



ICRC

# FACTS & FIGURES

January - March 2012

## 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 in 2010, the ICRC set up a logistic base in Karachi and launched a large-scale relief operation in northern Sindh in partnership with the PRCS. Throughout 2011, the ICRC continued to assist the population in their efforts to recover from the consequences of the 2010 floods and supported the response of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the areas affected by the floods in 2011.

### The ICRC adapts its presence in Pakistan

Increasingly over the past year, the ICRC has been facing difficulties in accessing certain areas and populations. A number of issues related to the ICRC's operational procedures, the scope of its activities and set-up in the country have been raised. Consequently, the ICRC decided to close its offices in Hangu, Timergara, Mingora, Muzaffarabad and Lahore at the end of January 2012. ICRC's office in Jacobabad is going to be closed in April 2012, as the renovation of the Garhi Khairo Taluka is completed.

The ICRC is committed to continue responding to humanitarian needs in Pakistan through its offices in Peshawar, Islamabad, Quetta and Karachi. Among other activities, the provision of medical care to weapon-wounded and physical rehabilitation services will remain a priority. The ICRC stands ready to respond to major emergencies, in partnership with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

### FLOODS OPERATION

In the first quarter of 2012, the ICRC has restored the Basic Health Unit (BHU) in Mohammadpur in Taluka Garhi Khairo of District Jacobabad.

The ICRC constructed the boundary wall of the BHU in Miranpur, in Taluka Garhi Khairo. In addition, material was donated to the People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) for the construction of an extra room.

The restoration and construction work has been completed in close cooperation with the People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI), helping their medical staff to provide health services in appropriate conditions.

The renovation of Garhi Khairo Taluka Headquarters Hospital is due to be completed in April 2012.

In January 2012, the ICRC restored the water supply system of Hussain Bukshchachar village, in Taluka Garhi Khairo of District Jacobabad, and handed over the system to the community. In order to ensure appropriate maintenance of the system, a pump operator and a water committee were trained. The water supply system provides safe drinking water for 850 people.

The Garhi Khairo water supply design work had been finalised and handed over to the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) Jacobabad in February 2012.

### PRISON MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Between 21 and 23 February, the ICRC, in close cooperation with the Prison Department Sindh organized a workshop on Prison Management in Karachi. Twenty prison managers representing the Central Prisons of Karachi, Hyderabad, Khairpur, Larkana, Sukkur I and Sukkur II as well as Malir District Jail attended the workshop.



ICRC's Prison Systems Advisor David Connor (r) and Interpreter Tomas Danhel listen to SP Larkana Central Jail M. Ejaz Haider during the Prison Management Workshop in Karachi on 02/04/2012.

ICRC's prison systems advisors Isabel Hight and David Connor came to Karachi to support the prison managers' efforts in implementing internationally recognized norms and standards in the prisons under their supervision.

The event was opened by the Inspector General of Prisons in Sindh, Ghulam Qadir Thebo. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Law and Prisons, Government of Sindh, Muhammad Ayaz Soomro gave a speech at the closing ceremony.

## PRISON VISITS

Around the world millions of people live behind bars. The ICRC has been working in places of detention since 1915. Today, it is 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 has maintained a constructive dialogue with the provincial Home Department.

Between January and March 2012, the ICRC carried out visits in four prisons. During this period, the ICRC has continued to support the authorities' efforts to improve access to water and sanitation for inmates through improvement of water supply facilities for different barracks in Karachi Central Jail.

## 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 and Red Crescent Movement endeavour to re-establish and maintain family links disrupted by situations of violence, by detention or disasters.

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

In Sindh, the ICRC team, between January and March 2012, facilitated nine video calls between families and their relatives detained abroad. During the telecommunications, several close family members, including women and children, have the opportunity to talk for one hour with their detained relatives.

Additionally, the ICRC facilitated the exchange of 134 Red Cross Messages between families and their relatives detained abroad or in prisons in Sindh.

## TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS

Between 6 and 15 February, the ICRC conducted two three-day workshops for police officers in Karachi. A total of 49 police

officers from the police training centres in Saeedabad and Razzakabad attended the training. The topics of the workshops included the international standards for the use of force and firearms, arrest and detention as well as search and seizure. Law instructors, members of a •course for promotion• and members of an elite course attended the workshops. This diversity of ranks and functions within the participants made both courses very dynamic and interactive; all participants showed vivid interest in such events.



ICRC's Police and Security Forces (PSF) Delegate Friedrich Prax (l) and Consultant Mehboob Alam (r) during the training for police officers at Central Police Office Sindh on 08/02/2012.

## PROMOTION OF IHL

**Within the framework of promoting International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the ICRC organised the following events during the first quarter of 2012:**

- A half-day IHL seminar for seventy Pakistan Air Force officers at the PAF Air War College on 6 January 2012
- One-week IHL training of trainers (ToT) course for thirty instructors of Pakistan Navy at Pakistan Marines Training Centre between 13 and 17 February 2012
- Three half-day IHL seminars attended by 200 National Cadet Officers (NCOs) and Officers from Pakistan Navy at PNS Jauhar Naval Base between 20 and 22 February 2012
- A half-day IHL seminar for 200 naval cadets and 20 faculty staff officers of Naval Academy at Pakistan Naval Academy on 2 March 2012
- A half-day IHL seminar for 80 officers including officers of Pakistan Air Force and 15 allied officers from different countries at PAF Air War College on 9 March 2012

## 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.



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