



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS REGIONAL DELEGATION FOR VENEZUELA AND CARICOM STATES

ACTIVITY REPORT JANUARY-JUNE 2018



ICRC

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

is an impartial, neutral and independent organisation, 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, which it has been doing for over 150 years. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

THE ICRC HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN VENEZUELA SINCE 1966.

The delegation operates in conformity with the headquarters agreement signed with the government of Venezuela, which was incorporated into law on November 6, 2001. In terms of geographical coverage, the regional delegation includes Venezuela and thirteen CARICOM countries.

IN THE LAST TEN YEARS, the ICRC has devoted itself, amongst other activities, to addressing the consequences of violence and its social implications in urban areas. It also advises, engages in dialogue with and lends structural and technical support to state and civil society institutions.

THE ICRC REGIONAL DELEGATION

works with National Red Cross Societies to prevent suffering by promoting applicable law, universal humanitarian principles, and emergency preparedness and response.

HEALTH RELATED ACTIVITIES

In conjunction with the Ministry of People's Power for Health and the Ministry of People's Power for Defence, the ICRC supports the work of health professionals in hospital emergency rooms, provides training support and medical supplies for Venezuelan Red Cross (VRC) health care facilities, and trains members of communities affected by violence:

118 MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PROFESSIONALS FROM THE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM were trained in emergency trauma room treatment and how to treat patients injured by firearms and explosive devices. Training on comprehensive care for the injured was provided for trainers from Caracas, Maracay, Barquisimeto, Puerto Cabello, Margarita, Sucre, Bolivar, Los Teques, Charallave and the Dominican Republic;



SPECIFIC SUPPORT WAS PROVIDED THROUGH THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO THE FOLLOWING MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS:

Specific support was provided through the provision of medical supplies to the following medical institutions:

MINISTRY OF PEOPLE'S POWER HOSPITALS: three wound care kits (for 150 injured patients);

MILITARY HEALTH HOSPITALS VIA THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH OF THE NATIONAL BOLIVARIAN ARMED FORCES: one wound care kit (50 injured patients);

VCR HOSPITALS AND OUTPATIENT CLINICS: four wound care kits (200 injured patients);

558 PATIENTS received care in the first semester of 2018, including victims of urban violence and emergencies;

216 PEOPLE from the communities of La Vega and San Agustín in Caracas, as well as students and teachers from two schools belonging to the Fe y Alegría system in those areas, and two from the

Apure State, participated in first aid workshops, with the valuable support of VRC volunteers;

28 VRC VOLUNTEERS received training in first aid for wounds caused by firearms and penetrating traumas;

SUPPORT FOR THE VENEZUELAN RED CROSS

We held 29 **EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS ON: WATER AND SANITATION; THE PREVENTION OF DENGUE FEVER AND THE ZIKA AND CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUSES. WE ALSO RAN FIRST AID COURSES**, backed by the technical, logistical and financial support of the ICRC, in 16 communities on the Colombian-Venezuelan border, with the Apure and Zulia branches and the Guasdalito subcommittee. More than 350 participants received training in these areas;

WE LED THREE WORKSHOPS FOR 60 VOLUNTEERS on the principles of the International Movement of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent in the Apure and Táchira branches, and the Guasdalito subcommittee;

We enhanced the **VRC'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM** by installing three VHF repeaters in the VRC's branches in the

FOUR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

from Civil Protection, Military Health, DIGESALUD and the Ministry of People's Power for Health participated in the "training course on the provision of medical assistance during disasters (HELP)" in Cuba, with the support of the ICRC.



Capital District, Merida and Barinas;

84 RESCUE WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS FROM THE VRC - from the Capital District, Carabobo, Lara, Zulia, Merida, Barinas and El Tigre - took part in an emergency response simulation exercise;

120 VOLUNTEERS FROM THE CARABOBO, EL TIGRE, LARA, ZULIA, APURE, MERIDA AND BARINAS BRANCHES participated in seven workshops on action protocols aimed at mitigating risks;

41 VOLUNTEERS FROM 19 BRANCHES AND SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY refreshed their knowledge at the second exchange on first aid run by the VRC this year, held in the city of El Tigre.

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS PROGRAMME (RFL)

WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE VRC, **63 TRACING REQUESTS** from the RFL were processed and 30 Red Cross messages were collected to be delivered to relatives;

THREE VOLUNTEERS FROM THE VRC TRAINED to become representatives for the programme in Mérida, Trujillo and Portuguesa.



PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND INTERNATIONAL RULES ON THE USE OF FORCE BY ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES

A TOTAL OF 41 OFFICERS FROM THE NATIONAL BOLIVARIAN ARMED FORCES OF VENEZUELA (FANB) and a representative from the Ombudsman's Office took part in the sixth "train-the-trainer course on the use of force in operations to maintain law and order." The institutional response of the FANB was to replicate the course in the Integral Strategic Defence Regions (ISDRs) for **874 OFFICERS FROM THE FIVE**

SERVICE BRANCHES OF THE FANB;

In Guasdualito, we held a course on international rules for the progressive use of force and firearms for **31 PARTICIPATING MEMBERS** of the Bolivarian National Guard of Venezuela and the Municipal police, among others. Additionally, VRC volunteers from this city received training on the key principles of ensuring access to primary medical care for those who need it during a public order disturbance;



We taught **SIX HOURS OF CLASSES** on international rules on the use of force to 28 students from the UNES train-the-trainer course;

240 PRISON GUARDS received training on the ICRC's work in prisons and international rules on the use of force in prisons through courses organized by the General Directorate of Military Penitentiary Service (DISPEMIL);

WE ANALYSED CURRICULAR TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED BY THE EXPERIMENTAL SECURITY UNIVERSITY'S (UNES) Vice-Rectorate for Academic Development with the aim of incorporating international human rights law and benefiting 15,000 active policemen;

Technical supported was provided for reviewing the legal framework for the "Self Defence" teaching material produced by the UNES National Directorate on the Use of Force;

TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRY OF PENITENTIARY SERVICE took part in the Workshop for the Americas on Penitentiary Management and Infrastructure led by the ICRC in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE VENEZUELAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE participated in the Montreux Document Forum's Regional Meeting (on private security companies), organized - among others - by the ICRC in San José, Costa Rica.

CARICOM

In the CARICOM States, the ICRC works in association with the Red Cross National Societies in the Caribbean, principally with Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Belize and the Bahamas, and supports the National Societies to improve capacity building in order for them to be able to respond more effectively to humanitarian assistance needs in the region. The ICRC maintains ongoing dialogue with the authorities and the security forces regarding the integration of international rules on the use of force in its legal framework and in law enforcement operations.

PREVENTION, HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY, PROTECTION AND COOPERATION



WORKING MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS were held with High Representatives and Commissioners from the Armed Forces of Belize, Jamaica, Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago;

WE ORGANIZED A COURSE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ARMED FORCES OF BELIZE on international rules on the use of force in patrols, border operations and migration;

WE PRESENTED THE ICRC'S PILLARS OF WORK AT THE 33RD ANNUAL MEETING OF CARIBBEAN police commissioners, which took place in Montego Bay, Jamaica;

TRAINING IN RLF ACTIVITIES WAS ORGANIZED FOR FIVE NATIONAL SOCIETIES (Belize, Jamaica, Bahamas,


Curacao and Trinidad and Tobago), and training on the Movement's role in migrant detention was held for four Societies (Belize, Bahamas, Curacao and Trinidad and Tobago);


SINCE EARLY 2018, 22 MESSAGES HAVE BEEN DELIVERED BY THE RED CROSS, with the objective of reuniting separated family members;

WE HAVE PROVIDED SUPPORT TO 72 YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH THE JAMAICA RED CROSS SCHOOLS OF TRANSFORMATION. In addition, the ICRC supports the project implemented by the Belize Red Cross Society to reduce the impact of urban violence on young people at risk in communities prone to violence.

We help people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything we can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. We also seek to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

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