



Integrating climate risk  
into ICRC operations:  
the Climate Centre's  
support in 2024

**Introducing the  
Climate Centre's  
support to  
climate-risk  
integration in  
ICRC operations**



**Climate  
Centre**

Multiple delegations and global teams were engaged and supported through strategic engagement, applied research and capacity strengthening in 2024

More than 500 people were reached through capacity building

A total of 12 delegations were provided with operational support through the Helpdesk

## Strategic support

Each ICRC delegation works with a regional focal point at the Climate Centre, who continuously supports strategic planning, the development of new initiatives, the monitoring and evaluation of climate-related activities, and the alignment of these activities with other national or regional initiatives, based on demand. The focal point also facilitates further in-depth operational support via a Helpdesk as well as capacity-building delivered by Climate Centre experts.

## Helpdesk

The Helpdesk is a resource used globally by ICRC delegations whenever more support is needed to integrate climate change considerations into their operations. Hosted by the Climate Centre, the Helpdesk supports access to key climate information such as weather forecasts, seasonal forecasts and long-term climate projections; advises on suitable actions including communication/advocacy; and supports delegations in implementing climate-smart activities. In the near future, the Climate Centre plans to extend the Helpdesk service to the wider Red Cross Movement and its partners. **In 2024, the Helpdesk received 42 individual requests from a total of 12 delegations across Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and North Africa and the Middle East (NAME).** These requests led to a range of outcomes: from risk analysis and communications advice to the integration of climate and weather information into ICRC interventions, and strategic support with domestic, international and multilateral stakeholders.

## Capacity building

The Climate Centre supports the ICRC with targeted climate knowledge assessments, awareness-raising sessions and practical training. This helps to advance delegations' understanding of the complex interplay between climate and conflict, and to integrate climate-smart approaches into their programming. The Climate Knowledge Survey (now available online) delivers actionable insights to ICRC managers, enabling them to enhance staff capabilities in strategic, climate-related areas. Awareness-raising sessions highlight the strategic value of climate-smart programming (CSP) for managers. And comprehensive training – for managers to field personnel – supports the practical application of climate considerations into their day to day work.

**A total of eight delegations as well as Geneva-based teams engaged in one or more capacity-building activities in 2024.** This means that the Climate Centre reached hundreds of staff through different types of sessions. Specifically, 377 people participated in the new [Online Climate Knowledge Survey](#), while 235 more participated in awareness-raising sessions or other comprehensive training. Approximately 200 staff participated in four regional Community of Practice sessions. A new e-learning course was also developed and is available to all ICRC personnel.



# Snapshot of ICRC support in 2024



## Africa

### 2024 highlight: Helping ICRC Mali to anticipate the impacts of heatwaves in detention centres

Based on a Climate Centre alert that the March to May 2024 heatwave season would be extremely hot, ICRC Mali proactively engaged with detention authorities to reduce the impact of the heat on detainees. Helpdesk support included a presentation to authorities on the available forecasts as well as examples of heatwave warning messages for detainees and prison guards. This intervention led to crucial action that ultimately saved many lives during the extreme heatwave season. In 2024, Africa's highest-recorded April temperature of 48.5°C was reached in Kayes – a town in western Mali.

This extreme Sahel heatwave would not have occurred without human-induced climate change. A World Weather Attribution study of the event can be found here: [Extreme Sahel heatwave that hit highly vulnerable population at the end of Ramadan would not have occurred without climate change – World Weather Attribution](#)

#### Summary of support

Overall, the Climate Centre Helpdesk responded to support requests from ICRC delegations in Mali, Niger, Somalia and South Sudan. The requests led to a range of inputs including climate-risk analyses; practical support to implement risk management strategies in programming; engagement with early warning information

for key risks in operations; monitoring and evaluating climate integration in operations; and support on risk awareness and communication with affected communities. This work helped to protect vulnerable populations from climate risks in regions affected by conflict (and other situations of violence).

#### Details of activity

Country	Support request	Summary
Mali	Retrospective risk analysis	Desktop review of documents and databases on the causes and impacts of climate change in the Sahel (especially Mali) in the last 10–30 years. The review focused on historical rainfall frequency, floods, droughts, temperature history, erosion, and the pollution of rivers or groundwater
	Integrating climate information	The delegation worked with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to assess the viability of a drought-resilient variety of millet (for arid zones of north and central Mali). The Helpdesk provided an assessment of whether the project integrated climate-smart practices
	GIS mapping	An extensive GIS mapping of the environmental impact to WatHab infrastructure in northern Mali. The mapping considered the intersection of WatHab infrastructure with climate-related risks (identified in previous research) along with the impacts of climate change on water in central and northern Mali

# Africa



Country	Support request	Summary
Somalia	Climate training	Training for WatHab, EcoSec, Health and Management on how to integrate climate considerations into programmes and projects
	Early Warning Early Action (EWEA)	Providing forecast support on EWEA for ICRC operations. The Climate Centre forecasts were also instrumental in the ICRC response to El Niño forecasts in Somalia. This support was also included by the ICRC in a flood-risk report for Somalia, published in January 2024.
	Capacity building	Climate-smart programming monitoring and evaluation training focusing on CLIM1 and CLIM2 indicators as well as operationalizing CLIM data
Niger	Communication	Supporting the development of key messages on heat for detention facilities and identifying effective actions to address heat risks
	Community engagement	Facilitating the implementation of a community-based anticipatory action (AA) exercise focused on extending flood community-based early warnings in hard-to-reach areas
	Climate Knowledge Survey	Conducted a Climate Knowledge Survey
	Climate Knowledge Survey feedback session	Session to present and discuss findings coming out of the Climate Knowledge Survey
South Sudan	Climate training	Training on how to integrate climate considerations into programmes and projects
	Communication	Support and technical advice on tailoring climate-sensitive key messages to various audiences, including staff and officers of state prisons, farmers, livestock keepers, fisherfolk, women, MEI beneficiaries, and community leaders
	Climate Knowledge Survey	Conducted a Climate Knowledge Survey
	Climate training	Training on how to integrate climate considerations into programmes and projects
Nigeria	Workshop	Follow-up session on climate–conflict training for managers
	Climate Knowledge Survey	Conducted a Climate Knowledge Survey

## North Africa and Middle East (NAME)

### Summary of support

In 2024, we supported delegations in understanding and applying Climate Smart Programming (CSP) through workshops and bilateral discussions. We conducted climate brainstorming sessions, helping delegations to prioritize climate hazards and identify smart pathways using existing climate profiles. We also facilitated the integration of climate actions into the 2025 Planning for Results (PfR) process and supported the onboarding of new climate focal points in Iraq and Lebanon.

## Asia and Pacific

### Summary of support

In this context, the Climate Centre Helpdesk provided strategic support that positioned ICRC as a regional leader in multilateral discussions on compounding risks to populations through strategy development; facilitating collaboration; and understanding and applying climate information, for example, on the impact of flood risks on ICRC operations, including Restoring Family Links (RFL) activities.

### Details of activity

Country	Support request	Summary
Afghanistan	Exposure analysis	Producing a guidance document of resources on climate risks to inform the Risk Inventory
	Climate Knowledge Survey	Adapted the Climate Knowledge Survey to the specific needs of the delegation and context

# Asia and Pacific

Country	Support request	Summary
Myanmar	<b>Strategic support</b>	Providing the delegation with strategy development support in preparation for the Conference of Parties and clarifying how the Movement (IFRC, ICRC and the Myanmar Red Cross Society) can mutually benefit from and collaborate around climate change. This was achieved through technical support to structures such as the joint National Society and ICRC entry points to climate action planning
	<b>Understanding and applying climate information</b>	Supporting with access to and analysis of seasonal forecast information; providing tailored weather information based on available short- to seasonal forecasts in-country; and undertaking a mapping of flood risks for the sub-delegation
	<b>Applying climate information to RFL activities</b>	Developing a guidance note on the impact of compounding conflict and climate risks on RFL in Myanmar. The guidance note was key to regional RFL training and decision support activity
	<b>Climate training</b>	Training on how to integrate climate considerations into programmes and projects
Philippines	<b>Applying climate information</b>	Compiling a climate risk analysis / country climate profile and continued engagement and support to the Prisoners of Climate Change initiative, exploring options for integrating climate projections in an assessment tool for prisons



# Americas

## Summary of support

In 2024, Climate Centre Helpdesk support proactively addressed the potential impact of climate in a changing risk landscape. The range of support, detailed opposite, demonstrates how the Helpdesk can support delegations with the necessary technical advice, tools and convening power to provide robust responses to the compounding risks populations face.

## Details of activity

Country	Support request	Summary
Venezuela	EcoSec support	Broad EcoSec support across strategy development, tools and process development, climate-risk analyses and integrating climate and weather services into delegation operations. Special support on the development of a document describing the accuracy of forecasts at different timescales, focusing on livelihoods and health
	Climate Knowledge Survey	Conducted a Climate Knowledge Survey
	Workshop	Use of climate information to link with the agro-climatic roundtables
Colombia	Convening power	Ensuring that climate elements are integrated into a review of the terms of reference for a key university partnership focused on nature-based solutions projects. Support for the delegation in explaining the different meteorological and hydrological stations that could be used in an area of low connectivity and conflict to discuss with the national meteorological authority
	Awareness-raising session	Conducted an awareness-raising session with coordinators around opportunities to integrate climate information into programmes



# Europe and Central Asia (Eurasia)

## Summary of support

Throughout 2024 the Climate Centre provided ongoing support to two delegations, Ukraine and Georgia, to help them progress the integration of climate risks into their operational interventions. This was achieved through ongoing bilateral discussions with the delegations and the development of foundational skills through capacity-building efforts as well as sector-specific support through the Helpdesk. For example, Helpdesk support to the Ukraine WatHab team instigated the development of global support tools for WatHab being carried out in 2025.



## Details of activity

Country	Support request	Summary
Ukraine	WatHab risk assessment and decision support	<p>Working with the WatHab team to assess the environmental and climate-related risks (a localized climate-risk assessment) on three key water projects. The assessment identified potential challenges as well as the decision support needed to prioritize potential solutions</p> <p>The delegation has started a water project, mainly focused on urban flood emergencies (near Kherson: an area downstream of the Dnieper River whose water levels are fluctuating due to seasonal variation, floods, and the opening of upstream dams by water authorities). Challenges related to climate and sociopolitical influences may have consequences for the provision of water to several cities including Mykolaiv and particularly the upstream Kryvyi Rih and Nikopol</p> <p>The Helpdesk also implemented a climate-smart questionnaire for WatHab teams to better identify, understand and assess the extent of CSP and capacity-building needs in the delegation</p>
Georgia	Climate Knowledge Survey	Conducted a Climate Knowledge Survey for both administrative divisions

In addition, the Climate Centre supports the métier teams at the global and regional levels with guidance development, policy engagement, best practice and strategic discussions. In 2024, this included the development of a renewed catalogue of climate action, which describes examples from the field. Ten case studies were developed, including for [Mali](#) and [Yemen](#), along with a pioneering climate-risk analysis of prisons in the [Philippines](#). The Climate Centre also co-developed a climate and environment Wiki page for ICRC. In 2024, key tools for mainstreaming climate

integration – including the ‘Risk inventory and climate-smart programming capacity self-assessment’ (developed in 2023) – saw an increase in uptake: nine countries now have a centralized overview of key risks and capacities. Guidance for Health teams was also updated to provide more detailed instructions for climate integration within programmes. In total, 29 delegations (regional and national) now use one or more of the climate and environment standard indicators to track and evaluate climate and environmental risk integration in operations.

## 2024 highlight: Co-development of the EcoSec Climate Toolkit

The EcoSec Climate Toolkit helps to integrate climate risk analyses into EcoSec programming by clarifying key concepts, offering practical examples and providing useful tools for integrating climate considerations in economic security activities. The Toolkit is helpful for EcoSec projects of all sizes, enhancing existing resources and providing solutions and clear guidance.

## Lessons learned and the way forward

The year 2024 was pivotal for the Climate Centre’s support to ICRC operations, with an increase in requests across a wide range of delegations. By the end of the year, outreach and awareness-raising efforts were showing results: with 19 delegations submitting an official request – more calls for support than ever before. Key lessons so far include maintaining close coordination between the

Climate Centre and ICRC focal points per delegation; ensuring swift responses to requests; and continuing to engage with key partners (knowledge and practical) to ensure support is localized, relevant and actionable. The Climate Centre remains committed to finding innovative ways to integrate climate risk in ICRC operations in the future.