



ICRC

The President

Geneva, 2 December 2019
REM 19/599

Your Excellency,

I am writing to ask for your support in our effort to respond to the ever-deepening consequences of today's humanitarian emergencies and protracted conflicts on people and communities. In an increasing number of contexts around the world, the shocks of armed conflict and violence combine to cause devastating impacts. With your continued support, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will be able to step up its crucial assistance for populations to get back on their feet and rebuild their lives.

70 years after the adoption of the Geneva Conventions, the role of the ICRC in protecting and assisting affected communities on the basis of humanitarian laws and principles is as relevant as ever. States entrusted the ICRC with safeguarding a vital humanitarian space in which to assist and protect human life and dignity. The continued commitment of Georgia to these efforts is critical and your trust in our institution is much appreciated. For our part, we are determined to strengthen our accountability to you and to the populations we serve.

Frontlines of conflict are today seeing new dynamics, technologies are reshaping contemporary battlefields and the aid sector alike, and the needs of affected populations are evolving. The repercussions of protracted conflicts are no longer confined to the countries in which they are waged and their impact is increasingly affecting us all at larger scale. Long-term and systemic disruptions, particularly in urban settings, are calling for more durable solutions. In response, we are exploring innovative solutions with even greater determination – with affected people at the centre of our concern. In places lacking infrastructure, where markets have been disrupted, or where the effects of the climate crisis magnify vulnerabilities, the ICRC is undertaking greater efforts to combine emergency relief with longer-term reinforcements to communities' resilience.

Regardless of whether an ICRC service targets short, medium or long-term objectives, our *modus operandi* will continue to be rooted in neutral, impartial, independent humanitarian action as the framework that enables us to have the best and most relevant impact for the population.

His Excellency
Mr David Zalkaliani
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Georgia

We are also working to strengthen coordination with local, national and international partners, in particular within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in order to enhance the effectiveness and impact of our work. This includes a renewed commitment to support National Society development and capacities, as set out in our institutional strategy.

For 2020, the ICRC is putting forward a global budget of Sfr 2,161 million. This is a 3.2 % increase compared to last year's initial budget. This increase will mainly benefit field operations.

Your recommended contribution to the headquarters budget – calculated based on the assessments for contributions to the United Nations regular budget – corresponds to 0,008 % of the ICRC's headquarters budget of Sfr 246 million. This amounts to:

19,716 Swiss francs.

I am hopeful that your Government will agree to provide funding for our headquarters and make a voluntary contribution to our field operations in response to our 2020 appeals.

Your continued support and partnership is essential to the ICRC's ability to protect people, to prevent and respond to human suffering within an evolving operating environment.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Maurer', with a stylized, flowing script.

Peter Maurer