



Afghanistan: Facts and figures, July-September 2016

ICRC



*Qala-e-Bost, Lashkar Gah district, Helmand province, Afghanistan. ICRC staff talk to members of the Kuchi community during a food-distribution operation.
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During July, August and September 2016, the ICRC, together with the Afghan Red Crescent, has helped displaced persons, supported communities deprived of safe water and health care and helped family members separated by conflict to keep in touch. Here is an overview of our work throughout Afghanistan during the last three months.

Providing limb-fitting and physical rehabilitation services

The ICRC:

- registered 2,354 new patients, of whom 325 were amputees;
- assisted a total of 33,927 patients in the seven ICRC physical rehabilitation centres;
- made 4,691 prostheses and orthoses;
- carried out 67,028 physiotherapy sessions;
- made micro-credit loans to 123 patients so they could start their own small businesses;
- facilitated the vocational training of 186 patients, of whom 55 completed training between January and March 2016;
- made 1,938 home visits through the home care programme, which is assisting 1,782 patients with spinal cord injuries and training their families to look after them.

Latest update

During the third quarter of 2016, security in Afghanistan remained precarious, and indeed deteriorated in many areas.

Recent violent clashes between government forces and the armed opposition have forced thousands of families to flee their homes, and medical facilities have struggled to cope with the influx of wounded civilians and fighters.

Since the beginning of October, the ICRC has redoubled its efforts to remind all parties of their obligations under international humanitarian law, to underline the need for them to do all they can to protect civilians, and to ask them to guarantee safe access to health care and clean water.

October highlights

The ICRC:

- donated 150 sets of material for treating people with war wounds to Kunduz Regional Hospital, Taloqan Provincial Hospital and Pul-i-Khumri Regional hospital;
- delivered food and other essentials to 1,000 displaced families in Taloqan, Takhar province, in partnership with the Afghan Red Crescent Society;
- supported the Afghan Red Crescent as they facilitated the transfer of fighters' and civilians' bodies to their families;
- facilitated the transfer of over 80 war-wounded people to medical facilities in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province, including 8 seriously wounded Afghan National Security Forces personnel, who were handed over to the ICRC by the armed opposition;
- provided food and essential items for almost 280 families displaced by the fighting in Tirin Kot, Uruzgan province, who had sought shelter in the villages of Naqilen and Balochee.

Helping detainees and their families



ICRC sub-delegation, Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh, Afghanistan. A boy speaks to his father detained in the Parwan Detention Facility (better known as "Bagram"). CC BY-NC-ND / ICRC / Olivier Moeckli

The ICRC:

- carried out 38 visits to 25 detention centres and prisons;
- visited and individually monitored nearly 450 detainees falling under the ICRC's mandate, of whom we saw 81 for the first time;
- exchanged over 1,270 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 2,044 phone calls and close to 280 family visits;
- organized seven family visits for detainees held in Pul-i-Charkhi Central Prison;
- received 128 queries from families about arrested or disappeared relatives and 50 people sought by their families, resolving 37 of these queries;
- facilitated the transfer of more than 245 bodies of fighters and civilians to their families;
- distributed soap and cleaning materials in places of detention throughout the country, benefitting over 20,000 detainees as well as prison staff;

Supporting health care

The ICRC:

- transported 321 war-wounded patients to medical centres;
- organized first-aid training for 511 people who have direct contact with wounded people;
- provided 450 sets of first-aid and stabilization materials to first-aid workers and health staff in direct contact with weapon-wounded people;
- supported Mirwais Regional Hospital in Kandahar and Sheberghan Hospital in Jawzjan, which admitted 17,780 patients to their surgical, medical, obstetrics and gynaecology wards, operating on 5,709 patients and holding 101,430 outpatient consultations;
- donated drugs, disposables and medical equipment to 46 ARCS clinics, supported training and provided financial and managerial support, helping those clinics perform 212,927 outpatient consultations and administer 118,204 doses of vaccine;
- made 69 health visits to 9 places of detention;
- provided technical support, financial support and medical supplies to the Ministry of Public Health's clinic for detainees in Kandahar and Herat Provincial Prisons, where 11,825 consultations took place;
- supported the scabies and vector control campaigns in three places of detention;
- deployed a mobile surgical team to support the provincial hospitals in Ghazni, Farah and Maimana over a three-week period, running training sessions, donating anaesthesia, surgical, nursing and medical supplies and participating directly in patient care through operations, nursing care and physiotherapy.

Providing food and support to people in need



*Qala-e-Bost, Lashkar Gah district, Helmand province, Afghanistan. People receive food from the ICRC.
CC BY-NC-ND / ICRC / Hayat Khan*

The ICRC

- worked with the Afghan Red Crescent Society to provide emergency aid for 3,801 households (26,607 people) displaced by conflict and natural disaster, to help them to meet their basic needs;
- provided 38 vulnerable households in northern Afghanistan with tool kits for a poultry project, to help increase their food production and income;
- ran cash-for-work projects involving 44 people, which brought improvements to irrigation infrastructure and allowed 1,323 families to benefit from cash assistance;
- provided 41 families directly affected by the conflict with cash assistance to help them pay for emergency medical treatment, food and funeral expenses;
- provided 34 para-veterinarians from local communities with basic drugs, so they could improve the health and productivity of livestock, benefiting 22,547 families;
- provided 20 extension workers with training and extension kits, enabling them to improve animal health and productivity.

Improving water, sanitation and infrastructure

The ICRC:

- provided clean water for over 49,900 people in rural areas and suburban settlements in the provinces of Badghis, Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Herat, Kapisa and Kunduz, by repairing hand pumps and renovating wells and distribution networks;
- renovated the paediatric and neonatal facilities at Mirwais Regional Hospital, increasing the number of beds to 550;
- installed a second water tank in Pul-i-Charkhi Central Prison and began work on renovating the water supply system;

- is currently renovating the main kitchen at Pul-i-Charkhi and building a retaining wall in the women's facility;
- improved the sanitation system at the ICRC-run physical rehabilitation centre in Mazar-e-Sharif, installing 8 household latrines and 3 soakaway pits;
- continued engineering activities aimed at improving conditions for patients and staff of the ICRC-supported Mirwais Regional Hospital and Sheberghan Provincial Hospital;
- completed renovation of the kitchen and construction of a new room for duty doctors in the emergency ward at Farah Provincial Hospital;

Working in partnership with the Afghan Red Crescent Society

The ICRC supported an Afghan Red Crescent Society Safer Access evaluation workshop involving 28 staff and volunteers. The aim of the workshop was to eliminate gaps and overcome challenges pertaining to acceptance, security and access for the Afghan Red Crescent. This included planning concrete action to reduce the security risks the National Society faces when carrying out its humanitarian activities in a conflict environment.

Promoting compliance with international humanitarian law

The ICRC conducted briefings on international humanitarian law for more than 9,400 people, including:

- members of civil society;
- community elders;
- people benefiting from our work;
- religious scholars;
- political authorities;
- Afghan Army personnel;
- National Police personnel;
- local police personnel;
- personnel of the National Directorate of Security;
- members of the armed opposition.

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