

Seminar

on Thursday, November 17th 2016, 16:00 (ISPM seminar room 1st floor)

Humanitarian challenges in war – the example of healthcare

Peter Maurer, President, International Committee of the Red Cross

Today we are witnessing a large number of areas in protracted crisis, affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence. Often in these settings, when the needs are extreme, services are at their weakest and challenges are at their peak. Access to healthcare services may be hindered by checkpoints or active fighting, and delivery of services may be rendered inefficient or impossible due to attacks on healthcare personnel, infrastructure or transport. Moreover, the quality of services may be compromised by disruption of supply chains, the flight or absence of healthcare staff, and diminished training and development opportunities. This presentation will explore some of these challenges and review how the ICRC, and the humanitarian community at large, is responding to the needs of affected populations. There will be ample time for questions.



Peter Maurer was born in Thun, Switzerland, in 1956. He studied history and international law in Bern, where he was awarded a doctorate. In 1987 he entered the Swiss diplomatic service, holding a variety of positions, including ambassador and permanent representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York. In January 2010 Mr Maurer was appointed secretary of State for foreign affairs in Bern, taking over the reins of the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, with its five directorates and some 150 Swiss diplomatic missions around the world. He succeeded Jakob Kellenberger as ICRC president on July 1, 2012.

Under his leadership, the ICRC carries out humanitarian work in more than 80 countries. Mr Maurer's priorities for his presidency include strengthening humanitarian diplomacy, engaging States and other actors for the respect of international humanitarian law, and improving the humanitarian response through innovation and new partnerships.

Organisation:

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