

ICRC Calls For Solutions To World Water Crisis
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 14 (Bernama) -- As experts meet at the sixth World Water Forum now underway in the port city of Marseille, France, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has called for solutions to the world's water crisis.

In a statement, the head of ICRC's water and habitat unit, Jean-Philippe Dross, said violence, armed conflict and unhealthy conditions have caused tens of millions of people to suffer worldwide, facing a daily struggle to find clean drinking water.

"It's bad enough to be thirsty and hungry. It's another thing altogether to be thirsty, hungry and living with the threat of violence and bloodshed," he said.

Worldwide estimates show that more than 780 million people, 40 per cent of whom live in Saharan Africa, do not have access to clean water while some 2.5 billion do not have a toilet or latrine.

The ICRC's regional water and habitat advisor for the Middle East, Michael Talhami, said the ICRC was "seeing some worrying 'cause and effect' trends leading to increased vulnerability and violence".

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