



First aid training for villagers.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an independent and neutral organization. Together with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS), it has been working in Sabah since 2013, seeking to address the needs of the most vulnerable people, as well as promoting humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law (IHL). The ICRC coordinates and cooperates with MRCS districts across Sabah as well as with local authorities from academics, civil society, prison department and security forces.

Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) and University College Sabah. Students and civil societies also participated at the Young Humanitarian Writers Competition in 2016, co-organized by ICRC and The National Press Club Malaysia.

- Students from the Department of Humanities, Arts and Heritage at UMS also participated with enthusiasm in the ICRC and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)'s 2nd annual IHL role-play competition.

## PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)



Police and ESSCOM officials participate in a workshop organized to strengthen the understanding of universal humanitarian principles and law enforcement.

- ICRC works in collaboration with the National Security Council, the Malaysian Armed Forces, Royal Malaysian Police and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) in Sabah to disseminate and enhance understanding of key provisions of IHL and other humanitarian norms and practices. The dialogue centers around ensuring the humanitarian interests of those that may be affected by violence or use of force.
- ICRC has conducted various workshops and enhanced dialogues with the commanders and members of the Malaysian Armed Forces, Senior Royal Malaysian Police Officers and Officers in Charge of Police District (OCPDs) and the officers and personnel operating under ESSCOM.
- ICRC has been also invited by the universities in Sabah to deliver lectures on IHL and spread knowledge about the humanitarian principles at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS),

## WORK IN DETENTION SETTINGS



The ICRC offers Restoring Family Links services to detainees, including the possibility of them making phone calls to their family members.

- ICRC has been visiting people deprived of liberty in prisons and immigration detention centres across Malaysia, including Sabah. The visits focus solely on conditions of detention and treatment including technical aspects such as health, water and habitat.
- ICRC seeks to develop bilateral and confidential dialogue with the authorities. To this end, it has been working closely with the Prison Department and the National Security Council to carry out visits to people deprived of liberty in Temporary Detention Centres (TDC) and prisons state authorities.

**21**  
Red Cross  
Messages (RCM)

**38**  
oral  
messages

**119**  
phone  
calls

to maintain contact between detainees and their relatives

## BASIC FIRST AID TRAINING AND HEALTH



Villagers receive basic first aid training.

- In communities with limited access to health care, ICRC along with MRCS volunteers has been sharing knowledge about basic first aid with villagers and children in remote areas. This is carried out with the support of district health office.
- The aim of such sessions is to impart first aid skills to villagers and train them in adapting these as per their needs and availability of resources. These skills help the villagers respond effectively to emergencies till necessary medical support arrives.

## HEALTH AND HYGIENE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN



Health and hygiene promotion for primary school children.

- ICRC and MRCS, in close collaboration with Sabah state health department and the Ministry of Education, continue to provide health and hygiene awareness sessions to primary school children across Sabah.
- The scope of these sessions is to improve the understanding of daily hygiene conditions in order to prevent the spread of preventable diseases, such as waterborne and other communicable diseases.

- In 2016, the participation in these health and hygiene sessions have increased to almost double as compared to the previous year. Till date, 1,519 students and 45 teachers from 15 primary schools have participated in these sessions.

**248** MRCS volunteers from  
**17** MRCS districts &  
**435** villagers from  
**29** villages  
have been trained in first aid

## MALAYSIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY, SABAH STATE

MRCS in Sabah dates back to 1948 when the Northern Borneo Branch of the British Red Cross was set up. Today, MRCS is present across the state and has been active in welfare and disaster response activities over the years, providing essential support to the state's most vulnerable communities. Working with the authorities, volunteers from 22 MRCS districts have responded by providing emergency first aid and assistance to flood, fire, temporary shelter, blankets and clothing where needed. The MRCS Sabah State also initiates community and health programmes that encompass first aid, ambulance services, blood donation drives, youth development and environmental programmes.



Students sit in rapt attention during one of the sessions.



**ICRC**

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