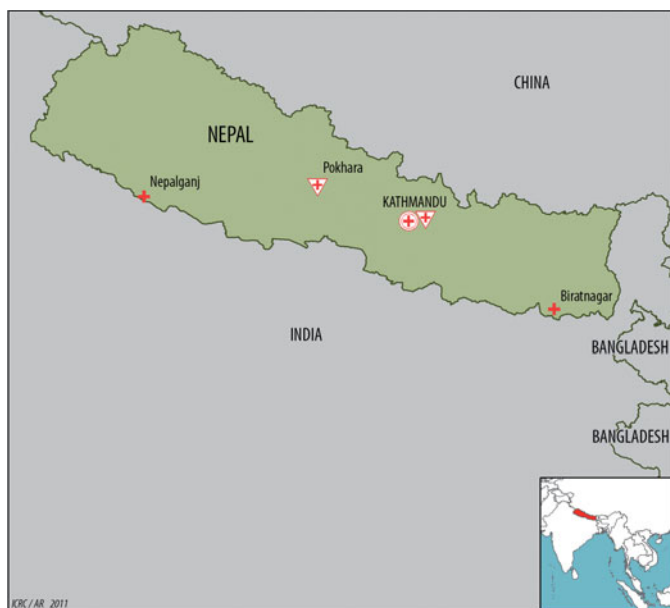


NEPAL



ICRC / AR, 2011
 + ICRC delegation + ICRC office ▲ ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	1,245
Assistance	1,241
Prevention	1,116
Cooperation with National Societies	663
General	-

► **4,266**

of which: Overheads 260

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	85%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	8
National staff (daily workers not included)	76

KEY POINTS

In 2011, the ICRC:

- expanded its programme to address the psychological, social, economic and legal needs of 4,374 relatives of missing persons in 15 districts
- continued to urge former parties to the conflict, parliamentarians and other stakeholders to help clarify the fate of 1,406 missing persons and establish an effective Commission of Inquiry on Disappearances
- further strengthened the Nepal Red Cross Society's preparedness for and capacity to respond to emergencies resulting from violence or natural disaster, through emergency first-aid training and support to ambulance services
- enhanced the capacities of medical specialists in 28 hospitals to cope with a potential mass influx of patients through emergency room trauma courses
- briefed military and police officers prior to their deployment on UN peacekeeping missions, while supporting the Nepal Army and the Armed Police Force in further integrating IHL and international human rights law into their doctrine or policing standards

The ICRC initially worked in Nepal out of its regional delegation in New Delhi, opening a delegation in Kathmandu in 2001. Since the May 2006 agreement between the government and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, the ICRC has focused on: clarifying the fate of missing persons and supporting their families; taking action on behalf of people deprived of their freedom; promoting full compliance with IHL; and improving medical care for the wounded. It works closely with the Nepal Red Cross Society.

CONTEXT

While some changes in the government led to slow progress in the drafting of the constitution, Nepal's long-stalled peace process took a step forward in November with the signing of a seven-point agreement between key political parties. Among other things, the agreement paved the way for the integration of members of the Maoist People's Liberation Army (PLA) into the Nepalese Army. The parties also made some headway in resolving contentious issues in the new constitution, although disagreement remained over the form of governance and the federal set-up. Two bills to create transitional mechanisms foreseen in the peace agreement, namely the Commission of Inquiry on Disappearances and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, were still pending parliamentary approval at year-end. Public dissatisfaction led to nationwide strikes, protests, and confrontations between various political and ethnic groups.

In November, the tenure of the Constituent Assembly was extended for a fourth time until 27 May 2012, the last extension permitted by the Supreme Court. The mandate of the UN Mission in Nepal ended in January and a national alternative to the monitoring of arms and weapon bearers was agreed.

Meanwhile, sporadic explosions attributed to different armed groups continued to rock the Terai region.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Given the uncertainty about the peace process and the frequent internal disturbances, the ICRC maintained a flexible approach in Nepal. It continued to deal with the residual effects of the past conflict, while monitoring the humanitarian situation and responding to the needs of people affected by ongoing unrest. Most activities were conducted with the Nepal Red Cross Society, whose capacities were boosted by ICRC financial, technical and material support and training.

The ICRC kept up comprehensive efforts to help more than 1,400 families clarify the fate of relatives missing in connection with the past conflict. Delegates made representations in this regard to the former conflict parties and raised awareness among various stakeholders of the needs of families of the missing, including their right to know the fate of their relatives and, if they had died, to take possession of their remains. To help address the issue, the ICRC proposed amendments to draft legislation on a Commission of Inquiry on Disappearances. Meanwhile, after a positive evaluation, a National Society/ICRC project begun in 2010 aimed at comprehensively addressing the needs of wives

Main figures and indicators	PROTECTION	Total		
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected		42		
RCMs distributed		12		
Names published in the media		1,383		
Names published on the ICRC family-links website		1,383		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		37	3	6
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		11		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2011 (people)		1,406	90	159
Documents				
People to whom travel documents were issued		20		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits			Women	Minors
Detainees visited		27		
Number of visits carried out		11		
Number of places of detention visited		9		
Restoring family links				
RCMs collected		13		
RCMs distributed		2		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		29		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

Main figures and indicators	ASSISTANCE	Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	807	30%	40%
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	4,374	36%	35%
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	1,996		
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	120		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	9		
Patients whose hospital treatment has been paid for by the ICRC	Patients	9		
Admissions	Patients	56	9	7
	<i>of whom weapon-wounded</i>	56	9	7
	<i>(including by mines or explosive remnants of war)</i>	54		
First aid				
First-aid posts supported	Structures	36		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	36		
Wounded patients treated	Patients	5,189		
Physical rehabilitation				
Centres supported	Structures	2		
Patients receiving services	Patients	1,630	392	201
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	160	26	14
Prostheses delivered	Units	191	31	20
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	14		
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	119	26	24
Orthoses delivered	Units	164	33	37
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	2		
Crutches delivered	Units	185		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	358		

and mothers of missing persons in one district was expanded to 15 other districts. With a view to securing the programme's long-term sustainability, partnerships with local NGOs were formed and ICRC-trained National Society personnel continued to assume responsibility for interaction with the families. To increase the likelihood of bodies being identified, thus providing some people with answers regarding the fate of their relatives, the ICRC strengthened the authorities' forensic capacities.

To ensure that victims of current violence received the necessary medical attention, the ICRC supported National Society first-aid activities and ambulance services and provided hospitals with supplies. A series of discussions with district-level stakeholders sought to prevent the obstruction and vandalism of ambulances during civil unrest. Delegates visited people arrested in relation to various disturbances to check on their treatment and living conditions. The ICRC partnered with a local NGO to establish private areas

where detainees could speak to lawyers, improving their access to judicial guarantees. To boost local stakeholders' capacities to respond to future outbreaks of violence or disaster, the ICRC supported National Society personnel in upgrading their first-aid skills, organized emergency room trauma courses for medical specialists in 28 hospitals, and provided training for authorities in human remains management. The ICRC also provided input to draft legislation and national guidelines relating to natural disasters.

The ICRC continued to provide materials to and train staff of the Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre and the Aerahiti National Rehabilitation Centre, enabling them to treat and fit amputees and disabled people referred to the centres from all over the country. Following a spate of mine accidents in several districts, the National Society conducted emergency mine-risk education sessions with ICRC support.

Although the political environment (see *Context*) slowed progress in IHL treaty implementation/ratification, the national IHL committee discussed a draft Geneva Conventions Act with relevant government bodies ahead of its planned submission to the cabinet, while the Culture Ministry considered accession to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property. Furthermore, Nepal hosted the 18th South Asia Teaching Session on IHL for the second year running, attended by senior government officials from the region.

The armed and security forces received support in raising awareness of IHL/international human rights law among their troops, including those departing on peacekeeping missions, while journalists, university lecturers and students, and other influential members of civil society attended ICRC events, enhancing their knowledge of and respect for humanitarian principles.

The ICRC continued to coordinate its activities with Movement partners and other humanitarian agencies, thereby maximizing impact, identifying unmet needs and avoiding duplication.

CIVILIANS

Political uncertainty rendered Nepal prone to nationwide strikes and violent demonstrations, while incidents continued to be reported in the unstable Terai region (see *Context*). Such events, and the region's susceptibility to natural disaster, prompted the ICRC to remind authorities of their obligation to meet the basic needs of affected people, including their access to health and medical care (see *Wounded and sick*). The Nepalese Red Cross continued to boost its own emergency and disaster response capacity, with ICRC support.

Families of missing persons supported in their search for answers

As a result of the past conflict, more than 1,400 families were still seeking missing relatives. Based on information collected from the families by the National Society or the ICRC, cases of missing persons were submitted to the former parties (the Nepalese Army, the Armed Police Force (APF), the Nepal Police and the PLA) with the aim of clarifying their fate or whereabouts. In all, 37 new cases were registered, 4 cases were reopened and 11 people were found alive. An updated list was published on the website www.familylinks.icrc.org, which was translated into Nepali to facilitate access to information in case of a disaster.

To speed up progress on the missing persons issue and provide families with answers, the parliament's legislative committee began

re-examining a draft bill in April to establish a Commission of Inquiry on Disappearances, following ICRC advocacy. The organization built on this momentum by reiterating to the 72 members of the legislative committee and other influential bodies, such as the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, its recommendations for amendments to the draft submitted in 2010. These included a definition of the term "the missing", provisions for the handling of human remains, an obligation to share results of investigations with the families, and an extension of the commission's mandate from the proposed two years to five (see *Authorities*).

With a view to facilitating future exhumations and ensuring that people did not go unaccounted for, the authorities were advised on the proper collection of information on gravesites, and the head of the Ministry of Home Affairs' disaster section reviewed human remains management in conflicts and disasters at an ICRC-supported training session in Geneva, Switzerland. Subsequently, the ministry referenced human remains management in a draft disaster act and drafted relevant national guidelines. A forensic pathologist and an archaeologist enhanced their knowledge of human skeletal recovery and identification at a course in Cyprus, with ICRC sponsorship. Forensic institutes and laboratories received equipment and supplies. National Society personnel boosted their knowledge of human remains management before imparting the information to 49 APF personnel. Police also received reference materials on the subject. Delays in the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry on Disappearances led to the shelving of planned support to and the training of commissioners in ante-mortem data collection.

At the ICRC's insistence, the government passed a decision entitling wives of the missing to the same financial assistance granted to widows of people killed during the conflict and increased the sum of money allotted. Families of the missing kept abreast of such developments during regular visits by National Society staff/volunteers. As planned, ICRC-trained National Society instructors assumed full responsibility for training 251 volunteers (including 37 women) to liaise regularly with such relatives and to assist in their application for government assistance. At year-end, all but 13 of the 1,406 families had applied.

Meanwhile, an evaluation of an ICRC pilot project to provide psychological, legal and economic support to 250 wives and mothers of missing persons found a marked improvement in their general well-being. The assistance had enhanced their family and community life, helping combat the social/cultural stigma attached to their status. The programme was therefore extended to another 15 districts. Partnerships with seven additional local NGOs, including two providing income-generating activities, and the support of local authorities enhanced the programme's sustainability. Subsequently, 4,374 people from 717 families of missing persons received comprehensive psychological and social support from ICRC-trained facilitators and volunteers, including through group meetings. Furthermore, three relatives of missing persons received professional psychological care through a national provider. The ICRC covered transportation, refreshments and other administrative costs. To boost their income-generating capacities, 467 families in six districts received training, including in livestock management, provided by Heifer International in partnership with the ICRC and other local NGOs. The Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation also requested technical support in drafting guidelines so that it could begin providing similar support to families through local partners.

While a shortage of funds restricted implementation of a 2009 government decision to provide scholarships to children of missing persons, some districts allocated funds on an improvised basis to send 17 children to school.

Separated relatives stay in touch

Bhutanese refugees in Nepal maintained contact with relatives detained in Bhutan through RCMs; 98 travelled to visit 28 of them (see *New Delhi*). Families of 27 Nepalese people detained in third countries exchanged messages with their relatives through the ICRC and relevant National Societies, while the ICRC facilitated the return to Nepal of 13 migrants previously detained in Afghanistan. Twenty refugees in Nepal were issued with ICRC travel documents enabling them to resettle in third countries. Following a fire at a camp, 800 refugees used ad hoc donations of essential household items and clothes to meet their immediate needs.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

While all those held in relation to the past conflict had been released, the authorities made new arrests during situations of violence and unrest, particularly of alleged armed group members from the Terai and eastern regions. Twenty-seven alleged members of armed outfits or militant organizations being held in jails and police stations, received visits according to ICRC standard procedures. Delegates assessed their treatment and living conditions before sharing their findings and any recommendations, in confidential reports, with the relevant authorities. Attention was also paid to the needs of other vulnerable groups of detainees, including women, minors and foreigners.

In total, 120 inmates requiring legal assistance and advice were referred to appropriate local organizations. With a view to encouraging respect for judicial guarantees and improving detainees' family contact, the ICRC partnered with a local NGO to establish separate spaces in district police stations where inmates could speak privately with lawyers and meet relatives. Such spaces were established in two stations and four more were under construction at year-end. The ICRC covered up to 50% of the total project costs, while the local NGOs and the police stations concerned covered the remaining amount. Meanwhile, some 2,000 inmates enjoyed a healthier living environment following an ad hoc distribution of insecticide to three district jails.

WOUNDED AND SICK

The provision of health services in Nepal, particularly first aid for people injured during violent outbreaks, was constrained by poverty and poor infrastructure. To help counter this, National Society first-aid instructors in 18 districts underwent training to upgrade their skills and went on to train 785 people, including National Society action teams in 21 districts, police officers in 7 districts and ambulance drivers in 6 districts. More than 5,100 injured people were treated at 36 National Society first-aid posts that had received ICRC funding, materials and equipment. The ICRC's first-aid manual was translated into Nepalese in preparation for printing in 2012.

Ambulances, including one belonging to the National Society, continued to suffer obstruction and damage during unrest. At five National Society/ICRC-organized round-tables, representatives of political parties and ethnic groups, traffic police, ambulance service providers and the National Society discussed the need to facilitate ambulance movements and to prevent their misuse. Bilateral contacts with individuals and relevant groups helped increase

awareness of the obligation to allow free movement of ambulances, while jingles aired in four languages on 17 local and national radio stations reinforced the message. With ICRC financial support, 23 National Society ambulances were repaired and resumed transfer services. Coordination between one National Society branch and a district ambulance management committee led to the systematic monitoring of ambulance misuse in the area and the creation of a fund for training ambulance drivers in first aid.

Ad hoc donations of medical supplies helped nine hospitals provide first aid and medical care to patients injured during civil unrest or by improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Following ICRC intervention, 56 people wounded in three bomb attacks on public buses and 22 victim-activated explosions received free medical and/or surgical care. The treatment costs of nine other patients were covered by the ICRC. Additionally, local NGOs improved their understanding of government policy on treating victims of IED explosions at ICRC-organized meetings, to help ensure that injured people got treated on time.

Forty medical specialists working in the emergency department of 28 hospitals attended two emergency room trauma courses jointly organized with Kathmandu University, building their capacities to efficiently manage a mass influx of trauma patients following situations of violence or a natural disaster.

Disabled people improve their mobility

For amputees (including mine/IED victims) at the Nepalese Army's Aerahiti National Rehabilitation Centre, artificial limbs produced using ICRC-donated materials and fitted by ICRC-coached technicians led to increased mobility. In accordance with the 2009 agreement signed by the army and the ICRC, all Nepalese people, irrespective of class, community or political affiliation, had equal access to physical rehabilitation there. Disabled patients at the Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre in Pokhara also benefited from the skills of technicians who had received on-the-job training. To ensure the sustainability of services, technicians from both centres undertook more formal training abroad.

In total, 1,630 patients benefited from treatment at the two ICRC-supported centres. Patients disabled as a result of the conflict were treated free of charge and the ICRC covered the transportation costs of 178 people. More than 100 patients eligible for the government's interim relief programme were informed of the extended deadline (see *Civilians*) and encouraged to apply for assistance.

AUTHORITIES

The government pursued efforts to implement IHL at national level. The national IHL committee's sub-committee consulted with relevant government bodies on a draft Geneva Conventions Act ahead of its submission to the cabinet, while an official translation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions into Nepalese was under way. Meanwhile, the Culture Ministry was considering accession to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property, as advocated by the National Society/ICRC.

To stimulate interest in IHL implementation, Nepal hosted the 18th South Asia Teaching Session on IHL, with 38 participants from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Islamic Republic of Iran improving their knowledge of the law and its implementation. Senior government officials, human rights commissioners, newly recruited judicial officials, and youth representatives of political parties enhanced their understanding of IHL

through various ICRC briefings and training sessions, including some held abroad, such as the Third South Asian Conference on IHL in the Maldives (see *New Delhi*).

In April, parliament's legislative committee began studying a draft bill on the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry on Disappearances. The committee considered some ICRC-proposed amendments to the draft, thus widening the scope of the cases that such a committee would address. The revised draft was then submitted for parliament's consideration.

The ICRC pushed for the inclusion of specific IHL references in Nepal's new constitution, distinct from international human rights law, but to no avail. Similarly, no progress was made regarding a stand-alone Red Cross Act to strengthen the National Society's legal status. The National Society and the ICRC decided to pursue the matter in a more stable political climate.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Nepal Army's IHL Core Group, co-chaired by the ICRC, continued integrating IHL into military doctrine, training and operations. Twenty-four senior instructors attended an advanced course in IHL training techniques, which they subsequently adopted for their purposes. The army's Human Rights Directorate also selected the course's highest performers to join its ranks. Senior officers attended the 18th South Asia Teaching Session on IHL (see *Authorities*) and other advanced courses abroad to gain tools and knowledge to further the integration process. To boost teaching capacities, the army produced a training video complementing the 2010 commanders' handbook on IHL. Dialogue with the Judge Advocate General's Office was limited, so no training took place for military justice personnel. Given the ongoing incorporation of the PLA into the national army, plans to raise IHL awareness among the PLA were shelved.

With ICRC assistance, the APF trained its troops further in international policing standards and produced an operational booklet integrating international law enforcement standards. APF training was bolstered by ICRC-provided reference materials supplied to the force's libraries and by knowledge gained at the 18th South Asia Teaching Session on IHL.

All dialogue and training included information on the Movement. Nepali peacekeeping troops were briefed on the humanitarian situation and Movement activities in the countries to which they were being posted, namely Haiti, Lebanon and Liberia.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Given the potential for unrest, public awareness of humanitarian issues and Movement activities remained vital. The National Society received training and support in producing promotional materials, enabling it to contribute further to the ICRC's dissemination of humanitarian principles and to enhance its own awareness-raising activities.

Human rights organizations, politically affiliated youth groups and indigenous communities enhanced their understanding of such topics through presentations, district-level round-tables, participation in the 18th South Asia Teaching Session on IHL (see *Authorities*), and written materials. Journalists developed their humanitarian reporting skills at an ICRC seminar and drew on ICRC briefings and press releases for their articles, including on the needs of families of the missing. The plight of missing

persons' families was also the subject of a children's drawing exhibition and an expert panel discussion, covered by the media and aimed at fostering greater community understanding.

Nepal hosted a regional moot court competition for university students from six South Asian countries, helping generate interest and promote IHL among academic circles. Law lecturers from several institutions continued teaching IHL using ICRC-provided materials, with some participating in advanced IHL courses. Teachers and students of law and political science gained greater understanding of IHL and the Movement at ICRC presentations.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Nepalese Red Cross remained the ICRC's key operational partner in providing first-aid services, supporting the families of missing persons and promoting IHL (see above). Movement components in Nepal met regularly to coordinate activities.

The National Society continued to draw on ICRC technical, training and material support to boost emergency preparedness. Given the fragile security situation in parts of Nepal, National Society staff underwent training in the Safer Access approach. The organization also strengthened its network of volunteers trained in restoring family links and human remains management, particularly in earthquake-prone districts.

With ICRC backing, the Nepalese Red Cross continued to conduct mine-risk education. A spate of mine casualties prompted emergency information sessions for over 3,300 people in nine districts.

Owing to the changing political climate, no progress was made in strengthening the National Society's legal base (see *Authorities*).