

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Kyrgyz Republic



ICRC

ACTIVITIES IN PLACES OF DETENTION

Improving the treatment of detainees



ICRC Delegate talking to a detainee during a humanitarian visit



Queueing for a family visit at Penal Institution-3

The ICRC has been carrying out humanitarian visits to people deprived of liberty in the Kyrgyz Republic since 1999. These visits aim to ensure that detainees are treated humanely, have access to healthcare, and are able to maintain family links. During the visits, material conditions of detention are also assessed.

The findings and recommendations arising from these visits are not shared publicly but are discussed bilaterally, on a confidential basis, with the relevant authorities.

ICRC VISITS to PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	In 2015	January-May 2016
Detainees visited	8'262	6'855
Detainees visited and monitored individually	255	181
Number of visits carried out	136	56
Number of places of detention visited	44	35

Maintaining contacts with family members is a basic right for all human beings, including detainees. The ICRC facilitates visits of family members to their detained relatives in the Kyrgyz Republic by providing financial assistance to vulnerable family members to cover their transport expenses to the places of imprisonment of their detained relatives.



A married couple during a family visit in Penal Institution-3



Between January and August 2016, 225 family visits were organised and 404 family members benefited from the Family Visits Assistance Programme.

Improving access to healthcare in detention

1. Treating tuberculosis in prisons and in the main pre-trial detention centre

Since 2004 the ICRC has been supporting the State Service for the Execution of Punishments (SSEP) of the Kyrgyz Republic to establish a comprehensive and sustainable tuberculosis (TB) control programme in the penitentiary sector.



Renovated buildings for patients with non-contagious form of tuberculosis in Penal Institution-31



TB patient given medicines in the medical unit of Penal Institution-31

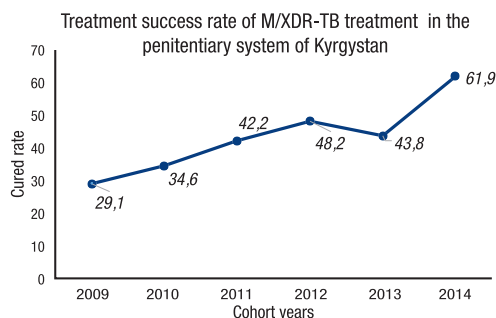
As part of the TB programme, ICRC engineers have carried out major renovation and construction works in Penal Institution 31. Such works notably entailed 6'000 square metres of medical facilities designed to facilitate the treatment of the different categories of TB, including a separate complex for TB-infected detainees sentenced to life imprisonment.

Today all sentenced TB-infected detainees are being treated in Penal Institution 31, where ICRC medical teams carry out daily visits to TB patients. During these visits, ICRC medical teams provide psychological support to patients, assist local doctors and conduct information and training sessions with the Penal Institution's administration and health

personnel. Moreover, the ICRC supports the identification, recording and reporting of TB cases through the development of a database, staff training and the provision of required IT equipment.

In order to prevent the transmission of TB within the penitentiary system, the ICRC has been supporting the authorities since 2016 in detecting potentially infectious TB patients in the early stage of their detention, either in SIZO 1 (pre-trial detention centre) or through mass screening activities in peripheral penal institutions.

The ICRC also supports the TB laboratories in Penal Institution 31 and SIZO 1 through staff training and the provision of laboratory reagents. When needs arise, it supports the Republican Reference Laboratory in Bishkek and the Interregional Reference Laboratory in Osh with the delivery of laboratory consumables, together with other organisations.



Between January and August 2016, 57 TB-infected detainees in SIZO-1 and Penal Institution-31 successfully completed their treatment and 113 detainees started treatment.

Improving access to healthcare in detention

2. Providing healthcare services in police stations (IVS)

In December 2013 the ICRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic to start a pilot project for the provision of medical services (at the primary healthcare level) to persons held in temporary places of detention (IVS) in the cities of Bishkek, Balykchy, Jalal-Abad, Kara-Suu, Kyzyl-Kia.



ICRC staff examining a cell in Zhail IVS



ICRC engineer awarded a certificate of gratitude for cooperation with the Ministry of Interior



The renovated medical room in Bishkek IVS

ICRC engineers carried out renovation works on medical rooms, cells, toilets and showers to improve the living and hygiene conditions in those IVSs.

The project draws on ICRC's technical support in order to provide appropriate primary healthcare services in IVSs; this includes the mandatory and timely medical examination of all persons taken into custody, case detection and proper treatment, as well as technical training for medical and non-medical staff.



A doctor conducting a medical examination of a patient in Zhail IVS

The model of healthcare provision developed in the five IVSs selected during the pilot phase (2014-2015) allows for the Ministry of Internal Affairs to roll it out in its remaining IVSs, and for the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to establish a unified system under which all detained persons would benefit from healthcare provision whose quality is on a par with national standards.

The ICRC is continuing to monitor the implementation of the project while supporting its rollout in five newly-selected IVSs in 2016, thus covering approximately 70% of all arrested persons in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Improving conditions of detention

In addition to its involvement in police stations under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the ICRC, in coordination with the State Service for the Execution of Punishments (SSEP) and the State Committee for National Security (SCNS), supports the refurbishment and maintenance of water supply, ventilation, heating and sewage systems, cells and family visit rooms, etc... with a view to improving the living conditions of detainees in the different places of detention. In parallel, it conducts information and on-the-job training sessions to strengthen capacity for the provision of maintenance services.

In 2016, over 7'100 detainees benefited from improved living conditions



A roof section in Penal Institution-10 before and after renovation



Sanitary facilities in the IVS of Jalal-Abad city before and after renovation



The newly-constructed hospital for multi-drug resistant TB patients in Penal Institution-31

ACTIVITIES IN FAVOUR OF VICTIMS OF PAST VIOLENCE

The ICRC has been offering its assistance to relatives of persons unaccounted for since the 2010 June events. It continues to provide mental health and psychosocial support, including group meetings, but also refers family members of missing persons to external service providers as deemed appropriate.

It continues to seek improvement in protecting the rights of missing persons and their families and in preventing disappearances during armed conflict and situations of violence through the development of relevant legal frameworks, in cooperation with the IHL Commission under the Ministry of Justice.



Psychological support session for the families of missing persons. Discussion time in the "Group of mothers"



Psychological support session for children of the families of missing persons

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency preparedness during peacetime is a crucial element for an effective and swift response to humanitarian crises. Together with the authorities and the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC strives to develop the existing prevention and response capabilities that already exist in the country by:

- ▶ Strengthening the capacity of local civilian and military medical practitioners to manage the care of trauma patients through specific training courses. Since 2011, 431 participants improved their skills on the provision of medical services in emergency situations.
- ▶ Improving access to essential healthcare services and clean water in the South of Kyrgyzstan by carrying out rehabilitation works on selected medical facilities and water supply infrastructure. Since 2011, 27 health facilities have been refurbished and 25 water supply projects have been implemented.



Practical exercise during the Emergency Room Trauma Care course



Opening ceremony of the refurbished building of the Group of Family Doctors in Tayan village (Batken province)

- ▶ Supporting the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in building its capacity, particularly in the delivery of high quality First Aid, in re-establishing family links and through the dissemination of information relating to international humanitarian law (IHL) and universal humanitarian values.



Practical exercise during the First Aid course, organised by the Red Crescent Society



Red Crescent Society staff collecting data from a family who wants to find a relative

- ▶ Supporting, since 2003, the efforts of the National Interdepartmental Commission on the implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) under the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic to strengthen the country's adherence to IHL and its implementation, through legal expertise and capacity building.
- ▶ Maintaining a dialogue with the Armed Forces to encourage the consideration of humanitarian norms by operational decision-makers. Within this framework, the ICRC holds seminars for officers and participates in regional military exercises to work out practical aspects of civil-military cooperation.



Course on the Law of Armed Conflict for military officers in Osh city

ICRC Regional Delegation in Central Asia



ICRC regional delegation



ICRC mission



ICRC office

* *Dushanbe structure also supports ICRC operations in Afghanistan*

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of 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.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

* *a set of rules that seek to limit the effects of armed conflict. IHL protects people who are not, or no longer, participating in hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare.*

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