

Women and girls

The IRC is recognised globally as a leader in preventing and responding to violence against women. Our broader vision is of a world where women and girls live free from violence as valued and respected members of their community.

In 17 countries, we provide care to women and girls who have experienced violence and also tackle the causes of rape and abuse. Our programmes focus on five areas: health care, violence prevention, empowering women and girls, research and learning, and advocacy.

Areas of focus

> HEALTH CARE

For women and girls subjected to violence, accessing immediate health care and counselling can make the difference between a life lived with dignity and one lived in shame. Worldwide, the IRC provided support to some 12,000 survivors of violence in 2010.

> VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The IRC tackles the root causes of violence against women. We work with community groups and local institutions to change attitudes and support women and girls to realise their potential, free from violence. In Côte d'Ivoire, the IRC runs Men and Women in Partnership, an innovative programme that engages men in efforts to fight abuse.

> EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

When women have control over resources, it enhances their status in their households and communities. The IRC has developed a programme called EASE (Economic and Social Empowerment) that gives women financial stability and helps reduce violence. The EASE model has already had a striking impact on the lives of women across Burundi, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Congo.

> RESEARCH AND LEARNING

The IRC is committed to developing new and better approaches to responding to and preventing violence against women and girls. In partnership with leading universities and research institutes, the IRC studies the effectiveness of our work and applies lessons learned to new projects. We are currently undertaking four cutting-edge research projects across Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire and Congo to reduce domestic violence, empower women, support the recovery of survivors, and change social norms that condone violence.

> ADVOCACY

Ending violence against women and girls requires political action. The IRC seeks to empower women and girls to become advocates for change at the local level. We also lobby for the international community to redouble its efforts to prevent and respond to violence. Spurred by the IRC, the UN in 2010 appointed Margot Wallström as its first ever high-level representative on sexual violence in conflict.



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Women and girls Our impact

The IRC restores hope and opportunity for millions of women and girls in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East.

Measuring our impact

Over the past year, the IRC has

- > Run programmes to address violence against women and girls in **17 countries** across the Americas, Asia, the Middle East and Africa.
- > Given support to some **12,000 survivors** of violence and educated and trained nearly **570,000 men, women and children** in ways to prevent sexual violence.
- > Responded to the world's worst crises, including the **drought in East Africa**, putting women and girls at the centre of our emergency response efforts.
- > Developed a new programme model for ending the sexual exploitation of girls. The **Girl Empower** approach is one of the first to address violence against girls in countries affected by conflict.
- > Supported **critical learning and evaluation** through research projects in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Côte d'Ivoire on how economic initiatives for women can reduce their vulnerability to violence in the home.
- > Spearheaded **advocacy** with the United Nations to ensure that actions were taken to keep women and girls in **South Sudan** safe during its first year of independence.



The IRC's programmes supporting women are based across the globe, from Haiti (left) to Thailand (right).

Learn more

Find out more about International Rescue Committee programmes supporting women and girls. Visit [www. **Rescue-uk.org**](http://www.Rescue-uk.org)