

International Committee of the Red Cross

HANDBOOK ON WAR AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Geneva 1996

This handbook is intended for staff members and medical personnel responsible for humanitarian activities in situations of armed conflict. It deals with the serious health problems affecting displaced people and shows, step by step, how a health-care system meeting the essential needs of war victims can be set up. The public health tools most frequently used in situations of armed conflict for evaluation, establishment of priorities, analysis of possible activities and their follow-up are assessed in the light of the constraints encountered in the field.

The problem of protection for war victims is also discussed in connection with certain aspects of international humanitarian law, particularly those directly relating to health. Finally, the handbook offers professional health workers a guide to the ethical problems that arise at each stage of humanitarian action.

The handbook was prepared by *Dr Pierre Perrin* (ICRC) and is available in English and French.

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International Committee of the Red Cross
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