



Afghanistan: Facts and figures for April-June 2016, focusing on detention

ICRC

The ICRC's role in prisons is to monitor conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees, and to ensure respect for a prisoner's right to a fair trial, fair treatment and judicial guarantees following their arrest.



Juvenile Detention Facility, Kabul, Afghanistan, 2011. Detainees help unload supplies. CC BY-NC-ND / ICRC / Jessica Barry

The ICRC aims to visit all detainees held as a result of the conflict in Afghanistan, from all sides. We visit places of detention in accordance with our own very strict rules.

These include:

- ICRC staff being able to talk confidentially with every detainee of our choice;
- detainees being able to maintain contact with their families through Red Cross messages or 'I am safe and well' forms known as 'Salamats'.

Between April and June 2016, ICRC staff:

- carried out 14 visits to 13 detention centres and prisons;
- visited and individually monitored nearly 690 detainees falling under the ICRC's mandate, of whom we saw 43 for the first time;
- helped two Afghan ex-detainees return home;
- exchanged over 2,340 Red Cross Messages between detainees and their families, with support from the Afghan Red Crescent Society;
- helped families of detainees in the Prison and Detention Facility in Parwan to re-establish and maintain contact with relatives, through 2,281 phone calls and more than 890 family visits;
- organized 16 family visits for detainees held in Pol-e-Charkhi Central Prison;
- received 134 queries from families about arrested or disappeared relatives, of which we were able to resolve 67;

Other ICRC activities this quarter included:

- aiding conflict-affected communities;
- conducting basic first-aid training;
- providing medical care;
- improving access to water and sanitation;
- briefing all parties to the conflict on international humanitarian law;
- working with the Afghan Red Crescent Society.



Juvenile Detention Facility, Kabul, Afghanistan, 2011. A member of staff signs the handover certificate for supplies provided by the ICRC. CC BY-NC-ND / ICRC / Jessica Barry

- carried out 53 health-related visits to ten places of detention;
- provided technical and financial support, plus medical supplies, to Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) clinics for detainees in Kandahar and Herat provincial prisons, enabling the MoPH to conduct 9,976 consultations;

- distributed hygiene items (including soap, buckets and cleaning materials) to people in places of detention;
- built a 12-metre high water tower with a capacity of 30 cubic metres in Farah Provincial Prison, increasing the amount of water available to inmates;
- completed work on improvements to the inspection area in Pol-e-Charkhi Central Prison.



Sarposa Prison, Kandahar, Afghanistan. Detainees enter the clinic. CC BY-NC-ND / ICRC / Jessica Barry

Supporting health care

- Provided 422 first-aid packages and stabilization material to first aiders and health staff treating weapon-wounded fighters and civilians.
- Trained 334 other staff working on the front lines.
- Transported 249 war-wounded patients to health facilities.
- Supported MoPH-run Mirwais and Sheberghan hospitals, which admitted 18,336 patients to their surgical, medical, obstetrics and gynaecology wards. These two hospitals operated on 5,358 patients and held over 111,470 outpatient consultations.
- Donated drugs, medical equipment and supplies to both hospitals, and provided financial and managerial support and on-the-job training
- Provided technical and financial support, plus medical supplies, to 47 Afghan Red Crescent clinics, which held over 228,400 outpatient consultations and administered more than 134,000 routine vaccinations.
- Continued work on improving conditions for patients and staff at Mirwais Regional Hospital and Sheberghan Provincial Hospital. Renovation of the paediatric and neonatal facilities is nearing completion at Mirwais, while in Sheberghan we have started building a new emergency ward.

Providing limb-fitting and physical rehabilitation services

- Registered 2,297 new patients, of whom 304 were amputees.
- Assisted a total of 34,307 patients in the seven ICRC Orthopaedic Centres.
- Made 5,278 prostheses and orthoses.
- Ran 70,665 physiotherapy sessions.
- Granted micro-credit loans to 114 patients, so they could start small businesses.
- Facilitated the vocational training of 196 patients, of whom 45 completed training between April and June.
- Made 1,813 home visits to patients with spinal cord injuries, and provided training to their families.

Providing assistance

- Over 3,400 internally displaced persons from conflict-affected regions received food, plus blankets, jerrycans, tarpaulins, hygiene items and other household supplies, which we distributed in partnership with the Afghan Red Crescent Society.
- Sixty-five families received cash to cover the costs of emergency medical treatment for themselves or funeral expenses for relatives killed in the conflict.
- Over 100 people participated in a cash-for-work project to repaired infrastructure, benefiting 1,141 families.
- Sixty para-vets received veterinary kits and 2,506 families benefitted from veterinary services for their livestock.

Improving water, sanitation and infrastructure

- Over 129,300 people in both rural and urban areas gained access to clean water following repairs to hand pumps and the renovation of wells and distribution networks.
- We finished the renovation and extension of the outdoor basketball court at the ICRC's physical rehabilitation centre in Mazar-i-Sharif.

Promoting compliance with international humanitarian law

We conducted briefings on international humanitarian law for more than 8,000 people, including:

- members of civil society;
- community elders;
- people benefitting from our work;
- religious scholars;
- political authorities;
- Afghan army personnel;
- national police personnel;
- personnel of local police units;
- personnel of the National Directorate of Security;
- members of the armed opposition.

Working in partnership with the Afghan Red Crescent Society

- The Afghan Red Crescent Society conducted seven Safer Access workshops for 180 Afghan Red Crescent staff and volunteers. The aim was to develop awareness of the 'Safer Access' framework, which is designed to mitigate security risks for staff and volunteers in the field.
- The Afghan Red Crescent Society hosted a partnership meeting in Doha, attended by a number of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies plus the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the ICRC, to present its new strategic plan for 2016-2020. The meeting also discussed humanitarian needs in Afghanistan and explored with 11 National Societies how they could support the Afghan Red Crescent's work.

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