

EGYPT

FACTS AND FIGURES

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2019


Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC)

In Egypt, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) assists people affected by conflict and violence including from the broader region, promotes international humanitarian law (IHL), and cooperates with healthcare providers to help them boost their emergency response. The ICRC has been intermittently present in Egypt for over 100 years.

Dating back to as early as World Wars I and II and other crisis, such as the 1956 conflict over the Suez Canal and the wars of 1967 and 1973, the ICRC visited and assisted thousands of prisoners of war and civilian internees under the specific mandate conferred upon the organization by the Geneva Conventions of 1949. In 1983, the ICRC formalized its legal presence in Egypt by signing a headquarters agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and established its office in Cairo.

ICRC's long-standing cooperation with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society has further developed with enhanced activities related to the International Red Cross and Crescent Movement's family links services and extended into the field of direct assistance to address humanitarian needs.

In 2019, the ICRC worked closely with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) in responding to the immediate needs of people affected by violence. Following the ERC's distribution of ICRC aid to people affected by the events in North Sinai, the ICRC organized a workshop with its volunteers to further assess these people's needs. The ERC and the ICRC then agreed on a set of short and mid-term activities for responding to the needs in North Sinai and engaged in dialogue on this with the relevant authorities.

In 2019, through different activities and partnerships, the ICRC worked on:



PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Since its establishment in 1990, the ICRC's IHL team based in Cairo has been carrying out activities in Egypt and the region.

3,357 Egyptian Army officers, cadets and soldiers were introduced to the international humanitarian law (IHL) through 20 dissemination sessions and training courses covering all army regional commands.

92 police officers were introduced to IHL in relation to the international human rights law (IHRL) through four training courses.

ICRC sponsored **4** Egyptian officers to attend the regional IHL training in Lebanon, Tunisia and Italy in addition to the senior workshop on international rules governing military operations (SWIRMO), held in UAE in 2019.

45 officers, assigned to peacekeeping operations, attended orientation sessions on IHL and IHRL.

IHL regional activities:

8 teams from eight Arab countries competed in the regional moot court on IHL, held in Lebanon. The participating teams included students from different universities, who won their respective universities' national moot court competitions.

137 governmental officials, diplomats, military officers, academics, judges, prosecutors, Islamic circles from 32 countries participated in the regional IHL Arabic courses held in Beirut and Tunis.

40 participants attended the regional Training of Trainers seminar on IHL in Morocco to become potential IHL instructors.

40 judges attended the regional IHL course for Arab judges, in collaboration with the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies.



DELIVERING FOOD AND DAILY ESSENTIALS

1,000 vulnerable migrant unaccompanied children received food and hygiene items every month, which helped them to cover some of their basic needs. The distributions were implemented in cooperation with a partner organization.

10,000 families (50,000 individuals) in North Sinai received food parcels, white flour and hygiene kits, while 4,000 families (20,000 individuals) family received blankets, in cooperation with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC).

27 ERC staff and volunteers participated in economic security trainings to improve their capacity and knowledge to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable families.



INCREASING HEALTHCARE SERVICES' EMERGENCY CAPACITY

66 doctors and nurses from the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defense increased their knowledge and skills in the systemic approach of managing trauma cases in the emergency rooms.

23 surgeons and medical doctors from the Ministry of Interior strengthened their capacities in the management of injuries caused by weapons.

11 military doctors and nurses acquired knowledge qualifying them to become trainers in emergency room trauma courses.

9 doctors from the Egyptian Ambulance Organization (EAO) strengthened their knowledge and skills on how to be co-trainers during the management of the mass casualty incidents workshops.

103 participants (including doctors, supervisors and paramedics working at the EAO enhanced their emergency preparedness/response towards the management of the mass casualty incidents.

16 officers from the Military Academy acquired skills to become first aid trainers.

- 311** army soldiers were trained to better provide first aid in the field.
- 387** undergraduate students from the Military Academy were trained to better provide first aid in the field.
- 254** undergraduate students from the Military Academy attended one drill on the management of mass casualty incidents.
- 45** officers from the Armed Forces Medical Services acquired skills to become first aid trainers.
- 418** soldiers from Armed Forces Medical Services attended two drills on the management of mass casualty incidents.
- 43** officers from search and rescue (SAR) were trained to better provide first aid in the field.
- 34** officers from the Ministry of Interior were trained to better provide first aid in the field.
- 2** doctors from ERC and EAO attended the regional health care in danger meeting held in April 2019 in Beirut.
- 30** dressing kits were donated to the ERC to support members of the Emergency Action Teams (EATs) situation in Gaza.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Program

The MHPSS program focuses on protecting the mental health and psychosocial well-being of those responding to humanitarian needs. It also builds the capacity of the mental health and psychosocial workforce.

- 6** former peer supporters of the Egyptian Ambulance Organization (EAO) received a refresher on the Help the Helpers course in September 2019.
- 5** former peer supporters of the EAO received a Help the Helpers workshop in November 2019.
- 25** volunteers from the ERC received a Help the Helpers workshop in October.



BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER

The ICRC's restoring family links (RFL) department received **10,029** visits for enquiries and services. Tracing requests for **724** persons were opened by families living in Egypt. By the end of 2019, ICRC Cairo was addressing tracing requests for **1,505** persons, with whom contact was lost.

42 new photos were published on Trace the Face, an online tool aimed at reconnecting migrants who arrived in Europe with their family members.

The families of **305** individuals could learn about their whereabouts or fate, in many instances with the support of the Red Cross and Red Crescent family links network.

255 Red Cross messages and oral greetings (*salamat*) were exchanged between families living in Egypt and their relatives visited by ICRC in places of detention abroad.

4,782 phone calls were facilitated to help migrant community members in Egypt to maintain contact with their loved ones abroad.

625 ICRC travel documents were issued on behalf of refugees/asylum seekers exiting Egypt for resettlement in other countries.



DIALOGUE WITH ISLAMIC INSTITUTIONS IN EGYPT

Al-Azhar, one of the world's oldest educational and religious institutions, and the ICRC held a workshop entitled "Preservation of human dignity in armed conflict under IHL and Islamic Law" in coordination with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Committee on International Humanitarian Law, in November 2019. During the workshop, eminent scholars from Al-Azhar, Morocco, Libya and Iraq as well as ICRC legal experts discussed the topic.

2 law scholars at Al-Azhar University participated in the regional ICRC workshop on humanitarian challenges in contemporary armed conflicts and the Influence of Islamic law.



PROMOTING HUMANITARIAN FORENSIC ACTION

176 undergraduate students from the Armed Forces College of Medicine (AFCoM) received a sensitization on the management of the dead in emergencies.

103 participants from the Egyptian Ambulance Organization (EAO) integrated the management of the dead into their mass casualty incidents drills.

45 relevant actors from Cairo University and Egyptian Forensic Medicine Authority (EFMA) were sensitized on humanitarian forensic action in the framework of the 10th international conference of Arab union of forensic toxicology.

2 focal points on emergency response from EAO and ERC received specialized capacity building abroad training through their participation in the ICRC international workshop on the management of the dead in emergencies.

4 representatives from the AFCoM and the EFMA participated in the Middle East and North Africa forensic network (MENA FN).

12 participants from the ERC received a sensitization on data collection for missing migrants.



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EGYPTIAN RED CRESCENT

In July 2019, the ICRC and the ERC signed a four-year Partnership Framework Agreement (PFA), enhancing the two organizations' cooperation and humanitarian response. The event was marked by a signing ceremony in November.

10 new Emergency Action Teams (EATs) were trained on trauma first aid and emergency response skills. (Including 50 ERC volunteers from North Sinai and the surrounding governorates).

24 ERC EATs volunteers acquired skills to become first aid facilitators.

25 ERC North Sinai volunteers received training on first aid, communication skills and security management in November.

6 ERC staff members attended the Statutory Meetings of the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in December in Geneva.

2 ERC staff members participated in the regional Movement communication workshop, held in Beirut in September.

2 ERC staff members took part in the regional Safer Access Framework (SAF) workshop and received training on Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) in December.

2 ERC staff members participated in the 2nd Middle East and North Africa regional movement RFL meeting, held in Amman in February.

ICRC contributed to the organization of the annual workshop held for the ERC 'Restoring Family Links' focal points that took place in December. The focal points of **9** branches took part in the workshop.

ICRC and ERC jointly participated in **3** events in June and November organized respectively by Caritas and Terre des Hommes and provided RFL services to migrant and refugee community members.




The ICRC helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, doing everything it can to protect their dignity and alleviate 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.

Cover Photo: ERC volunteers distribute assistance, provided by the ICRC, to families in North Sinai. February 2020.



International Committee of the Red Cross

84 Road 104,
Hadayek El Maadi, Cairo, Egypt
T +202 252 81 540 +202 252 81 541
familylinks.icrc.org
www.icrc.org/ar
© ICRC, July 2020

 <https://www.facebook.com/icrcarabic>
 https://twitter.com/icrc_ar
 [instagram.com/icrc](https://www.instagram.com/icrc)