

Pierre Gentile

Head of Project “Health Care in Danger”, Directorate of Operations, International Committee of the Red Cross

Since December 2012, Mr. Gentile is heading the project “Health Care in Danger” at ICRC’s headquarter in Geneva. The “Health Care in Danger” project is an ICRC-led, Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement-wide initiative that aims to address the widespread and severe impact of illegal and sometimes violent acts that obstruct the delivery of health care, damage or destroy facilities and vehicles, and injure or kill health-care workers and patients, in armed conflicts and other emergencies. Over the four years of the project, the ICRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are consulting States party to the Geneva Conventions, the health-care community at large and others stakeholders to devise concrete solutions and recommendations that can be implemented on the ground to help ensure that the wounded and sick have safe access to effective and impartial health care.

From 2007 to 2012, he worked as the head of the Protection of the Civilian Population Unit, at ICRC’s headquarter.

In this capacity, he supervised the realisation of a set of 19 training modules for ICRC staff working on protection, with a strong component of E-learning, including multidisciplinary approaches to address the vulnerabilities and capacities of population groups.

In 2008 and 2009 he oversaw a project to elaborate and disseminate professional standards for protection work for the sector as a whole, working in consultation with many humanitarian and human rights actors. In 2011 he launched an update of these standards with the support of an advisory group composed of experienced protection specialists from different humanitarian organizations.

He began his career with the ICRC in 1996 as a delegate in Vukovar, Croatia, working to address the needs of internally displaced persons and the whereabouts of missing persons. Since that time, he has spent 10 years working in various ICRC delegations. In Rwanda, Mr. Gentile conducted detention visits to prisons and local police stations, and in Colombia, he advocated for the protection of civilians with armed groups. He also served as Head of Sub-delegation in Herat, Afghanistan, where he managed a large portfolio of assistance programs aimed at preventing displacement in the area. In Peru, Mr. Gentile served as Deputy Head of Delegation where he liaised with the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Peruvian Ombudsman’s office. Then, as protection coordinator in Ethiopia, he supervised a team that conducted more than 200 detention visits per year, as well as engaged the penal administration on improving staff curricula, developing alternatives to imprisonment, and strengthening construction standards. Mr. Gentile again served as protection coordinator for the ICRC in Jerusalem, where he worked to increase respect for civilians during hostilities and law-enforcement operations, as well as to address the effects of long-term policies in the occupied territories on the resident population.

Since 2009, Mr. Gentile has participated in annual meetings of policy affiliates for the Refugee Studies Centre in Oxford, Great Britain.

He holds an undergraduate and Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Geneva.