



# PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED  
CROSS

## SUMMARY

<b>Applicant organization:</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross 19 Avenue de la Paix, CH-1202 Geneva
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<b>Date of submission:</b>	31 August 2020
<b>Zone of operation:</b>	All
<b>Country:</b>	Occupied Palestinian territory
<b>Programme:</b>	"Appeal 2020"
<b>Start-up date:</b>	Date of the signature of the Ministerial Order granting the funds to the ICRC
<b>Duration:</b>	12 months
<b>Amount requested:</b>	EUR 1,000,000

# OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY



⊕ ICRC delegation   ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation   ⊕ ICRC mission   + ICRC office/presence

<b>ASSISTANCE TARGETS</b>		
<b>CIVILIANS</b>		
<b>Economic security</b>		
Food production	Beneficiaries	4,680
Income support	Beneficiaries	2,130
Living conditions	Beneficiaries	700
Capacity-building	Beneficiaries	30
<b>Water and habitat</b>		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,648,000
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>		
<b>Economic security</b>		
Living conditions	Beneficiaries	11,910
<b>Water and habitat</b>		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	345
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
<b>Medical care</b>		
Hospitals supported <sup>1</sup>	Structures	26
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>		
Projects supported	Projects	2
<b>Water and habitat</b>		
Water and habitat activities	Beds	2,262

<sup>1</sup> Including ad hoc support.

## SITUATION

- ▶ People in the Gaza Strip continue to suffer the effects of the longstanding political deadlock between the Palestinian Authority and the Hamas *de facto* authorities; the Israeli blockade; strict crossing regulations at the Gaza-Egypt and Gaza-Israel borders; past hostilities; and occasional clashes between Israeli forces and Gazan armed groups. Rockets and incendiary devices launched from Gaza into Israel and Israeli air strikes in Gaza cause casualties and property damage on both sides. Demonstrations along Gaza's border with Israel lead to casualties.
- ▶ In East Jerusalem and on the West Bank, Israeli policies related to the longstanding occupation – some of which contravene international humanitarian law (IHL) – continue to burden the lives of Palestinians, and lead to violence between Israelis and Palestinians.
- ▶ Israeli and Palestinian authorities hold detainees, some in relation to the situations mentioned above, and others for security reasons. Detainees in Israel and on the West Bank sometimes stage hunger strikes in protest.
- ▶ The political climate and security conditions in Israel and the occupied territories remain in flux, partly because of other States' conflicting geopolitical interests. Military forces and armed groups sometimes conduct military operations in accordance with tensions in the region.

## HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS

- ▶ Policies imposed by the Israeli and Palestinian authorities on the occupied territories are a source of chronic problems for people living there. These policies include restrictions on the movement of people and essential goods, and limiting access to basic services – especially electricity, clean water and health care in Gaza. In East Jerusalem and on the West Bank, people's homes are occasionally confiscated or destroyed.
- ▶ Military forces and armed groups are not always familiar with certain provisions of IHL, notably those governing the conduct of hostilities. Following military and security operations, civilians report abuses and damage to property.
- ▶ Israel detains thousands of Palestinians and some Syrians: among them are security detainees, minors and migrants. Palestinians need help to visit relatives detained by Israel. Access to health care remains unreliable for several hundreds of people detained by the Palestinian Authority and the Hamas *de facto* authorities.

- ▶ The Gazan economy remains weak and dependent on foreign aid. Livelihood prospects are particularly bleak for young people and those left physically disabled by hostilities or protests. Farmers have limited arable land, much of which lies along the Gaza–Israel border, and is difficult to farm because of protests, fires and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Fishermen have to contend with movement and security constraints.
- ▶ Hospitals in Gaza struggle to cope with mass influxes of casualties – in the wake of protests, for example – and Gazans face constraints when seeking specialized care outside Gaza. Violence compromises the safety of people seeking or providing health care. The Palestine Red Crescent Society may struggle to provide emergency medical services (EMS) and other aid during emergencies.
- ▶ Agencies assisting vulnerable Palestinians, including Gazans, receive less funding than in past years.

## ICRC OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

In 2020, the ICRC’s main priorities in its response to the needs of people in the occupied Palestinian territory will be to:

- ▶ remind the Israeli authorities of their obligations under IHL, with regard to occupation policies, and to advocate the protection of civilians among Israeli and Palestinian weapon bearers;
- ▶ reinforce efforts to persuade weapon bearers to continue to take IHL and other applicable norms into account, particularly in connection with the conduct of hostilities and the use of force;
- ▶ help penitentiary authorities ensure that detainees – people under arrest or interrogation or in administrative detention in Israel, people under interrogation by Palestinian authorities, hunger strikers, and other vulnerable detainees – are afforded treatment and living conditions that meet internationally recognized standards;
- ▶ strengthen people’s resilience to the adverse conditions in the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank, notably by supporting providers of essential services – particularly electricity, water and health care – and stimulating economic activity and food production; and
- ▶ bolster the ability of the Palestine Red Crescent Society to respond to humanitarian needs during hostilities or disasters, while also ensuring the safety of their staff and volunteers.

## ICRC ACTION

### CIVILIANS

**Objective: People living under occupation are treated in accordance with the applicable provisions of IHL. Civilians are not subjected to direct and indiscriminate attack; civilian infrastructure and property are respected in accordance with the law. People in the occupied Palestinian territory have access to essential services and means of livelihood; they live in safety. Members of dispersed families restore and maintain contact, meet regularly, or reunite. Families learn the fate of missing relatives, and take possession of their remains if they are dead.**

### Urging compliance with IHL and other applicable laws

The ICRC will reinforce its dialogue with weapon bearers, with a view to promoting the protection of civilians, including those seeking or providing medical care in the occupied territories (see also *Wounded and sick*). It will remind the Israeli authorities to ensure that:

- ▶ military and security operations comply with IHL and other applicable norms – and are in line with internationally recognized standards – particularly in connection with the conduct of hostilities and the use of force;
- ▶ in the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and on the West Bank, civilians and their property are safeguarded; and
- ▶ movement restrictions and other constraints in the occupied Palestinian territory are eased, essential goods and services, including health care and water, are accessible, and people can pursue their livelihoods.

The Israeli authorities will also be urged to address the impact of economic and other restrictions, and of their approach to water and environmental management, on people in the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank. The ICRC will keep up efforts to help children traveling to school, farmers tending to their land, and others reduce their exposure to violence and to the threat from mines or ERW.

### **Helping people to meet their urgent needs and become self-sufficient**

In the Gaza Strip, the ICRC will help Gazans to make the greatest use possible of their limited resources and to strengthen their resilience to the effects of occupation policies and recurring violence. To this end, it will continue to use sustainable approaches that have proven to be effective; it will also encourage and support innovative local efforts in this regard.

The ICRC will continue to help the *de facto* authorities and local service providers to maintain, repair or upgrade electrical power and water-supply systems; at the same time, efforts will be pursued to make these systems robust enough to continue functioning even during emergencies. For example, electrical power is crucial for health-care facilities, water-treatment plants and businesses, but it runs for only a few hours a day; the ICRC will therefore support providers in building secondary power lines, hybrid grids and integrated grids, and in promoting energy-saving measures among Gazans.

The ICRC's economic-security activities will focus on strengthening food production and stimulating economic activity. Gazans farming land near the border with Israel will be given help to till their land and to plant and harvest crops; sustainable innovations found to have been effective in 2019 – for example, environment-friendly techniques for controlling pests – will be scaled up to benefit twice as many farmers than in 2019. Fishermen will receive material support for increasing their catch and/or repairing their boats. Vulnerable people unable to obtain employment, such as young people and those disabled during hostilities/protests, will be recruited for various ICRC cash-for-work projects, including repairing farm infrastructure; people unable to perform manual labour will be given clerical work.

In East Jerusalem and on the West Bank, the ICRC will focus on providing emergency relief for people whose homes have been confiscated or destroyed. Those struggling for employment will receive some assistance to start their own businesses.

Where appropriate, the ICRC will work with the Palestine Red Crescent Society to provide the assistance mentioned above. It will also help develop this National Society's capacities in emergency response and in supervising economic-security activities.

The family-links services of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement<sup>1</sup> will remain available: these services can help people restore or maintain contact or reunite with relatives separated from them by armed conflict or other situations of violence, by detention or by other circumstances.

### **Plan of action and indicators**

#### **Assistance**

##### *Economic security*

- ▶ help up to 780 households (some 4,680 people) in Gaza to produce more food; more specifically:
  - level farmland near the Gaza-Israel border and clear it of mines/ERW, and dig irrigation ponds
  - supply farmers with seed and fertilizer and environment-friendly pest traps
  - provide fishermen with engines and nets, and fibreglass to repair their boats
- ▶ help vulnerable Palestinians supplement their incomes; to that end:
  - in Gaza, recruit 330 heads of vulnerable households (supporting 1,980 people) for cash-for-work initiatives and give them vocational training

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<sup>1</sup> The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement comprises the ICRC, the International Federation and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. These are all independent bodies. Each has its own status and exercises no authority over the others.

- in East Jerusalem and on the West Bank, provide cash grants for 30 households (150 people) to restart small businesses/livelihoods
- ▶ provide cash assistance or household essentials for up to 140 households (700 people) who lost their homes in East Jerusalem and on the West Bank
- ▶ give a farmer's cooperative (30 members) financial and technical assistance to develop and promote more efficient farming techniques

#### *Water and habitat*

- ▶ in the Gaza Strip:
  - repair or upgrade electrical, water and waste-management facilities serving around 1,648,000 people
  - train, assist and guide the *de facto* authorities and local technicians in maintaining infrastructure and preparing for emergencies

#### *Weapon contamination*

- ▶ in the Gaza Strip, help reduce the threat from mines/ERW by:
  - aiding the authorities in their mine/ERW-clearance operations, particularly in farmland along the border
  - conducting public information campaigns on mines/ERW, particularly the risks to schoolchildren
  - providing technical support to the authorities and first responders for improving their safety measures and for dealing with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear emergencies

#### *Support for the Palestine Red Crescent Society*

- ▶ provide training and funds for the National Society to develop its capacities in responding to emergencies, monitoring and supervising economic-security projects, and conducting mine-risk awareness sessions

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

**Objective: The treatment of people detained by the Israeli authorities complies with IHL and other relevant norms, and meets internationally recognized standards. People held by the Palestinian Authority and the *de facto* authorities in the Gaza Strip benefit from the protection afforded by applicable norms and internationally recognized standards, particularly with regard to their treatment and living conditions.**

### **Helping the authorities to improve the treatment of detainees**

The ICRC will visit detainees in Israel and the occupied territories in accordance with its standard procedures. Afterwards, it will communicate its findings confidentially to the Israeli and Palestinian authorities, to help them improve detainees' living conditions and treatment, particularly respect for judicial guarantees and procedural safeguards. Israeli and Palestinian penitentiary staff will be reminded of medical ethics applicable to the provision of health care in places of detention.

In Israel, the ICRC will pay particular attention to people newly arrested, under interrogation, in administrative detention or in long-term isolation, hunger strikers, and others who are vulnerable, such as women, children and foreigners/migrants. The detaining authorities will be reminded of the principle of *non-refoulement* and of the importance of ensuring the availability of legal assistance and family contact, particularly for migrants and minors, and of education for minors.

In Gaza and on the West Bank, ICRC prison visits will focus on people newly arrested, under interrogation or held for security reasons. Discussions with the authorities will centre on incorporating international human rights law more fully in their standard operating procedures.

The ICRC will maintain its efforts to ensure that detainees can stay in touch with their families, while reminding Israeli and Palestinian authorities of their responsibilities in this regard.

## Working with the authorities to improve detainees' living conditions

The ICRC will continue to support Israeli and Palestinian authorities in improving penitentiary services. It will maintain its two-pronged approach: advising the authorities in making policies that affect their penitentiary systems as a whole; and supporting improvements at some places of detention, for the authorities to replicate elsewhere.

In Gaza, the ICRC will help the *de facto* health and justice ministries, and prison authorities, to make health care more readily available to detainees; it will also continue to guide them in drafting and implementing a system-wide policy for health care in prisons. The ICRC will provide training and supervision for staff at up to six prisons in a number of areas: developing medical screening procedures and follow-up for new detainees, including those who are mentally ill; implementing a system for managing health-related information; and managing human resources. The ICRC will continue to encourage the *de facto* authorities to ensure that people held in police stations have access to health care.

In Gaza and on the West Bank, the ICRC will give material support for staff and detainees in some places of detention to repair and maintain infrastructure. At the same time, it will help prison managers to develop a system for maintaining infrastructure; on the West Bank, this will be done with a view to helping the authorities to develop minimum standards for refurbishing existing facilities.

In Gaza and Israel, and on the West Bank, the ICRC will back the penitentiary authorities' provision of specialized services to detainees with specific needs, such as foreigners getting little or no material support from their families; elderly people; disabled people; young women and children, who can benefit from vocational training and uninterrupted access to education; and people in prolonged detention, whose access to exercise and recreation is limited.

## Plan of action and indicators

### Assistance

#### Health

- ▶ provide support for penitentiary health staff and officials from relevant ministries; in particular:
  - sponsor some of them to attend regional training events
  - organize specialized training for health staff at up to six prisons in the Gaza Strip

## WOUNDED AND SICK

**Objective: Wounded or sick people, particularly in the Gaza Strip, have access to adequate treatment, including physical rehabilitation services. The Palestine Red Crescent Society's EMS respond to emergencies in East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, and on the West Bank.**

In line with the Health Care in Danger initiative<sup>2</sup>, and jointly with the Palestinian Red Crescent, the ICRC will monitor and document instances of the obstruction of health-care services; it will continue to remind all parties concerned of the protection due to people seeking or providing medical care.

As in past years, the ICRC will focus on supporting and reinvigorating the Gaza Strip's deteriorating health-care system; however, it will also work more towards help ensure that adequate surgical care – for dealing with the consequences of disasters or violence – is available elsewhere in the occupied Palestinian territory.

<sup>2</sup> Health Care in Danger is an initiative of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement aimed at addressing the issue of violence against patients and health workers, facilities and vehicles, and at ensuring safer access to and delivery of health care in armed conflict and other emergencies. It involves working with experts and various partners to highlight the humanitarian impact of violence against health care, develop practical measures and promote the implementation of these measures by States, components of the Movement, humanitarian organizations, health-care professionals and other relevant actors.

## **Helping to ensure the availability of life-saving and rehabilitative care in the Gaza Strip**

The ICRC will continue to strengthen the casualty care chain. It will provide material support for the Palestinian Red Crescent and Gazan ambulance services to deliver EMS safely to people injured in clashes or protests. The ICRC will work with the *de facto* health authorities to ensure that Gazan medical staff have adequate training, equipment, supplies and facilities to provide life-saving surgery for wounded patients, and uninterrupted care for people with chronic illnesses, such as diabetics. Hospitals and clinics will receive infrastructural upgrades, equipment and fuel from the ICRC, which will also help ensure their uninterrupted functioning, without disruption by either the electricity shortage in Gaza or violence.

Free physical rehabilitation services and assistive devices will be offered at the ICRC-supported Artificial Limb and Polio Centre (ALPC). The ICRC will continue to promote the social inclusion of disabled people.

In coordination with the authorities concerned, the ICRC will, as appropriate, facilitate access to medical care outside Gaza. Disabled patients needing advanced reconstructive surgery will be referred to an ICRC-supported centre in Lebanon.

## **Tending to the psychological needs of patients and health-care providers**

Because of the frequent occurrence of emotionally distressing and traumatic incidents in or near the Gaza Strip, the ICRC will take steps to ensure that people affected can obtain psychosocial support. Patients at the ALPC, and at hospitals and community mental-health-care centres, will receive some psychological care from health personnel trained by the ICRC. Particular attention will be given to disabled people, especially new amputees, who may find it difficult to move on to their physical rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

The ICRC will also help the *de facto* health authorities in Gaza to make psychosocial care available to health personnel traumatized by their highly stressful work environment.

## **Plan of action and indicators**

### **Assistance**

#### *Physical rehabilitation*

- ▶ in the Gaza Strip, provide the ALPC and a local physiotherapy organization with material, technical and infrastructural support for:
  - making free physical rehabilitation services available to up to 3,700 disabled people,<sup>3</sup> including those with diabetes and clubfoot, and for covering transportation costs for up to 250 of them
  - supplying prostheses, orthoses, wheelchairs and walking aids to patients, including people with spinal-cord injuries
  - organizing sports tournaments and other events for disabled people
- ▶ refer disabled patients for advanced reconstructive surgery abroad, as needed
- ▶ advise management at the ALPC in developing and implementing a long-term fundraising strategy

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<sup>3</sup> Based on aggregated monthly data, which include repeat beneficiaries.



## IN FOCUS: CRITICAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

After the first local cases of COVID-19 were reported in March, Israeli and Palestinian officials implemented movement restrictions and other measures necessary to curb the spread of the disease. The ICRC seeks to address the humanitarian needs arising from COVID-19 and its broader consequences on the socio-economic situation of Palestinians, especially in Gaza. Many of the ICRC's other activities described in the previous sections are also critical to supporting communities and essential services and enabling people to cope with the COVID-19 crisis and recover from its impact.

### Supporting vital health infrastructure and access to health care

- ▶ donate medical equipment (e.g. defibrillators, oxygen flow meters) and supplies to the health authorities, hospitals in Gaza, and the Palestinian Red Crescent and other emergency responders
- ▶ help medical staff implement infection prevention and control measures by providing personal protective equipment and cleaning items
- ▶ supply fuel for generators at clinics and hospitals in Gaza; build or enhance infection-control and water-supply facilities at a hospital treating COVID-19 patients
- ▶ provide mental-health and psychological support to first responders, health workers, patients and other vulnerable people; train first responders and health personnel in providing such support

### Preventing the spread of disease in places of detention and supporting the management of COVID-19 cases in places of detention

- ▶ train prison health staff in measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in places of detention; provide detaining authorities with technical advice in this regard
- ▶ upgrade water infrastructure to ensure reliable access to clean water for handwashing and cleaning
- ▶ help health and prison officials ensure sanitary living conditions for detainees by supplying hygiene kits, personal protective equipment and cleaning materials

### Ensuring access to clean water and essential goods and improving hygiene conditions

- ▶ back local service providers in ensuring access to clean water through water infrastructure repairs or maintenance and material support
- ▶ through cash grants, support business owners in sustaining their livelihoods amid pandemic-related restrictions and enable people who had lost their jobs to cover basic expenses

### Supporting the safe and dignified management of human remains

- ▶ with the *de facto* religious ministry, provide guidance on the proper management of human remains

### Promoting the protection of people at risk and facilitating their access to aid during the pandemic

- ▶ launch public communication campaigns – on radio, digital platforms and other channels – to educate people on ways to keep themselves safe from COVID-19; provide tailored advice to people in areas affected by mines and ERW

- ▶ encourage religious leaders and scholars to raise awareness of COVID-19, preventive measures such as physical distancing and hygienic practices, and the need to avoid stigmatization of people suffering from the disease and those treating them
- ▶ support local educators in teaching children good hygiene and disease prevention, for example by providing them with animated videos and board games

## REQUEST FOR FUNDING

The ICRC is hereby submitting a request for funding to the Belgian Government under its *Aide d'Urgence* budget line to allow the ICRC delegation in Israel and the occupied territories to implement activities planned in the framework of its 2020 Appeal.

The financial support from the Belgian Government will represent a co-funding contribution to the overall budget of the delegation (see table below). The delegation will carry out the programmes it defined over the next 12 months on the basis of assessed needs, in full respect for its integrated approach towards victims of armed violence. People living in the occupied Palestinian territory make up a large majority of beneficiaries of the delegation's activities; however, some of the delegation's general objectives include activities that are not carried out exclusively in this territory.

Reporting on the use of the funds shall be covered by the ICRC's standard reporting. Under the ICRC's Planning for Results (PFR) system, financial reporting is available up to the level of general objectives only.

The amount hereby requested is EUR 1,000,000:

	CHF*	EUR
<b>Amount</b>	1,075,400	1,000,000
Of which: Overheads <sup>1</sup>	65,635	61,033

\*Converted from CHF based on internal ICRC rates in August 2020: 1 EUR = 1.0754 CHF

1. Overhead costs correspond to a 6.5% charge on cash and services as a contribution to the costs of headquarters support for operations in the field.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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**BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:**

**ACCOUNT NAME:** COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

**BANK NAME AND ADDRESS:** UBS SA  
P.O. BOX 2600  
CH-1211 GENEVA 2

**CODE SWIFT:** UBSWCHZH80A

**BANK ACCOUNT N° (EUR):** 240-C0129986.5

**IBAN CODE N° (EUR):** CH25 0024 0240 C012 9986 5

## ANNEXES

### ICRC operations in Israel and the occupied territories 2020

#### FINANCIAL SITUATION AS AT 25 AUGUST 2020\* (IN CHF)

	Protection	Assistance	Prevention	Cooperation	No specific program	Grand total
1. Initial budget	15,996,188	25,898,755	5,015,815	2,361,461	300,850	49,573,069
2. Balance brought forward from 2019					-12,459,882	-
3. Total contribution – Hard pledges only	1,594,492	6,110,874	1,712,500	0	19,472,268	28,890,134
4. Outstanding needs as against the initial budget (4=1-2-3)	14,401,695	19,787,881	3,303,315	2,361,461	-6,711,536	33,142,817

\*Unaudited figures

#### Budget breakdown per GO covering activities in the occupied Palestinian territory (in CHF)

PROGRAMME	OBJECTIVE	OPERATIONS	SUPPORT	OVERHEAD	TOTAL BUDGET
Assistance	ILOTDFGASSMED1	291,778	179,108	30,608	501,493
	ILOTGENASSECO0	2,547,522	1,530,345	265,061	4,342,928
	ILOTGENASSENG0	4,396,573	1,288,275	369,515	6,054,363
	ILOTGENASSWEC0	252,270	199,269	29,350	480,889
	ILOTWSGASSORT0	561,674	396,700	62,294	1,020,669
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,049,817</b>	<b>3,593,697</b>	<b>756,828</b>	<b>12,400,342</b>

#### Budget breakdown per cost type (in CHF)

	SUM OF BUDGET
<b>Operations</b>	<b>8,049,817</b>
1. Staff-related costs	146,790
2. Mission and living allowances	978,477
3. Assistance to victims	1,117,642
4. Financial assistance	664,401
5. Means of transport	2,443,893
6. Premises costs	190,801
7. IT and telecommunication costs	227,020
8. Miscellaneous costs	2,280,794
<b>Support</b>	<b>3,593,697</b>

PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT

1. Staff-related costs	2,243,846
2. Mission and living allowances	60,769
3. Means of transport	142,373
4. Premises costs	585,850
5. IT and telecommunication costs	287,437
6. Miscellaneous costs	273,423
<b>Overhead</b>	<b>756,828</b>
1. Overhead	756,828
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>12,400,342</b>