

BRASILIA (regional)

COVERING: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay



ICRC / IAR, 2011
 ⊕ ICRC regional delegation ⊕ ICRC office * ICRC regional communication support centre

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection | 1,938 |
| Assistance | 1,825 |
| Prevention | 2,151 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 600 |
| General | - |

► **6,515**

of which: Overheads 398

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 76% |
|---------------------------|-----|

PERSONNEL

| | |
|--|----|
| Expatriates | 7 |
| National staff (daily workers not included) | 54 |

KEY POINTS

In 2011, the ICRC:

- in Chile and Paraguay, obtained agreement from the *Carabineros* and National Police respectively to provide training and expertise in the integration of human rights standards into policing
- funded a Paraguayan Red Cross initiative to restore the self-sufficiency of 1,140 people affected by violence and adverse climate by providing them with vegetable and cash crop seed and technical assistance
- complemented its multidisciplinary project in Rio de Janeiro by visiting detainees in civil police custody and working with authorities to address their health needs and by launching activities to assist teenage mothers and their babies
- engaged in dialogue with the Brazilian Defence Ministry on the need for humanitarian considerations in military operations in Rio de Janeiro, resulting in a review of armed forces' rules of engagement

Established in 1975 in Buenos Aires, the delegation moved to Brasilia in 2009. The ICRC visits security detainees and responds to situations of violence and social unrest, often with the region's National Societies, which it supports in developing their capacity to act in such situations. It also runs a project to address the effects of urban violence in Rio de Janeiro. The ICRC promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation and into the doctrine, training and operations of armed forces, and works with police forces to integrate international human rights law applicable to the use of force into theirs.

CONTEXT

Social, economic and ethnic disparities remained major destabilizing factors in the region, exacerbated by organized crime and drug trafficking. Land distribution issues and indigenous grievances fuelled outbreaks of violence.

Massive protests across Chile against the government's education policies led to thousands of arrests, and many demonstrators were injured in clashes with police. Tension persisted between security forces and Mapuche communities in the south. Detained Mapuche leaders went on a prolonged hunger strike to protest against the application of reformed anti-terrorism legislation to their cases. The Paraguayan government declared a 60-day state of emergency and deployed joint law enforcement forces in northern Paraguay, where an armed group was operating.

In Brazil, the Rio de Janeiro state government continued its "pacification" programme with large-scale law enforcement operations in a number of slum neighbourhoods or *favelas*, deploying the military alongside police units. Many *favela* dwellers continued to be affected by armed violence.

Flooding and mudslides in mountainous areas of Rio de Janeiro state early in the year caused a reported 902 deaths and left many more homeless.

Efforts to deal with the effects of past military dictatorships, including the issue of people unaccounted for, continued regionwide.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Alleviating the humanitarian consequences of violence arising from social, economic, indigenous and land issues plaguing various regions and communities in Chile and Paraguay and addressing the effects of violence related to drug trafficking in the *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro remained operational priorities for the Brasilia delegation.

In southern Chile and central and northern Paraguay, the ICRC stepped up operational cooperation with the National Societies aimed at assisting violence-affected communities, mainly by ensuring their access to health care and by providing agricultural assistance to communities affected by violence and adverse climate.

In coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC also supported the National Societies in responding to natural disasters, as in Rio de Janeiro state, where it assisted the Brazilian Red Cross in restoring family links following floods early in the year.

| Main figures and indicators | PROTECTION | Total | | |
|---|------------|-------|-----------|--------|
| CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.) | | | | |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) | | | | |
| RCMs collected | | 2 | UAMs/SCs* | |
| Phone calls facilitated between family members | | 105 | | |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons | | | | |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered | | 1 | 1 | |
| People located (tracing cases closed positively) | | 1 | | |
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)¹ | | | | |
| ICRC visits | | | | |
| Detainees visited | | 1,757 | Women | Minors |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually | | 74 | 11 | |
| Detainees newly registered | | 18 | 2 | |
| Number of visits carried out | | 36 | | |
| Number of places of detention visited | | 15 | | |
| Restoring family links | | | | |
| Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support | | 34 | | |

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children 1. Brazil, Chile, Paraguay

| Main figures and indicators | ASSISTANCE | Total | Women | Children |
|--|---------------|-------|-------|----------|
| CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.) | | | | |
| Economic security, water and habitat² | | | | |
| Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives | Beneficiaries | 1,140 | 33% | 33% |
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) | | | | |
| Economic security, water and habitat | | | | |
| Essential household items ¹ | Beneficiaries | 1,460 | | |
| Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives ³ | Beneficiaries | 24 | | |

1. Brazil, Chile, Paraguay 2. Paraguay 3. Chile, Paraguay

Through its multidisciplinary project in Rio de Janeiro, the ICRC pursued activities in seven *favelas* to assist the population affected by armed violence, working with local authorities and other partners. These included: improving access to primary health care by ensuring Safer Access training and its implementation on the ground by first-aiders and other medical personnel working in the *favelas*; facilitating violence-affected people's referral to psychotherapy; and, under a newly launched part of the project, providing guidance to teenage mothers and their children. Under the "Creating Humanitarian Spaces" initiative, six schools continued to participate in violence-prevention activities.

As joint law enforcement operations unfolded in the *favelas*, the ICRC further developed dialogue with the Brazilian Ministry of Defence, military commanders on the ground and Rio de Janeiro's highest police authorities, focusing on the rules of engagement applicable to the "pacification" process. In parallel, police and public security authorities requested ICRC technical advice in integrating rules governing the use of force into their doctrine, education, training and sanctions. Similar cooperation was being developed with police in Chile and Paraguay.

For the first time, the ICRC gained access to five police lock-ups in Rio de Janeiro, where it visited detainees according to its standard procedures. Prompted by the ICRC's confidential feedback, the authorities took steps to improve the detainees' living conditions and began to address their health needs; these were also the subject of a first seminar on penitentiary health organized by the state authorities.

In Chile and Paraguay, the ICRC regularly monitored the treatment and living conditions of people detained in connection with protests over land tenure and indigenous issues. In Chile, former detainees benefited from ICRC assistance to launch micro-economic initiatives, and in Paraguay, the National Society continued to manage family visits for ICRC-registered detainees and ran a crafts project for women detainees.

Regionwide, the ICRC worked with authorities to address prison health issues. In Paraguay, the ICRC used the findings of its analysis of health in detention as a way of galvanizing national authorities' efforts to improve prison health conditions.

The ICRC continued to work with national IHL committees to integrate IHL into domestic legislation and encouraged them to mobilize support for IHL-related and humanitarian initiatives, for example regarding missing persons, in national and regional fora.

To help address the issue of missing persons, which remained a regionwide concern, the ICRC facilitated the participation of forensic experts from the five countries covered in expert fora.

Interaction with national and regional media continued to result in broad coverage of Movement activities.

CIVILIANS

Concerns of violence-affected communities in Chile and Paraguay taken up by the ICRC

In southern Chile, 609 members of remote Mapuche communities accessed medical services, including primary health care, first-aid courses and hospital referrals, provided by the Chilean Red Cross/ICRC. A group of 15 police officers, likely to arrive first on the scene in an emergency, received first-aid training. Moreover, a multidisciplinary team was selected to give psychological and social support to Mapuche children affected by armed violence, starting in March 2012.

In Paraguay, volunteers from five violence-affected communities learnt basic first aid, aimed at extending community access to health assistance, through an ICRC-funded project carried out by the Paraguayan Red Cross. The National Society also delivered vegetables and cash crop seed to violence-affected peasant communities (1,140 people/182 households) whose crops had been destroyed by harsh weather, enabling them to resume agricultural activities essential to their self-sufficiency.

The needs of vulnerable people of Brazilian origin who had fled Paraguay (“Brasiguayos”) because of land tenure issues were brought to the attention of the authorities, with the aim of helping them to obtain State support.

In Rio de Janeiro, favela residents get community health care, first aid and safer schools

With the further implementation of the multidisciplinary ICRC pilot project carried out in partnership with the Municipal Secretariat of Health and Civil Defence, the Brazilian Red Cross and neighbourhood associations, residents of particularly violence-affected areas within seven of Rio de Janeiro’s *favelas* had increased access to primary health care and social services. One project aim was to facilitate safe access to such areas for health teams of the State-run family health programme, thereby facilitating residents’ access to medical and other care. After training in the Safer Access approach in 2010, health teams comprising some 248 medical workers continued to apply security rules to their operational procedures and/or refined their daily practice with technical advice provided by municipal health and ICRC representatives during follow-up visits. Amid requests from other health teams for similar support, the municipal health authorities appointed a staff member to replicate lessons learnt from working in the most violent *favelas*. Furthermore, to boost their self-reliance, 286 residents in six *favelas* were trained in first aid and 40 instructors attended refresher courses.

Another project aim was to coach health workers in delivering therapy sessions to people traumatized by violence, so as to facilitate the integration of mental health services into State-provided primary health care and to train them in providing medical and psychological/social assistance to teenage mothers and their children. To increase capacity to manage group sessions for people mentally affected by violence, 16 additional staff from the municipal health authorities were trained by an ICRC psychologist. Such group sessions helped 216 patients referred to this service in three *favelas* deal with their experiences. In addition, health workers started paying home visits regularly to 74 teenage mothers and mothers-to-be and 34 children to check on their well-being. In the absence of any programme or institutional initiative to help teenage mothers, the ICRC worked to promote their rights and access to social services.

In a bid to reduce and prevent violence and improve security in schools, the second phase of the “Creating Humanitarian Spaces” project was launched, involving six intermediate schools and coordinated by the Rio de Janeiro education authorities and the ICRC. A total of 38 teachers, school directors and other staff were trained in the use of course modules adapted from the ICRC’s Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. In addition, 530 students learnt about safer behaviour (for example during shoot-outs), respect for life, solidarity and basic first aid. Some 70 education professionals

from 12 intermediate schools located in violence-stricken areas attended ICRC safer behaviour workshops, where they elaborated security procedures in case of emergencies.

In parallel, work continued aimed at fostering dialogue with all security forces operating in and around the *favelas* and at passing humanitarian messages to members of armed groups, including detainees, regarding respect for people and their dignity (see *People deprived of their freedom* and *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*).

People trace missing family members

Regionwide, many people continued to seek information about relatives who had disappeared during the years of military rule. In Argentina and Uruguay, forensic institutions upgraded data management, using ICRC-designed ante/post-mortem software. To broaden the transfer of skills, two officers from a peacekeeping training centre in Brazil attended a week-long course on human remains management in Geneva, Switzerland, enabling them to enhance the centre’s curriculum. Seven managers from the forensic services of the region’s five countries shared expertise with peers at meetings of the International Association of Forensic Sciences and the Iberoamerican Network of Forensic Medicine and Science Institutions, their participation facilitated by the ICRC.

In Rio de Janeiro state, following the massive floods and subsequent landslides, 105 residents trapped in isolated areas were able to contact family members using satellite phones supplied by the Brazilian Red Cross with ICRC funding. The family-links website, created after the earthquake in Japan in March, attracted strong interest in Brazil, given the many Brazilian nationals in Japan.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People in Chile, mainly from the indigenous Mapuche community, and people arrested in Paraguay in connection with land grievances or political issues received visits according to standard ICRC procedures. Delegates checked that their treatment and living conditions complied with internationally recognized norms and provided the authorities with confidential feedback.

In Brazil, following a sustained dialogue with the ICRC, state authorities and civil police authorized delegates for the first time to visit five police lock-ups in Rio de Janeiro. Acting on their recommendations, the authorities took steps to reduce overcrowding and improve access to the open air, hygiene and health care (see below).

Given other priorities, no progress was made in examining the situation of Mapuche detainees in Argentina.

Two groups of hunger strikers in Chile and Paraguay were checked on by an ICRC doctor, and authorities were reminded of the World Medical Association’s position on force-feeding.

| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM | BRAZIL | CHILE | PARAGUAY |
|---|--------|----------------------|----------|
| ICRC visits | | | |
| Detainees visited | 1,683 | 25 | 49 |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually | | 25 | 49 |
| | | <i>of whom women</i> | 2 |
| Detainees newly registered | | 15 | 3 |
| | | <i>of whom women</i> | 2 |
| Number of visits carried out | 18 | 9 | 9 |
| Number of places of detention visited | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| Restoring family links | | | |
| Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support | | | 34 |

In Chile, five recently released detainees used ICRC assistance to launch micro-economic projects aimed at securing their reintegration and livelihoods. At the request of the authorities, the ICRC visited the high security prison in Santiago and shared with the management proposals for improving inmates' living conditions.

In Paraguay, detainees with relatives living far away enjoyed family visits organized by the National Society, with the ICRC funding the travel costs. Such visits also enabled the detainees to receive medication and other assistance. In Asunción's women's prison, 66 detainees, including 12 mothers accompanied by 13 children, lived more comfortably thanks to ICRC donations of furniture, mattresses, flooring materials and curtains, while games, better lighting and learning materials made the prison kindergarten child-friendly. Through an ICRC-funded partnership between the Paraguayan Red Cross and the National Handcraft Institute, 19 women learnt crafts enabling them to earn a living and thereby regain self-confidence.

In Brazil, Chile and Paraguay, detainees received ICRC hygiene kits and other essential household items for their greater comfort and well-being.

Detainees' health concerns addressed

In Paraguay, stakeholders in TB prevention and control in prisons gained insights into progress made in addressing these issues at a national event co-sponsored by the Ministries of Health, Justice and Labour and the ICRC. The health authorities presented an ongoing project financed by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, for which they had obtained funding with ICRC input. The audience also learnt about the findings of prison health assessments conducted jointly by the Health Ministry and the ICRC with the aim of prompting a State response.

Prison authorities welcomed ICRC technical advice in improving access to education and vocational training while in detention and to specialized health care for women with children in prison. They also engaged in dialogue on the importance of daily access to the open air for detainees under strict security regimes. Four detainees received specialized medical treatment following written ICRC interventions.

In Rio de Janeiro, following the ICRC's visits to police lock-ups, the state and municipal health authorities carried out a baseline survey to identify and address detainees' most immediate health needs in one of the lock-ups, with ICRC technical support. Meanwhile, the ICRC's concerns over health issues in these facilities were highlighted at the first seminar on integrated planning of penitentiary health organized by the state authorities. As a result of these efforts, the most seriously overcrowded lock-up received medical equipment; on the ICRC's recommendation, 10 detainees were transferred to penitentiary hospitals.

AUTHORITIES

The region's governments and the ICRC discussed IHL, rules governing the use of force, and humanitarian concerns. Using ICRC expertise, they supported relevant resolutions in regional fora, while national IHL committees advanced the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties.

Argentina, Brazil and Chile worked to incorporate amendments to the Rome Statute into national legislation. Chile advanced implementation of the Mine Ban Convention and ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions, as did Uruguay. Argentina ratified Additional Protocol III, adopted national legislation to implement the Convention on Enforced Disappearance and, alongside Chile, participated in a seminar on the protection of cultural property in armed conflict (see *Mexico*).

Regarding the missing persons issue, Paraguay worked towards establishing a national information bureau, while the Argentinian authorities co-hosted a seminar with the ICRC on a new manual on forensic genetics. Argentina and Norway harnessed ICRC expertise to examine ways of strengthening the protection of civilians under IHL at a seminar organized for government and NGO representatives from 20 countries in the region.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed and security forces to incorporate international standards into law enforcement

In Brazil, Chile and Paraguay, authorities and the ICRC discussed law enforcement, standards governing the use of force, and respect for civilians and medical/humanitarian services. In Rio de Janeiro's *favelas*, gang members, including detainees visited by the ICRC, were reminded of ICRC neutrality and impartiality.

The Brazilian Ministry of Defence and military commanders in Rio de Janeiro examined the humanitarian consequences of violence in the *favelas* with the ICRC and used its recommendations to review the rules of engagement in joint law enforcement operations with police.

Dialogue was reinforced with the Public Security Secretariat, including with the military and civil police units operating in the *favelas*, which received a memorandum on human rights standards prior to large-scale security operations. Military and civil police schools worked on an agreement with the ICRC regarding the provision of technical assistance in incorporating such standards into new curricula.

Similar agreements were being discussed with the military police in São Paulo and Pará, while the National Public Security Secretariat and the ICRC finalized an agreement aimed at reviewing a jointly developed e-learning course.

At the Fifth Forum on Public Security in Brasilia, some 450 participants at an ICRC-chaired round-table discussed potentially adverse effects of security operations on health care.

In Chile, the national police force (*Carabineros*) had training in international human rights standards and children's rights delivered by the ICRC/UNICEF. Having agreed to cooperate with the ICRC, the *Carabineros* authorized the organization to assess police training and documentation, while two Chilean officers discussed rules governing the use of force with Brazilian counterparts at a training course organized by the São Paulo military police.

| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM | | BRAZIL | CHILE | PARAGUAY |
|---|---------------|--------|-------|----------|
| Economic security, water and habitat | | | | |
| Essential household items | Beneficiaries | 1,367 | 7 | 66 |
| Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives | Beneficiaries | | 5 | 19 |

Given ongoing protests in Chile, the *Carabineros* invited the ICRC to explain its role and work to civil society and police representatives. Chile's Academy of Police Sciences published an ICRC article on IHL and international human rights norms, enhancing readers' understanding of their applicability in given situations. The compatibility of such norms with national legislation was examined by a Chilean expert in an ICRC-commissioned study.

In Paraguay, the National Police created a human rights department and signed an agreement with the ICRC on the integration of human rights standards into law enforcement.

ICRC concerns about the situation in Paraguay's north were shared with authorities and law enforcement agencies, which were also notified of an imminent ICRC assessment of humanitarian needs in the area.

Armed forces continue integrating IHL

The region's armed forces worked to integrate IHL into their doctrine, training, sanctions and operations and, in Brazil and Paraguay, discussed with the ICRC the use of force in law enforcement. With ICRC sponsorship, Brazil and Chile sent representatives to an IHL course abroad (see *International law and cooperation*).

Following the introduction of new IHL manuals for soldiers by Argentina and Brazil, military instructors in both countries received further IHL training and, as did Paraguayan instructors, reference materials.

Members of the military attended courses and presentations on IHL/international human rights norms. In Argentina, IHL was included as a compulsory subject for legal advisers at the armed forces joint auditors' school, which hosted an ICRC talk for 90 such advisers. In Brazil, a leading military school invited the ICRC to brief 130 officers.

Argentinian and Brazilian peacekeepers bound for Haiti, and in Argentina, participants in a peacekeeping course attended ICRC briefings.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The public kept informed of ICRC activities through the organization's Spanish and Portuguese websites and publications and through awareness-raising work highlighting the project in Rio de Janeiro.

To enhance media coverage of humanitarian issues, 20 students learnt about reporting on situations of violence at the tenth such course organized jointly by universities, journalists' associations and the ICRC.

To enrich their teaching of IHL and rules governing the use of force, 350 university lecturers from five countries used ICRC-provided materials and expertise, while in Brazil, lecturers in Paraná province attended IHL training. The first student team from Argentina participated in an IHL competition in France, with ICRC sponsorship.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies strengthened their family-links, Safer Access and first-aid skills, with ICRC funding and technical support provided in coordination with the International Federation. This helped them assist people suffering violence or natural disaster and, in Paraguay, detainees.

In Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, National Society staff and volunteers received training in the Movement's Fundamental Principles and the restoration of family links, and in Chile and Paraguay, also in the Safer Access approach and protection-related issues. The Chilean Red Cross assessed family-links needs and requested ICRC support to boost its first-aid response during violent protests.

The Argentine Red Cross developed its new strategic plan and the Chilean Red Cross consolidated its communication plan, while the Uruguayan Red Cross revised its statutes, improved its infrastructure and received computer equipment. Brazil's National Society worked with the International Federation and the ICRC to overcome its financial and structural difficulties.

National Society, International Federation and ICRC communication experts explored ways of better coordinating their communication efforts at a meeting in Brazil.