

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS 2018

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2018



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian organization that was founded in 1863 to help people affected by armed conflict or other violence. We have been working in Papua New Guinea (PNG) since 2007 as part of the regional delegation in the Pacific based in Suva, Fiji. Our mandate is to do everything we can to protect the dignity of people and relieve their suffering. We also seek to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles. The PNG Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) is a close partner in our efforts. Here's a snapshot of our activities in 2018:

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

The ICRC visits places of detention in correctional institutions and police lock-ups to monitor the living condition and treatment of detainees. Our reports and findings from the visits are treated as confidential and shared only with the authorities concerned and recommendations are implemented with their support. The ICRC also assists authorities with distribution of hygiene material, recreational items and medical equipment. Projects on water and sanitation are also implemented in many facilities. In 2018, we:

- Visited 15 places of detention in areas of operations in PNG.
- Provided recreational items, hygiene kits and blankets to police lock-ups and correctional institutions.
- Facilitated correctional services officers to attend two training programmes abroad and helped a medical doctor participate in a health-in-detention training in Bangkok and Cambodia.
- Facilitated first-aid training of correctional services staff in coordination with PNGRCS.
- Supported community health officers in correctional services to attend a month's internship related to mental health at Laloki Psychiatric Hospital.

RESTORING AND MAINTAINING FAMILY LINKS

With the support of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, we help people in detention stay connected with their loved ones, overcoming barriers of cost and distance:

- Organized four family visits, enabling 50 people from Bougainville to visit their loved ones detained in Buka and East New Britain prisons.
- Involved 15 PNG Red Cross Society staff and volunteers to assist the family visit programme.

MISSING PERSONS FROM THE BOUGAINVILLE CRISIS

As per the international humanitarian law, families have the right to know what happened to their loved ones who went missing during the Bougainville crisis so that they experience a sense of solace and closure. In 2018:

- 24 participants attended a two-day introductory course in the management of the dead in armed conflict organized at Buka in December. The ICRC's forensic specialist based in Manila facilitated the training.
- On August 30, the International Day of the Disappeared, we helped 100 family members from Arawa, Kieta and Panguna organize a sea burial ceremony in remembrance of their relatives who went missing or died at sea and whose remains were not recovered.
- On the occasion of the International Day of the Disappeared, we also assisted 50 family members (16 families) organize an inauguration ceremony to engrave the names of their missing relatives on the Sipotavai Memorial Monument.
- The first exploratory visit to Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal and Gizo) was organized in June 2018 to locate the grave sites of four people. This is to help 50 family members experience closure by giving their loved ones a dignified burial.

PROTECTING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY ARMED VIOLENCE

To promote respect for basic principles of humanity and reduce the effects of armed violence, the ICRC continuously engages in dialogue with leaders, fighters and members of communities involved in tribal fighting about their responsibility to take concrete measures to prevent such incidents:

- Reached more than 28,000 people through different awareness-building activities such as community engagement, tribal meetings and first-aid training workshops. We also staged dramas that discouraged communities from attacking women, children and civilians, decried destruction of health facilities and public infrastructure and also highlighted the prevention of sexual violence.
- Organized two photo exhibitions on the humanitarian consequences of tribal fighting. Over 500 people visited the exhibitions.
- The ICRC's activities were highlighted in both local and international media about 65 times.

PROVIDING RELIEF ASSISTANCE

To help people affected by tribal conflict in the Highlands:

- Over 13,000 people in Enga and Hela Provinces were given essential household items including blankets, jerrycans and shelter materials.
- Provided cash assistance and training in financial literacy to 26 women in Southern Highlands Province who were widowed by tribal conflict enabling them to venture into income generating activities such as farming, piggy, poultry to sustain their livelihoods.

SUPPORTING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

To support the health-care system in regions affected by armed violence, the ICRC:

- Assisted the Uma and Yakisu Community health posts in Southern Highlands Province by strengthening their capacity with training sessions.
- Established Family Support Centre in Wabag Hospital and provided office supplies and medical equipment.
- Developed a leaflet with the National Department of Health on sexual violence for the survivors of sexual violence and the general public.
- Facilitated training programmes for trauma informed care, emergency room trauma course and the emergency management of survivors of sexual violence.
- With the support of PNG Red Cross Society, the ICRC facilitated 12 first-aid training programmes in the Highlands and eight community-based training sessions in Bougainville, benefiting 392 participants.



This little girl attends an elementary school in South Koroba and aspires to be a teacher when she grows up. Children miss out on education when schools are destroyed during tribal fights. The ICRC conducts dissemination sessions with the local communities on the importance of respecting education infrastructure during fights.



Shirley Tatebua from the Honoka Clan, South Koroba Local Level Government in Hela Province with her relief items. The ICRC in partnership with the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) distributes basic household items to families who lost belongings and properties during tribal fights in the Highlands of PNG.



“These mannequins will go a long way to assist the PNGRCS volunteers to do First Aid trainings in communities”, said Uvenama Rova Secretary General of the PNGRCS (Right). The ICRC donated a total of 28 mannequins to the PNGRCS as part of its support to the NS to provide life-saving First Aid instructions in different communities in PNG.



Policemen and women participate in a workshop facilitated for the first time by the ICRC in Manus Province on international policing standards and International Human Rights Law. The ICRC has been assisting the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary with these trainings to promote professional conduct in the line of duty.



The ICRC with support from the PNGRCS and the PNG Correctional Services (CS) organizes Family Visit Programs to Kerevat Correctional Institution in East New Britain and Bekut CS in Buka. The program allows families in Bougainville an opportunity to visit family members detained in the prison facilities. In this picture Kerevat CS Commander, Madam Margaret Garap greets families during a visit held in November 2018.

WATER AND HABITAT

In collaboration with the police, health authorities and education department, the ICRC:

- Helped over 200 detainees in six police lock-ups by improving drainage, ventilation and general living conditions in the cells.
- Constructed and renovated Uma health centre's outpatient department, maternity ward and pharmacy.
- Repaired Wabag family support centre and Pomberel health centre at Nembi Plateau, Southern Highlands Province.
- Donated building material to Hiri and Magara primary schools in Hela, impacting 670 students.
- Repaired water supply and sanitation facilities at Kagua Secondary School in Southern Highlands Province and Koroba High School in Hela, helping 2,350 students.
- Installed water tanks and repaired latrine doors in Kepelam Primary School, Enga, which has 500 students.
- Involved six PNG Red Cross Society volunteers in carpentry and plumbing and four volunteers in electrical and welding activities.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA RED CROSS SOCIETY

Working in partnership with the PNG Red Cross Society in the Highlands and Bougainville, the ICRC effectively positioned the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement through relevant and effective communication activities:

- Provided support and training to volunteers for community engagement and accountability during relief activities. Also gave livelihood training to volunteers at the Western Highlands branch.
- Donated 28 baby and adult first-aid mannequins, enhancing the National Society's capacity to deliver first-aid training to communities.
- Facilitated Safer Access workshop attended by 17 staff from headquarters and field.
- Financially supported four positions at the PNG Red Cross Society headquarters and in two branches.

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

To promote respect for IHL, the ICRC has:

- Trained 74 PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) officers through different Law Enforcement Operation workshops in 2018 with the support of the police and security force delegate from Manila.
- Reached 192 Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) personnel from police stations across five provinces in ICRC's area of operation: Bougainville, Enga, Southern Highlands, Hela and Manus Provinces.
- Sent nine RPNGC and PNGDF officers abroad for different training programmes facilitated by the ICRC.
- Held meetings with the PNGDF and RPNGC at Port Moresby, the Highlands, Bougainville and Manus Island.

Creation of the PNG IHL Committee:

- Provided technical support in drafting the terms of reference for the committee.
- The ICRC was invited to all IHL committee meetings in 2018. Representatives participated in two-day ICRC training on 1977 Additional Protocols.
- Committee requested the ICRC training on Arms Trade Treaty and the Rome Statute.

Academe and the PNG IHL Committee:

- Supported PNG IHL Committee's activities and meetings.
- Supported a University of PNG academic abroad in the Southeast Asia session on IHL with the aim to integrate IHL into the university curriculum.

EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE FACTS & FIGURES

MARCH TO OCTOBER 2018

On February 26, 2018, a magnitude earthquake hit the Highlands of PNG, significantly affecting the provinces of Southern Highlands and Hela and disrupting the lives of several thousands of people. The ICRC responded by providing necessities such as clean water, blankets, mats buckets and also some support to health centres:



DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

- Repaired water storage tanks, providing **133,000** litres of clean water storage in Southern Highlands Province (SHP), and **110,000** litres in Hela Province.
- Installed **36** new rain water harvesters, providing up to **120,000** litres daily storage capacity in both provinces.

NFI

EMERGENCY HOUSEHOLD AND SHELTER ITEMS (NFI)

- Since the start of the earthquake response, nearly **16,000** people were given basic kits, consisting of two blankets, two mats, one tarpaulin, one bucket and six bathing soaps per household.



SUPPORT TO HEALTH-CARE FACILITIES

- Provided dressing material to treat up to **2,000** wounds and donated stretchers to Mendi Provincial Hospital.
- Set up basic systems of water supply, toilets and emergency lighting at **14** health centres in Hela and Southern Highlands Province (nine and five, respectively).
- Stabilized the foundations of three health structures in Hela and Southern Highlands Province



REPAIR WORK AT SCHOOLS

- Refurbished showers, toilets and main water supply in two secondary schools (one each at Hela and Southern Highlands Province), helping **4,000** students with better sanitary facilities.
- Repaired water supply to three primary schools (two in Hela and one in Southern Highlands Province).

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