

# Awareness of the law

## Police

The ICRC provides training and support material on human rights and principles of humanity to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. The ICRC:

- organised 1 workshop for senior officers in Mount Hagen and round tables for officers in Mendi and Tari Districts;
- organised 1 training session for police trainers from across PNG.

## Defence Force

The ICRC gives support to Papua New Guinea Defence Force personnel through training and material about international humanitarian law and human rights for incorporation into their training and operations. The ICRC:

- conducted a pre-deployment briefing for PNGDF officers deployed to South Sudan on United Nations-mandated peacekeeping operations.

## Students

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

- provided technical and material support to IHL students of UPNG's law school.



PNG Defence Force soldiers in a pre-deployment briefing organised by ICRC prior to their deployment to South Sudan. 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 also 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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# ICRC activities in Papua New Guinea

## 2015 Operational Update



ICRC

COVER PHOTO. Children in Tumarere Village, Southern Highlands Province gather around a water tank donated by the ICRC. Photo Copyright: ICRC

## Protecting the vulnerable

### Monitoring conditions of detention

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

- conducted 36 visits to 18 places of detention housing 2,681 detainees in Papua New Guinea.

### Protecting people affected by armed violence

The ICRC seeks to reduce the humanitarian consequences of armed violence by promoting basic principles of humanity with local communities, stakeholders and weapons bearers.

### Restoring and maintaining family links

Armed violence and natural disasters separate families. The ICRC helps families who are separated to re-establish and maintain contact. In partnership with the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, the ICRC:

- conducted 1 family visit to Kerevat Correctional Institution in East New Britain, enabling 39 family members to meet detained loved ones in person;
- collected 21 Red Cross Messages from detainees for delivery to family members.

### Missing persons from the Bougainville Crisis

Families have the right under international humanitarian law to know the fate and whereabouts of family members who went missing during the Bougainville conflict. The ICRC:

- supported families in North Bougainville in setting up an association of families of missing persons, in addition to a similar group established in Central Bougainville in 2013;
- supported families of missing persons in organising 3 remembrance ceremonies for their loved ones;
- advised the authorities on drafting a national policy on missing persons from the Bougainville conflict.

## Giving assistance to the needy

### Providing relief

The ICRC recognises the special vulnerability and needs of people displaced by fighting. In the Highlands region it provides relief items to people affected by armed violence. The ICRC:

- distributed basic household items and tools to families in Southern Highlands and Hela provinces.

### Supporting access to health care

The ICRC seeks to ensure respect for health care services during armed conflict and other situations of violence. In the Highlands region, it works to improve access to health care for people affected by tribal fights. The ICRC:

- funded the construction of a community health centre in Kalolo, Southern Highlands Province (SHP);
- donated medical equipment to Mendi Family Support Centre and 2 health facilities in Kagua District in SHP;
- conducted 10 First Aid training sessions with communities in Hela and Southern Highlands provinces.



ICRC officials hand over supplies to police following a visit to the Mendi Police Station lock-up, Southern Highlands Province. Photo Copyright: ICRC

## Working with PNG Red Cross

### ICRC and PNG Red Cross Society

The ICRC works with the PNG Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) to help victims of tribal violence and natural disasters. It supports the PNGRCS in fulfilling its mandate to alleviate suffering in PNG. The ICRC:

- donated 3 vehicles to PNGRCS branches of Western Highlands, Eastern Highlands and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville;
- worked with PNGRCS branches in Bougainville and East New Britain Province to organise the family visit to Kerevat Correctional Institution.

The ICRC also supported the PNGRCS in:

- providing assistance to more than 200 households in the Highlands affected by violence or natural disasters;
- providing relief to communities affected by El Nino-related drought and frost in Tambul Nebilyer District, Western Highlands Province;
- airlifting relief items to West New Britain, Bougainville and Mount Hagen for distribution to communities affected by Cyclone Pam;
- holding its General Assembly, National Council Meeting and Partners Meeting.



Relatives look at pictures of their missing loved ones during a remembrance ceremony in Arawa in August 2015. Photo Copyright: ICRC