



# The ICRC Approach to Migration - A Humanitarian Perspective

APMLA Meeting, July 2017

C. Leonard Brueser

ICRC Regional Migration Adviser for Asia and the Pacific

[cbrueser@icrc.org](mailto:cbrueser@icrc.org)



# Decedent Migrants are a reality

Death in the sands: the horror of the Mexico border

the guardian

Tuesday 4 Octo

Donald Trump has pledged to build a 'beautiful wall' - but America's Mexico is already aggressively defended by the drones and fences of border patrol. It's a strategy that is causing ever more migrants to die in the terrain

## A Path to America, Marked by More and More Bodies

By **MANNY FERNANDEZ** MAY 4, 2017

Photographs by **GEORGE ETHEREDGE**

The New York Times

[Related Article](#)

[Leer en español](#)

World

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [World](#)

Tuesday, 27 June 2017 | MYT 9:04 PM

At least 24 migrants  
thousands rescued  
Libya

## Nearly 250 refugees feared dead after two migrant boats sink in

CASE 0438



A man illegally crossed the border into South Texas, died on the journey and was never identified. His remains were buried in a milk crate, his skull stained red from its contact with a bandanna.

Asi **WORLD NEWS** | Mo  
Mal Malaysia  
trafficki

🕒 23 Au



# The ICRC and Humanitarian Forensics

## **ICRC receives award for contributions to humanitarian forensic sciences**

14-09-2011 News Release 11/188

**Geneva (ICRC) – The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is to receive the inaugural prize for the development and promotion of humanitarian forensic sciences from the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS).**

...but forensics and decedent migrants are only one aspect of ICRC work with regards to migrants.



# A Humanitarian Approach

Definition of a migrant (*based on the International Federation of the Red Cross Policy on Migration, 2009*):

*A Migrant is a person who leaves or flees their habitual residence to go to new places – usually abroad – to seek opportunities or safer and better prospects. Migration can be voluntary or involuntary, but most of the time a combination of choices and constraints are involved. Thus, this definition includes, among others, labour migrants, stateless migrants, and migrants deemed irregular by public authorities. It also concerns refugees and asylum seekers, notwithstanding the fact that they constitute a special category under international law.*







# A Humanitarian Approach

- The ICRC pursues a vulnerability-based approach to migration (broad definition, irrespective of legal status or whereabouts)
- Not encouraging or discouraging migration, but respecting rights and dignity when people do migrate
- The ICRC focuses its response (assistance and protection) on areas where it has an added value, based on its experience and expertise



# The ICRC responses to the needs of migrants include...

## Healthcare

- à Providing hygiene kits to returning migrants
- à Access to primary healthcare to migrants
- à FA training for migrants

## Work with the



## Humanitarian Diplomacy: To influence the regulatory framework

- à ICRC unique access to bilateral dialogue
- à International fora (Bali Process, UN Compacts...)

## Red Cross Red Crescent leaders ask governments to review migration policies

June 15, 2016, Humanitarian issues / Migration / World Humanitarian Summit  
Raphaël Dallaire Ferland, Editor



Women and children freezing, stranded on the rocks in Lesbos. After one night, they were found by volunteers and transported to a safe harbour. (Photo by Giorgio Linardi / Sea-Watch)



# The ICRC responses to the needs of migrants include...

## Healthcare

- à Providing hygiene kits to returning migrants
- à Access to primary healthcare to migrants
- à FA training for migrants

## Work with the Movement

- à Support (financial, technical, tools...) to National Societies in carrying out their activities

## Humanitarian Diplomacy: To influence the regulatory framework

- à ICRC unique access to bilateral dialogue
- à International fora (Bali Process, UN Compacts...)



## Red Cross Red Crescent leaders ask governments to review migration policies

June 15, 2016, Humanitarian issues / Migration / World Humanitarian Summit  
Raphaël Dallaire Ferland, Editor



Women and children freezing, stranded on the rocks in Lesbos. After one night, they were found by volunteers and transported to a safe harbour. (Photo by Giorgio Linnadi / Sea-Watch)





# ...and also activities in ICRC “traditional” Protection activities



the Restoring  
Family Links  
(CP) and clarifying  
the fate of the  
missing



ness  
relevant  
anism  
ment  
ea-based



Thank you for your attention !



## ...and also activities in ICRC “traditional” Protection activities

### Detention

- à Monitoring conditions and treatment
- à Providing assistance

### Protection of the Civilian Population (PCP)

- à Raising awareness
- à Supporting relevant training mechanism
- à Non-refoulement
- à Land- and sea-based forces

### Restoring Family Links and clarifying the fate of the missing

Thank you for your attention !