

ICRC ACTIVITIES IN 2015

March 2016

In Thailand, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Lao PDR

“During the past year, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) carried out a range of programs and projects in these countries to benefit **victims of violence and vulnerable people**, including **detainees and disabled persons**. It continued doing its utmost to make a difference in the lives of people in need. We have maintained our support to National Red Cross Societies in developing their capacities in emergency response and family reunification services. We have actively promoted the ratification and implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) treaties and IHL integration into military training and worked with law enforcement security forces to uphold humanitarian norms.”

Beat Schweizer,
Head of the ICRC Regional Delegation

Visiting detainees

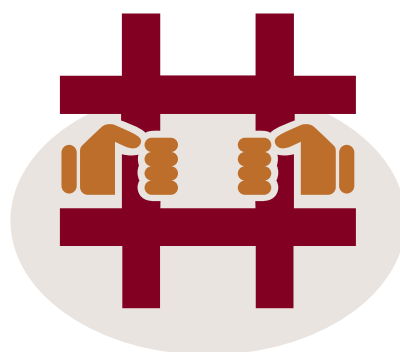
ICRC assessed conditions of detention and treatment of detainees, helped re-establish contact between detainees and their families and worked with authorities in addressing needs in the penitentiary systems, focusing on healthcare, water and sanitation. Security detainees, irregular migrants, the sick, the elderly, the disabled, women and minors received particular attention.

In Thailand,

- **38 places** of detention housing over 57,500 detainees, including those arrested in connection with the violence in the South, were visited.
- **80 detention visits** were carried out by the ICRC in selected prisons countrywide.
- **31 visits** were made to irregular migrants held in shelters and immigration detention centres.
- **26,000 detainees** in 11 prisons had better access to safe drinking **water** and functioning **sanitation** facilities following infrastructure rehabilitation.
- **Over 2,500 detainees** in three prisons received hygiene kits.
- **173 detainees** in southern Thailand and in Bangkok were visited by relatives living far away, sponsored by the ICRC.

In Cambodia, the ICRC continued to offer a confidential forum for government stakeholders to discuss and address issues of humanitarian concern, such as overcrowding, education and vocational training opportunities for inmates.

- **73 detention visits** to 15 prisons housing over 10,500 detainees were made.
- ICRC engaged in dialogue with judicial and law enforcement authorities with regard to the treatment of suspects during the arrest and detention process.



- With ICRC's technical assistance on inmates' access to healthcare, cooperation between the General Department of Prisons (GDP) and the Ministry of Health has increased to improve the quality of care to detainees and the functioning of prison health services.
- Prison health workers in the ICRC pilot project site have been trained in health data reporting and drug management.
- **Over 4,200 detainees** received hygiene materials; 700 of them (women / minors) participated in hygiene education sessions.
- **7 disabled detainees** benefitted from physical rehabilitation services.
- The GDP Construction and Maintenance Office strengthened its capacity to address prison infrastructure issues through ICRC-supported field missions and staff training.
- **Over 5,000 detainees in 10 prisons** enjoyed better facilities (cells, outside areas, kitchen, and water and sanitation) constructed or rehabilitated by the GDP/ICRC.

Thailand, Lao PDR and Cambodia detention authorities attended the second ICRC-Asia Pacific Seminar for Correctional Managers that gathered heads of correctional services from 12 different countries, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. They also attended the 4th Asian Conference of Correctional Facilities Architects and Planners (ACCFA) held in Myanmar.

Restoring Family Links (RFL)

The ICRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked together to locate people missing due to natural disaster, armed conflict, other situations of violence or migration.

- **357 Red Cross Messages (RCM)** from foreign detainees collected by the ICRC in Thai prisons were sent to their families abroad, a number of them to Lao PDR.



- **608 ICRC-phone calls** were facilitated and **627 "safe and well"** messages were conveyed to the **families of migrants** from Bangladesh and Myanmar held in immigration detention centres in Thailand.



ICRC

Assisting victims of armed violence and conflict

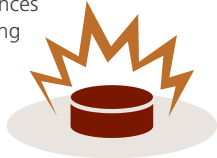
- **15 weapon-wounded** people from Myanmar seeking treatment in Thailand had their expenses covered.
- In Lao PDR, about **3,000** people in the rural areas of Attapeu and Sekong provinces contaminated by landmines and unexploded ordnances, have better access to water thanks to 3 water engineering projects.

Families rebuild their lives through income-generating projects

ICRC Micro-Economic Initiatives offered vocational training, productive grants and micro-credit support.



- In southern Thailand, **85 households**, mostly wives of detainees, ex-detainees or those who have lost a breadwinner in violence-related incidents, started small businesses such as food stalls, farming or sewing.
- In Lao PDR, in 2014 and 2015, 27 victims of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the southern provinces of Attapeu and Sekong started their own income-generating activities.



Disabled people regain confidence

Landmines and unexploded ordnance continued to pose a threat to rural communities in the region.

In Cambodia, the ICRC has supported two physical rehabilitation centres (PRCs) in Battambang and Kampong Speu and a Phnom Penh-based orthopaedic component factory, run by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) since 2011. The factory supplied the PRCs and 11 other physical rehabilitation service providers/centres with free of charge components benefitting of almost 30,000 disabled throughout the country.

- Over **11,000 disabled people** received free orthopaedic services including prostheses, orthoses, wheelchairs and/or physiotherapy services. Their transport, accommodation and food were also free of charge.



- More than **7,000 patients** were assessed by outreach teams, with 159 patients receiving further treatment at the centres via referrals.
- **Social reintegration programs for disabled patients** helped them integrate into society with dignity. The women's wheelchair basketball team from Cambodia travelled to its first exhibition match in Malaysia during the ASEAN Disability Forum.
- **9 people living with disability** started income generating activities ranging from operating a mobile coffee shop to sewing, mushroom cultivation and fish farming.



In Lao PDR, through the memorandum of understanding with the Centre of Medical Rehabilitation of the Ministry of Health (CMR) and The Cooperative Orthotic & Prosthetic Enterprise, the ICRC subsidized physical rehabilitation services and costs relating to transportation, food and accommodation for landmine/UXO victims and/or destitute disabled persons living in remote areas, who are referred to the rehabilitation centers of Xieng Khuang, Champasak and the CMR in Vientiane.

- **271 patients** benefitted from the project
- **346 prostheses** were delivered
- **135 orthoses** were delivered

Building respect for the law

The ICRC met with government authorities, diplomatic missions, ASEAN secretariats, NGOs, academia, Buddhist and Islamic institutions, community/religious leaders in the south of Thailand, the police, the military, the Gendarmerie in Cambodia and Viet Nam to build knowledge on humanitarian principles, IHL and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. IHL moot courts were held with students in the four countries. Seminars for police and other security forces discussed international standards for the exercise of police powers in situations of internal disturbances, riots, crowd control, violent extremism, maintenance of public order and demonstrations.

Contacts with military and police units also aim to obtain access to civilians in affected areas and to people who have been detained.

Where possible, the ICRC makes similar approaches to other weapon bearers, in particular armed groups fighting the authorities.



High-ranking officers from 15 Asia-Pacific countries attended the regional seminar on the law of armed conflict at sea in Thailand.

Cooperating with Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement



The National Red Cross (RC) Societies are indispensable partners for the ICRC. ICRC technical and financial support helped the RCs explain humanitarian principles and action to their staff, volunteers, as well as to various target audiences (almost 4,000 people reached), which in turn increases the reputation and acceptance of their National Societies. Cambodia and Viet Nam RCs are focusing on their emergency response capabilities based on the Safer Access Framework, a structured approach to improve their safety and access during crises. The Thai and Viet Nam RCs have sought to improve respect for the emblem in their countries. ICRC enables the Viet Nam RC to run mine risk education activities in schools in 3 provinces in Central Viet Nam.

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