



CICR

MEXICO: HUMANITARIAN REPORT 2022





AFIms/CIOR

CONTENT

- 02** MAP

- 04** INTRODUCTION:
MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA: THE HUMANITARIAN PRIORITIES

- 07** EDITORIAL:
NORMALIZING THE VIOLENCE WON'T MAKE ITS EFFECTS GO AWAY

- 09** DISPLACED AND MISSING PERSONS

- 14** INJURED, SEPARATED AND MISSING PERSONS
AND THEIR FAMILIES

- 20** COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE
AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- 23** PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY

- 25** CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS MORE RESPECTFUL
OF HUMAN DIGNITY OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND LIFE

- 28** SUPPORTING THE MEXICAN RED CROSS

MAP

NORTHEAST
 CENTER - NORTHEAST
 PACIFIC
 SOUTH

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY |  COVID -19 ACTION |  ACCESS TO HEALTH-CARE SERVICES |  MIGRANTS |
|  ARMED FORCES AND POLICE |  COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE |  MISSING PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES | |



INTRODUCTION

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA: THE HUMANITARIAN PRIORITIES



Jordi Raich, head of the ICRC's regional delegation for Mexico and Central America

As this report shows, armed violence continues to take its toll in Mexico and Central America, and we continue to address the needs of the people affected.

The impact of the violence is seen only occasionally – for example, when there are mass shootings or destruction of infrastructure. But in most instances, the impact of the violence is invisible: the unseen cause behind migration, internal displacement, disappearances, worsening mental health and the lack of access to basic services such as health care and education.

In a region affected by various forms of violence and inequality, it is difficult to prioritize one kind of humanitarian need over another; but this year, we would like to highlight the five issues we consider to be the most pressing in both 2022 and – given the prolonged and structural bases of these issues – most likely for the years to come.

They are complex issues that require decisive action by governments, civil society and other humanitarian organizations. Working with National Societies and the rest of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, they are the focus of our humanitarian work.

1. Migration: Clear causes, difficult solutions

Although there are no official statistics on undocumented migration in Mexico, it is clearly on the rise. The National Institute of Migration reported a 68% increase in the number of migrants being detained, rising from 182,940 in 2019 to 307,679 in 2021. Many of these people are vulnerable. For example, 24% of those who were detained in Mexico in 2021 were unaccompanied minors under the age of 11.

In general, migration has many causes and the number of people involved constantly in flux. In Mexico and Central America, migration has at root three main causes: the widescale violence afflicting communities, the socio-economic impact of natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, and families' need for reunification.

After fleeing harsh conditions in their own countries, migrants face serious risks along their migration route – such as blackmail, kidnapping and sexual abuse – that endanger their lives and threaten their dignity. In response to these worrying situations, our teams seek to prevent, reduce and minimize these dangers both in terms of their frequency and their impact, in particular with regard to vulnerable people.

Beyond emergency measures, there is an urgent need to design and implement medium- and long-term strategies that deal with the root causes that explain why millions of people abandon their homes. We also urgently need to understand that the history of humanity is the history of migration, to accept that it will continue to be, and to grasp that it is everyone's duty to ensure that migrants' rights are upheld whenever and wherever they happen to be, and to make migration routes safer,

2. Disappearances: Duty and pain

Every year in Mexico and Central America, thousands of more families discover the pain of not knowing what has happened to a loved one who has disappeared, whether in their home country or abroad. At the same time, people have an ethical and social duty to identify the bodies of those who have died, including along migration routes, and return them to their families for a proper funeral.

In Mexico alone, more than 96,000 people are recorded as missing on the national register, of which 7,449 were recorded in 2021. In El Salvador, according to the public prosecutor's office, there were 488 unsolved missing persons cases. In Guatemala, 6,343 alerts were issued for women who had gone missing, of which 663 remained active as of December. This number does not take account of those who went missing in recent wars, which amounts to more than 45,000 Guatemalans and 8,000 Salvadoreans.

The bad news does not end there. The absence of official statistics for all Central American countries combining cases in one simple database means that in fact many more people are missing and deserve to be looked for, regardless of how much time may have passed.

We work with families, the authorities and forensic specialists to facilitate the necessary and urgent coordination of multidisciplinary responses. We also seek to drive forward the efficient implementation of the Missing Persons Act in Mexico and to promote regulatory frameworks in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

2. Disappearances: Duty and pain

The pandemic has decimated the livelihoods of countless communities and millions of already vulnerable families; it has had serious social and economic consequences in addition to those generated by the violence – one of the root causes underlying migration and forced displacement. In our region, hurricanes Eta and Iota, and other natural disasters, caused severe damage and serious suffering at the end of 2020, leaving many doubly or triply vulnerable.

The new dangers associated with climate change are increasingly clear; far from being an abstract theory, climate change has become a concrete reality, affecting the worse-off in particular. Desertification and loss of biodiversity are getting worse. Hurricanes, floods and extreme temperatures are more frequent and last longer, as are droughts, such as those that have affected the arid area of land that runs from Chiapas to Costa Rica.

In certain neighbourhoods and villages affected by armed violence, some families are barely surviving. As they lose harvests, livestock, businesses and health centres to storms, scarcities and excessive rainfall, many increasingly see climate change as one more reason to move to other cities and countries.

One of the biggest challenges facing all of us in the 21st century is making communities that are already afflicted by serious poverty and violence resilient in the face of climate change – a challenge that we must face head on and to which we must find urgent solutions.

4. Security, use of force and human rights: A delicate balance

In the last few years, the regional response to the violence has often involved increasing the armed forces' role in maintaining public order. This raises the need to increase observation and vigilance so as to avoid excesses and to ensure the suitable use of force in each situation.

Giving members of the armed forces more duties that do not correspond to either their doctrine or training can put excessive pressure on them. In addition, putting the armed forces in a position for which they were not intended increases the risk that a misunderstanding about the performance and development of the newly assigned tasks could have regrettable consequences in humanitarian terms.

The responsibility of the police and the armed forces is to protect the local population. To help them achieve their mission, we provide awareness-raising sessions and training. We also maintain confidential dialogue with the security and armed forces so that international law and internationally recognized standards on the use of force are upheld.

5. Detention: Health, dignity and alternatives to detention

It has been said that a society's level of civilization can be measured by how it treats its prisoners. Regardless of the reasons for their detention, people deprived of their liberty must be treated with dignity. They have the right to suitable accommodation and food, access to health care, contact with their loved ones, due process and judicial guarantees.

Many countries in our region are seeing a constant rise in their prison populations. People are often held in old, unsuitable and overcrowded facilities. The needs and rights of these people urgently need to be taken into account, in particular with respect to life, dignity and their reintegration into the community. These must be the public policy priorities.

COVID-19 placed new obstacles in the path of maintaining good social relationships around the world, but it made things even harder for people deprived of their liberty. Despite the health crisis, detainees need to maintain their already limited contact with the outside world, in particular with their families. The pandemic also showed how especially vulnerable these people were in terms of health care. Therefore, it is important that budgets be sufficiently large to enable people deprived of their liberty to have access to health care and vaccination programmes, which we support in detention facilities in several of the countries in the region.

There are ongoing debates in the region about crime policies and alternatives to depriving people of their liberty – in particular those who are especially vulnerable, such as children, mothers, pregnant women and people who are seriously ill. For our part, we shall continue visiting places of detention and providing recommendations to the authorities on what measures they should take to ensure detainees are treated more humanely and with dignity.



EDITORIAL

NORMALIZING THE VIOLENCE WON'T MAKE ITS EFFECTS GO AWAY



By Miguel Adrián Ramírez González, head of operations in Mexico

More than two years ago, Nancy had to say goodbye to her son, Manuel, who had been shot several times. As he lay dying in her arms, she made him a promise: her grandchildren would not go through what he had gone through. His death made the headlines for one day, and then faded to become just another among Mexico's statistics of violent killings and crimes.

Tens of thousands of people have lost a child or a relative to violence in Mexico. Nancy's story has repeatedly played out in similar form in daily news bulletins and been heard around dinner tables again and again – then forgotten, again and again. Violence, unfortunately, is part of daily life for many communities in the country, so much so that for many of us it has become normalized, something we've learned to live with, to resign ourselves to, to the point that we've become immune to the suffering of thousands of people.

Like many countries affected by violence in the region and around the world, the impact on Mexicans is serious: homicides, disappearances (91 people were murdered and 20 people went missing every day on average last year, according to official statistics), displacement, families torn apart, threats. That applies as much to migrants, who face many dangers that could end their lives, as to countless local communities who live in fear of armed groups in their neighbourhoods.

All of this is in addition to the ravages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The ICRC carried out its first humanitarian operation in Mexico in 1994. We opened our current regional delegation in 2002, after the Mexican Senate approved the headquarters agreement signed by the government in July 2001. Because of our continued presence and work in the country for more than 20 years, we know what serious humanitarian consequences and pain the armed violence is leaving in its wake; we know we have to fight against the fatigue and numbness, to stop it being normal. Armed violence not only affects people in the present, it also endangers their future: it increases the social and economic vulnerabilities of populations and directly and indirectly affects their daily lives and health.

But our experience in Mexico also gives us hope. In addition to the challenges, we've seen a vibrant civil society come together to demand structural changes and its collective efforts grow and grow. We have seen the resilience of communities that create spaces to remake the social fabric that connect us, and we have seen many authorities' commitment to achieving better solutions. There has also been progress in the area of law, such as the Missing Persons Act, a crucial step for recognizing the rights of missing persons and their families. But there is still a long way to go.

It will take time to overcome the consequences of the violence in Mexico. There are no easy solutions in the short term. It will require funding, the backing and will of many political and social forces, coordination by the authorities, the support of national and international organizations, and above all processes that include the communities affected. In addition, a fundamental first step is recognizing and becoming collectively aware of how much the violence is costing us in terms of lost lives and futures: we must start by denormalizing the violence.

At the ICRC, we work with the Mexican Red Cross to strengthen the protection and assistance given to communities affected by the violence, families of missing persons and migrants. We also seek to knit together the social fabric of these communities and empower them by informing them of what their rights are and how to ensure they are upheld. We try to improve people's present and help them to find better alternatives for their future, as can be seen in the different sections of this report.

Recognizing the violence as one of the most serious problems is a step towards working together to reverse the trend, every day, so that there will be fewer people like Nancy holding their dying son in their arms. Indignation and a rejection of the virus of violence is the minimum we owe to the victims of this long, painful and endemic disease.



DISPLACED AND MISSING PERSONS

Despite the interminable COVID-19 pandemic, migration flows increased significantly in 2021. As a result, requests for refugee status in Mexico also rose, hitting an historic high.

Migrants continue to face violence and the threat of violence, both in their communities back home and along the migration route.

Migrants are often forced to take increasingly dangerous routes, running the risk of injury, blackmail, attack, kidnapping, being separated from their families, and disappearance or death just for trying to run away from the violence or for looking for better economic opportunities. Despite the volatile situation, the ICRC, together with the Mexican Red Cross and civil society shelter organizations, continued to provide protection and assistance to migrants.



DIALOGUE WITH THE AUTHORITIES

The ICRC maintains bilateral and confidential dialogue with the authorities to share observations and recommendations on the vulnerability of migrants as a result of the armed violence along their journeys and the consequences in humanitarian terms.

We also discuss changes in migration policy and their impact.

As a part of this dialogue, the ICRC provided technical support for the drafting of the Interinstitutional Protocol on the Treatment of Migrants in Veracruz State, a document aimed at improving migrants' safety, treatment and referrals that was adopted in October 2021.



Coralio/ICRC

WINGS TO GO BACK HOME

Giovanna, migrant

Giovanna's journey began four years ago when her cousin was murdered and members of her family received threats. As she travelled through Mexico, she wrote down how it felt to be far from loved ones who had stayed in her home country:

"I want to fly, to go back to my country, and I'm angry that I can't go back ... I want to see my grandparents again. For them to see me."

I'M FIGHTING

Alex Pérez, from Honduras

"I'm fighting for my mother and my son ... It's hard on the road, but I need to do the best I can ... They took my mother's land off her. They took our house."

That's why I took the decision. With nothing left, I said, 'I'm grabbing my backpack and I'm off.' I didn't even say goodbye to my mother. I just hugged her."

I said, 'Ma, I'm going to work' and she said she would wait for me, but I don't know how ... whether dead or alive."



A. Vega/ICRC

OUR ACTION IN NUMBERS



4 605

migrants

were visited in **15 immigration detention centres** over **29 visits**. We observed the living conditions and made recommendations to the authorities.

We enabled migrants to make



23 022

telephone calls

and

access the internet



25 621 times

in **41 assistance points** run by civil society shelter organizations and **15 assistance points managed by the Mexican Red Cross**. This helped migrants stay in contact with their loved ones and reduced the risk of them going missing along their migration route.

12 132
migrants



received medical assistance in **eight health posts** run by the Mexican Red Cross.

35 migrants



who were seriously injured or victims of violence **received surgical and orthopaedic supplies, access to health care** and were transferred to health facilities.

11 migrants



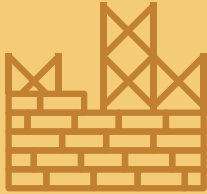
who had become disabled or amputees as a result of accidents along their journeys **were provided with prostheses, orthoses and orthopaedic devices and items**, as well as physical rehabilitation.



5 authorities operating under the National Institute of Migration

attended **the fifth online course on international migration law** given by the International Institute of Human Rights. The aim was to raise awareness on key aspects of the current migration context, as well as analyse the duties and concerns of the relevant states.

OUR ACTION IN NUMBERS



65 857 migrants

were beneficiaries of infrastructure and technical capacity-building projects carried out in **21 shelters**.



Wells in La Gloria and Emiliano Zapata in Chiapas were fitted with water filters, providing drinking water to



10 200 people,
including migrants

40 000



face masks, and stethoscopes, thermometers and pulse oximeters were **delivered to migration authorities** as part of a special operation to bolster protective measures taken **against the spread of COVID-19 in 9 immigration detention centres**.

Migrants will receive better quality health care, helping to prevent the spread of infection.

UNITED TO QUENCH PEOPLE'S THIRST

Ricardo Morales, community leader, La Gloria

With the community's support, the ICRC installed a water filter at a well in La Gloria, making the water drinkable for both local people and migrants passing through on the Mexican leg of their journey.

Water is vital: many migrants die or fall sick on their journey as a result of dehydration, and many communities do not have clean water for drinking, cooking or washing.

"The filter has been a boon as much for migrants as for local people in the street. In these times we live in, not everyone offers a glass of water to the migrants. People who are passing through, above all migrants who no longer pass through here during the daytime, can now get a drink of water and carry on their way. The community has also benefited from the filter."



INJURED, SEPARATED AND MISSING PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES

More than 96,000 families in Mexico spend their days not knowing what has happened to their loved ones or where they are. The pandemic did not stop the families' efforts to find them, nor our efforts to support them. The country is also facing a forensics crisis: according to estimates by both non-governmental organizations and official sources, there are around 52,000 unidentified bodies lying in common graves in public cemeteries or in forensic mortuaries. An investigation by the *Movimiento por Nuestros Desaparecidos en México* (the Movement for Our Missing People in Mexico) found that Baja California, Mexico City, Mexico State, Jalisco, Chihuahua, Tamaulipas and Nuevo León accounted for around 72% of cases. Many of these people are being looked for by their families. The ICRC continues to help people look for and find missing persons and, if they are dead, to make sure that their bodies are identified, treated with dignity and returned to their families for a decent funeral.

In 2021, we carried out activities to support and advise families of missing persons and the authorities at various levels. We also supported the authorities by facilitating regional meetings of committees for the search for missing persons to strengthen their capacities to look for missing migrants in Mexico, supporting the setting up of the coordinating group of the Extraordinary Forensic Identification Mechanism (MEIF) and helping to organize national meetings of various forensic services to discuss and promote good identification practices. We also helped strengthen the country's forensic services by providing technical equipment and reaching agreements on the construction of their own facilities that will provide suitable storage and identification of dead people.

The ICRC provided support to family associations, including artistic initiatives that aim to raise awareness about the issue and the consequences for families. We also helped to strengthen justice, social and health services, including public institutions and civil society organizations and associations, so that families can receive better assistance and psychosocial support.

In 2022, we shall continue supporting the implementation of the Missing Persons Act at various levels of government, alongside the authorities and the families of missing persons. We shall also advocate for new regulations that make the search for and identification of missing persons compulsory by law across Mexican states.





I CRY FOR EVERY ONE OF MY FELLOW SUFFERERS

Naylea Carreño from Guanajuato, Mexico

Looking for her sister Sharon since 2020

“What a relative of a missing person goes through is very hard. Just the thought: What are they doing to her? What happened? Is she eating? Is she cold? What could they have done to her? Is she suffering now?”

What I miss most about not being with her is her. When she got home, it used to really annoy me that she would go and lie down straightaway and eat in bed. That used to annoy me – now I miss it. I say to myself: ‘I guess you never value people until you no longer have them.’

It makes me really sad to see the mothers looking for their children. I think that is the most difficult part of the searching, because you see the pain, the sadness that the mother has to bear, and how she goes on looking nevertheless.

I cry with sadness for every one of my fellow sufferers. I cry for every missing person there is and their loved ones. I cry for every missing person there is. It’s hard.”

B. Iñiguez/CICR

I’M NOT THE SAME PERSON Eva Mora Liberato

Representative from the Colectivo Familias de Acapulco en Busca de sus Desaparecidos (Acapulco Association of Families Searching for Missing Persons)

“After my son was kidnapped, my life changed drastically. I’m not the same person anymore. I’m the living dead. Things I liked doing, I no longer do. I’m focusing at the moment on getting stronger so that I can keep going and keep looking for them.

I never thought I’d have to scour the earth looking for my son, always coming up against obstacles. But this work isn’t too much for me because I’m not looking for my son alone but for all the missing people.”



M. Méndez/CICR

OUR ACTION IN NUMBERS



1680

relatives of missing
persons,

from **30 family associations**, received ICRC support and advice whether as members of working groups with the authorities, in training workshops, at events and during the search for their loved ones, whether alive or dead.

At least

340 civil
servants

from **53 public bodies**, including **15 committees** for the search for missing persons and **10 public prosecutors specializing** in the field of missing persons received advice from the ICRC or took part in training and awareness-raising sessions on the needs and rights of relatives of missing persons.

1299

relatives of missing
persons

received **psychological and psychosocial support** both during the search for their loved ones and when their remains were recovered and handed over for a proper funeral via associations, civil society organizations and public mental health services supported by the ICRC.

55 people,

including professionals from mental health institutions, organizations and communities, **were trained in providing assistance and psychosocial support** to, and responding to the mental health needs of, families who are searching for their missing loved ones.



1297 people,

including civil servants, service providers and the members of the general public, **took part in information and awareness-raising sessions on psychosocial support and the mental health** needs of relatives of missing persons, and on the impact on their own emotional health of providing assistance to victims.

The remains of

2 migrants



were **repatriated and buried** with the support of the ICRC.



items for managing the dead with dignity were **donated by the ICRC to the Mexican Red Cross** in relation to the assistance activities undertaken when **54 migrants** died in a road accident in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas.

2750 forensic supplies

were donated to the forensic services of Baja California and Chiapas; forensic experts in Saltillo and Acuña, Coahuila; the Special Public Prosecutor's Office for Persons Missing or Deprived of their Liberty, Tamaulipas; and the General Public Prosecutor's Office in Coahuila.



25 civil servants

received training on **self-care tools and basic psychosocial support** to provide better assistance to families of people who are missing or dead.



138 civil servants

received ICRC-supported **training in forensic identification and information management.**

40 000 relatives of missing persons

took part in **awareness-raising sessions on their role in the search for, localization and identification** of their loved ones, and their right to participate in the identification and handover processes carried out by public bodies.



The bodies of

450 dead people

may be stored with dignity in Guerrero and 12 in Acuña City thanks to the construction of an ossuary and morgue with the support of the ICRC.



IDENTIFICATION PLATFORM

The ICRC, together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the (GIZ), launched a publicly accessible online platform ([identificaciónhumana.mx](https://www.identificacionhumana.mx)) that provides guidance and resources that promote best forensic practices.

This was part of our work to promote multidisciplinary and technical discussions on the identification of human remains between staff, forensic authorities, civil society and academia.

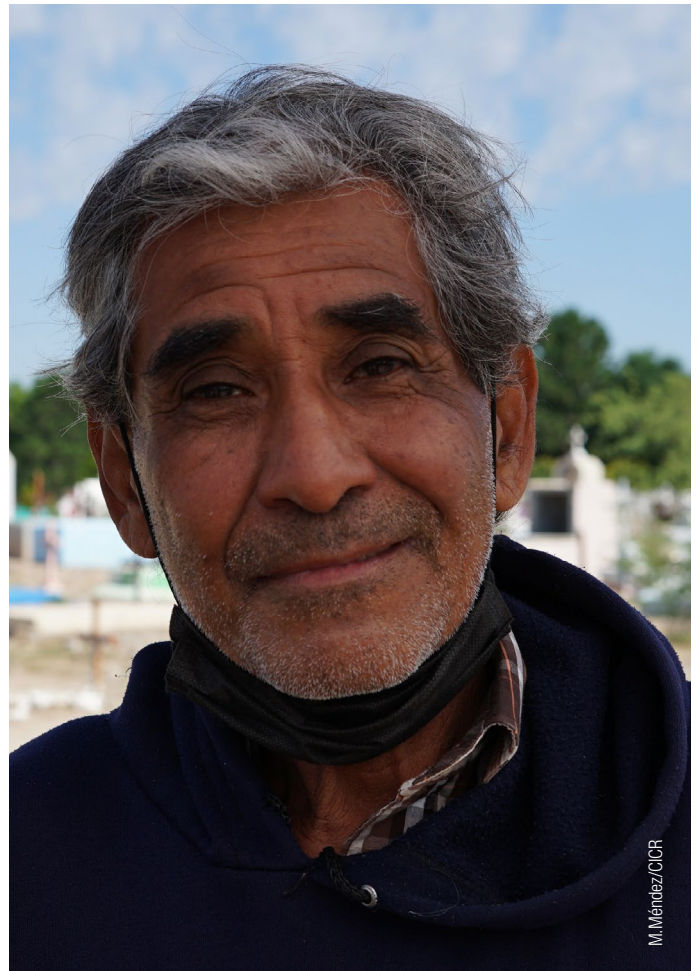
A MAGIC WAND Martín Roque

The ICRC took part as an observer over four days of mass exhumations carried out in Coahuila in 2021 by the Regional Centre for Human Identification (CRIH). The aim was to identify people who had been buried in mass graves in cemeteries.

ICRC experts provided technical advice to the families concerned by the exhumations and gave workshops on their rights and forensic identification processes.

The families took part to ensure that the recovery of the bodies was carried out correctly and with the hope that some bodies could be returned to the families.

“I would like to wave a magic wand and make it so that every person, every family that is missing someone, could find them,” said Martín Roque, who has been supporting families in their search.





A. Guzmán/ICRC

POUR OUT A LITTLE OF WHAT WE HAVE IN OUR HEARTS

Araceli Salcedo

leader of the Orizaba Córdoba Association for Families of Missing Persons

Supporting the families of missing persons and meeting their needs are priorities for the ICRC. One of them is the need for mental health care. In this regard, we provided workshops as safe spaces where people who are looking for their loved ones could share their experiences and their pain.

“These workshops are a real learning experience. We’ve learned how to pour out a little of what we have in our hearts, something that it isn’t always easy for us to do. We want to cry sometimes and we don’t let ourselves. We are too hard on ourselves, and we stop ourselves because of what others might think. Like: ‘If you’re crying, it’s because you’re still suffering. If you’re smiling, it’s because you’ve forgotten.’ Because of these workshops, we’ve learned that life goes on and that smiling doesn’t mean we’ve forgotten anyone, but the opposite. We need to keep moving on, to keep rebuilding.”

“The materials we worked on with the ICRC’s team are excellent. We worked on building ourselves, but we’re going to be able to do it together to keep making ourselves heard in society. Because people have never stopped going missing. On the contrary, the problem is getting bigger and bigger every day.”

KNOWING HOW TO LISTEN TO VICTIMS

Mayra Pérez

State Committee on Integrated Assistance to Victims in Guanajuato State

“The techniques they teach us are really good for being able to treat victims better – to be able to listen to them and know how to keep them calm so that they can tell the facts.”

I can also share these techniques with my colleagues. Now, if I want to help someone legally and I need them to tell me the facts, but they aren’t in any condition to do so at that moment, I can use one of the tools I’ve learned to be able to get closer to the person.”



A. Vega/ICRC

COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

High levels of violence in various parts of Mexico is affecting many families directly and indirectly. It is preventing some vulnerable communities in certain areas from accessing essential services, such as health care. In 2021, we continued our efforts to support initiatives that facilitate access to essential services and strengthen the social fabric.

For example, we supported the inauguration of the Zapata Community Centre, located in the delegation in Emiliano Zapata, Acapulco, Guerrero. Since 2017, more than 18,000 people have taken part in sport and artistic activities and first aid training, as well as occupational training projects. The centre, set up by the Mexican Red Cross with the ICRC's support, is intended to serve as a safe space for the community to get together and strengthen social ties.

The ICRC is monitoring violent incidents that affect health-care services and the consequences for the local population. In 2021, 32 attacks on health workers and facilities unconnected to the COVID-19 pandemic were recorded: that is almost one attack per week. We worked to minimize the risks and mitigate the consequences in order to increase respect for health workers and the communities' access to health care.





AN EXTRAORDINARY CHANGE

Nancy Sandoval

Zapata community centre user

“I have a son who was assaulted. But when he started going to the Red Cross workshops, I saw an extraordinary change in him: at work, at school, how he looked.”

MY BIGGEST MOTIVATION WAS LEARNING

José Ángel Palacios

Zapata community centre user

“Taking first aid training in my neighbourhood was really important because we live in an area overflowing with violence. You need that first aid training for whatever situation may arise.”

My biggest motivation was learning, being prepared to help others, to support people. Because there is almost nobody to provide health care for us in this neighbourhood.”

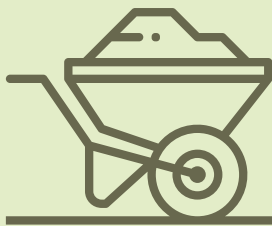


OUR ACTION IN NUMBERS



103 health workers

and other service providers took part in **training in self-care and basic psychosocial support** to improve people's well-being and strengthen capacity in various communities affected by the violence.



600 people

benefited through **projects to improve infrastructure and create safe community spaces** in Ebanito (Matamoros), Tamaulipas and Colonia Zapata (Acapulco).



28 people, who look after migrants

in shelters and provide health care in communities affected by the violence in Chihuahua and Guerrero, **received mental health care and psychosocial support.**



35 teachers in communities affected by the violence in rural Madera, Chihuahua, were given **training in safe behaviours and identifying risks.**

ACTION ON BEHALF OF PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY

The ICRC visits places of detention to help ensure that people deprived of their liberty enjoy decent living conditions and are treated humanely and with dignity, in accordance with international law and recognized international standards. This includes having contact with their loved ones. We share our findings with the authorities in line with our standard working procedures on maintaining bilateral, confidential dialogue.

Taking into account the importance of ensuring that detainees and prison staff are included in vaccination programmes, the ICRC continued to promote equal and universal access to vaccines in Mexico.

In July, we visited two Federal Social Rehabilitation Centres (CEFERESO), one of which was a women-only facility. For both visits, we shared our observations and recommendations as part of our confidential, bilateral dialogue with the authorities. During these visits, we assessed and analysed the implementation of the ensuring respect project, whose aim is to increase the number of educational and vocational activities available to women detainees, and a plan was drawn up to increase the women's participation in the project.

Among our training activities, we organized online workshops on developing criteria for technical standards on prison infrastructure, in which members of the Mexican prison system took part. This regional project, which is led by the ICRC, aims to serve as a benchmark for countries to use when setting their own standards to ensure that prison facilities provide living conditions that are suitable, functional and dignified for detainees.

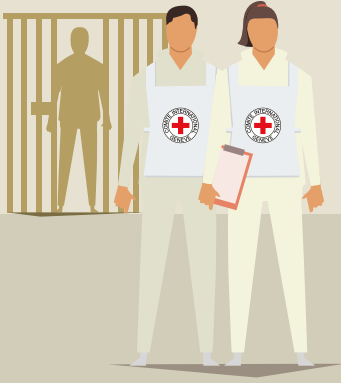


OUR ACTION IN NUMBERS MEXICO

We visited

1259 detainees
in CEFERESO 5, Veracruz

assessed the facilities and carried out interviews with the prison authorities and **40 detainees**. We provided our findings and recommendations on access to legal advice, health care and family visits.



We twice visited

792 women detainees in CEFERESO 16,
a women-only facility in Morelos,

to monitor the implementation of the project on increasing respect.

60 prison officers from Mexico and Central America took part (online and face-to-face) in the fourth regional workshop on the Bangkok rules, organized by the ICRC. The theme was “Ten years on from the adoption of the Bangkok rules”. These rules are the most important international instrument on detention facilities that take into account the specific needs of women.



150 people from Mexico and elsewhere
in the Americas

took part in the **fifth workshop on prison management and infrastructure**, organized by the ICRC. Discussions covered self-isolation rules, progress on developing criteria for technical standards on prison infrastructure, and challenges related to prison management and infrastructure.

60 health workers from Mexico
and Central America

took part in the **fourth regional round table on health care in detention**, facilitated by the ICRC. Participants shared the challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures they took in their respective countries.



CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS MORE RESPECTFUL OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND LIFE

The ICRC continued raising awareness of and promoting respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law, presenting the international norms and standards applicable to operations carried out by security and armed forces to the authorities and academics.

In the academic sphere, we championed the Jean Pictet International Humanitarian Law Competition, one of the most prestigious in the area of IHL. The 35th edition took place in Albania and the winners, who had received support from the ICRC, were the team from Mexico.

We maintained our humanitarian dialogue with members of the police and armed forces to promote the dignity and rights of people affected by armed conflict. We also worked on various initiatives with the Mexican government's Interministerial Committee on IHL.

In accordance with our dialogue on creating an environment that is more respectful of human dignity and life, Mexico took part in various regional and international events organized by the ICRC, such as the regional meeting of national IHL committees and organizations in America, and jointly organized with the ICRC the regional consultation of Latin American states on IHL and cyber attacks in armed conflicts.



OUR ACTION IN NUMBERS

6736

senior
officers

junior officers and operational personnel from the Secretariat of National Defence (SEDENA), the Secretariat of Security and Civilian Protection (SSPC), the Navy (SEMAR) and the country's judicial branch received advice and training in IHL, rules to apply in operations to comply with the law and rules on the use of force.

More than 1000

people attended a **conference given by the ICRC** in an international forum organized **by the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH)** on police procedure and the use of force.



Almost

600

federal civil
servants,

including staff from the **SEDANA**, **SSPC** and **SEMAR**, took part in conferences on the prevention of sexual violence.



2

senior officers of the
National Guard

took part in online round tables of regional experts on the application of the law during public health emergencies and **2 senior officers** took part in an **international colloquium on best police practices**.



15

civil servants in the National Anti-Kidnapping Committee took part in the workshop "**Migration, rights and protection mechanisms**". This was the first awareness-raising session on migration given **by the ICRC to anti-kidnapping units**.

53

members of the National Guard completed a train-the-trainer course on humanitarian principles and the use of force, and **80 took part in courses** on the use of force, migration and human rights.



In addition, the ICRC's regional delegation in Mexico **provided capacity-building activities** to other regional security and military institutions:



64

members of
the armed forces

of the **Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua** attended activities on migration and people on the move, IHL and rules applying to situations of armed violence carried out by the ICRC at the **Conference on Central American Armed Forces (CFAC)**.

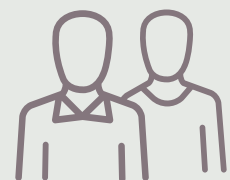
12 940

people in Latin
America

took part in the **Seminar on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law** organized by the Inter-American Defense Board and the ICRC.



58 people from **14 American countries** attended a conference on refugees and migration flows in Latin America, human rights and humanitarian perspectives given by the ICRC as part of the **Seminar on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law** organized at the Inter-American Defense College.



40

people from **Mexico and Central America** participated in an online panel discussion on **electoral violence prevention aimed at security forces in the region**.

SUPPORTING THE MEXICAN RED CROSS

The Mexican Red Cross and the ICRC continued implementing programmes to help mitigate the humanitarian consequences of violence in vulnerable communities and to help migrants, including by putting them back in touch with their relatives.

As part of our work to strengthen security, acceptance, access and perception of our work and the Mexican Red Cross volunteers, we supported the reprinting of the fourth edition of the Safer Access Manual.

The ICRC also provided financial and technical support to the Mexican Red Cross.



OUR ACTION IN NUMBERS



189 volunteers from the Mexican Red Cross

took part in face-to-face and online workshops on how to operate more safely in the field and on better ways to work as part of the **restoring family links programme**.

These training sessions took place at the national, state and local level.

Between January and April, **volunteers of the Mexican Red Cross** and the ICRC **facilitated 101 video calls** for COVID-19 patients in Miguel Hidalgo Hospital.



43 members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement attended the **Sixth Annual Regional Meeting on Access to Humanitarian Response Mechanisms and Protection for People on the Move Affected by Armed Conflict**, which took place from 22 to 24 November in **Mexico City**. The aim was to strengthen the assistance and protection response provided by the different parts of the Movement.



2 Members of the migration team of the Mexican Red Cross attended to the **5th virtual course on International Migration Law** given by The Institute for International Law and Human Rights in order to broaden their knowledge on key elements that characterize the current migratory context, as well as analyze the States' obligations and the current humanitarian response.



PROVIDING HEALTH CARE ALONG MIGRATION ROUTES

Alejandro Lara

focal point for ICRC/Mexican Red Cross Assisting
Migrants Programme

“Migrants feel a little safer when they see us on their route. Knowing that they can count on there being an ambulance that goes along the same road as them and can help them really matters to us and to the migrants, because we provide care and help them arrive at their final destination in good health.”






MISSION

We help people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything we can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. We also seek to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

People know they can count on us to carry out a range of life-saving activities in conflict zones and to work closely with the communities there to understand and meet their needs. Our experience and expertise enable us to respond quickly and effectively, without taking sides.

 @CICRDRMX

 @CICR_DRMX

 @cicr_mx

 @cicrmx



CICR

ICRC Regional Delegation for Mexico and Central America
Calzada General Mariano Escobedo #526 Col. Anzures, CDMX
T (+52) 55 2581 2110
E-mail: mex_mexico@icrc.org
www.cicr.org
©CICR, Marzo de 2022