



ICRC

Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development Conference

Special Session:

The role of NGO`s in the provision of humanitarian assistance in today`s crisis environments

26 March 2015

Michael Talhami

ICRC Regional Water & Habitat Advisor

Near and Middle East



ICRC

General Regional Trends in the Middle East

- Sharp increase in the number of conflicts in the region
- Several conflicts have taken on a protracted nature (varying in intensity depending on the context)
- Multitude of actors / parties to the conflict
- Conflicts are increasingly being played out in urban areas (extent and nature of damages)
- Shrinking humanitarian space
- The lack of safe access either reduces the number of humanitarian actors directly involved on the ground or forces many of them to work through remote management



ICRC

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- Needs are increasing and becoming more geographically distributed
- Needs cut across all sectors and in some contexts span the full spectrum between humanitarian and development

COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

- With protracted conflicts the probability of multiple crises occurring at the same time increases (conflict and natural disasters and/or conflict and refugee/IDP)
- With rapidly increasing needs in urban areas of protracted conflicts a longer-term more integrated response is necessary
- More humanitarian actors are working at a regional or at least sub-regional level, hence coordination is paramount



ICRC

Humanitarian Challenges

- **OVERSTRETCHED:** Unmet needs have meant that many organizations have had to play beyond their traditional roles and capacities.
- **UNDERLYING VULNERIBILITIES:**
 - Resource scarcity and poor service provision have created the need for a more in depth understanding of the pre-crisis baseline, which should in turn inform their humanitarian response
 - Inadequate provision of essential services (water, sanitation and energy) also pose a risk to public health (i.e. waterborne diseases)
- **FINANCIAL ASPECT:** The sheer scale of the humanitarian response required and the need for a longer-term approach (i.e. development oriented) has translated into large financial appeals from aid organizations.



ICRC

ICRC HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



ICRC

ICRC HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

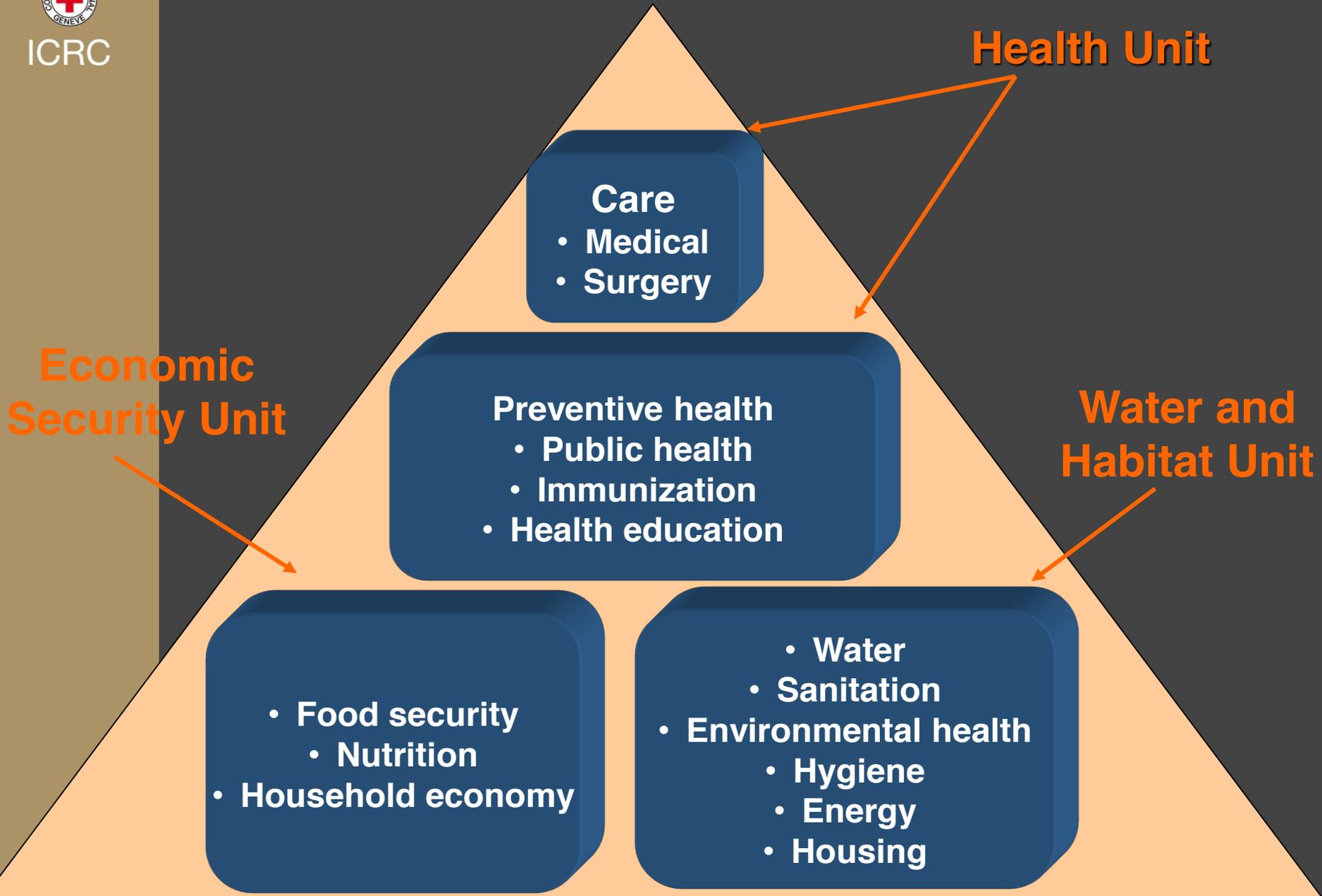
The assistance units in the ICRC include:

- ▶ Health
- ▶ Economic Security
- ▶ Water and Habitat

Along with the Protection unit we deploy an integrated approach!



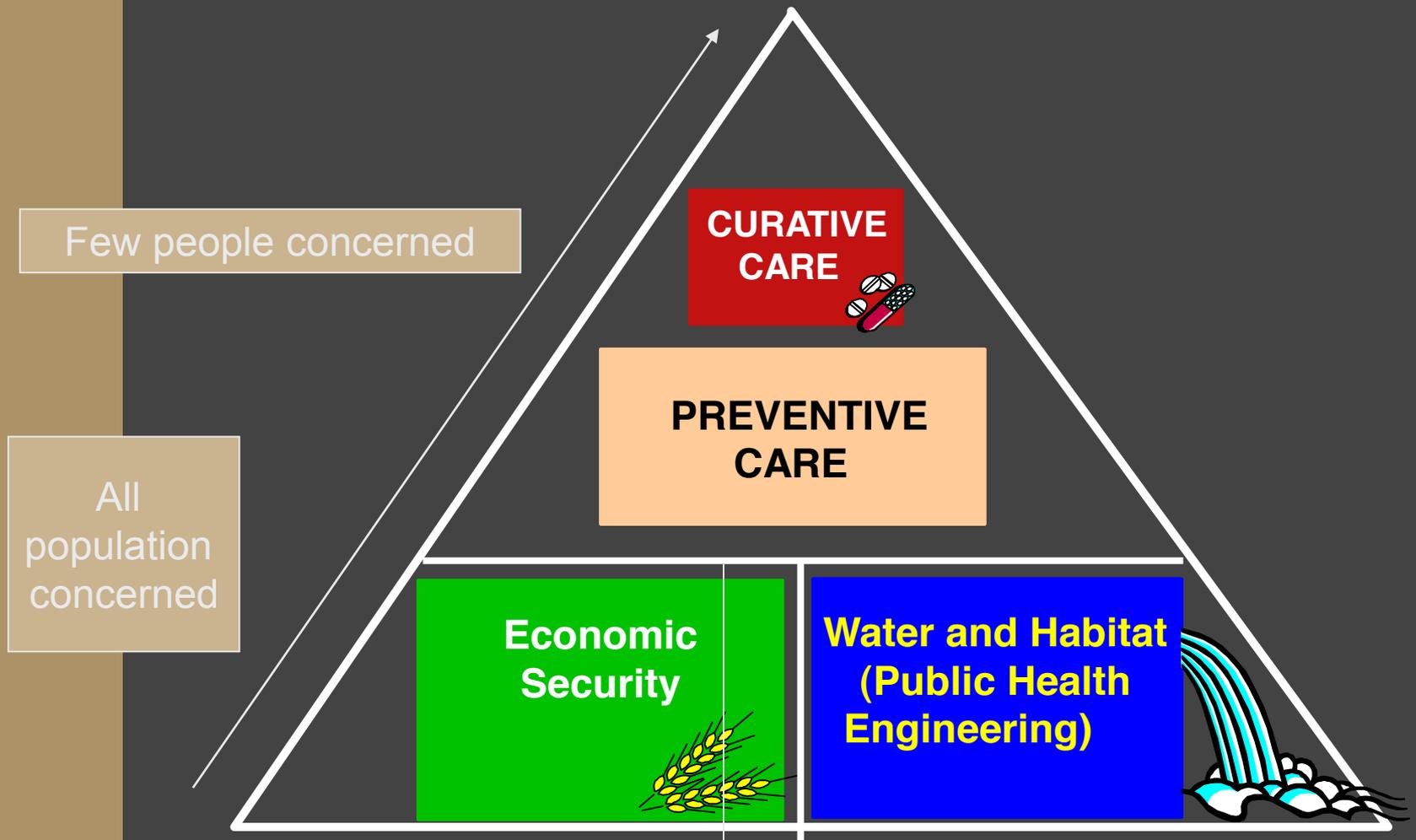
ICRC





ICRC

ASSISTANCE: INTEGRATED APPROACH THE HEALTH PYRAMID



1\$ invested in water and sanitation is worth spending 8\$ on curative health



ICRC

A FEW REGIONAL CASE STUDIES:

FROM AN ICRC WATER AND HABITAT PERSPECTIVE



ICRC

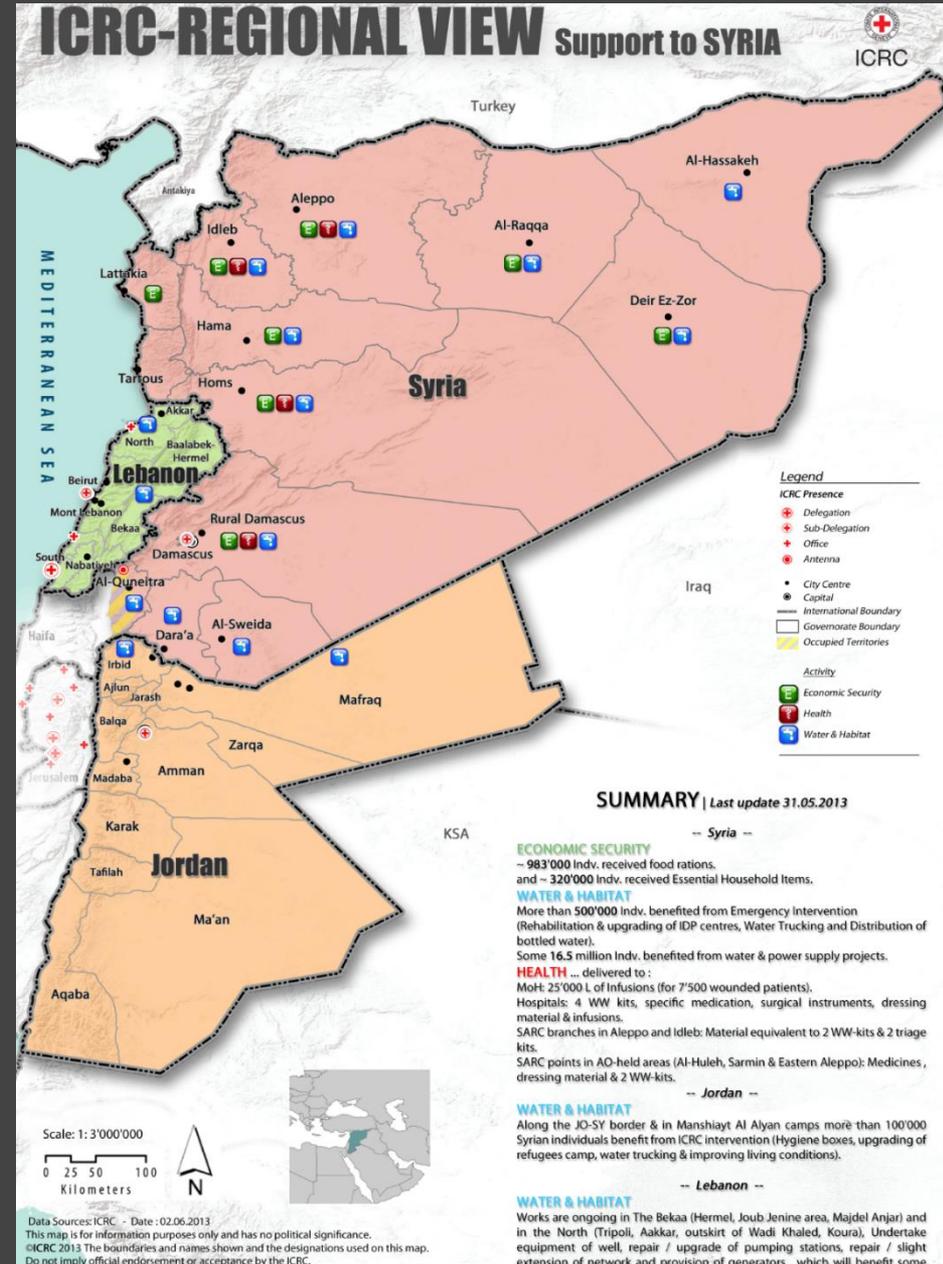
SYRIA

CONTEXT

- Needs are widespread
- Extensive damage to urban infrastructure
- Risk of essential services collapsing
- Increased public health risks
- Lack of safe access
- Cross-lines
- Heavy logistics (supply chain)
- Sanctions

ICRC WatHab Program

- Urban water, sanitation and energy systems
- IDP Centers
- Hospitals





ICRC

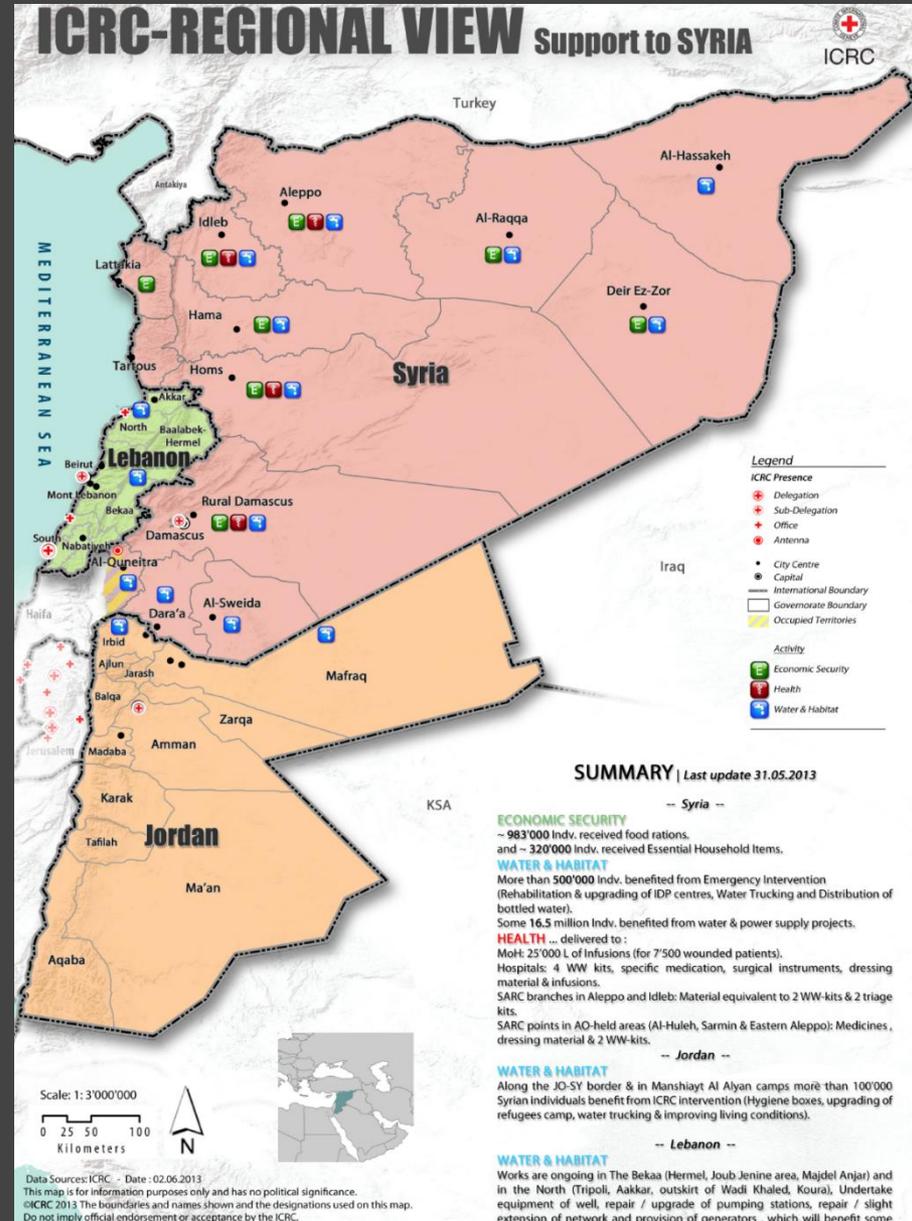
LEBANON & JORDAN

CONTEXT

- Massive increase in population over 4 years
- Needs are widespread
- Severely strained essential services in specific areas
- Resource scarcity
- Increase cost of public services, food and housing with competition for schooling and health care.
- Mounting social grievances.

ICRC WatHab Program

- Urban water supply and energy systems
- Refugee Transiting Sites (Jordan)
- Hospitals





ICRC

GAZA STRIP

(During the 2014 hostilities)

CONTEXT

- Needs were/are widespread
- Extensive damage to essential infrastructure / housing
- Risk of essential services collapsing
- IDPs during / after
- Increased public health risks
- Resource scarcity
- Lack of safe access
- Restrictions on the entrance of materials

ICRC WatHab Program

- Urban water supply, sanitation & energy systems
- Hospitals





ICRC

Overcoming the humanitarian challenges in today`s crisis environments: A few thoughts...

- An integrated approach for the protection of civilians consists of access to health care, food, water, sanitation and legal means (i.e. IHL)
- Innovative approaches rather than simply innovation in technology alone
- Enhanced remote management mechanism
- Stronger local partnerships based on neutral humanitarian action
- There is a need for better interaction and coordination between development and humanitarian actors on stabilizing essential urban services during times of crises and enhancing urban resilience (both during times of stability and conflict)



ICRC



BLED DRY

HOW WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS BRINGING
THE REGION'S WATER SUPPLIES
TO THE BREAKING POINT.
AN ICRC REPORT.



ICRC

REPORT