



Re: ICRC Priorities for the Humanitarian Action Challenge

The aim of this document is to highlight some of the main issues, priorities and requirements for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for 2020-2022 that will provide insight for researchers participating in the Humanitarian Action Challenge between EPFL, ETH Zurich and the ICRC. Below are four select trends and priorities:

- (1) Continue to advocate neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action (NIIHA), international humanitarian law (IHL) and our Protection mandate.
 - Focus on strengthening the delivery of protection outcomes including efforts to **influence the behaviour** of parties to conflict; **prevention of IHL violations** and changes to laws, policies and practices that have a harmful impact on affected people; and strengthening the **resilience of people** affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence. Maintain the necessary resources for strengthening **Missing Persons/Forensic**.
- (2) Bolster and sustain our capacity to achieve humanitarian outcomes, support resilience to recurring or protracted crises, and to be accountable to people and communities affected.
 - We must ensure that **affected people can participate** in: articulating what they see as their pathways out of dependency; identifying the ways in which the ICRC can assist them; **co-designing and evaluating** programmes and activities. **Our capacity to engage** face-to-face and virtually with diverse people and communities affected by conflict will increasingly determine our ability to **build and maintain mutual trust**. Develop strategies to reinforce community and system **resilience to climate risks**, and to mobilize for stronger climate action and finance in conflict settings; engage to improve the protection of the environment during armed conflict.
- (3) Ensure a safe working environment while leveraging the strength of a global workforce.
 - It remains critical to prioritize **safety for all staff**, who often fulfil our mission in extremely challenging contexts – including risk to persons and personal information. It is essential that we continue the collective effort to improve **security and crisis management** systems and practices. Valuing and leveraging the **diversity** of our global workforce – mobile and resident – enables us to develop the skills and knowledge we need to deliver on our humanitarian mission, working with and for people affected by conflict and violence.
- (4) Integrate data and digital transformation into our humanitarian response.
 - Improve our ability to design and deliver relevant humanitarian results in a **people-centric** way while being able to better evaluate such results and take **evidence-based decisions**; it is crucial for us to be and to remain a trusted manager of **sensitive data** and information. In addition, look to **local solutions and reflections** that promote inclusion and eco-consciousness. Strengthen and streamline collection and use of evidence, data and research in IHL and in humanitarian action. Ensure **field analytical capacity** by helping staff develop their ability to interpret data.

The ICRC anticipates the use of science and technology research utilizing drones, AI, thermal imaging, digitalization, data analytics, augmented/virtual reality, machine learning, sustainable farming/environmental sciences, forensic and health applications, cybersecurity, and much more.

Strongly anchored by the continued relevance of both **our mandate and our mission**, the ICRC aims to build on the four above adjustments and adaptations to ensure that we are fit for purpose in a rapidly evolving operating environment.

Please also refer to [our blog](#) for more information

INNOVATION 2020-2022



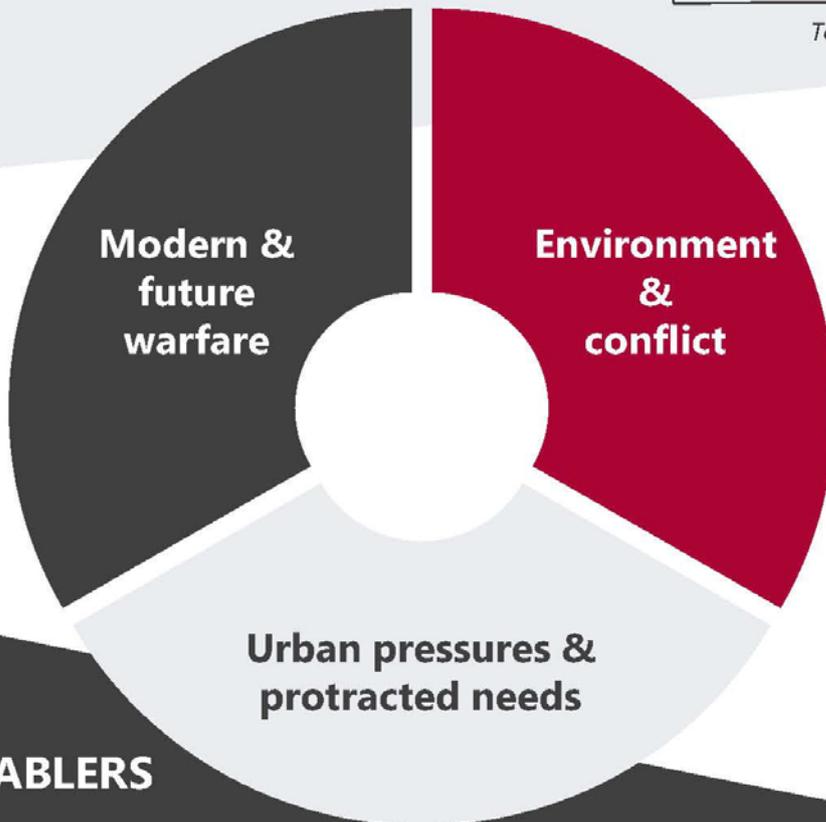
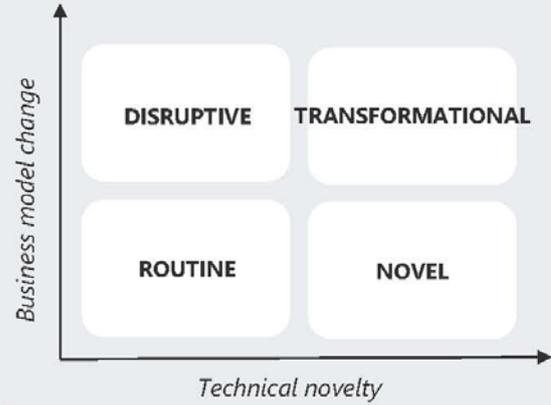
ICRC

INNOVATION 3.0

Accelerating and facilitating innovation through Futures and Foresight and strategic portfolio management approaches based on the ICRC Institutional Strategy 2019-2022.



STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS



THEMATIC ORIENTATIONS

ENABLERS



Diversity & inclusion



Collaborative ecosystem



Emerging technologies



Insights from behavior change



Partnerships & networks



New business models



Institutional capacity & culture