

Promoting the law

Police

The ICRC supports the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary with training and support material on human rights and basic principles of humanity:

- The ICRC organised 2 training sessions for 50 Commanders of Mobile Squads in Port Moresby and the Highlands region.

Defence Force

The ICRC provides training and support material on international humanitarian law and human rights to PNGDF personnel, to integrate in training and operations:

- The ICRC trained four PNGDF officers on conduct and behaviour in law enforcement operations.

Students

The ICRC works together with the University of Papua New Guinea to raise awareness and knowledge of international humanitarian law:

- The ICRC supported the University of PNG law faculty to teach IHL with resources, mentoring and guest lecturing.



Members of the Royal PNG Constabulary who took part in international human rights law and police standards training organised by ICRC.
(Centre: ICRC delegates) Photo Copyright: ICRC

ICRC mission

The ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent organisation whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.



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

ICRC Mission in Papua New Guinea

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*COVER PHOTO. Locals listening to an ICRC officer during a dissemination of humanitarian principles at a cultural show in Western Highlands Province.
Photo Copyright: ICRC*



ICRC activities in Papua New Guinea

2014 Operational Update



ICRC

Protecting vulnerable people

Restoring and maintaining family links

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) helps family members separated by armed violence or natural disasters to re-establish and maintain contact:

- The ICRC supported 59 family members to visit 29 detainees in Bekut Correctional Institution.

Missing Persons from the Bougainville Crisis

Under international humanitarian law, families have the right to know the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones who disappeared during the conflict. The ICRC:

- raised awareness on the need to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing persons from the Bougainville Crisis in 7 public workshops,
- supported families of missing persons to organise 3 “remembrance ceremonies” for their loved ones lost at sea,
- provided technical advice to the Bougainville Government to adopt an official policy on missing persons.

Monitoring detention

The ICRC visits correctional institutions and police lock-ups to monitor material conditions, treatment of detainees and respect for judicial guarantees. Observations and recommendations are shared confidentially with authorities:

- Since 2010, the ICRC carried out 63 visits to places of detention and distributed hygiene material, medical equipment and recreational items.

Protecting people affected by armed violence

The ICRC seeks to reduce the effects of armed violence on the general population by persuading fighters to respect basic principles of humanity:

- The ICRC started a dialogue on rules of fighting with tribal leaders from Kagua Erave District, Southern Highlands Province.

Helping people in need

Providing relief

The ICRC provides emergency relief items to people displaced or otherwise affected by armed violence in the Highlands:

- The ICRC distributed assistance to 1,098 families in Southern Highlands Province, including 144 families affected by law enforcement operations.

Supporting access to healthcare

In regions affected by armed violence, the ICRC acts to improve access to healthcare for the general population. The ICRC:

- built a community health post serving 25,000 people in Aya LLG, Kagua Erave District, Southern Highlands Province,
- donated medical and office equipment to Mendi Family Support Centre, Southern Highlands Province,
- held 6 first aid trainings for fighters and communities affected by armed violence in Southern Highlands Province.



Families of missing persons from the Bougainville Crisis during a march to mark the International Day of the Disappeared. Photo Copyright: ICRC

Partnership with PNG Red Cross Society

ICRC and PNG Red Cross Society

The ICRC works with the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) to assist victims of tribal violence and natural disasters. It supports the PNGRCS to fulfil its mandate to alleviate suffering throughout PNG. The ICRC:

- assisted the PNGRCS to distribute emergency relief items to 66 families in Hofafina, Eastern Highlands Province,
- funded 5 full-time positions at PNGRCS headquarters and branches,
- sponsored and facilitated leadership training for the new Chairman and Secretary-General of the PNGRCS, and induction training for new Council members,
- supported the establishment of an office in Arawa for the Bougainville branch of the PNGRCS.



ICRC and PNG Red Cross staff and volunteers prepare relief items for distribution in Lumbi Village, Southern Highlands Province. Photo Copyright: ICRC