> | 280 | | |
| Cash | Beneficiaries | 21,742 | 25% | 3% |
| Water and habitat activities | Beneficiaries | 391,350 | 26% | 47% |
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) | | | | |
| Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme) | | | | |
| Food commodities | Beneficiaries | 2,362 | | |
| Essential household items | Beneficiaries | 14,966 | | |
| Water and habitat activities | Beneficiaries | 180 | | |
| WOUNDED AND SICK | | | | |
| Hospitals | | | | |
| Hospitals supported | Structures | 8 | | |
| | <i>of which provided data</i> | 8 | | |
| Admissions | Patients | 199,171 | | |
| | <i>of whom weapon-wounded</i> | 2,482 | | |
| | <i>of whom other surgical cases</i> | 45,231 | | |
| | <i>of whom medical cases</i> | 64,722 | | |
| | <i>of whom gynaecological/obstetric cases</i> | 86,736 | | |
| Operations performed | | 37,019 | | |
| Outpatient consultations | Patients | 511,187 | | |
| | <i>of which surgical</i> | 204,841 | | |
| | <i>of which medical</i> | 224,161 | | |
| | <i>of which gynaecological/obstetric</i> | 82,185 | | |
| Water and habitat | | | | |
| Water and habitat activities | Number of beds | 2,052 | | |
| Physical rehabilitation | | | | |
| Centres supported | Structures | 1 | | |
| Patients receiving services | Patients | 2,890 | 322 | 1,590 |
| New patients fitted with prostheses | Patients | 62 | 10 | 4 |
| Prostheses delivered | Units | 106 | 15 | 9 |
| New patients fitted with orthoses | Patients | 326 | 6 | 309 |
| Orthoses delivered | Units | 367 | 15 | 327 |
| Number of patients receiving physiotherapy | Patients | 587 | 151 | 11 |
| Crutches delivered | Units | 163 | | |
| Wheelchairs delivered | Units | 27 | | |

The ICRC continued to promote IHL and humanitarian principles among the authorities, weapon bearers and civil society, with the aim of gaining support for Movement activities in the occupied territories and in the wider region.

CIVILIANS

Efforts to ensure respect for civilians continue

ICRC representations, based on documented allegations, aimed to persuade the Israeli authorities, the Palestinian Authority and the *de facto* Hamas authorities in the Gaza Strip to address the adverse situation of civilians in the occupied territories and Israel. All parties were urged to respect civilians, civilian infrastructure and medical services, in particular during “Operation Pillar of Defense”.

The Israeli authorities were reminded of the humanitarian issues arising from their non-compliance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions. IDF/ICRC discussions focused on the IDF’s conduct of hostilities and on the use of force against demonstrators. Based on direct ICRC observations and first-hand testimonies, several hundred oral/written representations regarding IHL violations urged the Israeli authorities, *inter alia*, to:

- ▶ protect Palestinians and their property from settler violence and prosecute those responsible

- ▶ refrain from the disproportionate use of force in law enforcement, search and arrest operations in the West Bank and in and around the Gaza Strip, and apply the basic rules of IHL in the conduct of hostilities
- ▶ end all destruction of civilian property and establish planning/zoning mechanisms taking into consideration the needs of the Palestinian population
- ▶ find viable solutions for ensuring access to agricultural land/fishing areas and essential services for communities affected by the routing of the West Bank barrier/buffer zones around settlements
- ▶ ensure that the living situation in the Israeli-occupied Golan was in line with relevant international law

In the occupied Palestinian territory, dialogue with the Palestinian Authority, the *de facto* Hamas authorities and armed groups focused on alleged abuses, respect for humanitarian norms and ending attacks against all civilians.

Direct victims of the occupation obtain emergency relief and improve their health and economic security

In the Gaza Strip, following “Operation Pillar of Defense” and earlier bombardments, 4,616 people (564 households) whose houses had been destroyed/significantly damaged coped better after receiving

essential household items to cover short-term needs; most of them also received tarpaulins for emergency/provisional house repairs.

In the West Bank, 222 people (33 families) received essential household items within 48 hours of the destruction of their houses by Israeli forces. In the Jordan Valley, some 1,400 particularly vulnerable Bedouins (249 families) received one-off food rations. All distributions were carried out jointly with the Palestinian Red Crescent, whose staff/volunteers received related training in emergency relief/logistics.

The ICRC encouraged people to resume/protect their livelihoods to boost their self-sufficiency. In border areas of the Gaza Strip, 1,088 farming households (7,076 people) improved their food production following training in pest control/prevention and the receipt of seed/fertilizer and planting implements; 3,331 households (21,742 people) earned an income from developing/renovating community infrastructure.

In areas worst affected by movement restrictions/the routing of the West Bank barrier, 475 families (3,033 people) gained better access to their land following ICRC representations to the Israeli authorities and further improved their agricultural production/living conditions using ICRC inputs. In Hebron's most severely restricted areas, the shift in the ICRC's assistance approach culminated with the cessation, after 10 years, of regular distributions of food rations/hygiene kits and the expansion of sustainable alternatives. For example, 31 families (226 people) launched small businesses through cash grants; 28 heads of household earned income for their families through cash-for-work projects, while another 38 had better income-generating opportunities following vocational training.

The health/sanitation environment improved for some 378,350 Gaza Strip residents following the completion of several projects coordinated with the local authorities, including: repair of Gaza City storm-water pumping stations; drilling of monitoring/recovery wells for wastewater treatment in Rafah; the upgrade of the Beit Hanoun sewage network; construction of a storm-water collection system in Manara and cleaning of another in a city park; and a pilot solid-waste management project in Wadi Gaza. To fix water/sewage infrastructure damaged in November, the water board undertook emergency repairs, with ICRC funding for pipes/fittings.

In the West Bank, some 13,000 people accessed water after a four-year water supply project in Anapta was finished. Follow-up with the authorities continued following the assessment of all West Bank wells to ensure their sustainability.

People overcome movement restrictions

People in the occupied territories and Israel, including Lebanese nationals and African/irregular migrants, used ICRC services to: exchange news with family via RCMs; reunite with relatives; transfer documents; and travel for humanitarian reasons between the Israeli-occupied Golan and Syria proper, between Israel and Lebanon and between locations in the Palestinian territory.

Dialogue regarding the continuing Israeli ban on family visits between Golan residents and their relatives in Syria proper was limited. Nevertheless, 42 students, 2 families celebrating a wedding and 10 other humanitarian cases crossed the demarcation line through ICRC coordination with the authorities. Under ICRC auspices, 14 Lebanese civilians and the remains of 6 others were repatriated.

The ICRC continued to remind Israel of its obligations under IHL to respect the right of families to receive the remains of their relatives. No progress was made in clarifying the fate of Israelis missing in action or of Jordanians missing in Israel since the 1980s; nevertheless, at mid-year, the Israeli authorities transferred the remains of 91 Palestinians to Ramallah (West Bank). Israeli and Palestinian negotiations on this issue continued.

Unlike in the previous years, Golanese apples were not transported to Syrian markets in 2012 owing to the absence of Israeli authorization. They were instead diverted to alternative markets.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Palestinian detainees under Israeli custody (20,649 detainees) in prisons, interrogation centres, provisional detention centres and police stations and those held by the Palestinian authorities in the West Bank/Gaza Strip (3,347 detainees) received regular visits, conducted according to standard ICRC procedures. Detaining authorities received confidential feedback on detainees' treatment and living conditions, including access to health care, at all stages of their detention. As part of regular monitoring of detainees' access to health care and the quality of medical treatment provided to them in prison/hospital, detainees in Israeli and Palestinian prisons who participated in hunger strikes benefited from regular ICRC visits and advice to the medical/detaining authorities on their related responsibilities.

Detainees exchanged news/documents with their families using ICRC family-links services. Foreigners/migrants received help on tracing issues; some received ICRC travel documents to facilitate their resettlement abroad. Particularly vulnerable detainees, including minors and migrants, benefited from various forms of assistance such as hygiene/medical supplies, and educational/recreational materials to break the monotony of their incarceration. Over 2,300 West Bank detainees received sweets during Eid al-Fitr.

People held by Israel

Detainees with specific needs, under interrogation, in prolonged solitary confinement, from the Gaza Strip or vulnerable because they were minors or at risk of *refoulement* received particular attention during visits.

Through the ICRC's family visits programme, and following the resumption of family visits for Gaza Strip detainees in July, around 5,600 detainees from the Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and West Bank received 110,695 visits from their relatives, including 54 sick/elderly people transported by ambulance. Some follow-up with the authorities was required to address delays in processing permits and issues concerning the treatment of visiting relatives at border terminals.

The ICRC started dialogue with the Israeli and Jordanian authorities on the resumption of family visits for detainees with relatives in Jordan.

People held in the Palestinian territory

Visits to detainees held by the Palestinian Authority and the *de facto* Gaza Strip authorities in prisons/interrogation centres focused, in particular, on their treatment, access to health/medical care and basic judicial guarantees. Detaining authorities received written reports, particularly on the treatment/living conditions of people held by the security forces. Members of the latter, together with interrogators, participated in ICRC workshops on internationally recognized standards relating to law enforcement, arrest and interrogation.

Gaza Strip detaining authorities, drawing on ICRC expertise to improve detainees' living conditions, received expert advice on standards in prison construction and other recommendations on structural rehabilitation/maintenance, following a technical assessment of all detention facilities. In Khan Yunis prison, 180 detainees enjoyed improved food hygiene after a kitchen was rehabilitated and gas stoves installed; a similar project progressed in Katiba. In the West Bank, destitute detainees received clothes and eyeglasses/dentures.

WOUNDED AND SICK

All year round, particularly during emergencies in the Gaza Strip, wounded and sick people relied on EMS and hospitals receiving ICRC support aimed at boosting their preparedness/capacities to manage the casualty care chain.

During "Operation Pillar of Defense", Palestinian Red Crescent EMS and other first-responders administered first aid and evacuated the severely wounded to Gaza Strip hospitals, which treated patients using ICRC emergency supplies provided through Gaza's *de facto* Health Ministry. Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC facilitated the entry into the Gaza Strip of eight truckloads of medicines/disposables from the Ramallah Health Ministry, in addition to over 300,000 litres of fuel for Gaza's power plant, which helped ensure uninterrupted hospital services. With Gaza's *de facto* Health Ministry, which also received wheelchairs/walkers, generator filters and tarpaulins, the ICRC monitored people's access to health/medical care and reminded the relevant authorities and weapon bearers of their obligations under IHL to prevent obstructions to medical services. Crowd control problems at Al-Shifa Hospital persisted, hindering patient services, while EMS management capacities needed further improvement.

Continued ICRC support facilitated relations and medical deliveries between the Gaza and Ramallah Interior Ministries. Crossing/transport permits obtained from the Israeli authorities enabled the Palestinian Red Crescent EMS to respond to over 89,000 call-outs in East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Gaza's *de facto* health authorities received support for EMS fleet maintenance, technical advice on improving coordination with other EMS, and training, uniforms and equipment for first-aiders.

In the Gaza Strip, nearly 200,000 patients received treatment from eight key hospitals implementing an ICRC-proposed triage/patient flow system and equipped with 366 tonnes of various materials, including 353 tonnes of medical materials and 12.5 tonnes of spare parts for power generators and medical equipment.

In all, 13 hospitals (total capacity: 2,052 beds) received spare parts and two emergency fuel deliveries that helped ensure continuous functioning of essential equipment. Patients obtained better care in a safer environment thanks to ICRC-supported projects implemented in five hospitals: renovation of emergency departments (Al-Najjar, Beit Hanoun); installation of laundry machines (Tal Sultan) and solar-powered water heating (Al-Najjar); and emergency repair of the reverse osmosis room (Al-Shifa) and generator room (European Gaza). To improve staff skills, 107 nurses, 22 doctors and 86 administrative/security staff trained in emergency response.

Gaza's Artificial Limb and Polio Centre (ALPC) provided physical rehabilitation services to 2,890 patients, including 1,082 amputees, and delivered 106 prostheses, including to 62 new patients. It upgraded prosthesis quality using ICRC manufacturing techniques and orthopaedic materials/components, and enhanced physiotherapy services in three hospitals (Al-Shifa, European Gaza, Nasser), while continuing with physiotherapy training in three others (Al Aqsa, Al-Najjar, Kamel Edwan). ALPC expertise increased with the return of two trainees from India, bringing the total number of ICRC-supported skilled staff to five.

In Israel, the Magen David Adom supported southern hospitals and blood services; its EMS received ICRC support, enabling volunteers to provide relief and counselling to Israelis affected by rocket attacks.

AUTHORITIES

Interaction with the Israeli and Palestinian authorities, including the *de facto* Gaza Strip authorities, concentrated on operational and IHL-related concerns, including alleged abuses during "Operation Pillar of Defense". Discussions focused on the humanitarian effects of Israel's policies in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and on the conduct of military and law enforcement operations (see *Civilians*).

| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM | ISRAEL | PALESTINIAN TERRITORY |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ICRC visits | | |
| Detainees visited ¹ | 20,649 | 3,347 |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually | 3,710 | 1,528 |
| | <i>of whom women</i> | 11 |
| | <i>of whom minors</i> | 37 |
| Detainees newly registered | 1,535 | 1,043 |
| | <i>of whom women</i> | 3 |
| | <i>of whom minors</i> | 35 |
| Number of visits carried out | 445 | 292 |
| Number of places of detention visited | 39 | 67 |
| Restoring family links | | |
| RCMs collected | 3,761 | 331 |
| RCMs distributed | 2,804 | 200 |
| Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative | 10,629 | 214 |
| Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support | 5,601 | |
| Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC | 1 | |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued | 8,169 | 730 |

1. All detainees known through the authorities' notifications and followed up by the ICRC

Palestinian Legislative Council members and judges attended briefings on the ICRC's efforts to encourage implementation of and respect for IHL.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

All weapon bearers were reminded to respect their IHL obligations (see *Civilians*) and encouraged to ensure the ICRC's safe access to victims.

Despite improvements in the quality of dialogue with the IDF, continued follow-up of the ICRC's report on the IDF's conduct of hostilities during "Operation Cast Lead" had so far failed to yield concrete outcomes. Discussions with IDF field/legal officers and its training unit focused on training support and coordination, including through its civil affairs officer. During briefings, around 700 military/police/prison personnel, border guards and crossing-point administrators learnt more about IHL, norms applicable to their duties, and the Movement.

Dialogue with the Palestinian security services and the Gaza/Ramallah Interior Ministries, as well as briefings attended by around 2,000 officers/security personnel, focused on internationally recognized standards applicable to law enforcement and the treatment of detainees. An agreement was signed with Gaza's *de facto* Interior Ministry to facilitate activities aimed at enhancing the security forces' understanding of, respect for and compliance with international human rights law and other internationally recognized standards.

Dialogue with Gaza Strip armed factions remained limited.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The promotion of humanitarian principles remained essential amid reports of growing frustration among Palestinians over the stalled peace process and socio-economic hardship. Media representatives reported on the humanitarian effects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict using ICRC information/materials; 50 Palestinian journalists attended a briefing regarding assistance to detainees in Israeli prisons.

Civil society actors learnt about IHL rules related to their work during events aimed at strengthening support for humanitarian principles/action. In Israel, public and private lawyers participated in an intensive 50-hour IHL course, and NGO representatives attended ICRC presentations. In the Palestinian territory, over 200 Islamic leaders learnt about IHL and its similarities with sharia law during round-tables/meetings.

Interaction with academics, including during co-organized IHL conferences/competitions, and lectures for over 1,000 Israeli and Palestinian university students continued to raise IHL awareness and promote support for the Movement among academic circles. Eight Palestinian law/sharia faculties taught IHL; discussions encouraging other universities to follow suit progressed.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

With ICRC financial, technical, material and training support, the Palestinian Red Crescent and the Magen David Adom continued to strengthen their operational capacities, while responding to needs arising from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including during "Operation Pillar of Defense".

The Palestinian Red Crescent boosted its dissemination and disaster management capacities through staff/volunteer training in contingency planning, while further integrating the Safer Access approach into its operations. This enabled the National Society to carry out its activities effectively, in particular during the escalation of military operations (see *Civilians* and *Wounded and sick*).

The Magen David Adom strengthened its disaster preparedness/management during a week-long simulated exercise on disaster relief organized with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society and in which the ICRC participated. It also took part in an earthquake response exercise, with support from other Movement partners, and worked on enhancing family-links services for refugees/migrants and promoting knowledge of these services, following a British Red Cross/ICRC review. Staff skills improved through ICRC financial support to first-responder training and EMS in sensitive/remote areas of Israel.

Both National Societies worked on raising awareness of humanitarian principles and support for the Health Care in Danger project among internal/external audiences. The ICRC continued to facilitate Movement coordination and the monitoring of the 2005 cooperation agreement between the two National Societies.