

**THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS**

**EMERGENCY
TRAVEL
DOCUMENT**



ICRC

FOREWORD

In the course of my work as president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) I have met many people around the world who have been forced to flee armed conflict or other desperate situations, seeking safety, protection or better lives elsewhere.


They face many difficulties, and those who do not have officially recognized documents can quite literally become stranded: unable to return home, move on or build a new life where they are. They are in an extraordinarily vulnerable situation and I believe that we all have a duty to look after their well-being.

In such cases, when no other solutions or alternatives are available, the ICRC can issue a one-way emergency travel document. The ICRC did so for first time in 1945, at the end of the Second World War. Since then, around 600,000 refugees, displaced people and stateless people have used these documents to reach safety.

But the ICRC cannot do this on its own. We rely on the collaboration, understanding and assistance of States and their acceptance of the ICRC emergency travel document and the associated exit, transit and/or entry visas.

We remain committed to offering this humanitarian service. For that reason, we recently created a revised version of the document in close cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). It has more sophisticated security features and complies with ICAO guidance on emergency travel documents, to facilitate the work of border control authorities.

The new version will be issued starting on 1 January 2019. I am asking government authorities for their continued support and acceptance of the ICRC emergency travel document so that, in the future, vulnerable people without passports or papers will still be able to reach a safe harbour.



Peter Maurer
Peter Maurer
President

2018 version

For more information, please contact:
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WHAT IS THE ICRC EMERGENCY TRAVEL DOCUMENT?

The ICRC issues its emergency travel document for humanitarian purposes to people who do not possess a passport or other recognized travel document and find themselves unable to return to their country of origin or residence, or to proceed to a country offering temporary or permanent refuge or asylum.

These people could be asylum seekers, refugees, migrants in particularly vulnerable situations, displaced people or stateless people.

However, the ICRC issues these documents only as a last resort, when authorities are not in a position to provide a document. The holder must have the necessary visas and meet the travel requirements. It is valid only for a one-way journey.

LEGAL BASIS

The legal basis for the ICRC emergency travel document is the ICRC's recognized universal right of humanitarian initiative, as set out in:

- Articles 9/9/9/10 common to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949
- Article 81(1) of Additional Protocol I of 8 June 1977
- Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions
- Article 5(3) of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, adopted by the States party to the Geneva Conventions.

When, as frequently happens, the emergency travel document is used to reunite families, the legal basis is also set out in:

- Article 26 of the Fourth Geneva Convention
- Article 74 of Additional Protocol I.

These articles stipulate that the parties to a conflict and the high contracting parties to the Geneva Conventions must facilitate the reunification of families dispersed as a result of armed conflicts, and encourage the work of humanitarian organizations engaged in this task.

HISTORY

In 1945 many prisoners of war and internees – released without identity papers and lacking an alternative – turned to the ICRC for help. They sought a document they could use to help them approach the authorities for repatriation. It was then that the ICRC emergency travel document was devised.

Since 1945 around 600,000 refugees, displaced people and stateless people carrying ICRC emergency travel documents have been able to reach their intended country, thanks to the collaboration, understanding and assistance of the government authorities concerned.

The image shows two versions of the ICRC emergency travel document. The top version is the 2015 version, and the bottom version is the 2019 version. Both documents are in French and English, with the ICRC logo and name prominently displayed. The 2015 version includes fields for 'Validité du document', 'Nom et signature du représentant du CICR', 'Cachet du CICR', 'Photographie', and 'Empreintes digitales'. The 2019 version includes fields for 'No.', 'Lieu d'émission', 'Date de délivrance', 'Nationalité', 'Profession', 'Adresse actuelle', 'Prénoms', 'Sexe', 'Date de naissance', 'Lieu de naissance', 'Nom et prénom(s) du père', 'Nom et prénom(s) de la mère', 'Désignation', 'SIGNALEMENT / DESCRIPTION / SESAS PERSONALES', 'Year / Year / Date', 'Signes particuliers', and 'Signature du titulaire'. The 2019 version also includes a 'No.' field with the value '471518'.

2015 version of the ICRC emergency travel document, issued until 31 December 2018

Starting on 1 January 2019 a modernized version of the emergency travel document will replace the 2015 version. It serves the same purpose but has been updated to comply with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)¹ guidance on emergency travel documents issued in May 2016.

The new format – a single A4 sheet – contains added features to improve the document's overall security and readability. See the sample on pages 6 and 7.

¹ ICAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations. One of its responsibilities, in addition to harmonizing civil aviation regulations, is developing specifications for travel documents.

THE ICRC EMERGENCY TRAVEL DOCUMENT IS

- limited to a single journey to the holder's country of origin or habitual residence, or to a receiving country
- valid for three months, to allow time to make the arrangements and undertake the journey
- prepared on the basis of the applicant's own statements and any other statements or evidence produced to establish their identity, e.g. a driving licence or a number attributed to them by government authorities, immigration services or the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- issued by ICRC delegates only, free of charge.

People may apply directly to the ICRC, or via a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society or an international organization that attends to the needs of refugees, such as the UNHCR.

The photograph, signature and fingerprints on the emergency travel document enable visa authorities to verify that the applicant and the bearer are one and the same. The emergency travel document also contains information about the holder's travel itinerary, a section for visas and a variety of security features.

THE ICRC EMERGENCY TRAVEL DOCUMENT IS NOT

- a passport or an identity card
- a means to establish or alter the status or nationality of its holder
- valid for a return journey.

ICRC emergency travel documents are also distinct from the travel documents issued by States that are signatories of the conventions on the status of refugees or stateless people.

Holders of ICRC emergency travel documents may nevertheless use them to justify their presence in the country they happen to be in until the date of their departure, in transit countries during the journey, and in the destination country, from the time of their arrival until the visa on the emergency travel document expires. To be used in this way, the ICRC emergency travel document must contain the necessary visas or seals.



SECTIONS AND SECURITY FEATURES

A UNIQUE SERIAL NUMBER

- preprinted in letterpress
- six digit and tactile on front and back
- black/fluorescent green under UV 365 nm

The serial number appears four times: in the sections for personal and document data, biometrics, visa 1, and issuance and endorsement

B MICROTTEXT

The text is the seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality (in English, French and Spanish).

PERSONAL AND DOCUMENT DATA

This section is for the holder's personal data, including their photo, which is printed directly on the document. It also contains information about the document (i.e. validity and date and place of issue). It follows ICAO's international standards and recommended practices (doc. 9303, part 4, p. 6).

JOURNEY

This section provides information about the travel itinerary, to facilitate the work of border control authorities. If the travel details are confirmed late in the process, this section may be completed by hand in all capital letters with a blue rollerball pen.

BIOMETRICS (EXCEPT PHOTO)

The holder signs the document in blue rollerball pen and affixes his/her fingerprints (the forefingers) in red ink to the designated areas on the physical document.

ISSUANCE AND ENDORSEMENT

The ICRC emergency travel document can only be endorsed by an ICRC delegate. Both the ICRC delegate's name and signature are written in blue rollerball pen. An ICRC embossed stamp is pressed into the corresponding area.

EMERGENCY TRAVEL DOCUMENT
N° 500001

EMERGENCY TRAVEL DOCUMENT
TITRE DE VOYAGE D'URGENCE / DOCUMENTO DE VIAJE DE EMERGENCIA
FOR A SINGLE JOURNEY ONLY
VALABLE POUR UN SEUL VOYAGE / PARA UN SOLO VIAJE UNICAMENTE

PERSONAL AND DOCUMENT DATA

SURNAME Dunant
Nom de famille / Apellidos

GIVEN NAME(S) Henry
Prénom(s) / Nombre(s)

DATE OF BIRTH 08.05.1949
Date de naissance / Fecha de nacimiento

PLACE OF BIRTH Switzerland, Geneva
Lieu de naissance / Lugar de nacimiento

SEX Male
Sexe / Sexo

NATIONALITY Switzerland
Nationalité / Nacionalidad

VALIDITY OF THE PRESENT DOCUMENT 14.11.2018 **DATE**
Validité du document / Validez del documento Date / Fecha

PLACE OF ISSUE Italy, Solferino
Lieu d'émission / Lugar de emisión

DATE OF ISSUE 14.08.2018
Date de délivrance / Fecha de emisión

JOURNEY

ISSUED FOR A SINGLE JOURNEY TO
Émis pour un seul voyage à destination de
Emitted for a solo voyage to

Switzerland **COUNTRY**
Pays / País

Via France **COUNTRY**
Pays / País

MODE OF TRANSPORT By Air
Moyen de transport
Modo de transporte

ARRIVING AT Geneva **PORT OF ENTRY**
Arrivée à / Llegando a Point d'entrée / Puerto de llegada

ON 17.08.2018 **DATE**
Le / El Date / Fecha

BIOMETRICS (EXCEPT PHOTO)

SIGNATURE OF BEARER
Signature du titulaire / Firma del interesado

FINGER PRINTS
Empreintes digitales
Huellas digitales

VISA 1

VISASPECIMEN

ISSUANCE AND ENDORSEMENT

NAME OF ICRC REPRESENTATIVE
Nom du représentant du CICR
Nombre del representante del CICR

SIGNATURE OF ICRC REPRESENTATIVE
Signature du représentant du CICR
Firma del representante del CICR

ICRC STAMP
Cachet du CICR
Estampilla del CICR

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS GENEVA
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE GENÈVE
COMITÉ INTERNACIONAL DE LA CRUZ ROJA GINEBRA

VISA 1

This section is for the visa to enter the destination country. There are two other visa sections on the reverse for exit and transit visas and/or seals.

ADDITIONAL SECURITY FEATURES

- Orange printing
- Grey antistructure
- Rainbow printing: green-blue-green
- UV-rainbow printing: blue-green-blue
- Two-level watermark
- UV-fluorescent, multicoloured fibres
- Visible fibres
- Chemically sensitized, UV dull paper

Forensic laboratories seeking further technical information about the ICRC emergency travel document may contact the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency in Geneva at familylinks@icrc.org

ISSUANCE

The ICRC has strict criteria and procedures for issuing emergency travel documents. Each applicant must meet the eligibility criteria and have the necessary travel authorizations.

All personal data provided are processed securely in accordance with the data protection laws in force. Except for the holder's fingerprints and signature, the data are stored digitally in a computer data management tool that is unique to the ICRC and is protected and secured by the organization. The document is printed within this secured environment.

In the event of an information technology failure or power cut, the ICRC emergency travel document is filled in manually in all capital letters using a blue rollerball pen. The photo is then attached (glued and stapled) and an ICRC embossed stamp is pressed onto the photo.




Holders of emergency travel documents are asked to return them to the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency in Geneva after their arrival in the destination country.



The ICRC issues an emergency travel document to a Palestinian refugee who is going to be resettled.

The ICRC helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything it can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with its Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. The organization also seeks to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles. As the reference on international humanitarian law, it helps develop this body of law and works for its implementation.

People know they can rely on the ICRC to carry out a range of life-saving activities in conflict zones, including: supplying food, safe drinking water, sanitation and shelter; providing health care; and helping to reduce the danger of landmines and unexploded ordnance. It also reunites family members separated by conflict, and visits people who are detained to ensure they are treated properly. The organization works closely with communities to understand and meet their needs, using its experience and expertise to respond quickly and effectively, without taking sides.

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 twitter.com/icrc
 [instagram.com/icrc](https://www.instagram.com/icrc)



ICRC

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