

# ankara



On the basis of an agreement with the Turkish authorities and in direct relation to the conflict in neighbouring Iraq, the ICRC opened a temporary mission in Ankara in April 2003. ICRC activities in connection with the situation in Iraq focus mainly on protection issues. The mission in Ankara also provides logistic support for ICRC assistance programmes in the region. Other ICRC activities in Turkey include supporting the authorities in the promotion of IHL and assisting the armed forces in integrating IHL into their training programmes. In addition, the ICRC conducts a number of joint programmes with the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	71
Assistance	-
Prevention	508
Cooperation with National Societies	213
General	-

► **792**

of which: Overheads 48

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	105%
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## PERSONNEL

1	expatriate
3	national staff (daily workers not included)

## KEY POINTS

### In 2007, the ICRC:

- strengthened its dialogue with the Turkish authorities and with the Turkish armed forces
- reinforced its cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent Society on implementing the Safer Access approach
- started implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for secondary school children with the Turkish Red Crescent
- continued to restore family links in connection with the situation in Iraq
- pursued a dialogue with the Turkish authorities with a view to concluding a headquarters agreement

## CONTEXT

The year 2007 was marked by political tensions linked to presidential and parliamentary elections. A standoff in May and June between the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) and secularists, triggered by the nomination in April of foreign minister Abdullah Gül to the presidency, brought hundreds of thousands of protesters to the streets. The demonstrations prompted the government to dissolve parliament and stage early legislative elections on 22 July. The AKP won almost 50% of the vote, giving it a majority in parliament. Abdullah Gül was sworn in as the country's new president after winning a third round of voting in parliament at the end of August.

In December, the Turkish armed forces conducted military operations in northern Iraq following authorization granted by the Turkish parliament in October.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC maintained its temporary presence in the Turkish capital and strengthened its relations with the national authorities and the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

Dialogue with the Turkish authorities and with the National Society centred mainly on operational matters related to the conflict in Iraq. Activities carried out by the ICRC in relation to the situation in Iraq included notifying the authorities of the detention of Turkish nationals in Iraq and enabling such detainees to exchange news with their families through RCMs.

Following the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the Turkish Red Crescent and the ICRC on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme and a similar agreement between the National Society and the Turkish Board of Education, implementation of the programme began with the training of a first group of 30 teachers.

As part of its ongoing cooperation with the Partnership for Peace Training Centre in Ankara, the ICRC gave presentations on IHL at several of its training events.

## CIVILIANS

Protection activities in relation to the situation in Iraq continued in 2007 and included notifying the authorities of the detention of Turkish nationals in Iraq.

Turkish families seeking news of relatives detained/interned abroad were able to send and receive RCMs, and requests to locate family members were processed through the worldwide Red Cross and Red Crescent tracing network, with ICRC support. In February, family members were able to visit, for the first time, a Turkish internee in Iraq. The visit was repeated in September.

Following a workshop organized in 2006 by the Council of Europe for medical personnel working in Turkish prisons, the course material, available on the Internet, was translated into Turkish with ICRC support.

## AUTHORITIES

A core working group comprising representatives of the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Justice, and the Interior and of the Turkish Red Crescent, under the leadership of the Turkish General Staff, neared completion of a study on the compatibility of the domestic legal framework with the country's obligations under IHL. One member of the group attended the Second Universal Meeting of National IHL Committees held in Geneva, Switzerland, in March, which focused on legal measures and mechanisms to prevent disappearances, to clarify the fate of missing persons and to assist their families.

All relevant authorities received an article on customary IHL, translated into Turkish and published in the first Turkish edition of the *International Review of the Red Cross* available on the ICRC's webpage for wider dissemination.

In September, the government of Turkey received for consideration a model headquarters agreement based on similar agreements concluded between the ICRC and States in which it has a permanent presence.

In December, representatives of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey in Geneva and the ICRC examined the legal implications of Turkish military operations in northern Iraq.

- ▶ 20 staff members of the Istanbul governorate in charge of relations with the European Union briefed on ICRC activities worldwide

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Turkish General Staff received 100 copies of the Turkish version of an article on customary IHL (see *Authorities*), to be used for training purposes.

Representatives of the Turkish General Staff participated in a Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council/Partnership for Peace round-table on the relevance to the armed forces of customary IHL and in a Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations, both held in Geneva.

As part of ongoing ICRC cooperation with the Partnership for Peace Training Centre in Ankara, the Turkish armed forces, together with representatives of more than 50 countries, underwent training in IHL and related issues. The ICRC gave presentations at 10 different training events and handed over sets of IHL publications.

In line with a memorandum of understanding concluded with NATO, the ICRC participated in two seminars in Istanbul organized by NATO's Rapid Deployable Corps-Turkey.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The general public learned about the ICRC, its history, mandate and activities around the world through an interview with ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger published in the *Sabah* newspaper. It was the first time since the opening of the ICRC's temporary mission that a major Turkish newspaper had carried an article on the organization's work.

In December, academics and lecturers of the Maltepe University law faculty in Istanbul attended a conference on "terrorism in armed conflicts and IHL", co-hosted by the university and the ICRC to mark Human Rights Day.

Following the conclusion in December 2006 of a cooperation agreement between the Turkish Red Crescent and the ICRC on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, the National Society and the Turkish Board of Education signed a similar agreement in May 2007, launching the implementation phase of the programme. At the end of May, representatives of the Ministry of Education, the National Society and the ICRC participated in a regional meeting in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. Thirty teachers took part in a teacher-training course on the programme held in Ankara in December.

Nine articles were translated for the Turkish-language version of the *International Review of the Red Cross*, which was printed in December.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

On the recommendation of the ICRC and the International Federation, the Turkish Red Crescent drafted new statutes to be submitted for approval to the relevant authorities.

To enhance its capacity to work in situations of violence, the National Society, with ICRC support, set up a working group to develop security regulations and training modules on the Safer Access approach.

The National Society printed an additional 2,500 copies of an article on customary IHL (see *Authorities*), which it distributed to its staff and branches. With ICRC support, the National Society reviewed training material on the emblem, the Seville Agreement, IHL and the ICRC.

Representatives of the Turkish Red Crescent attended a UNHCR conference on Iraqi refugees and IDPs held in Geneva in April.

The president of the Turkish Red Crescent and the ICRC president met at the 7th European Regional Conference of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Istanbul in May and discussed ways of strengthening cooperation between their two organizations.

As a follow-up to the Movement coordination meeting held in Istanbul in July 2006, the Turkish Red Crescent, the Iraqi Red Crescent and the ICRC met in June 2007. The Turkish Red Crescent was also involved in Movement coordination activities in Central Asia, Georgia, Kosovo, Lebanon, and the Palestinian territories.