



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020 MEXICO

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## ■ INTRODUCTION

Jordi Raich, head of the ICRC regional delegation for Mexico and Central America

Mexico is one of Latin America's largest and most populous and diverse countries. Given the social and cultural differences between areas, the approaches needed to address the humanitarian problems facing the country vary depending on the state and region and must also take into account national integration.

The regional delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for Mexico and Central America has its headquarters in Mexico City and permanent offices in San Salvador, Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Guatemala City and Managua. Within Mexico, we divide our activities into four areas – the north-west, the centre/north-east, the Pacific area and the south – in order to ensure proximity to the people we serve.

This report provides an overview of our work in Mexico, which we carry out with the Mexican Red Cross, the authorities and civil society organizations and which benefited 90,450 people in 2019.

The purpose of the report is not only to describe the activities implemented in 2019, but also to provide an insight into the humanitarian challenges currently affecting people who, with dignity, optimism and enthusiasm, seek to improve their circumstances. We aim to highlight the needs of people who, in situations of adversity, try to find a safer, more dignified place to live, ensure a decent life for their families or find their missing loved ones.

The overall aim of our work is to promote people's safety and security and protect their dignity and rights. We respond to the humanitarian consequences of violence, disappearances, migration and internal displacement. We also visit people deprived of their liberty and promote respect for fundamental human rights, including the rules governing the use of force in law enforcement operations. We engage in dialogue with the authorities and other strategic actors on the importance of implementing the rules of international law in each country in order to address the problems this poses and provide them with specialized advice on how to carry out the processes required.

Our teams in the field are constantly searching for innovative ways to better respond to chronic problems and emergencies, taking into account people's specific needs and respecting regional differences in the country.

This challenge has come to the fore in the crisis unleashed by the spread of COVID-19. In the face of this unrelenting and unprecedented emergency, we have adapted the way we work in an attempt to prevent transmission, as an initial measure, among our own staff and beneficiaries. We also provided support to the authorities and National Societies to improve the response in terms of prevention and assistance, focusing on helping the most vulnerable groups that normally benefit from our activities, specifically migrants, people deprived of their liberty and communities affected by violence. We identified their vulnerabilities and tried to assist them in specific situations when the authorities were overwhelmed.

Respecting those affected and ensuring their dignity and safety is paramount in all ICRC and Mexican Red Cross activities, with a focus on achieving the greatest possible proximity, understanding and dialogue. We believe that, through constant long-term efforts coordinated with the authorities, other organizations and the beneficiaries themselves, we can contribute, with our joint humanitarian action, to finding lasting solutions and breaking the circle of violence and suffering that holds Mexico in its grip.



## AN ALL-ENGULFING SPIRAL OF VIOLENCE

Martin de Boer, deputy head of the ICRC regional delegation for Mexico and Central America

The number of violent deaths reached a record high in 2019 in Mexico, after rising continuously over the last five years. This increase in killings has intensified the associated humanitarian consequences: people going missing, internal displacement, restrictions on movement, extortion and difficulty accessing services, such as education and health care.

Armed groups continue to demonstrate their capacity and inclination to use violence to achieve their objectives, sowing fear in the communities where they operate. This has both visible and invisible consequences, including the impact it has on the mental health of people living in violence-affected areas.

Issues such as missing persons, displacement and the dangers faced by migrants passing through Mexico, which I cover in this report, were of particular concern to the ICRC in 2019 and will remain a priority in 2020. We will do everything within the bounds of our mandate to mitigate the humanitarian impact of violence on the population.

The disappearance of a loved one causes profound emotional turmoil fuelled by day after day of uncertainty, of not knowing where they are and whether they are alive or not. In January 2020, the Ministry of the Interior updated the figure for missing persons, which now stands at over 61,000. Regrettably, this is a very real problem for the country today. Every day sees an increase in the number of families suffering

the anguish of not knowing where a missing loved one is. We are seeing some progress in addressing the situation, including recognition of the problem and the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework to deal with it, which means a great deal to thousands of families. However, this is a cross-cutting issue that affects the entire country and requires coordinated action at the national and state level in order to deliver an effective response.

Internal displacement is a well-known problem, but one that remains relatively understudied. While it is known that many people are forced to leave behind their homes, their land and their families and friends to escape the violence, it is not known with any certainty how many people have been forcibly displaced, where they come from, where they go and what their most pressing humanitarian needs are.

The number of Mexicans who set off northwards in search of a better life in the United States remains very high. They join the long lines of migrants, asylum seekers and deportees from other countries waiting on the northern border to cross into the United States or to have their legal status resolved. The growing concentration of people in this area is exacerbating an already complicated humanitarian situation.

Many migrants have experienced first-hand or witnessed incidents of sexual violence, extortion, abduction, harassment and other forms of violence on migration routes and are often sent back to the violence-affected place they were fleeing from to wait for their asylum application to be processed. Regardless of rises and falls in migration flows, the risk of extreme violence migrants are exposed to while on the move or on their return is a matter of great concern to us.

Violence also affects the provision of essential services, such as health care and education. There have been patients killed in hospitals and abducted, ambulances prevented from passing and health-care personnel subjected to abuse and extortion, murdered and abducted. There are high-risk areas where health-care personnel will not go, which leaves residents with no access to regular, community-based health care. In some areas, going to school or teaching has become a dangerous undertaking, with many students and teachers living in constant fear of being the next victims.

The ICRC carries out its humanitarian activities in coordination with a variety of government and civil society initiatives, mechanisms and services and works jointly with its natural partner, the Mexican Red Cross. Within the limits of our capacities and mandate, we will remain steadfastly committed to gaining a better understanding of the many serious humanitarian consequences of violence in Mexico in order to deliver an effective response to the specific needs of those most affected.

# ICRC ACTIVITIES IN MEXICO

## 2019

### GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

- NORTHWEST
- CENTER - NORTH-EAST
- PACIFIC
- SOUTH

- MIGRANTS
- MISSING PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES
- PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY
- ARMED FORCES AND POLICE
- COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE
- ACCESS TO HEALTH-CARE SERVICES





## COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE



The high levels of violence in Mexico have serious consequences for the population and disrupt, directly and indirectly, the everyday routines of individuals, families and communities, as described in the editorial.

The aim of the ICRC's work in areas affected by violence is to strengthen community resilience and coping mechanisms to prevent and mitigate its consequences. We also endeavour to facilitate access to essential services, such as health care and education.

We held first-aid courses in response to the problem of sick and injured people having difficulty getting the required medical attention or referrals. We also contributed to strengthening the capacities of health-care professionals with the organization of emergency room trauma courses to ensure a safe, compassionate and effective continuum of care.

In the field of education, we work with a network of partners and stakeholders at the local, state and national level to improve children's access to education and make schools safer. We work in collaboration with the education authorities, the Mexican Red Cross, the National Electoral Institute (INE) and schools in Tamaulipas and Chihuahua.

According to World Health Organization figures, approximately 22% of people in areas affected by violence around the world require mental health services. In Mexico, people who suffer the effects of violence seek help from health services and other trusted community services but do not always receive an adequate response. We therefore worked to strengthen the capacities of physical and mental health teams and other trusted personnel in areas affected by violence so that they are able to deliver a high-quality response meeting people's psychological and psychosocial needs.

## FACTS AND FIGURES



**11,100 students and 200 teachers in 70 schools took part in education programmes implemented by the ICRC and the Mexican Red Cross:**



**1,047 students and 40 teachers in 13 basic education schools benefited from the activities carried out under the Telling Stories, Forging Ties programme** in four districts on the border in the urban area of Matamoros (Tamaulipas).



**1,500 students and 20 teachers**

from basic education schools in high-risk areas in Puerto de Veracruz benefited from one-day events organized by the ICRC and the state's Education Department to prepare contingency plans for emergency situations associated with armed violence.



**Over 500 members of the school community**

(students, teachers and heads) at 4 schools in Matamoros received risk management training.



Over 3,000 students and 50 teachers from secondary schools in Puerto de Veracruz benefited from the Risk Management in Schools project.



**More than 5,000 students and 170 teachers**

benefited from the Club Mundos programme designed to promote humanitarian principles and social cohesion in collaboration with the INE.

**846**

health professionals, teachers and parents took part in 17 basic first-aid courses and 2 emergency room trauma courses in Matamoros, Puerto de Veracruz and Acapulco.



**400 people took part**

in the first international forum on the mental health and psychosocial legacy of violence held in Matamoros on the north-eastern border, in collaboration with universities and other institutions concerned with mental health, to discuss the effects of collective violence.



**47 people affected by violence**

received psychological care directly from mental health personnel trained by the ICRC.

**360**

members of the community and civil servants took part in 7 activities to raise awareness about the mental health and psychosocial consequences of violence.

**39**

**community leaders and health-care workers** took part in the Caring for Carers programme in affected areas and received training to provide basic psychosocial support to victims.



**2 working groups**

were organized with Guerrero state's health services to address the subject of the importance of respect for health care.



**1,233 students from 7 schools**

in the districts of El Ebanito and El Control (Matamoros) and in Valle de Juarez (Chihuahua) benefited from support to improve school infrastructure, including perimeter fencing, sports facilities and toilets.

**91**

mental health service providers in the states of Chihuahua and Tamaulipas took part in training processes to improve the psychological response to violence.



**THE SITUATION IN MY COMMUNITY IS TOUGH**

*“We often hear gunfire. If we are in class when the shooting starts, someone could be killed by a stray bullet.”*

Roberto, a twelve-year-old student from Matamoros (Tamaulipas), recounts the anguish he suffers at school.



## MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT



The ICRC has seen first-hand the major challenges that Mexico is facing in assisting and protecting the thousands of people forced to flee their homes, leaving everything behind, in search of a better life.

Mexico sees a constant flow of Central American migrants who cross the country in their thousands on their way northwards, adding to the numbers of Mexican citizens who are attempting to migrate or are internally displaced. The humanitarian consequences of the violence these people face while on the move are of great concern to the ICRC. Many of them lose contact with their families, are victims in violent incidents, suffer accidents, go missing or die.

Changes arising from new public policies, such as the implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols on the northern border, the involvement of new actors, such as the National Guard, to deal with the situation, the significant increase in the flow of families and unaccompanied children and adolescents and the growing number of detained migrants and asylum applications are all issues that the ICRC is monitoring closely and that require a humanitarian response.

While the ICRC acknowledges that the primary responsibility for meeting these assistance and protection needs lies with the State, it is also well aware of the challenges involved in ensuring that migrants can exercise their rights in a situation in which the number of people being returned continues to rise (an estimated 50,000 at the end of 2019) and so many people are forced to wait in Mexico for their asylum applications to be processed. We therefore worked with the Mexican Red Cross to support migrants, carrying out prevention, humanitarian assistance and protection activities. We collaborated with central and local government institutions, shelters and civil society to promote and protect the dignity and rights of migrants and ensure their safety. We also supported shelters to ensure that there is decent accommodation for migrants and, with the National Society, we set up points across Mexico where migrants can make free phone calls to their families.

With a view to addressing the humanitarian consequences of the obstacles migrants face in accessing health services, the ICRC's assistance activities and its Physical Rehabilitation Programme for migrants with disabilities aim to improve access to health and rehabilitation services by providing a comprehensive response.

In collaboration with the Mexican Red Cross, we disseminate face-to-face and WhatsApp self-care messages to inform migrants about their basic rights, ways to reduce risks while on the move and the location of shelters along migration routes. We also collaborate with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to spread these messages through its "El Jaguar" Facebook page.

The ICRC visits migrants in immigration detention centres and temporary holding facilities to ensure that the dignity of migrants is respected in terms of treatment, living conditions and health care. We inform migrants of their right to apply for asylum and ensure that they are able to exercise it. We also promote access to alternatives to immigration detention for particularly vulnerable groups.

## FACTS AND FIGURES



### 82.932 phone calls

were made by migrants at 53 points run by Mexican Red Cross migrant shelters; **1,773 of these calls were made during the migrant caravans in early 2019.** This service enables families to keep in contact and reduces the risk of people going missing on migration routes.



### 49 migrants who had suffered amputations or serious injuries

received physical rehabilitation and prostheses at two ICRC-supported rehabilitation centres, which were provided with training in migration issues and physical rehabilitation and received surgical and medical equipment and supplies.



## I AM HAPPY AND EXCITED BECAUSE I WILL BE ABLE TO WALK AGAIN

*"I am very grateful because I found people who are helping me so that I can walk again. It is difficult, but you have to give it everything you've got ... We are not alone; there are many good people in the world."*

Oscar suffered an accident on the railway line when trying to catch the freight train that thousands of Central American migrants use to cross Mexico. Since October 2019, he has been at the rehabilitation centre run by the Guanajuato Institute for People with Disabilities, where he was given a new prosthesis.



## I DECIDED TO MIGRATE TO GIVE MY CHILDREN A BETTER FUTURE

*“My partner and I travelled for three or four days by train to get to Achotal where we were going to catch another train, but we never did because that was where I had the accident.*

*I came to this shelter after the accident ... They treat you well here. I have everything I need, and I feel better.”*

Silvia left Honduras in the hope of reaching the United States, travelling from Guatemala to Chiapas with a migrant caravan. However, her dream was shattered when she suffered an accident on the migration route in which she lost a leg. Silvia was taken to Acayucan where she received medical attention. She was then transferred to Celaya, where she was fitted with a prosthesis and received rehabilitation thanks to the programme implemented by the ICRC together with the rehabilitation centre of the Guanajuato Institute for People with Disabilities and the Mexican Red Cross.



### 26,864 migrants

benefited from infrastructure improvements at 10 shelters run by NGOs.



### 10,000 leaflets with self-care messages

were printed and distributed in Mexico and Central America to inform migrants about the risks they face on migration routes and what they can do to mitigate them.



### 10,600 digital self-care messages

were sent to migrants, organizations, National Societies and shelters using the WhatsApp messaging application.



### 20,879 migrants received

health-related support provided by the Mexican Red Cross in collaboration with the ICRC.



### 6,952 migrants were visited

at 8 immigration detention centres to check on detention conditions and ensure that their rights were being respected.



### 5 reports were submitted

to the National Institute for Migration, with a view to improving conditions, including access to health care, at immigration detention centres and promoting respect for migrants' rights.



### 86 migrants

wishing to apply for asylum were referred to the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR).



### 5,837 migrantes received

clean drinking water through the Mexican Red Cross at distribution points located in Chiapas and Tabasco. This helped to prevent people becoming ill or dying as a result of dehydration, a common occurrence on migration routes.



## THE MISSING



According to official figures, there are at least 61,637 people missing in Mexico. Every day, public prosecutor's offices and search commissions receive reports of missing persons or information about cases. Some of these cases could be solved if searches were carried out immediately. Meanwhile, unidentified remains arrive at forensic science departments on a daily basis, some of which could be identified if they were analysed quickly and properly preserved.

In Mexico, as in the rest of the world, the ICRC promotes the inclusion of humanitarian objectives and responses in government measures in this area in order to address the suffering of families of the missing, including mental health support. It also encourages the government to adopt measures in line with the scale and complexity of the problem. We believe that the best way to deliver timely, good-quality responses



## I FEEL AT HOME ... THEY UNDERSTAND ME HERE AND SUPPORT ME

*“I was in great emotional pain and full of anger and resentment; I had a different outlook on life. The pain is still with me and always will be until I find my son, but they have helped me and taught me that I have to live with this heartache.”*

Patricia has been looking for her son for a year now. She has taken part in group and individual therapy at Guadalajara's Comprehensive Family Development Agency (DIF), where the ICRC supports and trains managers and staff.

is to fully implement the model established in the Missing Persons Act, which came into force in 2018. It provides for the creation of a number of bodies, tools and mechanisms for coordination at the federal and state level and establishes the principle of “joint participation” by the families of missing people, who are recognized as agents as well as beneficiaries.

We advise the authorities of some states (for example, Mexico, Queretaro, Coahuila and Veracruz) on how to bring their legal frameworks into line with the Missing Persons Act.

We also contributed, at the federal level, to designing the extraordinary forensic identification mechanism, the standard search protocol and the north-east regional search plan.

In order to increase coordination among the different authorities and improve the effectiveness of search mechanisms, it is necessary to continue strengthening the national search system and its ability to coordinate with the states; consider the creation of local coordination mechanisms; develop the unified information technology and computer system; and approve the standard search protocol and other standard operating procedures for forensic investigation.

The activities we carried out to this end included familiarizing federal authorities (INE, National Search Commission and Public Prosecutor’s Office) with the processes implemented in Colombia for the identification of bodies using fingerprinting, with a view to adapting the processes used in Mexico to search for matches between post-mortem fingerprints and administrative records.

We also provided monitoring and guidance on the establishment of basic forensic records for the forensic examination services of the states of Guerrero, Jalisco, Coahuila, Mexico, Veracruz and Puebla.

It is crucial for the families of missing people to be at the centre of all activities in order to ensure their involvement in every step of the process. The response is for them; it is they who are searching and who know better than anyone what they need.

## AFTER A SEARCH LASTING TWO YEARS AND EIGHT MONTHS, WE EVENTUALLY FOUND HER



“Knowing what happened changes your life completely; your family changes altogether, and you become a different person. When you don’t know, you are trapped in a living death; you can’t eat or sleep. All you think about is searching and searching until you find them ...”

*In my particular case, I spent two years and eight months looking for my daughter. Three months after I started my search, she was already in the morgue at the forensic science department, but we didn’t know that then. My wife and I went to the department on several occasions, but they always told us that there was no one of that description there.*”

Sergio belongs to an association of families who are looking for people who went missing in Guerrero. After years of looking for his daughter, he finally found her although, sadly, she was dead.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

**419** unidentified bodies were examined and stored in dignified conditions in facilities designated for this purpose in the state of Guerrero, and the relevant documents were prepared.

**1.925** The ante-mortem/post-mortem (AM/PM) database tool was used to record data on 6,467 missing persons, 5,175 unidentified bodies and 4,289 recovery sites, leading to the identification of 795 people.

**82** specialists in consular protection from member countries of the Regional Conference on Migration took part in a workshop held in Guatemala to prepare a guide for consulates on searching for missing migrants.

**50** people took part in an event to assess the progress made one year on from the enactment of the Missing Persons Act, at which 10 civil society organizations shared their experiences in information and record management.

**Working groups were organized in Guerrero for coordination between the authorities and families.**

**26** people were identified as the result of a workshop, held in Piedras Negras (Coahuila) and attended by 48 people, to set up networks for the sharing of information between the different authorities responsible for dealing with cases of migrants who go missing in the vicinity of the border between Texas (United States) and the Mexican states of Coahuila and Tamaulipas.

**130** forensic officers received training at workshops on forensic photography and fingerprinting in Piedras Negras, Acuña and Tijuana (Baja California).

**37** forensic specialists from all over the country were trained in forensic archaeology.

**38** forensic specialists from 10 states serving on the National Forensic Genetics Committee and from the Public Prosecutor’s Office received training in statistics and genetics.

**20** Mexican specialists attended the course on the first three modules of the Diploma in Forensic Anthropology given by the National School of Anthropology and History (ENAH).

**body bags were donated** to forensic institutions in the states of Guerrero, Baja California, Puebla, Veracruz, Mexico and Coahuila.

**More than 100 specialists** in different fields (medical examiners, prosecutors and local search commission members) from all over the country gathered for the 10th national meeting of forensic science departments in Acapulco.

The final design of a storage facility for skeletal remains was financed, and the first phase of construction was completed at the premises of Puebla’s forensic science department so that unidentified skeletal remains can be properly preserved.

**719** relatives of missing people and mental health personnel from state institutions took part in 15 activities to raise awareness about psychosocial and mental health needs associated with the disappearance of a loved one.

**94** relatives belonging to 26 associations of families of missing people took part in 6 workshops held in Guerrero, Chihuahua, Jalisco and Veracruz, at which guidance was provided on the Missing Persons Act and organizational strengthening, among other things.

**20** relatives belonging to family associations in the states of Mexico and Veracruz received training on psychosocial support tools and how to use them, with a view to them helping other relatives.

**38** mental health specialists from Jalisco and Veracruz received training to provide psychosocial support to the relatives of missing people and accompany them at particularly difficult moments in the forensic identification process.

**56** relatives of missing people in Jalisco received support from mental health personnel trained by the ICRC.



J. Domejo / ICRC

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY



The main purpose of ICRC visits to people deprived of their liberty is to closely monitor the treatment they receive from the time of their arrest, the conditions of detention and compliance with judicial guarantees in accordance with international humanitarian law (IHL), internationally recognized standards and domestic legislation. We maintain a confidential bilateral dialogue with the relevant authorities and submit recommendations based on our findings.

In 2019, the ICRC visited detainees in federal prisons. The visits were carried out under the collaboration agreement signed in 2016 to this end with the National Security Commission.

The ICRC focused on the specific needs of women detainees at the women's facility in Coatlan del Rio (Morelos). Work began to study the possibility of establishing a progression regime in the prison, aimed at re-introducing women detainees of a particular profile to the responsibilities and tasks associated with daily life in the community. Representatives from the

women's prison took part in the second workshop on women deprived of their liberty organized by the ICRC in El Salvador, which was also attended by prison staff who work with women detainees from six other Central American countries.

The ICRC assesses the mental health status of detainees to ensure that their needs in this respect are met. To this end, we conducted an assessment at federal prison no. 16 and worked to strengthen the delivery of comprehensive mental health services for all detainees in the federal prison system.

Representatives of the administrative agency for crime prevention and social reintegration (OADPRS) took part in the third regional workshop on prison management and infrastructure, organized by the ICRC in Bogota (Colombia) and attended by members of the prison authorities of another 17 Latin American countries. The OADPRS confirmed its intention to take part in the regional project on criteria for technical standards on prison infrastructure (CETIP).

## FACTS AND FIGURES



**2,825 people benefited from 5 visits to the federal prisons in Veracruz and Morelos.**



F. Díaz / ICRC

## PROMOTING AN ENVIRONMENT OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE AND DIGNITY



The ICRC endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening IHL and universal humanitarian principles. This work involves disseminating and developing IHL and promoting its implementation, on the one hand, and raising awareness of the humanitarian challenges facing affected people, on the other. This results in a broader understanding and acceptance of the ICRC's work so that it can respond to humanitarian challenges more effectively.

It is important for IHL and international human rights law to be included in military doctrine, education, instruction and training, choice of weapons and operations planning processes and control and discipline systems so that the members of the armed forces act according to the applicable rules and principles.

Through its programme with the Mexican armed forces, the ICRC contributes to the efforts underway to incorporate the rules of IHL into their doctrine and manuals.

As in other countries in the region, the ICRC carries out activities in Mexico for law enforcement (National Guard) and military (Ministry of National Defence and Naval Ministry) forces, aimed at promoting knowledge of and respect for the rules of international human rights law and humanitarian principles applicable in law enforcement operations, with

a focus on the use of force, the use of firearms, arrest and detention and assistance for victims of violence and people affected by the use of force.

When States become parties to the Geneva Conventions, they undertake to disseminate and promote their provisions as widely as possible and to take the necessary measures to implement them. The Interministerial Commission on International Humanitarian Law was created to facilitate this work. It is formed by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Defence, the Naval Ministry and the Ministry of the Interior and began its work in 2009. As a technical advisory body of the federal executive branch, the Commission coordinates the efforts of the different institutions serving on it in the field of IHL, with the continuous support of the ICRC. In 2019, the ICRC contributed to the legislative initiative that culminated in the adoption of the Use of Force Act, by presenting best practices for legislation on this subject implemented in other countries.

The ICRC also works with academic institutions to incorporate IHL content into the syllabuses of Mexican universities and maintains contact with lecturers to inform them of new developments in this field. The aim is to train specialists, future civilian and military leaders, members of the judiciary, legislators, decision-makers and civil society in this field.

## FACTS AND FIGURES



**9.101 members of the Mexican armed forces**, from generals to rank-and-file soldiers, received training on the use of force and humanitarian principles.

100

**naval officers**

took part in a training course on IHL and human rights organized by the ICRC.

**35 members of the federal police, the Chiapas state police and the Tapachula municipal police**

took part in a course on international protection for migrants.

120

**people attended a round-table discussion**

on the relevance of the Geneva Conventions, on the occasion of their 70th anniversary, at the Memory and Tolerance Museum.



**37 police instructors from Baja California, Chihuahua, Sinaloa and Sonora** attended a training of trainers course on migration, and the use of force and human rights in law enforcement operations.

**Working groups were held on the protection of migrants**

with the Veracruz state security authorities.

400

**police officers in Tijuana (Baja California)**

received training on the protection of migrants and the use of force.

**134 people took part in 2 workshops**

for law enforcement officers in Veracruz on detention and the use of force.

203

**officers from the army, navy and federal police**

who could be deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations took part in talks on IHL and the use of force.

**16 academics took part**

in a refresher seminar on IHL held at the regional delegation's facilities.

**35 people attended the launch of the book *International Humanitarian Law: A Comprehensive Introduction***

by Nils Melzer at the Guadalajara book fair.

70

**people, mostly civil servants,**

attended the 10th annual specialized IHL course organized by the Interministerial Commission on International Humanitarian Law.



## WORKING WITH THE MEXICAN RED CROSS



The ICRC works in close collaboration with the Mexican Red Cross to mitigate the consequences of violence, increase the National Society's presence and strengthen the resilience of communities affected by violence, including activities such as assistance for migrants, Restoring Family Links, increasing access to primary health care and the provision of psychosocial support.

The Mexican Red Cross implements the Safer Access Framework to mitigate the risks volunteers are exposed to during operations. As a result, methodologies better adapted to the needs of each context have been developed and disseminated.

We worked together on the development of a national policy on security for the National Society. We also strengthened support for operational communication, which contributes to building acceptance of our organization's values, principles and way of working.

We worked with the Mexican Red Cross on the National Psychosocial Support Programme to strengthen assistance for communities affected by violence.

In Valle de Juarez (Chihuahua), we wound up the Creating Humanitarian Spaces programme that we had been implementing in schools in the area. We handed the complete methodological toolkit over to the Mexican Red Cross so that it can continue to run the programme that has benefited and strengthened communities affected by violence.

We contributed to the National Society's strategic alignment programme by holding sessions on ICRC policies and the Fundamental Principles. We also supported the National Society's participation in the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

**71** **National Society volunteers** were trained in operational communication at 4 workshops.

**36 volunteers received training** of trainers to enable them to implement the Creating Humanitarian Spaces programme in Valle de Juarez (Chihuahua).

**40** **volunteers** took part in training of trainers courses to enable them to train national Restoring Family Links teams.

**3,000 Safer Access manuals, 2,000 field operation planning cards and 1,000 psychosocial support guides** were prepared and printed.

**2,009** **volunteers received** Safer Access training through 77 courses.

**15 volunteers from branches in the border area in Tamaulipas** received training in Restoring Family Links services in the context of migration.

**I JOINED AS A VOLUNTEER IN 2013 AND DO NOT REGRET A MINUTE OF IT**



“ I think it is admirable that the Red Cross reaches these areas and promotes social inclusion, not just in schools but in society in general. I think that its concern for the most vulnerable is very important. ”

Abraham is a national youth ambassador. During the health fairs held at schools in Acapulco, he talks to children about cancer.



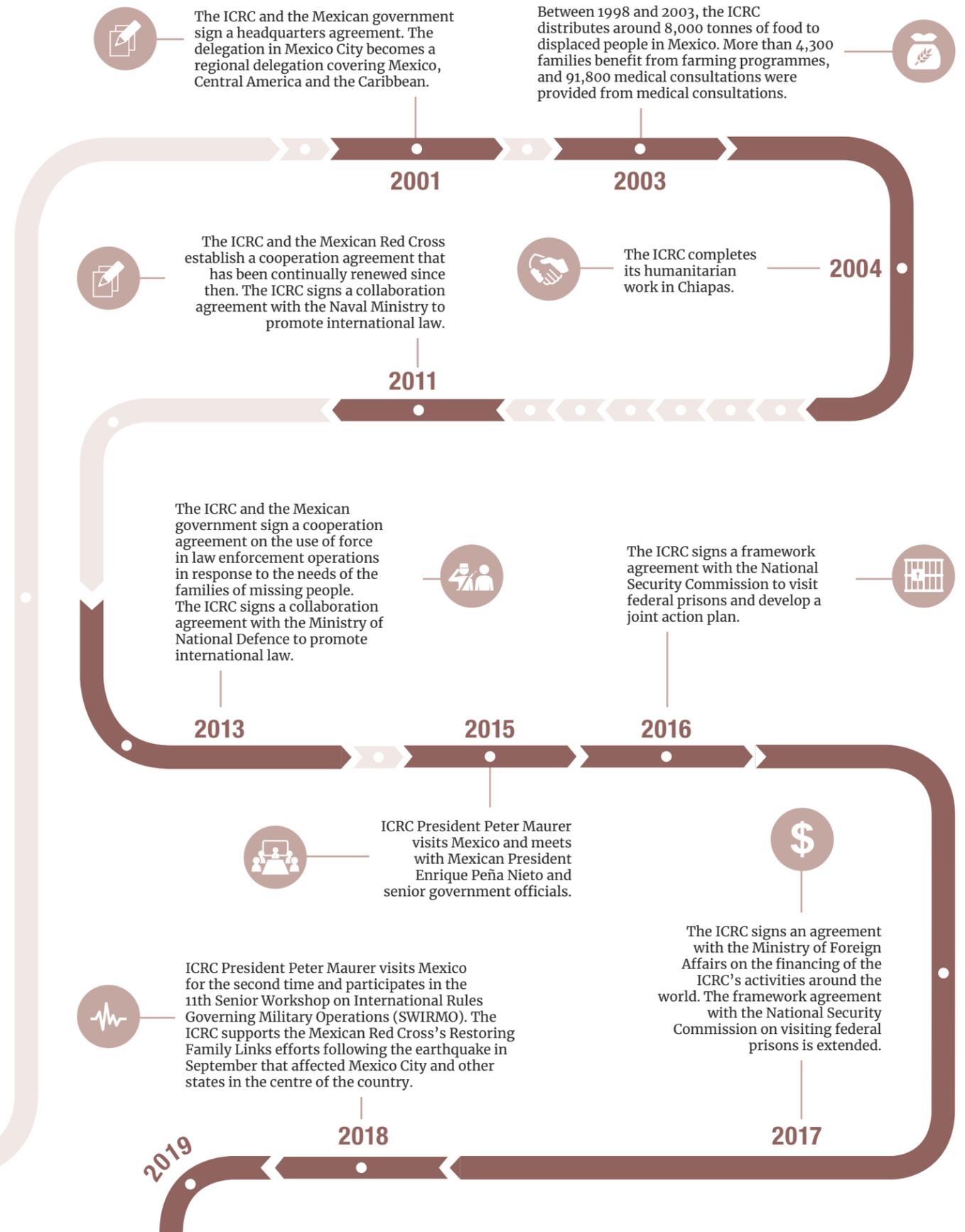
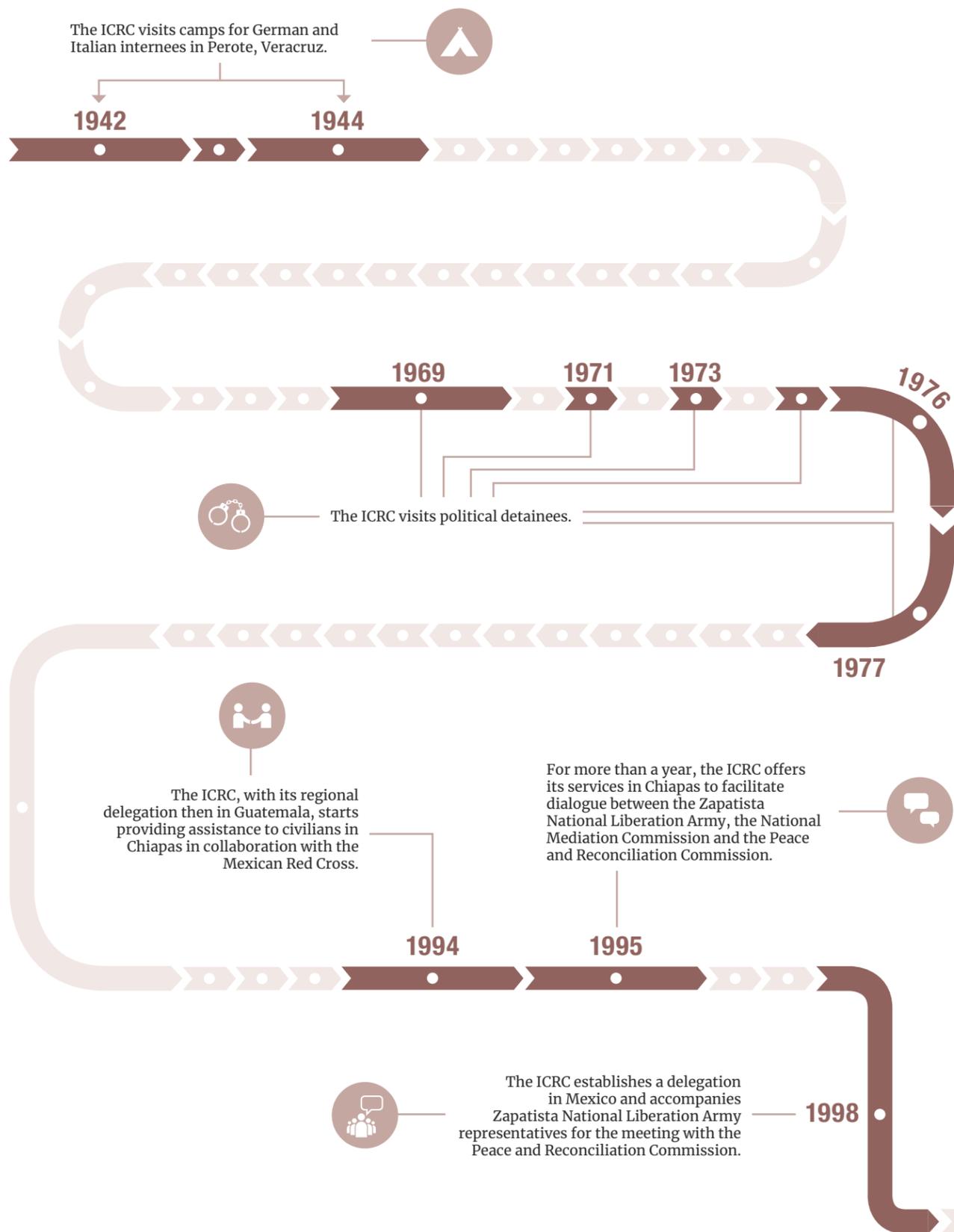
**THE EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE RED CROSS IN THE ZAPATA COMMUNITY MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER**

“ Sport is something that can keep young people away from drugs, alcohol, crime and other vices because the mindset of sportspeople is focused on striving to be better ... ”

There is little in the way of sports activities in many of Acapulco’s neighbourhoods, and this is a problem because if young people have no motivation, they get mixed up in illegal activities. ”

Jesus acted as the judge at a BMX tournament that the ICRC organized with the Mexican Red Cross in the Zapata community in Acapulco (Guerrero). This activity was part of the Zapata Project, which aims to strengthen the community’s social fabric through sport and the use of public spaces.

# TIMELINE



## MISSION

We help people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything we can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. We also seek to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

People know they can count on us to carry out a range of life-saving activities in conflict zones and to work closely with the communities there to understand and meet their needs. Our experience and expertise enable us to respond quickly and effectively, without taking sides.

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