

CATALYZING PEACE THROUGH MODERATED HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY: THE ICRC'S HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY AMIDST THE ARMED CONFLICT IN AFGHANISTAN (2010-2021)

Sayyidul Mubin

Department of International Relations
Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
Universitas Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Yogyakarta
Email: hail.sayyidul@gmail.com

Abstract

Humanitarian diplomacy is an effort to protect human beings, especially in conflict areas. The armed conflict in Afghanistan that occurred caused casualties. The ICRC has been operating in Afghanistan since 1987 and has set up its headquarters there to carry out humanitarian missions. The operations carried out by the ICRC from 2001 to 2010 required evaluation and development because of the complexity of the conflict. The ICRC's humanitarian operations in 2010-2021 are different from previous years because they have intensified the protection of victims of armed conflict, the reconstruction of infrastructure, humanitarian assistance and humanitarian advocacy. This research will answer how humanitarian diplomacy was carried out by the ICRC in Afghanistan in the year of 2010-2021. This research uses Literature Reviews from books and journals regarding humanitarian diplomacy as a basis for thinking in writing with the qualitative method. The results of this study is that ICRC's humanitarian diplomacy in Afghanistan focuses on helping victims of armed conflict in Afghanistan and the moderated humanitarian style becomes dominant by means of humanitarian dialogue in the fields of bilateral and multilateral networks, advocacy, promotion, reconstruction and financial support, while maintaining neutrality and impartiality ICRC as a humanitarian organization.

Keywords : ICRC, Humanitarian Diplomacy, Afghanistan

Introduction

Humanitarian diplomacy that carried out by the ICRC is an effort for human protection, especially in areas that are experiencing armed conflict. ICRC as a non-governmental organization engaged in the humanitarian sector has a mission to protect the dignity of human beings without the differentiation of class (ICRC, 2009). Afghanistan as a country that is being hit by armed conflict makes casualties, it includes children, women, and other innocent civilians. ICRC sees the need for humanitarian intervention in Afghanistan to minimize human casualties in conflict areas, as well as assist in the construction of infrastructure-damaged by conflict.

The ICRC's presence in Kabul, Afghanistan began in 1987 after eight years of providing assistance to victims of the Afghan conflict in Pakistan. They mainly focus on monitoring hostilities to prevent violations of international humanitarian law, protect detainees and assist affected civilians. The ICRC works to restore family links and facilitate humanitarian assistance on the front lines as intermediaries (ICRC, 2009). They offer assistance to the injured and disabled, provide support for hospital care, help improve water and sanitation services.

The toll of armed conflict in 2001 due to U.S. military strikes amounted to between 1,000 and 1,300 Afghan civilians died from air raids from United States military forces (Conetta, 2002). The following year worsened the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, with more than 3,200 civilians dying from starvation, infectious diseases, and injuries from living in areas of armed conflict. The high number of human casualties, both caused directly by weapons from the United States military and indirectly, is evidence that innocent civilians are victims of armed conflict.

In 2010, the Los Angeles Times reported that "2010: *The Deadliest year for Afghan Civilians*" explained in this article that direct and indirect attacks by U.S. troops have killed civilians in Afghanistan, up until 15 percent from the previous year (King, 2011). A total of 440 Afghan civilians have died as a result of attacks from U.S. military forces. Coupled with data from UNAMA (*United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan*) and AIHRC (*Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission*) that 2,080 Afghan civilians were killed due to insurgent armed actions. As a result, fatalities rose 28 percent from the previous year and the total has risen by 532.54 percent from the number of victims in 2001. This is supported by data from UNAMA and AIHRC which states that an estimated 2,777 Afghan civilians died as a result of the war between the United States military and anti-government insurgents (UNAMA & AIHRC, 2011). Then added with data that there were 5,446 citizens who became victims of *Anti-Government Elements* (AGEs). This makes 2010 a year that has a high number of fatalities compared to previous years.

The word "*Humanitarian Diplomacy*" is officially used by the International Committee of the Red Cross in its mission to protect the dignity of people in the world, especially for those who are in areas / countries that are in conflict. The use of humanitarian

diplomacy presented is certainly different from conventional diplomacy in general, where diplomacy is brought and implemented by state actors in missions and also its goals for the benefit of the state. In this regard, the ICRC refers to humanitarian diplomacy as a humanitarian operation based on the sole purpose of focusing on humanity. Although the way has undergone some changes, both in terms of strategy and implementation, the main object and goal still lead to the human aspect itself.

The word *Moderated* was chosen by the author as a description of how the ICRC carries out its humanitarian diplomacy in the growing present, both in activity and changes in carrying out humanitarian diplomacy. *Moderate* means "to *preside over or act as chairman of*" or "*one who holds moderate views or who belongs to a group favoring a moderate course or program*" (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). In the sense of the word *moderate*, which means mediator or to be *chairman*, it is used to give a simple description of the role exercised by the ICRC in exerting influence in the armed conflict in Afghanistan from 2010 to 2021. Thus, the implementation of *moderated humanitarian diplomacy* becomes a way in which the ICRC extends its influence to influential actors to mediate, reconcile, not just provide assistance downstream. The conflict in Afghanistan became one of the conflicts that made the ICRC develop its humanitarian diplomacy to the realm of mediating various parties / powers in conflict. However, as a *moderate* party, the ICRC must not be favoritism and side with one party (neutral) because the goal to be achieved is peace.

Moderated-humanitarian diplomacy underscores the ICRC's wider reach, while humanitarian diplomacy has a more limited reach, whose main objective is non-negotiable, namely the protection of people. For humanitarian organizations such as the ICRC, their outreach is to expand networks, both bilaterally and multilaterally, officially and unofficially with parties to conflicts, and with state and non-state parties (NGOs, IGOs, *influence actors*) (Harroff-Tavel, 2005). These diplomatic actions are carried out by the ICRC to get the attention of these parties in order for these parties to be more concerned about the victims of the armed conflict. In addition, the ICRC also wants various parties to support humanitarian actions carried out by the ICRC in the ongoing

armed conflict, this is due to the need for more attention to respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

Dialogue to spread awareness about humanitarian issues is an important theme where moderated humanitarian diplomacy gives a less broad influence and meaning, where this diplomacy not only hopes for promotion related to humanitarian issues, but also related to indirect lobbying to parties in conflict. This implementation was implemented by the ICRC to further intensify its operations particularly in Afghanistan. The organization also gives its efforts by bringing professional diplomats to be able to dialogue with policy makers (government) (Forsyther, 2013). These dialogues and other communication efforts are of course carried out carefully and are always evaluated because of the high risk when there are public accusations that the ICRC is not neutral.

The ICRC's moderated humanitarian diplomacy is in line with their operations which underwent intensified implementation in 2010. Such practices give the ICRC a future plan for its operations and coordination on the ground. In 2010, the organization reflected on its strategy for 2011 to 2014 to partner with national communities working in each country in the conduct of ICRC operations globally (ICRC, 2010) . Also in this year, the ICRC began to become a neutral mediator between actors in conflict in Afghanistan in order to provide adequate health care facilities in conflict areas. So in this regard, the ICRC intensifies partnerships with countries where ICRC volunteers are widely deployed, especially Afghanistan.

Afghanistan in 2010 experienced a high increase in the number of armed conflicts compared to previous years. This is supported by data that the death toll of 15% rose to 2,790 human victims (The Guardian, 2013). The rise in armed conflict, correlated with the increase in casualties, is also an evaluation of ICRC operations in Afghanistan.¹ This year the conflict also spread geographically, which created new challenges for the parties to the conflict. The spreading conflict has also made it difficult for ICRC volunteers to fulfill their operational responsibilities in Afghanistan. This is also coupled with attacks

¹ By victims we mean all human beings negatively affected by the armed conflict in Afghanistan, be it U.S. soldiers, Afghan civilians, and anti-government armed groups, among other groups.

dominated by bombs and other explosive devices, as well as the use of drones which are also increasing.

This problem finally makes moderated humanitarian diplomacy carried out by the ICRC not only move in multilateral channels, but also through bilateral diplomacy. Bilateral and multilateral diplomacy carried out by the ICRC is also not far from the aim of exerting influence in the realm of humanitarian discussions by sharing parties related to the ICRC's position on humanitarian related issues.² These bilateral and multilateral dialogues focus on building the ICRC's international network. This is important for the ICRC because bilateral and multilateral dialogue is the ICRC's effort to build an international humanitarian community.

The year 2016 was crucial for the development of the ICRC's humanitarian diplomacy operations. This year marks the creation of a special division in the ICRC dealing with humanitarian diplomacy. This division is called the "Division of Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy" where this division assists the organization in looking at the whole, as well as reviewing humanitarian diplomacy policies and activities that have been implemented by the ICRC on the ground. The Division works extensively with the ICRC President, the Operations Department, and other departments within the organization to develop strategic policy objectives, develop and implement diplomatic strategies, and exert influence on important ICRC stakeholders (ICRC, untalent, 2022). In addition, the division maintains close cooperation with International Federations and National Societies on matters of common policy interest.

Through its dialogue, the ICRC approached weapon bearers in Afghanistan, where they reflected back on the use of weapons under international humanitarian law. These ICRC delegations were sent confidentially to avoid hostility between some parties. The delegation is tasked with providing understanding to the armed forces in Afghanistan to comply with international humanitarian law. This approach is certainly a challenge, where the ICRC must be able to carry out its responsibilities by bringing the principles of neutrality and independence (ICRC, Annual Report, 2018).

² This is named by the ICRC as "*influencing The Humanitarian Debate in International Fora*" in which the ICRC invests in cooperative activities with various organizations and countries.

ICRC dialogue and communication is also carried out in civil society, where the ICRC also dialogues with influential community leaders in Afghanistan, such as indigenous leaders, teachers, religious leaders, shura assembly members, and NGO representatives to learn the basis of international humanitarian law and explain the neutrality, impartiality, and independence of the ICRC as an organization operating in humanitarian issues. Publications are also disseminated to the public in relation to the news and also related to the promotion of international humanitarian law. This publication was also sent to several universities and lecturers there, as an effort by the ICRC to spread its influence in the promotion of international humanitarian law to a wider audience.

Analytical Framework

The ICRC's humanitarian diplomacy approach aims to influence a wide range of parties involved in armed conflict, including states, non-state actors, and members of civil society. This approach is focused solely on humanitarian purposes and is implemented through an ongoing network of relationships that can be formal and informal, as well as bilateral and multilateral (Harrof Tavel, 2005).

The rationalists are filled with the idea that the security borne by the state is also the security of the community (Smith, 2007). Therefore, when countries have begun to fail to maintain human rights values in their countries, other countries are allowed to send peacekeepers. Troops here lead to military intervention. The role of humanitarian intervention coupled with military intervention is that the strategy to stop human rights violations and save humanity is to intervene militarily (Lewis, 2023) (Keohane, 2003) (Welsh, 2004). This thinking sees that humanitarian intervention will not purely be a humanitarian action, but there are interests of state actors behind it. This is because the role of the state is large enough in a humanitarian intervention, of course, there will be other factors besides sympathy and empathy for humanity. The intervention presented is a task for countries that are able to develop and protect citizens who are stricken by inequality in human rights (Welsh, 2004). This causes the function of the state to be the main determinant in the implementation of humanitarian diplomacy (Keohane, 2003).

The rationalist Perspective differs from the constructivist which emphasizes the functions of advocacy and assistance to victims of conflict. Kelly Kate-Pease said that the focus of the problem in humanitarian diplomacy is addressing the victims of war through advocacy functions (Pease, 2016). This is consistent with how the ICRC explains humanitarian diplomacy, that humanitarian diplomacy is an attempt to convince decision-makers and leader's opinions to focus on the interests of vulnerable people while respecting the fundamentals of humanitarian principles (IFRC, 2009). This condition will be created when actors are not associated with all domestic and community political interests, there is an interest in the protection of humanity.

Hilhorst said advocacy has an important role in humanitarian diplomacy. This is because humanitarian diplomacy has a distinctive character because it has only one limitation, namely humanitarian goals which are to prevent and reduce the suffering of victims due to armed conflict (Wessel, 2022). Therefore, it is non-state actors who have a free attachment to the political interests of the state to be important in this regard. These efforts are carried out by making the parties to the conflict aware and accountable for the events they have committed (Takahashi, 2014). In another sense, providing assistance to victims according to the scale of existing needs. The needs provide for the completeness of damaged prisons, sanitation, and other systems, acting as promoters of humanitarian law.

Humanitarian diplomacy also negotiates with armed parties in conflict to negotiate in the context of human protection in conflict areas. This is explained by Ashley Jonathan that negotiations in humanitarian purposes are often needed to get closer to High Politics contestation which is operated by related institutions (Clements, 2020). Armed groups are becoming part of an inseparable humanitarian diplomacy process to dialogue and negotiate ongoing conflicts. This is because actors must relate to gain greater influence from each interest.

The presence of humanitarian diplomacy as an effort to protect humans, especially victims in a state of conflict or war. The existing efforts refer to one goal, namely the protection of human dignity. In this regard, efforts are the main focus in implementing the objectives of the indicators available to the ICRC (Clements, 2020). Intervention in the

humanitarian realm is indeed something that can be seen in global politics, assistance is given to help parties in conflict. Humanitarian aid and intervention are a form of community bonding and solidarity from people. This form of empathy occurs because there is a sense of belonging and mutual fate from humans who form a community (Simard, 2013). This indicates that humanitarian diplomacy efforts will be difficult to achieve without assistance from various other actors.

Table 1. Other researchers' thoughts on humanitarian diplomacy

Perspective	Substantive
Rationalist	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The state became the most influential actor. 2. The interests of the state have always been in humanitarian diplomacy. 3. War (<i>military intervention</i>) is one of the strategies in humanitarian intervention. 4. The goal of Humanitarian Diplomacy is to change governments that cannot uphold human rights, in order to reduce the number of losses and casualties.
Constructivist	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State and non-state actors are equally important in humanitarian diplomacy. 2. Non-state actors are more flexible in assigning their roles, as they are independent and free from state political interests. 3. Humanitarian diplomacy is advocacy of humanitarian issues so that the focus of the problem is handling victims of armed conflict. 4. The purpose of humanitarian diplomacy is to advocate and build. This is because humanitarian diplomacy actors participate in building networks to help victims of armed conflict.

Source : Dorothea Hilhorst and Margit van Wessel (2022), J.L Holzgrefe dan Robert Keohane(2003), Saul Takahashi (2014), Michael J. Smith(1997), Aran M. Lewis (2023), Kelly-Kate Pease (2016), Larry Minear and Hazel Smith, Larry Winter Roeder Jr.(2013), Ashley Jonathan Clements (2020), Jennifer M. Welsh (2004)

Constructivist thinking in the literature review presented by the author sees that humanitarian diplomacy activities focus on moral action to help humans. Victims in conflict areas are the main focus, as well as trying to advocate so that existing humanitarian issues can be brought to the attention of the world. This is important

because humanitarian issues are issues that cannot be resolved without cooperation with other parties. The role of non-state actors is the main point here, by seeing the neutrality of actors makes actors more free to move in carrying out humanitarian diplomacy without having to uphold other interests.

METHOD

This article is written using a descriptive-explanative method with a qualitative approach. Explanatory research focuses and explains the relationship between the variables studied and the relationship between variables with one another through testing hypotheses that have been formulated (Sugiyono, 2013). The author also uses "Literature Review" as a way of collecting data that aims to provide information to readers related to the results of other research that is closely related to the research conducted by the author. The data collected comes from references to books related to humanitarian diplomacy, internet access to access news related to the author's research, reports from government and non-government agencies, especially reports from the ICRC related to its work in Afghanistan, and journals related to the Role of Humanitarian Diplomacy of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Armed Conflict in Afghanistan in 2010-2021.

The data presented will be analyzed with qualitative descriptive data analysis methods. In this type of data analysis, information is gathered from various sources. The analysis process involves examining the data obtained and recognizing any correlations or connections that arise (Creswell, 2019). From the data on the activities carried out by the ICRC in Afghanistan, descriptive data analysis was then carried out to explain the role of the ICRC in the context of humanitarian diplomacy in Afghanistan using these activities as objective evidence.

DISCUSSION

The authors see that the ICRC's moderated-humanitarian diplomacy is characterized by four distinct characteristics. First, it involves establishing relationships with various parties, be it state, non-state actors, international organizations, and global corporations to implement protection for victims of conflict, reconstruction, assistance, and advocacy.

Second, it focuses exclusively on humanitarian issues, where all actions only boil down to human protection. Third, it operates independently of diplomatic efforts in the humanitarian field. Lastly, it often relies on making representations, or requires networking, depending on the circumstances on the ground, in which case the ICRC prefers to call on representatives or representatives of parties for dialogue on humanitarian issues. These things will be explained by the author in the explanation below with explanations and concrete examples.

ICRC Bilateral and Multilateral Relations

Strengthening the ICRC's humanitarian activities in the international arena is one of the operations assigned to the ICRC's operations department. This department is responsible for overseeing all ICRC activities in its humanitarian operations spread across various countries of the world. This is necessary to see and monitor the course of humanitarian operations carried out whether they are in accordance with the ICRC's planning for that year, as well as provide evaluations. Then, the operations department distributes the task of maintaining relations bilaterally and multilaterally to actors who have relations with the organization. This maintained relationship is not only limited to state and non-state actors, but also includes relations with humanitarian institutions, professional associations, and academic institutions (ICRC, Annual Report, 2011).

The organization's relationships include coordination, humanitarian meetings, and humanitarian events organized by humanitarian organizations. Some of them are agencies of the United Nations, where the ICRC maintains the organization's relationship with the United Nations to be able to influence and intervene in resolutions related to humanitarian problems, especially in the case of armed conflict in Afghanistan.³ In addition, the organization also maintains its relations with several NGOs, bilateral and multilateral relations with NGOs focus on cooperative purposes, where fellow

³ The UN agencies included are UN agencies such as : Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO), the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, the UN Institute for Disarmament Research, the UN Mine Action Service, WFP, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Mine Action Service, OCHA, dan WHO.

humanitarian organizations need to coordinate and support each other.⁴ Cooperation is also carried out by the ICRC with NGOs from Islamic countries to discuss humanitarian issues from a religious point of view. This is done by the ICRC for its efforts in humanitarian diplomacy in conflict zones where the majority of the population is Islamic, which is the case in Afghanistan.

The multilateral mechanism is also implemented by the ICRC, where in August 2018, this organization became an observer in an event held by the United Nations. This meeting aims to discuss cooperation mechanisms that can be done to coordinate the humanitarian response to *gender-based violence* (ICRC, Annual Report, 2018). The humanitarian response here refers to the perspective of strengthening collaboration with actors operating directly in the field, as well as cooperation to develop open information systems related to related humanitarian issues. The meeting also discussed the coordination of actors with the United Nations to discuss the prevention of *sexual and gender-based violence* in areas of armed conflict, one of which is in Afghanistan.

In the realm of multilateral diplomacy we can see examples from dialogues conducted by the ICRC to several regional organizations such as ASEAN, Arab League, OAS, CoE, African Union, and maintaining relations with the UN Human Rights Council (ICRC C. O., 2011). This encourages the promotion of humanitarian issues that occur internationally, and helps the ICRC to generate income when there are both state and non-state donors in ICRC operations. The cooperation with regional organizations carried out in 2010 was long-term, which the ICRC called an investment rather than a humanitarian operation. (ASEAN, 2010) The results of this long-term strategy are measured periodically each year by the ICRC, broadly speaking the organization has been able to produce resolution documents in the realm of international humanitarian law references, as well as to provide *guidance* and facilitate ICRC mobilization assistance to gain access to victims of conflict.

⁴ Some of the NGOs associated with the ICRC include Action Centre la Faim, Handicap International, Médecins Sans Frontières, Oxfam, and Physicians for Human Rights.

Humanitarian Advocacy by ICRC

Humanitarian Advocacy which is an act of humanitarian actors relates to forms of advocacy that are public and global, with a clear focus on addressing specific problems or areas of concern. The ultimate goal is to engage diverse individuals and entities, urging them to adopt or promote certain norms or laws (Bradley, 2018). Thus, in the humanitarian sector the definition of *humanitarian advocacy* can vary in breadth. The broad definition of *humanitarian advocacy* includes activities such as engaging in private dialogue with armed actors sometimes referred to as persuasion, strategically sharing information with selected third parties and making public statements and criticisms.

Humanitarian advocacy is in line with the ICRC's moderated humanitarian diplomacy pattern in Afghanistan, which focuses not only on physical activities, infrastructure development, and care for conflict victims. The ICRC as a humanitarian organization through its delegation intensified dialogue with the authorities in Afghanistan to fulfill its obligations under international humanitarian law. The dialogue is also to provide understanding to relevant parties and Afghan government authorities about the identity of the ICRC as a neutral humanitarian organization. The need for dialogue on ICRC identity aims to permit ICRC operations to reach people in areas affected by the armed conflict in Afghanistan.

The ICRC's Humanitarian Advocacy in its humanitarian operations in Afghanistan helps the competent authorities make policies that emphasize international humanitarian law. Where finally Afghanistan through Afghanistan's accession 1977 additional protocols in 2009, in connection with this, Afghanistan decided to take further steps to strengthen its commitment to humanitarian principles by considering being part of other important humanitarian agreements (ICRC, Annual Report, 2009). In addition, the ICRC sponsors the participation of these actors in various events, including conferences focused on correspondence between Islamic law and international humanitarian law (ICRC, Annual Report, 2018).

Humanitarian Advocacy also emphasizes strengthening policy-making related to humanity. The ICRC's concern in encouraging policy change is aimed at global priorities in looking at policy formulation, in this case it began to be detailed by the ICRC in 2016

with evidence of a detailed explanation of strengthening policy-making in the ICRC's annual report that year (ICRC, Annual Report, 2016). That same year the ICRC saw three significant opportunities in carrying out its humanitarian diplomacy in the realm of prioritizing policies towards humanitarian action. The three opportunities were at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), The UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, and the World Humanitarian Summit.

The 2014 dialogue, in which the ICRC engaged in a joint dialogue with the Afghan government to provide knowledge of international humanitarian law was successful. The meeting brought together parliamentarians, government officials and the ICRC to discuss the issue of protecting the safety of medical services. As a result of this meeting, the Ministry of Internal Affairs issued a notice to all checkpoints, stressing the importance of immediately allowing vehicles transporting injured or sick people to pass without excessive inspection (ICRC, Annual Report, 2014). This dialogue session was also attended by local and international journalists.

The dilemma of the issue of neutrality is not being ignored by the ICRC. As a consistent manifestation of neutrality and impartiality, the ICRC actively engages in constructive discussions with various stakeholders to gain their support for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian work and to ensure safe access to vulnerable victims of conflict. Continuously, it stresses to all parties to the conflict the importance of upholding the obligations of International Humanitarian Law, particularly in relation to the protection of civilians and the civil infrastructure such as schools and homes. The ICRC has consistently urged parties of the conflict to take the necessary measures to prevent unlawful behaviour and prioritise people's access to essential services.

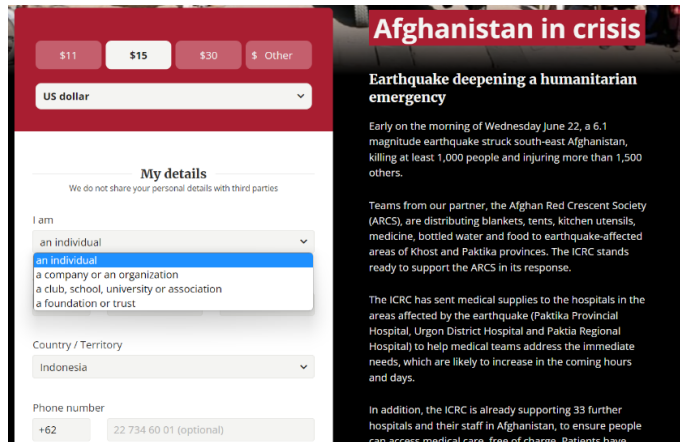
ICRC Humanitarian Promotion

The ICRC's humanitarian promotion in Afghanistan is carried out through various sectors of the organization. The first is the official website of the ICRC, where the ICRC is constantly *updated* on its activities in Afghanistan. On its website, the ICRC always campaigns related to humanitarian conditions that occur due to conflict, so that the global community can know what impacts are experienced by people in Afghanistan. The

ICRC draws empathy from the global community both in the form of narratives and photographs it has posted on its website.

This is an image of the donation webpage on the ICRC website:

Figure 1. *ICRC Donation Website*



Source: ICRC.org⁵

Downloaded from : [ICRC.org/Afghanistan](https://www.icrc.org/Afghanistan)

In addition to the website, the ICRC also carries out their public campaigns using social media, be it Twitter, Instagram, Facebook or Youtube. These media are used by the ICRC to maximize the organization's *humanitarian advocacy* efforts . Apart from being a medium to report what they have done, this media is also used to educate the global community about humanitarian information through video posts, trivia, and an article that is packaged interestingly.⁶ The result of the posts published by the ICRC in these media is the global community's concern for international humanitarian law.

In 2021, in order to reach more audiences for humanitarian promotion, the ICRC hosted three public webinars. This webinar was held due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it did not reduce the essence of its purpose. These webinar activities are targeted at

⁵ On the website for humanitarian donations in Afghanistan, there is a donor statement, where donors are not only limited to agencies, communities, or countries, but there are individual or individual choices. This is an interesting step to get a global response, because any individual can make a humanitarian donation in Afghanistan with only a minimum of 11 US dollars. In addition, payments are simple and easy using mastercard, and PayPal make it easier for donors who are sympathetic to the victims of the armed conflict in Afghanistan.

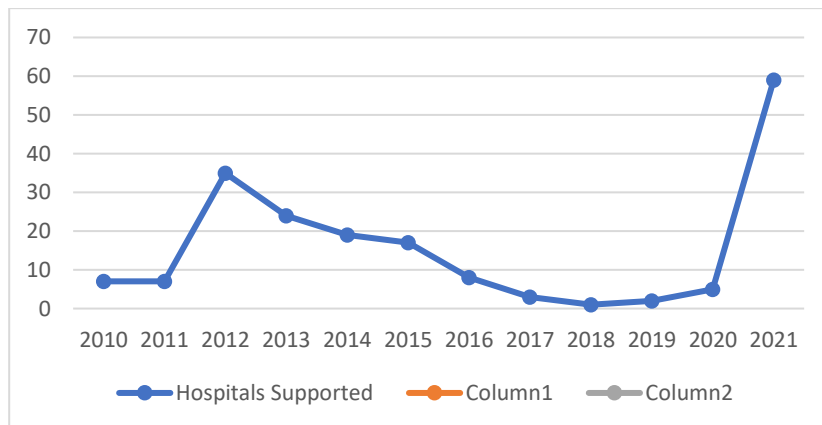
⁶ An example of this article can be seen on the ICRC Facebook page via the link: <https://www.facebook.com/ICRC>

individuals from diplomatic, humanitarian, military, and academic backgrounds around the world. The virtual nature of the event allows for a wide audience reach. The webinars addressed a range of topics, such as the intersection of digital technologies and humanitarian efforts in armed conflict, strategies to prevent harm to civilians during military cyber operations, and the importance of support relationships in the context of armed conflict.

Infrastructure Reconstruction

In 2013, the Collaboration between National Societies and the ICRC played an important role in addressing health care needs. Through first aid training programs, volunteers, including women and armed forces, are equipped to be educated on lifesaving skills. On the other hand, ICRC-funded transport systems in southern Afghanistan facilitate the evacuation of the wounded from armed conflict to ICRC-assisted hospitals (ICRC, Annual Report, 2013). Consistent assistance is provided to Mirwais and Shiberghan hospitals, operated by the Ministry of Health, in addition to the provision of occasional supplies to other medical facilities and training programs for health professionals, which together strengthen the standard of advanced medical care. In addition, the ICRC's physical rehabilitation centres play an important role in restoring independence and facilitating the reintegration of persons with disabilities into their communities.

Figure 2. ICRC Supported Hospital in Afghanistan



Source : ICRC.2010-2021. *Annual Report*. Geneva. International Comiittee of The Red Cross
Downloaded from : [ICRC.org/Archive/AnnualReport](https://www.icrc.org/Archive/AnnualReport)

The ICRC is making efforts to bring sustainable reconstruction in conflict-affected communities with the support of local communities. The ICRC facilitates the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure, including irrigation systems, with the help of local residents in Afghanistan in exchange for food or monetary compensation (ICRC, Annual Report, 2013). These initiatives not only provide individuals with the opportunity to earn income but also contribute to the overall improvement of communal resources. In addition, the ICRC provides assistance to communities in continuing or maintaining income-generating activities through initiatives such as microcredit programs, animal health initiatives, and the provision of agricultural resources. In addition, the ICRC supports the improvement and construction of water systems to improve water quality and sanitation in both rural and urban areas, addressing critical needs related to water access and hygiene.

As of 2021, 3,324 vital water and livelihood facilities have been reconstructed by the ICRC to increase life expectancy in conflict zones in Afghanistan (ICRC, Annual Report, 2021). Thanks to reconstruction from the ICRC, some 1,215,000 people living in urban and rural areas were able to maintain access to good, unpolluted water supplies. The ICRC plays an important role in repairing, installing and constructing hand pumps and water towers, as well as providing training to water management committees on the operation and maintenance of these facilities. In addition, the ICRC provides its support by donating fuel, water treatment materials and spare parts to local authorities.

ICRC Financial Support Network

The ICRC established its donor network by creating an international community called the *Donor Support Group* (DSG). The DSG consists of governments, supranational organizations and international agencies that contribute at least CHF (*Swiss Franc*) in cash each year.⁷ Membership in the Donor Support Group is valid for one year lasting from June to June of the following year. The following is data on the countries that joined the ICRC *Donor Support Group* from 2010 to 2021 along with the amount of funding they provided to the organization.

⁷ 10 Million *Swiss Franc* (CHF) in rupiah is around Rp.164,870,852,200.00

The following is a table of DSG data from 2010-2021:

Table 2 Donor Support Group ICRC 2010-2021

No.	Negara	Tahun											
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	Australia	33,9	44,8	37,3	45,1	36,7	35,8	32,2	46,9	38,6	40,7	31,2	34,8
2	Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,9	13,9	12,6	12,6	16,8
3	Belgium	17,3	17,6	22,8	20	12,1	20,5	28,7	25,9	28,4	27,1	25,1	24,9
4	Canada	32,1	28	46,4	36,6	46,5	57,2	57,1	65,3	63,8	53	55	66
5	Denmark	12,7	17,1	16,3	23,2	24,1	22,7	18,4	32,8	37,4	32,9	27,7	25,9
6	European Commission	111,4	105,7	89,6	88,2	126,4	123,7	160,2	166,2	161	147,3	122,7	128,9
7	Finland	10,3	11,4	9,9	11,9	13,7	10,3	10,8	12,9	12,1	13	13,9	13,4
8	France	15,1	13,8	14,9	17,3	18,6	20,4	17,1	19,3	24,6	35,1	34,5	45,3
9	Germany	29,8	34,7	35,6	48,7	52,5	45,6	123	195,6	174,3	180,7	256,2	247,5
10	Ireland	10,2	12	10,7	11,2	11,5	12,5	15,4	14,2	16,1	18,7	16,7	17,8
11	Italy	0	0	0	0	0	11,8	16	16,7	19,6	15,4	21	12,4
12	Japan	38,2	46,9	42,8	50,6	33,9	30,8	51,6	41,2	25,2	26	26	51
13	Kuwait	0	0	0	24	20,6	21,7	10,1	6,9	35,5	16,8	0	0
14	Luxembourg	11	10	10	10	0	0	10	10,2	12,4	10,6	12,4	14,1
15	Netherlands	37,1	35,6	30,1	31	47,7	56,8	53,4	52	55	51,7	58,7	46,2
16	New Zealand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,3	10,3	10,4	0	10,2
17	Norway	49,2	60,4	62,1	63,9	59,3	45,1	71,1	70,2	69,1	73,5	63,1	86,9
18	Spain	20,5	19,1	10,9	0	0	0	0	0	10,3	10	11,4	12,2
19	Sweden	67,4	83,7	68,7	69,8	73,2	55,1	74,3	67,1	74,8	71,3	87,6	93,2
20	Switzerland	110	112	110,4	119,8	140,1	160,4	145,8	150,2	148	155,3	156	156,5
21	UAE	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,9	77	10,7	11,1	0	0
22	United Kingdom	77,9	152,5	75	163,2	171,3	208	224,2	213	205,6	211,8	208,7	153,1
23	United States	261,8	241,1	207,9	260,1	313,4	417,6	407,2	406,9	461,9	478,9	491,2	543,6
24	World Bank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19,8	0	16	8,6	0
	Total Cash	946	1046,4	901,2	1094,8	1201,4	1356,1	1536,4	1732,5	1708,6	1720	1740,3	1800,7

Source : ICRC Annual Report 2010-2021
 Downloaded from : [ICRC.org/Archive/AnnualReport](https://www.icrc.org/Archive/AnnualReport)

The management of this globalized financial aid network is managed by a division called the *Department of Financial Resources and Logistics*, which serves and mobilizes financial funding from all ICRC operations around the world. The Division works regularly and in its performance must be able to build close relationships with donors, in particular the *Donor Support Group* to ensure their presence in all forms of ICRC humanitarian operations as well as the ICRC's future financial needs. This division is required to carry out its performance as effectively as possible for the needs of the ICRC's operational urgency in the field.

In addition to the state actors that contributed to the ICRC, support from the private and public sectors in 2021 also resulted in a significant increase in contributions, totaling 80.6 million Swiss francs. This marks a notable increase compared to 69.0 million in 2020 and 45.8 million in 2019. Among these contributions, 21.1 million Swiss francs were

donated by individuals who empathized with humanitarian issues (ICRC, Annual Report, 2021).

Victims Protection Amidst The Armed Conflict

Human protection is the ICRC's top priority in all aspects of its activities. Protection is the result of all humanitarian diplomacy strategies implemented by this organization. As a humanitarian organization, the ICRC seeks to deal with victims of conflict with all available strength. The ICRC's strength comes from all aspects, both the promotion of international humanitarian law, the reconstruction of vital means for society, diplomacy in humanitarian lines, even to the point of political mediation in order to achieve the goals of protecting victims of conflict (Pease, 2016).

Several programmes referring to human protection are established by the ICRC to safeguard the right to life, security, dignity, which is covered both physically and non-physically (mentally) by persons directly affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence.⁸ The organization has agreed to adopt a *protection approach* aimed at ensuring that authorities are involved in an armed conflict and other violence. This approach is used to ensure that parties with interests in areas of armed conflict are aware of the right to life as well as of the human rights which are protected by law. In addition, with the implementation of this approach, the ICRC attempts to design preventive missions where possible violations of international humanitarian law may occur.

CONCLUSION

Moderated Humanitarian Diplomacy has six ICRC activities that have the most influence on their humanitarian diplomacy in Afghanistan. The first is bilateral and multilateral relations, where the ICRC makes this diplomacy to form a useful network for optimizing humanitarian diplomacy operations. Second, *Humanitarian advocacy*, the role of advocacy is important for humanitarian diplomacy, where the ICRC seeks to reach out to the media, relevant authorities, to raise awareness of humanitarian issues in

⁸ Another violent situation here refers to a situation in which acts of violence are carried out collectively but are below the threshold of armed conflict.

Afghanistan. Also, it is implemented by the ICRC to provide collaborative measures with various actors for the implementation of the ICRC's operational objectives to promote international humanitarian law.

Third, this organization has succeeded in utilizing the media for its interests in spreading awareness of humanitarian issues that occur in Afghanistan. The fourth is infrastructure reconstruction carried out by the ICRC. This reconstruction was successfully carried out by the ICRC by assisting in the advice of livelihood facilities such as water, food, and access to health. It is proven that the ICRC until 2021 has succeeded in helping 59 hospitals spread across all regions in Afghanistan.

Fifth, the support of humanitarian financial networks, which the ICRC implements to maximize funding for its operations in Afghanistan. The ICRC succeeded in establishing a community of financial networks for both state and non-state. It is this network that helps the ICRC finance all its operations, especially in Afghanistan. Then the sixth is *the protection* of victims of conflict, where the ICRC makes every effort to minimize casualties in times of conflict by providing medical assistance, protection of civilians, and also intensification of assistance to victims of armed conflict.

The results of this research support the idea that *moderated humanitarian diplomacy* became the ICRC's path of humanitarian diplomacy in Afghanistan in 2010-2021. This also answers the formulation of the problem of how the ICRC's humanitarian diplomacy in the armed conflict in Afghanistan in 2010-2021. The author sees that the implications of humanitarian diplomacy carried out by the ICRC in Afghanistan have a good influence if you look at the findings in this study. And the author hopes that academic studies on humanitarian diplomacy can continue to be developed, so that more literature discusses this issue.

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