

# BANGKOK (regional)

COVERING: Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Thailand, Viet Nam



ICRC regional delegation + ICRC office ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

Having first established a presence in Thailand in 1975 to support its operations in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, the ICRC promotes the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties and IHL integration into military training regionwide. It raises awareness of humanitarian issues and supports National Societies in developing their capacities in IHL promotion, family-links services and emergency response. It seeks to protect and assist vulnerable populations in Thailand and Lao People's Democratic Republic, visits detainees in Thailand and in Cambodia, where it supports the authorities in improving prison management, and helps meet the need for prostheses.

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

**HIGH**

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

### In 2013:

- ▶ in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, 1,100 detainees in 1 facility accessed safe drinking water from a reliable source following a first-ever ICRC water improvement project
- ▶ Cambodian ministries concerned/other stakeholders continued to identify ways to tackle the causes and consequences of prison overcrowding, including by training peer educators to conduct hygiene-promotion sessions
- ▶ disabled patients at 2 Cambodian physical rehabilitation centres advanced their social reintegration by joining wheelchair basketball teams and enrolling in vocational courses
- ▶ more people in Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and foreign detainees held in Thailand, restored or maintained contact with their relatives through the expansion of the Movement's family-links services
- ▶ Lao government officials broadened their understanding of humanitarian principles, IHL and the ICRC during a Lao Red Cross/ICRC round-table
- ▶ the Thai Education Ministry and the Thai Red Cross Society assumed full responsibility for the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, aimed at teaching secondary school students about humanitarian principles and IHL

## EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)

Protection	4,360
Assistance	3,636
Prevention	2,808
Cooperation with National Societies	987
General	861
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,651</b>

of which: Overheads 772

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	<b>89%</b>
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	41
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	109

PROTECTION	Total
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Detainees visited	64,129
Detainees visited and monitored individually	555
Number of visits carried out	122
Number of places of detention visited	63
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
RCMs collected	705
RCMs distributed	363
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	412

ASSISTANCE	Targets	Achieved
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>		
<b>Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</b>		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	125
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	384
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	360
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>		
Centres supported	Structures	3
Patients receiving services	Patients	11,063

### Comments

Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table may not reflect all activities carried out during the reporting period.

## CONTEXT

In November, the lower house of the Thai National Assembly passed a national reconciliation bill proposing amnesty for all those involved in Thailand's six-year political crisis. Opponents of the current government staged protests in the capital, Bangkok, which led to injuries and arrests, and to the government dissolving the parliament and calling for snap elections in early 2014.

Some of Thailand's southern border provinces continued to be plagued by violence, particularly drive-by shootings and bombings in public places. The implementation of emergency laws continued to affect people's lives. The year ended without any progress having been made in the peace talks between the Thai government and the Barisan Revolusi Nasional.

While intercommunal violence in parts of Myanmar led to an influx of people into southern Thailand, ceasefire negotiations between the Myanmar government and some ethnic groups in eastern states brought about a decrease in clashes near the Thailand-Myanmar border.

The International Court of Justice ruled that the disputed Preah Vihear promontory belonged to Cambodia, but allowed Cambodia and Thailand to discuss border demarcation. These countries' security forces, redeployed along their border in early 2013, remained there.

In Cambodia, demonstrations against the ruling Cambodian People's Party's victory in the general elections in July resulted in injuries and arrests. The operations of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (the Khmer Rouge Tribunal) continued despite a decrease in staff owing to financial constraints.

In the Lao People's Democratic Republic (hereafter Lao PDR), the presence of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) remained a major concern. In Viet Nam, the government took steps, such as working with various agencies and mobilizing international support, to accelerate the clearance of mines/ERW.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC's regional delegation in Bangkok pursued dialogue with authorities, security forces, civil society representatives and universities in the countries covered to raise awareness of and gain support for humanitarian principles, IHL and the organization's activities. This helped promote respect for the dignity of detainees and of people affected by violence.

Detention-related activities in the Lao PDR began, such as the provision of a reliable water source to detainees in one centre and a study tour for Lao prison officials to some ICRC-supported prisons in Cambodia. Visits aimed at monitoring the treatment and living conditions of detainees in Cambodia and Thailand, including those arrested in relation to the violence in southern Thailand, continued. ICRC delegates reported their findings and recommendations, particularly on improving prison health care, confidentially to the authorities. In Cambodia, two round-tables encouraged government officials and the General Department of Prisons (GDP) to take concrete steps to reduce prison overcrowding. With ICRC support, the detaining authorities in both countries strove to improve prison health care and infrastructure; for example, trained peer educators conducted hygiene-promotion sessions for women and juveniles in a Cambodian prison. Inmates

in both countries, including foreign detainees in Thailand, eased their living conditions with material assistance and restored/maintained contact with relatives through the Movement's family-links network.

ICRC delegates continued to monitor and/or address the effects of violence on civilians in southern Thailand and along the Thailand-Myanmar border. Regular contact with leaders of armed groups from bordering Myanmar states and with Thai authorities allowed them to discuss humanitarian concerns, such as the presence of anti-personnel mines, child recruitment by weapon bearers and access for the weapon-wounded to medical care, as well as to promote IHL and humanitarian principles. With ICRC support, violence-affected families in southern Thailand set up sustainable small businesses to restore their livelihoods. Weapon-wounded people from Myanmar seeking treatment in Thailand had their expenses covered.

Communities in the Lao PDR and Viet Nam reduced their vulnerability to the effects/presence of mines/ERW through National Society/ICRC first-aid training and livelihood support. Disabled people in Cambodia received suitable care and eased their social reintegration thanks to the services provided at ICRC-supported centres.

The ICRC continued to promote understanding of and respect for humanitarian principles and IHL throughout the region, for instance, through workshops/briefings for security forces. National authorities discussed the scope and application of IHL instruments at workshops in Thailand and in Viet Nam; at national and regional competitions, university students tested their grasp of IHL. The Thai Education Ministry and the Thai Red Cross Society assumed responsibility for the countrywide Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, and the Thai Red Cross Youth Bureau developed its "IHL ambassador" project for out-of-school youth.

With the ICRC's support, the region's National Societies strengthened their capacity for providing emergency assistance and family-links services and for promoting awareness of IHL and the Movement.

## CIVILIANS

### Female heads of household in southern Thailand increase earnings through sustainable livelihoods

Civilians in southern Thailand continued to bear the brunt of the ongoing violence; people seeking refuge in Thailand from the armed conflict in Myanmar remained vulnerable. The Thai authorities, security forces and religious/community leaders and the ICRC maintained dialogue on the humanitarian concerns of the people affected and the need to protect and assist them; the parties to the armed conflict in Myanmar and the ICRC discussed the same issues (see *Authorities, armed forces and other bearers of weapons, and civil society*).

In southern Thailand, 65 heads of household (354 people), mostly wives of detainees, started small businesses such as food stalls, with training and material support from the ICRC. Around 95% of them increased their income through these projects. Ad hoc assistance for funerals lessened the financial burden on families who had lost relatives.

## Mine/ERW victims in the Lao PDR and Viet Nam improve their economic security

In Attapeu and Sekong provinces, Lao PDR, and Quang Binh and Quang Tri provinces, Viet Nam, communities at risk from the presence of mines/ERW lessened their vulnerability with material assistance and training from their respective National Societies and the ICRC. First-aid sessions boosted their emergency response capacities and encouraged the adoption of safer practices. Over 30 families affected by mines/ERW increased their income by setting up livelihood projects. These income-generating activities replaced the assistance planned for other vulnerable communities in the Lao PDR. Owing to the reorganization of the Lao mine/ERW sector, technical support for the national mine-clearance operator was delayed. The Cambodian Red Cross Society continued its community-based mine action programme with ICRC support.

## More separated relatives stay in touch

Civilians in the region, including those in camps along the Thailand-Myanmar border, maintained contact with their relatives through tracing and RCM services facilitated by ICRC-trained National Society volunteers. More people in Cambodia and the Lao PDR used these services after National Society volunteers in several provinces in each country underwent a National Society/ICRC training course. The Thai Red Cross developed its family-links capacities during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise in Thailand.

Refugees accepted for resettlement in third countries received ICRC travel documents, issued in coordination with IOM, UNHCR and the embassies concerned.

Owing to limited resources, capacity-building support for Cambodian authorities in human remains management did not push through.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in Cambodia and Thailand received regular ICRC visits, carried out according to the organization's standard procedures, to monitor their treatment and living conditions, as well as respect for basic judicial guarantees. Vulnerable people – security detainees, migrants, women and minors – received particular attention. During the visits, delegates shared their findings and any recommendations confidentially with the detaining authorities, including

security forces. Material assistance, for instance, recreational items, helped improve the living conditions of vulnerable inmates.

Cambodian, Lao and Thai detaining authorities, along with their counterparts from the region, discussed national standards on environmental engineering and design and lessons learnt from joint projects with stakeholders/the ICRC during the 3rd Regional Water and Habitat in Detention Seminar in Cambodia.

## Thai authorities establish technical working group to improve prison facilities

Over 55,600 detainees in Thai prisons, police stations, military facilities, correctional centres for women and young offenders and immigration detention centres received ICRC visits. They included people arrested in connection with the violence in southern Thailand and migrants from Myanmar. Dialogue on detention-related issues between the authorities concerned and the ICRC continued. The Justice Ministry invited the ICRC to give presentations on its detention-related activities at four international conferences on detention, one of which was the Asian Conference of Correctional Facilities, Architects and Planners.

The Department of Corrections received an ICRC 2012 assessment of health services in nine prisons in southern Thailand aimed at helping them improve their prison health system. Discussing the assessment's findings was prioritized, putting an ICRC national health assessment on hold. An ICRC-facilitated coordination meeting among officials from the Public Health Ministry, local prison health authorities and other stakeholders resulted in the re-establishment of a steering committee for strengthening health management at two prisons in Pattaya and Songkhla provinces.

The detaining authorities also created a technical working group and conducted joint assessments with the ICRC, with a view to improving/maintaining facilities. Over 15,000 detainees in seven prisons and one correctional centre for drug addicts gained access to safe drinking water and functioning sanitation facilities following infrastructure rehabilitation. They included over 1,900 inmates in two prisons in eastern Thailand who coped with the effects of flooding with emergency equipment such as water pumps. In some cases, blankets, clothes and hygiene kits, as well as emergency food rations, were provided.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	CAMBODIA	THAILAND
<b>ICRC visits</b>		
Detainees visited	8,508	55,621
<i>of whom women</i>	638	2,609
<i>of whom minors</i>	265	2
Detainees visited and monitored individually	58	497
<i>of whom women</i>	1	9
<i>of whom minors</i>		2
Detainees newly registered	10	198
<i>of whom women</i>	1	2
<i>of whom minors</i>		2
Number of visits carried out	44	78
Number of places of detention visited	17	46
<b>Restoring family links</b>		
RCMs collected		705
RCMs distributed		363
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		412
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		117

Detainees, including women and children from Myanmar separated from their families upon arriving in Thailand, restored/maintained contact with their relatives by sending 705 RCMs and receiving 363; they also exchanged 412 oral messages relayed by delegates. At two facilities not usually visited by the ICRC, foreign detainees did the same using a pilot RCM service implemented by trained prison staff. Nearly 120 inmates in the south and in Bangkok received ICRC-facilitated visits from relatives.

### Female and juvenile detainees in a Cambodian prison maintain their hygiene

The GDP continued its efforts to improve detainees' living conditions in Cambodian prisons. Together with the Finance and Economy, Interior, and Justice Ministries and other stakeholders, it took part in two round-tables that tackled prison overcrowding. The Interior and Justice Ministries received an ICRC summary report highlighting the round-tables' achievements and the challenges that remained.

Based on an ICRC prison health assessment in 2012 and on joint in-depth assessments, the Health and Interior Ministries, the GDP and the ICRC began developing a pilot health project in two prisons, which included the provision of medical equipment. Some 780 female and juvenile detainees at one of these prisons maintained good hygiene, using what they had learnt from hygiene-promotion sessions conducted by Health Ministry/GDP-trained detention officers/guards and 33 peer educators. Over 4,000 inmates in two other prisons lessened their risk of scabies infection through GDP/ICRC awareness campaigns. The regular provision of hygiene items supported these initiatives, benefiting 12,786 detainees in these prisons and elsewhere, including 2,366 women and 812 prison officials. GDP staff enhanced health services by taking note of ICRC recommendations regarding general access to health care and individual medical cases.

In parallel, the GDP Construction Office strengthened its capacities to assess and address prison infrastructure issues during ICRC-supported field missions and after staff training and the renovation of its office. Some 11,100 detainees in 15 prisons, including those who benefited from the hygiene campaigns mentioned above, enjoyed improved sleeping, kitchen, and water and sanitation facilities constructed/rehabilitated by the GDP/ICRC.

### Detainees in a Lao facility gain access to a reliable water source

Developments in the relations between the Lao Public Security Ministry and the ICRC led to first-ever ICRC activities in places of detention. At one facility, a borehole provided 1,100 inmates with a sustainable water source; these inmates also benefited from improved medical care owing to donations of supplies. With the

ministry's permission, tours to two other prisons allowed the ICRC to better understand the health situation there. During a study tour of some Cambodian prisons, Lao officials saw the concrete measures taken by the GDP, with ICRC support, to improve the prison system.

### WOUNDED AND SICK

Despite reduced fighting in parts of Myanmar, 42 weapon-wounded patients from there sought treatment in Thai hospitals and had their medical costs covered.

A proposal by the National Society to jointly evaluate the emergency capacities of surgeons in southern Thailand was under ICRC review. No training took place along the Thailand-Myanmar border.

### Disabled women in Cambodia ease their social reintegration

Mines/ERW continued to pose a threat to rural communities in Cambodia. Survivors among the recorded total of 60,000 mine/ERW casualties and other physically disabled people still needed regular rehabilitative and/or medical care.

The Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation Ministry continued to work with the ICRC and to receive financial and technical support for managing/improving services at the orthopaedic component factory in Phnom Penh, which supplied the 11 physical rehabilitation service providers in the country, including the ICRC-supported centres in Battambang and Kompong Speu. The factory produced 14,454 prosthetic/orthotic components and 8,392 walking aids.

Senior staff and technicians from the factory and the two ICRC-supported rehabilitation centres developed their capacities through mentoring and workshops. The Battambang centre benefited from the services of a prosthetist/orthotist who had just completed a three-year advanced training course abroad.

Outreach activities and National Society dissemination campaigns informed people of the services available at the two ICRC-supported centres. Of the more than 7,600 patients assessed/assisted by outreach teams, some 200 received further treatment at the centres via referrals. Around 11,000 disabled people, including some who had their treatment/travel costs covered, enjoyed the services at these centres, which produced 1,597 prostheses, 1,166 orthoses and 580 wheelchairs. Female patients eased their social reintegration by joining wheelchair basketball teams organized by a local NGO in each of the centres, with ICRC support. Over 60 other patients undertook vocational training with the help of NGOs specializing in the field.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM		CAMBODIA	LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	THAILAND
<b>Economic security, water and habitat</b>				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries			542
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	12,786		40,987
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	11,169	1,100	15,094
<b>Health</b>				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		32		16
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		14		11



## **AUTHORITIES, ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

### **Thai authorities discuss scope of application of Additional Protocol I**

Thai and Vietnamese government officials and security personnel participated in local IHL-related workshops jointly organized by their Defence and/or Foreign Affairs Ministries. The Thai authorities made clarifications regarding Additional Protocol I, primarily its scope of application and universal jurisdiction over grave breaches; Vietnamese officials and the National Society discussed and expressed support for their country's accession to Additional Protocol II. Cambodia ratified Protocol II to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property.

Lao, Thai and Vietnamese government representatives discussed their plans for domestic IHL implementation at a regional seminar (see *Beijing*).

### **University students test their grasp of IHL at regional competitions**

Students at State-run secondary schools in Thailand continued to learn about humanitarian principles and IHL from the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, incorporated into the national Red Cross curriculum. The Education Ministry/National Society assumed full responsibility for the programme and focused on its implementation, including by bringing together instructors to share their experiences in teaching the subject. Plans to replicate the programme in Cambodia and Viet Nam were no longer pursued. The Thai Red Cross Youth Bureau continued its "IHL ambassador" project for out-of-school youth by training 80 master trainers and 600 National Society volunteers countrywide.

University students throughout the region – for the first time from the Lao PDR and Viet Nam as well – demonstrated their grasp of IHL at national and regional moot court competitions (see *Beijing*) and the 2013 Jean-Pictet Competition on IHL in Thailand. Three universities in Thailand and Viet Nam included IHL in law or international studies courses.

### **Military units deployed to southern Thailand are briefed on humanitarian norms**

In an effort to enhance their decision-making processes, Cambodian and Thai military officers participated in national and international workshops on the application of humanitarian norms to military planning. Thai armed forces, primarily those already or about to be deployed along the Cambodia-Thailand border and in southern Thailand, heightened their awareness of law enforcement in military operations; the need to respect humanitarian principles, medical staff/infrastructure and the red cross emblem; and the ICRC during presentations/seminars.

Similar sessions – organized with the police forces and, in Thailand, with military officials in attendance – enabled senior police officers in Cambodia and southern Thailand to deepen their understanding of internationally recognized policing standards. Topics included prison supervision, overcrowding and judicial guarantees. Lao police officers learnt more about public order management during a regional seminar (see *Jakarta*).

Cambodian officers familiarized themselves with IHL and the ICRC at predeployment briefings.

Periodic bilateral meetings with and two seminars for members of armed groups from Myanmar focused on respect for IHL and humanitarian principles and on various humanitarian issues such as the presence of anti-personnel mines, the recruitment of child soldiers by weapon bearers and victims' access to health care.

### **Lao authorities learn more about humanitarian principles, IHL and the ICRC**

Regionwide, the authorities, as well as staff of diplomatic missions and ASEAN national secretariats, and civil society actors, particularly NGOs, academia, Islamic institutions and community/religious leaders in southern Thailand, enhanced their knowledge of humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement during dissemination sessions and bilateral meetings. Lao government officials familiarized themselves with these matters at a National Society/ICRC round-table, while 50 people from the Institute of Foreign Affairs increased their IHL knowledge during an ICRC seminar, the first of its kind.

Contacts with the media, Movement events and National Society/ICRC publications in the local languages helped raise public awareness of the above-mentioned topics. At a regional training session organized by a journalism graduate school, senior correspondents and media representatives from South and South-East Asia learnt more about humanitarian issues, challenges faced by humanitarian organizations and working with the ICRC when covering such issues.

## **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

### **Cambodian and Thai National Societies bolster their emergency response capacities**

The region's National Societies and the ICRC strengthened their partnerships, with a view to assisting victims of violence and vulnerable communities, including those in mine/ERW-affected areas (see *Civilians*). ICRC technical and material support enhanced the National Societies' ability to conduct courses on first aid, humanitarian principles, the red cross emblem, the Fundamental Principles and IHL (see *Authorities, armed forces and other bearers of weapons, and civil society*). Cambodian and Thai National Society volunteers, notably in seven provinces each along their common border, boosted their emergency response capabilities, including by adopting the Safer Access Framework. In Cambodia, senior National Society staff and volunteers underwent training in restoring family links, mine-risk education and managing and assisting IDPs.

The region's National Societies participated in various Movement events, including the 10th Annual South-East Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Leaders Meeting in the Lao PDR, where representatives agreed on the importance of strengthening partnership and communication with the ICRC at the regional level.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total		
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>				
<b>Documents</b>				
People to whom travel documents were issued		37		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b>				
<b>ICRC visits</b>				
			Women	Minors
Detainees visited		64,129	3,247	267
Detainees visited and monitored individually		555	10	2
Detainees newly registered		208	3	2
Number of visits carried out		122		
Number of places of detention visited		63		
<b>Restoring family links</b>				
RCMs collected		705		
RCMs distributed		363		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		412		
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		117		

\* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Cambodia, Thailand

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>				
<b>Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)<sup>1,2</sup></b>				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	125	8%	5%
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	384	15%	1%
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	354	40%	29%
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>3</sup></b>				
<b>Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)</b>				
Food commodities <sup>1</sup>	Beneficiaries	542		
Essential household items <sup>1</sup>	Beneficiaries	53,773		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	27,363		
<b>Health</b>				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		48		
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		25		
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>				
<b>Hospitals<sup>2</sup></b>				
Patients whose hospital treatment has been paid for by the ICRC	Patients	42		
<b>Physical rehabilitation<sup>4</sup></b>				
Centres supported <sup>5</sup>	Structures	3		
Patients receiving services	Patients	11,063	1,533	891
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	204	23	5
Prostheses delivered	Units	1,597	129	32
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	1,287		
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	310	61	150
Orthoses delivered	Units	1,166	205	533
Patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	3,191	590	314
Crutches delivered	Units	3,156		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	580		

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table may not reflect all activities carried out during the reporting period.

2. Thailand

3. Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand

4. Cambodia

5. Including a component factory