

ACTIVITIES TO ASSIST MIGRANTS



CICR

BACKGROUND

Migration is a widespread, complex phenomenon involving over 200 million people around the world. Accidents, death, disappearance and family separation figure prominently in the fate of many migrants. ICRC action to assist migrants is based on the Migration Policy of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The ICRC carries out its work in this area with particular emphasis on cooperation with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and partnerships with other humanitarian actors. It seeks to make specific improvements by working along the migratory route, with small-scale projects and programmes carried out in conjunction with National Societies and other actors, aimed at meeting the needs of migrants and ensuring their protection.

ASSISTANCE FOR AMPUTEE, INJURED AND SICK MIGRANTS AND RETURNEES



The ICRC provides assistance to migrants with amputations, in close coordination with the National Red Cross Societies of Mexico and Central America. This assistance can include the provision of prostheses and orthoses, national and regional transfers by ambulance (humanitarian chain) and the donation of wheelchairs, crutches, etc.

The services provided also include restoring family links (telephone calls, the exchange of Red Cross messages and, in some cases, arrangements to reunite families). This type of assistance often requires coordination with governmental and non-governmental actors in Mexico and Central America.

The ICRC provides individual assistance to migrants facing life-threatening medical situations.

PREHOSPITAL MEDICAL CARE FOR MIGRANTS

The ICRC is implementing projects to provide prehospital medical care in cooperation with National Societies and other humanitarian actors. The basic health needs of migrants are met by Red Cross volunteers at mobile clinics and returnee assistance units.

Clinics are operating in Sonora, Tabasco and Chiapas, and there are returnee assistance units in Sonora (Mexico), El Carmen (Guatemala) and Corinto (Honduras). Further projects of this kind are in the pipeline. In addition to providing prehospital care and emergency ambulance services, these clinics and units can also provide other services, such as the distribution of drinking water to migrants, orientation and free telephone calls to their families.



Camilla Matteucci/ICRC

DIALOGUE ON MIGRANT PROTECTION NEEDS

Drawing on its extensive experience in addressing protection-related issues with the public authorities, the ICRC maintains a constructive dialogue on issues of concern to migrants in bilateral talks with governments and in regional and multilateral fora. The outcomes of confidential bilateral dialogue and recommendations formulated on this subject at regional conferences are reinforced by observations made by the ICRC in the course of its work and interaction with migrants in the field.

ACTIVITIES TO ASSIST MIGRANTS



CICR

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS (RFL)



In 2012, the ICRC launched a programme to reunite Guatemalan migrant children returning from Mexico with their families. This programme was started at the shelter for unaccompanied minors in Quetzaltenango (Guatemala), with the cooperation of the Guatemalan Red Cross.

The ICRC and the Mexican Red Cross also conducted a joint evaluation in 2012 to gain an understanding of the needs of migrants in terms of restoring and maintaining family links. The findings of the evaluation will be used to develop a more coherent regional response, which takes into account the needs of migrants and the RFL capacities of National Red Cross Societies and other actors.

The mobile clinics and returnee assistance units situated in Altar (Sonora, Mexico), El Carmen (Guatemala) and Corinto (Honduras) already provide free telephone calls for this purpose.

PROGRAMME FOR MISSING PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Under its programme for missing persons and their families, the ICRC seeks to prevent disappearances, restore family links and help people who have no news of their loved ones to trace them. The ICRC provides support, raises awareness, strengthens capacities and facilitates coordination and communication amongst the various institutions involved in assisting the families of missing persons in the region.

In the eyes of the ICRC, it is not only the missing persons themselves who are victims, but also their families and, in some cases, their communities.

The ICRC therefore works to identify the needs of the families of migrants who have disappeared in the region and submits recommendations to the relevant authorities on helping families to cope with the challenges facing them when a loved one is missing.

The ICRC provides support to Mexican and Central American authorities in the forensic field in order to improve the identification of bodies and human remains, including those of migrants.



MISSION

The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.