



ICRC activities in Papua New Guinea 2013 Operational Update



ICRC

Protecting the vulnerable

Visiting detainees

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visits places of detention to monitor the material conditions, treatment and judicial guarantees of detainees and to propose improvements wherever needed. The ICRC shares its findings with the authorities in a confidential manner and helps them to implement its recommendations.

- In 2013, the ICRC carried out 25 visits to correctional institutions and police stations, distributing hygiene material, recreational items and medical equipment.

Restoring family links

The ICRC and the Red Cross network help family members separated by conflicts, armed violence or natural disasters to re-establish contacts. The services offered include the tracing of missing people, exchanging family messages and reuniting separated families.

- In 2013, the ICRC supported the families of 49 detainees from Bougainville to visit their loved ones in Bekut and Keravat correctional institutions and exchange Red Cross Messages.

Protecting people affected by armed violence

The ICRC seeks to minimise the danger to which the general population is exposed by drawing the attention of the people engaged in armed violence to the respect for access to health care and the protection of vulnerable people.



An ICRC delegate speaks with detainees during a visit to a correctional facility © ICRC

Assisting the needy

Providing relief assistance

The ICRC works together with the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) to provide basic emergency items to people affected by armed violence in the Highlands and Bougainville.

- In Bougainville, Hela, Southern and Western Highlands Provinces 8150 people received essential items in 2013, including tarpaulins, blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, laundry basins and buckets.

Assistance to health and medical structures

In regions affected by armed violence, the ICRC supports the provision of healthcare. In 2013, in the Highlands, the ICRC:

- Supported the construction of one Community Health Post;
- Donated medical equipment, dressing kits and furniture to three other health facilities;
- Provided First Aid Training and dressing kits to four communities involved in violence, including local Police Officers.



The ICRC and the PNG Red Cross Society provide essential household items to families affected by inter-communal violence in Sugu Valley, Kagua Erave district, SHP. © ICRC/Vincent Meyer

Promoting the law

Police

The ICRC supports the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary with training and material on Human Rights and humanitarian principles. In 2013, the ICRC organised:

- Two 5-day workshops for 27 senior and mid-rank officers from the Highlands and Bougainville;
- Three workshops for local police officers in Buin, Arawa and Buka.

Defence Force

The ICRC provides training courses and material on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Human Rights to Papua New Guinea Defence Force personnel, so that this law is integrated into training and operations.

- In 2013, the ICRC organised a one-day workshop on IHL and its application for 14 senior officers of the PNG Defence Force in partnership with the PNG Red Cross.

Universities

The ICRC works together with the University of Papua New Guinea to promote the inclusion of IHL in the curricula of students from the faculty of law.



An ICRC delegate addresses senior officers of the PNG Defence Force during a one-day workshop, Port Moresby. © ICRC/Helen Amnol

Partnership with the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Papua New Guinea works with the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) to assist victims of inter-community violence and natural disasters. It also helps the PNGRCS to develop its capacity to disseminate humanitarian principles and to provide First Aid services and training in situations of violence.



ICRC mission

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organisation 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.

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, it employs some 12,000 people worldwide; it is financed mainly by voluntary donations from governments.



ICRC Mission



ICRC Office

The ICRC Mission in Papua New Guinea opened in 2007. It is part of the ICRC Regional Delegation in the Pacific, based in Suva, Fiji.

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