



ICRC

International Committee of the Red Cross

HEALTH CARE IN DANGER
IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH

Health Care in Danger

VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTH CARE MUST END

IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH



Kasbar Tashdjian, MD
ICRC Health Unit, Geneva

ISSOP 2019 Annual Meeting
Beirut 25 – 28 September



Children in Armed Conflict
"Rights, Health and Wellbeing"
American University of Beirut, Lebanon
Saint Joseph University in Beirut (preconference)



ICRC

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

HEALTH CARE IN DANGER
IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH

The individual roles




ICRC

INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE RED
CROSS (ICRC)
(1863)



190 NATIONAL SOCIETIES
(SINCE 1863)



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION OF RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT
SOCIETIES (IFRC) (1919)**

Together, the “Movement” is unified and guided by seven fundamental principles: **Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity, Universality.**



ICRC **International Humanitarian Law & The Notion of Special Respect for CHILDREN**

HEALTH CARE IT'S A
MATTER
IN OF LIFE
DANGER & DEATH

“Children affected by armed conflict are entitled to special respect and protection.”

- *Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rule 135*

Children pay a very heavy price during armed conflict !

- Children represent the most vulnerable category in war times
- Children living in countries affected by conflict and fragility are twice as likely to die before the age of 5
- Over the last decade the number of children wounded or killed in conflict is up 300 per cent”
 - Children are disproportionately affected by the indirect consequences of conflict
 - 40% of ICRC beneficiaries are children





ICRC

Health Care in Danger: The Issue

Violence against health care is...

HEALTH CARE IN DANGER
IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH

- One of the biggest, yet **unrecognized humanitarian issues** in today's conflicts

- Has major **knock-on** effects on the life and the well-being of millions

"One of the first casualties of war is the health care system itself."

Marco Baldan, ICRC Surgeon





ICRC

Health Care in Danger

HEALTH CARE IN DANGER
IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH

Targets of violence, examples...



Hospitals, healthcare sites, e.g., physical rehab, detention
Bombing, shelling, looting, discriminatory access



Personnel (+ health security)
Harassment, threats, intimidation, robbery, arrests, forced preferential treatment



Health & Medical Systems

Ministries of Health, universities, medical supplies, slowed/stymied administrative processes



Medical Transport

First responder violence, checkpoint delays/blocks, theft, misuse, abduction



Wounded and sick

Killing, injuring, harassing, intimidating denying patients to health/medical needs



ICRC

Violence against Health Care: A Global Humanitarian Problem

HEALTH CARE IS A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH
IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH

ICRC incident collection: 11 countries, 2012-2014

- Almost 2.400 incidents
- Both State armed forces and NSAGs
- + 90% of HC providers Affected local



More than **4,200** people were victims of violence against health care.



Over **50%** of attacks were around, inside or targeted health-care facilities.



598 health-care workers were killed or beaten / wounded.



Over **700** medical transports were affected, directly or indirectly.



ICRC 2017 - 2019 Strategic Directions

Health Care in Danger

HEALTH CARE IN DANGER
IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH

Operationalizing practical measures in the field:

1. Equipping **health care providers** to be better prepared to prevent, mitigate and/or cope with the impact of violence
2. Promoting the respect and protection of health care by **weapon bearers**
3. Engaging with the **general public** to change behaviors and increase awareness of the respect for healthcare
4. Conducting **evidence-based research** to address this important issue
5. Developing and strengthening **national legal frameworks**
6. Strengthening global to local **humanitarian diplomacy**



Health Care Providers

Prepared to prevent, mitigate and/or cope with the impact of violence of health care

HEALTH CARE IT'S A **MATTER**
IN OF LIFE
DANGER & DEATH

ICRC

HUMANITARIAN LAW & POLICY

About Law and Conflict

e-Learning responsibility personnel
April 8, 2016, Law and War / C

CARE MATTER IN OF LIFE DANGER & DEATH

01 VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTH CARE

02 THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HEALTH-CARE PERSONNEL

08

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE
Université de Genève > M

Le MOOC "Violence

LA FACULTE
ENSEIGNEMENT
RECHERCHE
FACULTE ET CITE
LIENS UTILES

PHOTO © UNFRAME/CHERNOV

New tool helps hospitals prepare to face violence

Article | 06 APRIL 2017



Aleppo, national hospital



MANAGING VIOLENCE IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

TRAINER'S MANUAL FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS, HOUSE OFFICERS AND RESIDENTS





ICRC

Purpose of Training & Manuals

HEALTH IT'S A
CARE MATTER
IN OF LIFE
DANGER & DEATH

- Build capacity of healthcare professionals to respond to the situations of violence and harassment directed towards them and the health care facilities.
- Should be readily available to all health care providers for managing violent situations
 - HCW are aware of the typology of violence in different healthcare settings,
 - HCW are able to ensure their own safety at all times
- HCW are aware of their rights and responsibilities, institutional policies and procedures and relevant legal protection.



ICRC

Humanitarian Diplomacy

The Community of Concern in support of promoting the protection of health care

HEALTH CARE MATTER IN OF LIFE DANGER & DEATH

HCiD Community of Concern



PROTECTING HEALTH TOGETHER

HEALTH CARE MATTER
IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE
IN DANGER & DEATH



Protecting health care together



ICRC

HEALTH IT'S A
CARE MATTER
IN OF LIFE
& DEATH





ICRC

HEALTH CARE IN DANGER
IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH

Thank You!

**VIOLENCE AGAINST
HEALTH CARE MUST END**

ICRC-HCiD Resource Center:

<http://healthcareindanger.org/resource-centre/>

IT'S A
MATTER
OF **LIFE**
& **DEATH**