

## 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.

### Standing by victims of floods

During the final quarter of 2011, the ICRC has assisted 30,419 flood-affected families, comprising about 212,000 people, in a third distribution round of food and essential household items in six Union Councils namely Mohammad Pur, Allan Pur, Miran Pur, Garhi Khairo, Allahabad and Khudabad of Taluka Garhi Khairo, district Jacobabad. The assistance items included wheat, flour, rice, peas, ghee, sugar, salt, tea, washing powder and body soap. Prior to this, the ICRC had completed the verification and registration of the beneficiaries.



Life is returning back to normal as the farmers are harvesting rice from the seeds that the ICRC and the PRCS distributed in Taluka Garhi Khairo, District Jacobabad.

Since 2010, the ICRC has been providing first emergency and later early recovery assistance to flood victims. In order to evaluate the quality and the effect of the assistance, ICRC Jacobabad carried out a Post Distribution Monitoring in sample villages of six Union Councils in Taluka Garhi Khairo of Jacobabad district. 657 interviews with beneficiaries and 72 focus group discussions in 72 villages were carried out during the monitoring.

In a similar manner, a Post Harvest Evaluation of the assistance with agriculture items such as rice seeds, fertilizers and farming tools provided between May and June 2011 was carried out in 24 sample villages of six Union Councils of Taluka Garhi Khairo.

The rural water scheme in Hussain Baksh Chachar Village, Union Council Allan Pur will be completed early January 2012.

The ICRC has completed the renovation of the Sheranpur Basic Healthcare Unit (BHU), while the renovation of Mohammad Pur BHU building as well as construction of its boundary wall will be completed early January 2012.

The renovation of the Garhi Khairo Taluka Hospital is ongoing and 70% of the structural works has been completed. Moreover, electrical design work for the hospital has been finalized to enable the beginning of work in early 2012.



ICRC Water and Habitat (Wathab) engineers together with local workers are constructing a water supply scheme to provide drinking water to four villages in Hussain Baksh Chachar, Union Council Allan Pur, Taluka Garhi Khairo, District Jacobabad.

### Floods 2011

As the crisis spread across the south of the country, the PRCS, working together with partners within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, stepped up its aid efforts.

The ICRC provided food and non food items for 15,000 families (over 100,000 people) in the flood-stricken districts of Badin, Thatta, Tharparkar and Mirpurkhas, distributed through the PRCS in partnership with the German and the Canadian Red Cross Societies. Moreover, the ICRC supported the efforts of the PRCS with water trucking in the districts of Sanghar, Benazirabad, Khairpur and Mirpurkhas for two months and provided 1300 tents, as well as basic supplies for local PRCS-run basic health units and mobile clinics.

## Health Care in Detention Seminar

The ICRC in cooperation with the Prison Department Sindh organized two seminars on health care in detention in Karachi. The aim of these events was to promote sharing of experiences and best practices among prison professionals. Prison Doctors attended the first seminar on 28 and 29 November 2011, while the superintendents of the main prisons in the Province of Sindh attended the second on 01 and 02 December 2011. In total 46 invitees attended the seminars. The events were opened by the Secretary Health Sindh, Hashim Raza Zaidi, and the Inspector General of Prisons in Sindh, Ghulam Qadir Thebo. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Law and Prisons, Government of Sindh, Muhammad Ayaz Soomro made concluding remarks.



The Prison Systems Advisor Isabel Hight and the Head of the Health in Detention sub-unit Dr Raed Abu Rabi, both from the ICRC Headquarters in Geneva, together with prison managers representing the main prisons of Sindh during a session of the *Health Care in Detention Seminar* in Karachi on 02/12/2011.

## 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 has maintained a constructive dialogue with the provincial Home Department.

Between October and December 2011, the ICRC carried out visits in three prisons. During this period, the ICRC has continued to support the authorities' efforts to improve access to water and sanitation for inmates through:

- renovation of the sanitary block in four barracks and donation of two piston pumps for water supply in Malir District Jail.
- renovation of the pumping station no.02 to improve the water supply, repairing of overhead water tank and storeroom, and provision of water distribution system for two 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 or disasters.

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

The ICRC offers these services also in Sindh.

The ICRC team, between October and December 2011, facilitated 14 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 relative.

Additionally, the ICRC facilitated the exchange of 77 Red Cross Messages between families and their relatives detained abroad or in prisons in Sindh.

## Promotion of IHL

An IHL dissemination session was organized by the ICRC for 70 students of religious studies on 19 October 2011 at Saut-ul-Islam.

## Training for Police Officers

The ICRC organized one two-day and one one-day training sessions for police officers between 18 and 20 October 2011 at the Central Police Office Karachi. In total 24 police officers attended these sessions. The objective of the training was to enhance awareness among police officers about international standards for the use of force and fire arms and international best practices regarding the arrest to challan process.

## 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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