

THE I.C.R.C. STRIVES TO MEET THE NEEDS

As an impartial intermediary at the service of all the victims of war (whether war between nations, civil war or internal strife), the ICRC is ideally suited to be the body which centralizes, forwards and distributes relief supplies. For the donors, it affords a guarantee that such supplies will be distributed equitably in accordance with their own wishes. The ICRC not only forwards relief supplies sent to it, but also, as far as its own resources permit, helps those who are not helped by others.



OF WAR VICTIMS



During the Second World War, 36 million parcels, worth Sw. fr. 3,500 million, were allowed to cross battle-fronts and blockades, protected by the Red Cross emblem; these parcels brought comfort to almost 3 million prisoners of war and civilian internees.

The ICRC also gave assistance to civilian war victims, who received relief supplies worth Sw. fr. 500 million; most of these supplies were administered by a special body set up jointly by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies.



1

3



Four relief actions by the ICRC made possible by the generosity of many national Red Cross Societies and individual donors:

1. Palestine (1949–1950)

Administration of relief granted by the United Nations for Arab refugees.
Value of relief supplies distributed:
Sw. fr. 144 million.

2. Greece (from 1947 on)

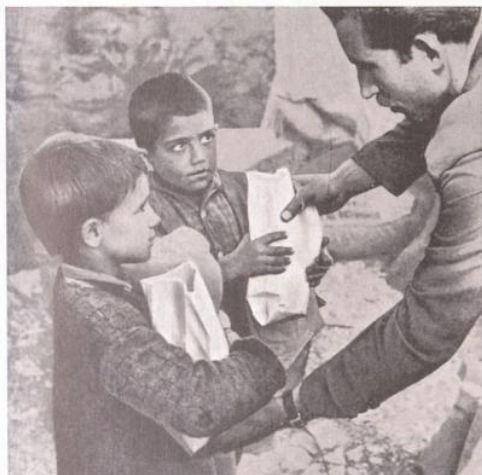
Assistance to needy civilians, exiles and political detainees.
Value of relief supplies distributed:
Sw. fr. 4.15 million

3. Hungary (1956–1957)

Assistance to the civilian population.
Value of relief supplies distributed:
Sw. fr. 85 million.

4. North Africa (from 1955 on)

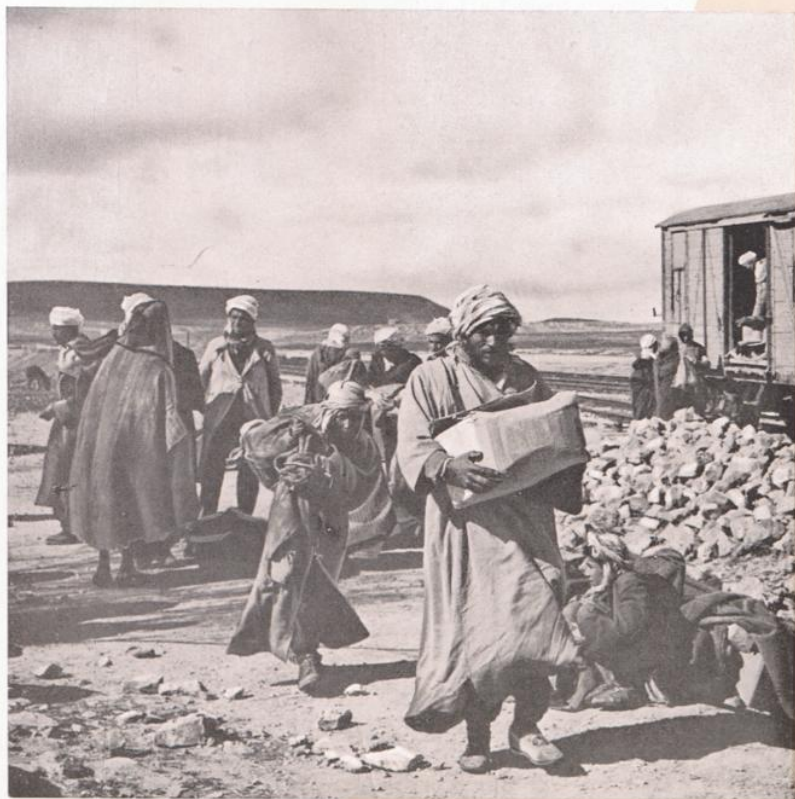
Assistance to victims of the events.
Value of relief supplies distributed:
Sw. fr. 4.5 million.



2

Taken together, the gifts distributed in over sixty countries by the ICRC since the end of the Second World War represent a total value of approximately Sw. fr. 312 million and weigh 117,000 tons.

The ICRC has given assistance to war-disabled in thirty-seven countries.



4