



ICRC

# FACTS & FIGURES

July - September 2011

## Sindh

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been active in Pakistan since 1948, with a permanent presence since 1982. In the province of Sindh, the ICRC provides support to First Aid training conducted by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and hosts seminars on emergency response for medical doctors. It provides training in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) for the Pakistan Armed Forces and promotes IHL in civil society through educational institutions. It contributes to the training of the Police, teaching human right norms governing the use of force in law enforcement. It carries out prison visits, supporting the authorities' efforts to comply with international norms and standards and helps separated family members to restore and maintain contact with each other.

When the devastating floods hit Sindh last year, the ICRC set up a logistical base in Karachi and launched a large-scale relief operation in northern Sindh in partnership with the PRCS. The ICRC continues to assist the population in their efforts to recover from the consequences of the 2010 floods and supports the response of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the areas affected by the floods in 2011.

### Standing by victims of floods

More than a year after the terrible floods, tens of thousands of people are still facing hardship in the areas of northern Sindh that were hardest hit. Not only did they lose their rice harvest to the floods, but they were also not able to grow a crop during the following wheat season. Between May and July 2011, the ICRC provided rice seed, fertilizer and tools as well as food to help people restart their agricultural production.

In October 2011, the ICRC has started its final round of food and hygiene items for approximately 31,000 families, to help affected communities through the harvest period and prepare for the next growing season.

This distribution includes only the most affected communities and supports people in returning to their usual cycles of production and cultivation.



Rice crop in Garhi Khairo Taluka, Jacobabad district

Further to the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the District Authorities and the People's Primary Health Initiative (PPHI), the renovation of the Sheranpur Basic Healthcare Unit has nearly been completed and the reconstruction work in the Garhi Khairo Taluka Hospital has started.

The renovation of the rural water supply system in Hussain Bux Chachar village (Union Council Allanpur) is in progress. The ICRC is also working on designing a water supply network for Garhi Khairo, which will provide safe drinking water for the residents.



Reconstruction of the water supply network in Hussain Bux Chachar (UC Allanpur)

### Floods 2011

As the crisis spread across the south of the country, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, working together with partners within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, stepped up its aid effort. It is now providing aid for over 465,000 people. Relief activities began in Badin, in the south of Sindh province, and gradually expanded to the 10 worst-affected districts.

The ICRC has come forward to provide food and basic relief items for over 100,000 people in the flood-stricken districts of Badin, Thatta and Tharparker through the PRCS. It also supports the PRCS with water trucking and provided 1,300 tents, as well as basic supplies for local PRCS-run basic health units and mobile clinics.

## Prison Visits

Around the world millions of people live behind bars. The ICRC has been working in places of detention since 1915, today visiting 500,000 detainees in some 80 countries every year. These visits are aimed at supporting the authorities' efforts to comply with internationally recognized norms and standards regarding the conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees. The ICRC's recommendations, based on its findings during the visits, are reported to the authorities in a confidential manner.

The ICRC has been visiting prisons in Sindh province since 2007, and maintains a constructive dialogue with the provincial Home Department.

Between July and September 2011, the ICRC has carried out visits in four prisons. During this period, the ICRC has continued to support the authorities' efforts to address needs regarding water and sanitation, through:

- renovation of the sanitary blocks of three barracks in Malir District Jail;
- provision of construction material to build a water distribution system for 24 cells in Sukkur Central Jail I;
- provision of construction material to replace the prison's main water supply line in Hyderabad Central Jail.

## Other Activities

A two-day First Aid Training was organized in cooperation with the PRCS for journalists at the Express News Group on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

A half-day IHL dissemination session was organized for Pakistan Air Force (PAF) officers at the PAF Air War College on 26 August.

## THE MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

**International Committee of the Red Cross**  
Karachi Sub-Delegation  
House D-185, Tipu Sultan Road, KDA Scheme 1  
T +21 343 112 04 F +21 345 394 56  
E-mail: kah\_karachi@icrc.org

Jacobabad Office  
Dastgeer Colony, Exhibition Ground Road  
T +722 653 430  
Fax +722 653 431  
E-mail: jac\_jacobabad@icrc.org

## Restoring Family Links

Restoring family links is one of the most important activities of the ICRC worldwide. The ICRC and its partners in Red Cross Red Crescent Movement endeavour to re-establish and maintain family links disrupted by situations of violence or disasters.

The ICRC helps Pakistani families whose relatives are detained abroad to restore and maintain contact, by facilitating the exchange of messages and phone calls.

The ICRC offer these services also in Sindh.

Between July and September 2011, the ICRC facilitated seven phone calls and eight video calls between families and their relatives detained abroad. In addition, the ICRC facilitated the exchange of more than 100 Red Cross Messages between families and their relatives detained abroad or in prisons in Sindh.

During the telecommunications, several close family members, including women and children, have the opportunity to talk for one hour with their detained relative.

## Health Care in Danger

On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011, the ICRC has launched an international campaign known as the Life and Death Campaign, which aims at:

- Raising awareness about the obstacles that prevent access to health care in situations of violence, and which put health care workers, infrastructure and the wounded and sick in danger.
- Ensuring greater security for health-care personnel, buildings and transport and improve access to health care for victims

Over the next four years, the ICRC will mobilize support from Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, the health-care community, governments, military forces and armed groups around the world. By creating a strong community of concern, it seeks to safeguard the delivery of effective and impartial health care in armed conflict and other situations of violence.

## Upcoming Activities

Two two-day courses related to health issues in detention for superintendents and doctors of Sindh prisons.

A one-day seminar on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) at the International Relations Department, University of Karachi.

Two sessions on IHL with advanced level students of religious studies of Saut-UI-Islam.

