





ICRC ACTIVITIES IN MEXICO 2018













■ IN THE SPOTLIGHT



A NEW PHASE IN THE **SEARCH FOR MISSING PEOPLE**

By Jordi Raich, head of the regional delegation for Mexico and Central America

I arrived in Mexico at the beginning of 2018 to head up the regional delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for Mexico and Central America. One of the most significant recent developments was that the Missing Persons Act had just come into effect in Mexico and, with it, a national system for searching for the missing. The Act had been drafted with the families of the missing and they had been the driving force behind its enactment.

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When people go missing it is a problem not just for their families, but for each and every one of us. This is a serious issue that forces us to examine ourselves as humans and as a society.

The reason for such a law was clear: the urgent need to establish a new vision for the search for more than 40,000 missing people and to address the dire situation of their families. Moreover, people continue to go missing today and every day.

Thousands of mothers and wives in Mexico wander from one agency to another looking for their sons and husbands. In addition, hundreds of mothers and wives from all over Central America come to Mexico searching for loved ones who disappeared while migrating through the country. One phone call, one photo, one remembered encounter can rekindle the hope that they are still alive months or even years after losing touch.

The ICRC addresses the humanitarian consequences of conflict all, matching the response to the scale of the problem and of and armed violence worldwide. One of the most distressing is the uncertainty of not knowing where a loved one is or what happened to them. It is an all too common story: a father, mother, husband, wife, son or daughter leaves the house one day and never comes home. Why? Did they have an accident? Were they kidnapped? Were they recruited against their will? Did they end up in the hands of an armed group? What happened? The suffering of living every day with this ambiguous loss is exacerbated by the psychological, psychosocial, financial, legal and administrative consequences of their loved one's disappearance.

Our ICRC teams come across the same story in all ten Mexican solutions for families. states where we work, as well as in our constant interaction with families at the federal level. We know many of the characters in these tragic tales. They refuse to give up. They are often members of associations that search tirelessly and with dignity for their missing loved ones, either on their own or though State bodies. They act out of desperation, but their purpose is clearsighted: get their relatives back, find out what happened to them, get their lives back.

We have spent years devoting our efforts and experience to helping these people, either directly or through the authorities responsible for handling their queries and meeting their needs. Working with them and on their behalf, we made

recommendations as part of the drafting of the Missing Persons Act and we are providing advice and guidance on implementing the Act both at the federal level and in the individual states. We provide guidance on forensic projects, such as Project 751 in Guerrero state; we build the response capacity of forensic institutes and agencies providing mental health and psychosocial support services; and we support them through initiatives such as the national meeting of 65 associations.

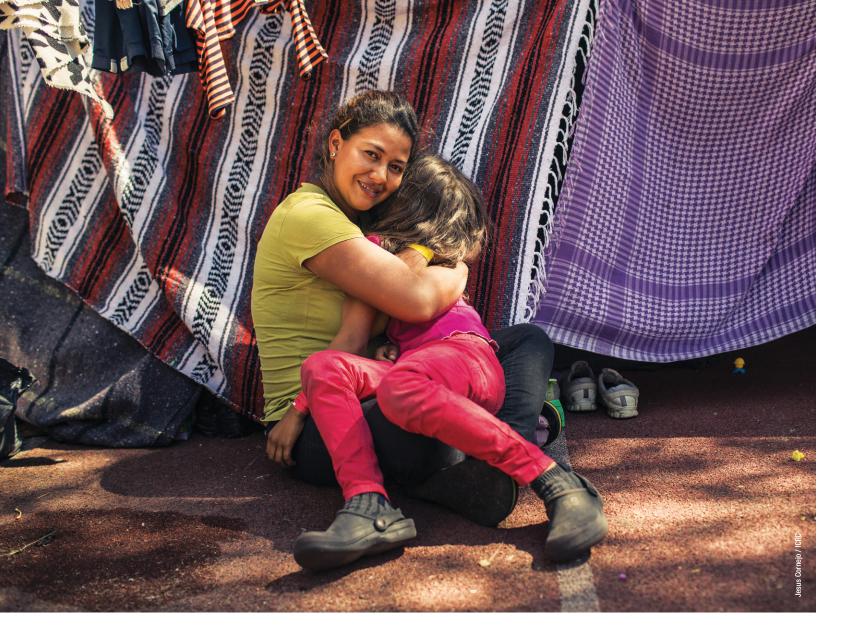
Under international law, States are required to do everything in their power to prevent people going missing, search for those who are missing and mitigate the consequences of this issue. Our work and commitment in dozens of settings worldwide have taught us that "everything in their power" means, above the needs of the families affected, and ensuring the families are involved at every step of the process.

The Missing Persons Act highlights the complexity of the issues and largely fulfils these requirements. It was drafted with the involvement of the families and heralds a new phase in the search process. It establishes a series of institutions and tools, such as national and local search committees, specialized public prosecutor offices, protocols, programmes and a unified information technology and computer system. Once they have been approved and the necessary resources allocated, we are confident that they will offer more effective

When people go missing it is a problem not just for their families, but for each and every one of us. This is a serious issue that forces us to examine ourselves as humans and as a society.

At the ICRC we will continue working with and for these families and their associations. We will keep providing technical guidance in the various sectors involved in the search for missing people, as well as promoting and facilitating consensus among authorities, experts and associations in order to better meet their needs. Only coordinated, professional and empathetic teamwork by all concerned will deliver the response that we want for and owe to the families of the missing.





145,000 MINUTES OF HOPE ARE NOT ENOUGH

By Martienus De Boer, deputy head of the regional delegation for Mexico and Central America

2018 will remain in the memory of many as the year in which thousands of migrants left their countries and joined caravans crossing through Central America and Mexico on their way to the United States. For the ICRC and the Mexican Red Cross, it was a year of intense efforts to meet the needs of that tidal wave of humanity. It was also the year in which we gave people 45,000 minutes of happiness thanks to the free phone calls offered by our *Restoring Family Links* programme.

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The phenomenon of migration is inseparable from the history of humanity. There has always been and will always be migration. As a society we cannot settle for reactive or short-term initiatives. The dignity of migrants reflects on our own dignity.

Mexican Red Cross volunteers and ICRC staff spread out to cities throughout the country to cover one of the most basic needs of migrant caravans: staying in touch with their loved ones when they are on the move.

In January 2019 I visited Ciudad Hidalgo in Chiapas state, where The ICRC will pursue its dialogue with the authorities on I spent two days with some of those migrants. I offered them a mobile phone – something so simple and easy, and yet vital for them and their families. Being able to talk for a moment, to share their news with those left behind and alleviate their uncertainty is psychologically beneficial for both parties. We facilitated more than 15,000 phone calls for migrants in caravans in the last quarter of 2018, and 100,000 throughout the year in 62 mobile posts or hostels for migrants in general.

With no intention of either promoting or discouraging migration, the ICRC runs the Restoring Family Links programme for people travelling along migration routes all over the world, not just in Mexico and Central America. The programme enables us to identify migrants in particularly precarious or urgent circumstances and, most importantly, helps prevent them going missing.

Migration flows in Mexico are constantly changing, but accordance with international law. migrants' needs do not: dignified treatment, health care, a safe place to stay and protection by the institutions that have a duty to prevent and take action against excessive use of force by public servants and abuses by weapon bearers operating outside the law.

Our work also involves trying to mitigate some of the humanitarian consequences of violence against migrants, who often experience xenophobia and discrimination, and to take steps to reduce their vulnerability, focusing in particular on women. We are also seeing more unaccompanied children and teenagers on migration routes, who are being exposed to an ever-growing risk of rights violations and psychological trauma that could jeopardize their future.

Migrants travel together in caravans to minimize the dangers intrinsic to the journey and avoid tougher migration policies, at a time when the limits of the asylum system in the region, outstripped by this new reality, have been brought to light.

Making migration safe and looking after this vulnerable group of people is the shared responsibility of the authorities in their place of origin, transit and destination, with the support of civil society and the international community.

securing dignified treatment for migrants. Together with the Mexican Red Cross, we will support the authorities' efforts to provide health care, infrastructure, water and accommodation, and we will consolidate the Restoring Family Links programme further by working with hostels and partner organizations that help migrants along their journeys.

We will keep spreading practical advice among migrants to make them better prepared and less vulnerable, and pushing for detention to be used only as a last resort and not for minors.

We will also keep calling for countries to consider before deporting a migrant whether there are grounds to believe that they may be persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, or social or political affiliation or they may be tortured or subjected to other forms of ill-treatment, and for countries to uphold the principle of non-refoulement, in

The phenomenon of migration is inseparable from the history of humanity. There has always been and will always be migration. As a society we cannot settle for reactive or shortterm initiatives. The dignity of migrants reflects on our own dignity. For them and for us, we must work together to grant them the protection they are afforded by law and the help they need, as well as the respectful and humane treatment that they deserve. Those 45,000 minutes of hope are not enough.

> Since October 2018, thousands of people from northern Central America have formed caravans fleeing violence and poverty. Every single one of them has a family waiting for a phone call and to hear the words "I'm safe."



The National Red Cross Societies in the region and the ICRC offer practical advice to migrants, as well as emphasizing the need to alleviate the hardships they endure



FACTS AND FIGURES 2018

58 schools participated in programmes

run by the Mexican Red Cross and the ICRC,

COMMUNITIES AFFECTED **BY VIOLENCE**



MIGRANTS AND DISPLACED PEOPLE



100,000 phone calls

were made by migrants using 62 posts operated by migrant shelters and the Mexican Red Cross.



15.000

of those phone calls were offered to migrants travelling in caravans.



More than 5,000 pupils and 174 teachers

in which 16,700 students and 660 teachers ben-

efited from education programmes and support.

were targeted by the launch of the Club Mundos (Worlds Club) training programme on humanitarian principles run with the National Electoral Institute.

CLUB MUNDOS EDUCATION PROGRAMME ON COEXISTENCE AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION		
Description	Education initiative to provide training in humanitarian values and civic education.	
Purpose	To foster the knowledge and skills required for positive coexistence, based on recognition for human dignity and human rights.	
Target audience	Students in the fourth, fifth and sixth years of primary school, teachers and head teachers.	
Partner organizations	The education departments of Guerrero, Veracruz and Chihuahua, the National Electoral Institute and the ICRC.	
Scope	168 schools in Chihuahua, Guerrero and Veracruz.	

18,500 migrants

benefited from infrastructure improvements in 14 shelters run by charities and supported by the ICRC.



39.000 migrants received leaflets

containing practical advice handed out in Mexico and Central America.



26,000 migrants received

health-related support from the Mexican Red Cross and the ICRC at eight assistance points.



56 amputee migrants

received physical rehabilitation services, artificial limbs and orthotic devices with the support of the Mexican Red Cross.



30 Central American migrants

deported from the United States who had suffered physical or sexual violence or been injured or seriously ill received medical consultations, medication and surgical supplies, and transport services provided by ICRC partners in line with their needs.



100 health professionals

Veracruz and Cuauhtemoc (Chihuahua).

52 mental health professionals

participated in three specialized training courses on treating

people with wounds from firearms and explosives in Acapulco,

worked together on providing better psychological care for victims of violence in school settings in Ciudad Juarez and Matamoros.



Almost 800 migrants

were visited in migration holding centres in Iztapalapa, La Ventosa, Mexicali, Saltillo, San Luis Potosi, Tapanatepec and Tijuana.



180 police officers

in Puebla, Chihuahua and Tijuana (Baja California) participated in four workshops on policing and migration, the use of force and migrants' rights.



Noel and Yeyson, from Honduras, both had accidents on the migration route. Listen to them talking about their rehabilitation process.

These are the stories of some people who have migrated in the hope of starting a new life. They all

assistance point in Ciudad Serdan, Puebla.

passed through the Mexican Red Cross and ICRC



MISSING PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES



120 leaders of 65 associations

of families of missing people and 30 experts from civil society and international organizations participated in two national meetings to set the priorities for implementing the Missing Persons Act at the national and state levels.



Authorities and family associations

in Veracruz and Coahuila received support to draft their state laws on missing persons.

800 burial recesses for the remains



of unidentified people were built in Guerrero and two ossuaries were built in Guerrero and Puebla.





were brought into line with standards in Coahuila, Mexico state, Guerrero, Jalisco, Puebla and Veracruz as part of a collaboration between the forensic authorities and the ICRC.

215 forensic specialists and legal officials



received training in forensic disciplines and the implementation of the Missing Persons Act.

Tamaulipas, Jalisco and Sonora states



installed the database donated by the ICRC to the country's public prosecution service in 2018, bringing to 28 the number of states that use this IT tool.

workshop was organized at the iional Conference on Migration



in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).





PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY



interviews were conducted with people deprived of their liberty during 15 visits to 4 federal detention centres.

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ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES



400 commanders

63 officials

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3,400 members of the armed forces,

including 400 commanders, were trained in the use of force participated in a joint army-navy workshop on the rules and 63 officials were trained as trainers.

25 officials

governing military operations.



30 members participated in a pilot workshop

on lessons learned in military operations with the Naval Secretariat as part of a training course for trainers.



62 members of the federal police,

including 37 commanders, attended courses on human rights and humanitarian principles as applied to policing.

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80 officials and members of forces that could be

deployed on peacekeeping operations participated in conferences on international humanitarian law and the use of force.

120 people participated in two training courses

on international humanitarian law for civil servants, academics and students.

WORK WITH THE MEXICAN RED CROSS

Safer Access Framework



6.200 VOLUNTEERS WERE TRAINED IN RISK MANAGEMENT AND FOSTERING ACCEPTANCE OF

Caring for Carers programme



520 VOLUNTEERS FROM 14 STATES

physical and mental well-being.



36 VOLUNTEERS

received training in ways to protect their were trained in psychological first aid.



26 TRAINING COURSES WERE GIVEN

in stress and basic psychological support for trainers and volunteers.



80 VOLUNTEERS RECEIVED CARE

following critical incidents experienced by Mexican Red Cross staff.



31 VOLUNTEERS RECEIVED

mental health and psychosocial support in Guerrero, Sinaloa, Tamaulipas and Veracruz.



2 VEHICLES WERE DONATED,

and infrastructure improvements made, in Mexican Red Cross facilities in Zapata and Acapulco.

INTRODUCTION

The 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 and improve respect for people's fundamental rights by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

The regional delegation for Mexico and Central America has its headquarters in Mexico City and permanent offices in San Salvador, Tegucigalpa, Guatemala City and Managua.

The ICRC began working in Mexico in 1994, after the Zapatista National Liberation Army launched a series of armed attacks against the Mexican government in Chiapas. The ICRC obtained permission to visit those detained in connection with the clashes. In 2002, the Mexican government and the ICRC signed a headquarters agreement and the regional delegation for Mexico and Central America was established.

The ICRC works closely with the Mexican Red Cross to address the humanitarian needs of communities affected by violence and of migrants. Specifically, the ICRC mainly focuses its efforts on:

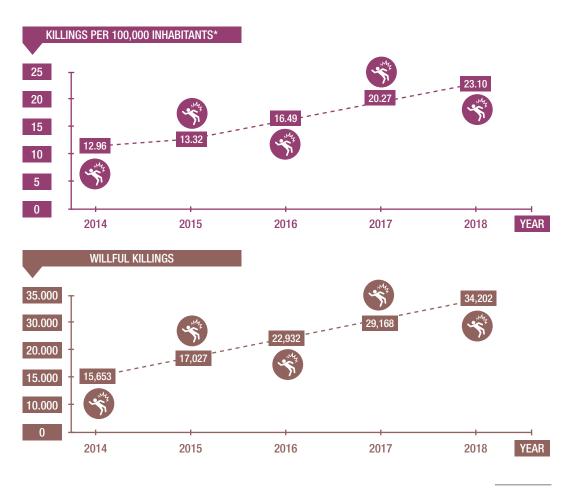


The ICRC also works with the security forces to promote and integrate international norms and standards in their law enforcement operations and raise awareness of various humanitarian issues.

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HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

In 2018, the high levels of violence in Mexico continued to cause suffering and had serious humanitarian consequences. The violence resulted in people being killed (34,202 in 2018, i.e. 23.10 for every 100,000 people), wounded, missing, displaced and leaving the country. The violence also hindered the delivery of basic education and health-care services.



*Source: Executive Secretariat, National Public Security System.

EFFORTS FOR COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE

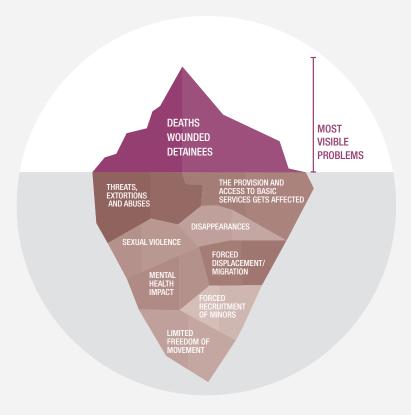
In recent years the high levels of violence in the region, which takes various forms, have had significant consequences for the population and directly and indirectly affect the lives and development of both individuals and communities.

The ICRC strives to strengthen communities' resilience mechanisms to prevent and mitigate the humanitarian consequences of the violence. We focus on improving communities' access to essential health-care and education services.



Urban violence in Latin America, what it is and what the ICRC is doing about it.

As part of our joint efforts with the Mexican Red Cross in some of the worst-affected areas, we base our action on the following objectives:



- (1) MEET THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE THROUGH EITHER DIRECT ASSISTANCE OR A SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE
- (2) STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES' RESILIENCE
- (3) STRENGTHEN, RESTORE OR CREATE SAFE SPACES AND SERVICES IN AFFECTED COMMUNITIES
- (4) FOSTER A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR PREVENTING AND MITIGATING THE HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES OF THE VIOLENCE
- (5) INFLUENCE THE BEHAVIOUR AND LEADERS OF ARMED GROUPS IN RELATION TO ISSUES SUCH AS THE SAFETY OF HEALTH WORKERS AND SERVICES, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, ILL-TREATMENT AND THE USE OF FORCE.

In terms of education, the ICRC works with a network of partner organizations at the local, state and national levels, including the education authorities, Mexican Red Cross, National Electoral Institute and schools in Tamaulipas, Chihuahua, Guerrero and Veracruz. In 2018, we also enjoyed the support of the SM Foundation.

In terms of health care, our collaboration with health departments, National Red Cross Societies and medical institutions in the region has enabled us to organize specialized seminars on treating wounds from firearms and explosives for emergency department staff, surgeons and other medical personnel working in prehospital and hospital environments.

Respecting and safeguarding the dignity and safety of the communities and our teams are paramount. We strive for the best possible proximity, understanding and dialogue with the people we serve.

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RESULTS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

■ NORTH-WEST Ciudad Juarez and Valle de Juarez, Chihuahua



Purpose

Scope

More than 4,600 students

from 17 secondary schools in Ciudad Juarez used teaching materials from the *Creating Humanitarian Spaces* programme.



CREATING HUMANITARIAN SPACES

DescriptionInitiative conducted since 2012 with the Mexican Red Cross to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of violence in communities.

To raise awareness and promote behaviour based on humanitarian values of respecting and protecting people's lives and dignity and helping to mitigate the consequences of violence and rebuild the social fabric.

Target audience Teachers and pupils in primary and secondary schools in Ciudad Juarez and Valle de Juarez, as well as the pupils' parents and communities.

Partner The health, education and sports departments of Chihuahua, the Mexican Red Cross and the ICRC.

In 2018, 17 schools in Ciudad Juarez, plus a psychosocial support strategy rolled out in 7 schools in Valle de Juarez.

7 schools in Valle de Juarez developed innovation projects that involved setting up a professional inter-school network to address children and teenagers' mental health and psychosocial needs.

Teachers in Valle de Juarez were put in touch with the health department to refer cases to mental health professionals.

Mexican Red Cross teams followed through on the psychosocial support strategy by training teachers in four schools in basic psychosocial support.



Action taken

150 pupils

participated in psychosocial activities in schools.



263 pupils participated

in education activities run with Mexican Red Cross volunteers.



82 teachers

received first-aid training.



28 teachers and head teachers

were trained to develop strategies with parents using mediation and art to forge stronger school–family ties.



76 teachers participated

in the *Caring for Carers* programme in which the Mexican Red Cross and the ICRC trained them to develop self-care and psychosocial support tools for their pupils.



50 students

were referred for mental health care through the specialized public services strengthened with help from the ICRC.

42 psychologists were trained to treat victims of violence:





28 from the health department

63 teachers were trained

to provide basic psychosocial support and stress management to students and their parents.

14 from the Mexican Red Cro



100 participants attended 4 courses

on basic treatment of emergencies and specialized cases for staff from health centres and the general hospital run in collaboration with the Mexican Red Cross in Cuauhtemoc (Chihuahua).

Building resilience in school communities

■ CENTRE AND NORTH-EAST



13 schools

led resilience programmes in communities in Matamoros (Tamaulipas).



400 students

participated in psychosocial activities.



750 students



and 50 teachers

implemented the Telling Stories, Forging Ties strategy in the 2017–2018 school year in four border districts of Matamoros (Tamaulipas): El Control, Ramirez, Ebanito and Sandoval.



108 health professionals

were trained in advanced first aid, basic emergency medicine and treating wounds from firearms and explosives.



64 teachers and police officers

participated in five basic first-aid courses in schools.





25 people were identified, treated and referred

to specialized services by medical personnel in the El Control and Ramirez districts of Matamoros who had previously been trained in basic psychosocial and emotional support.



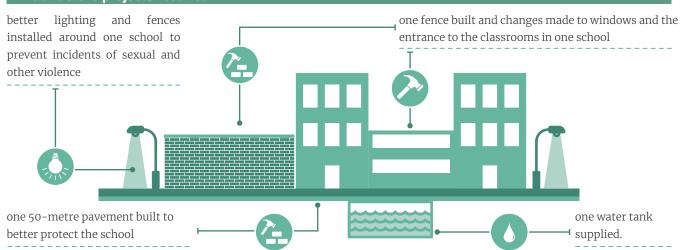
23 psychologists from medical institutions

in Matamoros received specific training in mental health and psychosocial support.

Students work on positive behaviour in Tamaulipas.



Infrastructure projects resulted in:



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PACIFIC





fun community workshops

to rebuild social ties in Zapata and surrounding neighbourhoods in Acapulco (Guerrero).



schools participated in the *Club Mundos*

training programme on humanitarian principles, resilience and better living habits in Acapulco.



health professionals

working in health centres in Guerrero, Simon Bolivar and Zapata II participated in three workshops on treating victims of violence run in collaboration with the Mexican Red Cross in Zapata.

Nine skaters were given disposable cameras by the

ICRC to document life in their neighbourhoods

- here are four of their stories



Medical and physiotherapy equipment was donated to a clinic in a health centre in Zapata



basic community hospitals

in Guerrero took part in a course on treating wounds from firearms and explosives.



6 workshops on operational security and communication were held to improve the access of Mexican Red Cross volunteers and staff in Guerrero.

■ SOUTH



in skills development for upper primary school pupils to promote to train pedagogical advisers to develop skills to foster from the education department previously trained by the ICRC.



TRAINERS WERE TRAINED

humanitarian education through a network of outreach officers social cohesion and resilience as part of humanitarian education efforts.



FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION VISITS

were carried out to schools in Poza Rica, Papantla, Veracruz, Medellin, Boca del Rio, Xalapa and Emiliano Zapata.



86 HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WERE

trained to provide basic life-saving care.



27 DOCTORS SPECIALIZED

in emergency medicine, internal medicine, orthopaedics and general surgery were trained in treating firearm wounds.



A JOINT INITIATIVE WITH THE VERACRUZ EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

set up the Tell me about your school tool to map and mitigate risks in school communities.



7 SCHOOLS IN PUERTO DE VERACRUZ RECEIVED TRAINING

in the developing intelligence through art methodology to strengthen ties in their school communities, as well as support to boost their resilience and risk-management capacity in their local environments.



22 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED IN THE CLUB MUNDOS

training programme on humanitarian principles, resilience took part in a pilot programme to replicate the Club Mundos and better living habits in Veracruz.



100 SCHOOLS IN VERACRUZ

programme in other parts of the state.



WHAT WE DO FOR MIGRANTS AND DISPLACED PEOPLE



Migration figures rose in 2018 compared to 2017, according to statistics from the US Department of Homeland Security. With no intention of either promoting or discouraging migration, and with a purely humanitarian focus, the ICRC adapted its efforts to this situation and provided services to migrants facing new vulnerabilities.

Last year many individuals and families continued to leave their countries to escape violence. A new type of migration also emerged with thousands of people moving in caravans.

EFFORTS FOR MIGRANTS IN CARAVANS		
Objectives	Provide protection and assistance to migrants in Mexico.	
Target audience	Groups of migrants who are in transit, in migration detention or have been deported.	
Partner organizations	The Mexican Red Cross and the relevant federal, state or local authorities.	
Main actions		15,000 free phone calls provided to migrants in Mexico and 7,000 in Guatemala.
		Circulating and promoting a WhatsApp number (+52 1 55 80 12 9055) to communicate practical advice through digital means with a view to exponentially increasing its reach (number also available for shelters and National Society volunteers).
		Issuing recommendations to improve living conditions in the Benito Juarez, El Barretal and Magdalena Mixhuca sports centres and in the Feria Mesoamericana stadium, which were being used as temporary shelters for migrants.
		Issuing recommendations to promote respect for migrants and compliance with international standards on the use of force.
		Monitoring conditions of capture, transfer, detention and deportation of migrants from the United States to Mexico.

More than 500,000 migrants are estimated to have travelled through Mexico and Central America, according to measurements by and conversations with the Mexican Secretariat of the Interior's Migration Policy Unit. Some 108,000 Central Americans were deported from Mexico to Central America, while more than 300,000 migrants from Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and El Salvador were deported from the United States, according to official figures.

In Mexico, working with the Mexican Red Cross, the ICRC raised migrants' awareness of their basic rights, ways to reduce risks and the location of shelters along the migration route throughout the year.

The ICRC also held workshops in various parts of the country for shelters and hostels run by civil society organizations on housing and helping migrants and on migrants' vulnerabilities and rights in collaboration with MSF, the IOM and UNHCR.

We also participated actively in providing assistance to migrant caravans travelling through Central American to the Mexican border with the United States, along with charitable, governmental and other international organizations.



We initiated our Restoring Family Links services by providing phone calls, and stepped them up by setting up recharge centres for mobile phone and mobile Wi-Fi hotspots to bring our operations in line with the technological reality of human mobility.

We also continued visiting migration holding and detention centres to:

- monitor respect for the dignity of migrants in terms of their treatment, living conditions and health care
- · ensure that migrants were informed about their rights to apply for asylum and able to exercise that right
- promote alternatives to migration detention for particularly vulnerable groups.

Share our recommendations with the National Migration Institute and the Mexican Commission for Helping Refugees with a view to making migration detention the exception rather than the norm.

We also monitored the conditions of Mexican citizens being deported from the United States in order to:

- · check that deportation processes were carried out in line with national and international laws and standards
- guarantee that migrants' safety and dignity were respected
- improve the circumstances of those who could face particular difficulties because they feared for their safety or might struggle to return to Mexico after many years in the United States
- improve the conditions of migrants in holding centres and promote the use of alternatives.



RESULTS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA



10,300 free phone calls

were provided to migrants and deportees in 17 locations.

2,800 free phone calls

were provided in Tijuana, in El Barretal temporary shelter, which took in the first migrant caravan.



9,400 migrants travelling to or having

been deported from the United States received medical treatment in Mexican Red Cross mobile clinics and in shelters offering basic health care.



3,900 migrants

were given water and chlorine tablets in Altar and Caborca (Sonora).



6 charity shelters benefited from

infrastructure improvements: 3 in Tijuana and the others in Mexicali, Ciudad Juarez and Mazatlan.

■ 3 workshops

were given to boost the shelters' capacity in all areas related to working with migrants in Baja California and Sonora, including one for the Mexican Red Cross.

■ 3 visits were made

to migration holding centres in Tijuana and Mexicali to assess the migrants' conditions and treatment, contact with their families and respect for their procedural safeguards.

■ NORTH-WEST ■ CENTRE AND NORTH-EAST



2,000 basic medical consultations

were provided in two shelters in Reynosa (Tamaulipas) and another 600 for deportees in the medical post in Acuña (Coahuila).



16,300 free phone calls

and internet access were provided to migrants and deportees in 29 locations.



5 shelters

in Ciudad Acuña, Nuevo Laredo, Reynosa (2) and Saltillo benefited from infrastructure improvements.



3 visits were made

to migration holding centres in Iztapalapa (Mexico City) and San Luis Potosi to monitor the migrants' living conditions and treatment, explore alternatives to detention, ensure they could contact their families and check that their rights and the principle of non-refoulement were being upheld.



The deportation conditions

of Mexicans in Acuña, Piedras Negras, Nuevo Laredo, Reynosa and Matamoros were monitored. In Tamaulipas there was a 44% increase in the number of deportees in 2018 (almost 70,000) compared to 2017 (48,200).



A working group was held

to coordinate the joint response with the Mexican Red Cross and the Tamaulipas authorities to the basic needs of migrants facing particular vulnerability factors.

9 civil society organizations

in Mexico and the United States took part in a meeting on migration in Monterrey.



Assistance was provided to facilitate

the exchange of information on 127 cases of missing Central American migrants between the Tamaulipas public prosecutor's office and the Border Project (Proyecto Frontera).



PACIFIC



4,000 phone calls and internet access

were provided to migrants in three locations.



An assessment was made of the shelters for migrants in Jalisco.



Advice was provided to the Tepic local authorities and Human Rights Commission on a joint shelter construction project.



1.200

drugs were donated to treat

people in Filo de Caballos

and surrounding communities in Chichihualco (Guerrero) who were displaced by violence in November 2018, most of whom were children or elderly.

■ SOUTH



12,100 PHONE CALLS AND INTERNET ACCESS

were provided to migrants and deportees in 12 locations.



11,920 BASIC MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS

were provided to migrants in collaboration with the Mexican Red Cross at various mobile assistance posts in Tenosique (Tabasco), Palenque (Chiapas), Ciudad Serdan (Puebla) and, temporarily, in Tapachula.



36 SERIOUSLY INJURED PEOPLE

in Tapachula (Chiapas) received donations of prostheses, internal fixation devices, wheelchairs and crutches.



5 MIGRANT SHELTERS RECEIVED DRUGS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES.









1 NEW SHELTER IS BEING BUILT IN COATZACOALCOS



1 SHELTER, IN SANTA MARTHA CHURCH IN SALTO DE AGUA, CHIAPAS, RECEIVED DONATIONS OF BUILDING MATERIALS.









43 POLICE OFFICERS PARTICIPATED IN A WORKSHOP ON THE USE OF FORCE AND MIGRATION IN PUEBLA.

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WHAT WE DO FOR MISSING PEOPLE



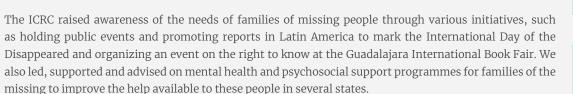
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The ICRC continues to step up its efforts to help the families of missing people and promote dignified management of unidentified dead bodies. To this end, in Mexico, the ICRC works in four areas:



In 2018 we brought together associations of families of missing people and experts from civil society and international organizations to set the priorities for the implementation of the Missing Persons Act at the national and state levels. We helped the authorities and associations in Veracruz and Coahuila to develop their state laws on missing people. We also submitted comments on the drafts of the Investigation Protocol, under the responsibility of the country's public prosecutor, and the Search Protocol, led by the National Search Commission.

As regards forensic expertise, the ICRC advised and guided work to improve information collection during autopsies, the structure of basic *post-mortem* reports and appropriate interment of unidentified remains. A video on *post-mortem* reports was finalized in 2018 and an assessment was made of the federal forensic genetics laboratory. Mexican forensic experts were encouraged to participate actively in international forums and networks. The ICRC promoted training for groups of forensic experts and worked with them to develop forensic documentation on identification that sets out approved and standardized processes and procedures.



Lastly, we continued providing support and advice at the federal and state levels to set up a forensic information management system to facilitate the handling of data on missing people and unidentified remains. In 2015 the ICRC donated an IT tool to the Mexican public prosecutor's office called the AM/PM Database, which has made it possible to improve identification processes by managing forensic data properly. The public prosecutor's office announced that it had entered 3,800 *ante-mortem* records and almost 2,500 *post-mortem* records. In addition, it had successfully determined the identity of 160 people using this IT tool.





ICRC training for two family associations in delivering mutual psychosocial support.

RESULTS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

■ NORTH-WEST



members of associations of families

of missing people participated in a workshop to raise awareness of the Missing Persons Act and the forensic procedures used in identifying the dead



An exploratory visit was mader

to Chihuahua with the expert services' coordinating body to present the project to build facilities to store unidentified bodies.



An assessment was conducted of the forensic science service

in Tijuana (Baja California), which deals with a high number of cases of interment of unidentified bodies in proportion to its population.





74 basic post-mortem reports

were reviewed in Coahuila and Mexico State to detect opportunities and make recommendations.



Technical advice in forensics

and infrastructure was provided as part of the construction of a state forensic identification centre in Coahuila.



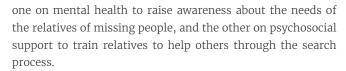
80 experts participated in workshops

on post-mortem fingerprint and forensic photography registers in Mexico state.

Technical advice was provided

as part of the controlled exhumations project in cemeteries, and recommendations were issued on the family support and identification facility in Mexico state.

42 people participated in two workshops



PACIFIC



20 Mexican forensic experts participated

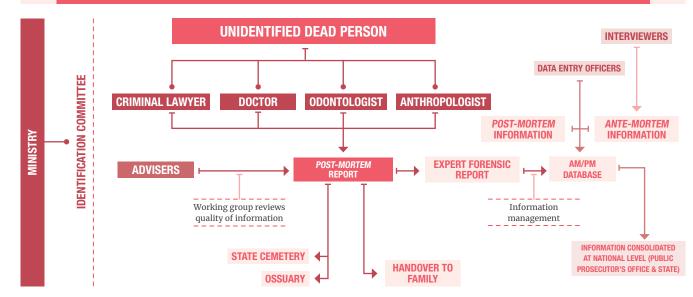
in the Guerrero Forensic Project (PFG 751), run with ICRC coordination and advice, to review and improve 751 basic postmortem reports on unidentified remains.

GUERRERO FORENSIC PROJECT (PFG 751)		
Objectives	Review 751 basic <i>post-mortem</i> reports to bring them up to the right standard.	
	Lay unidentified remains to rest in the state forensic cemetery.	
	Identify as many unidentified remains as possible and reduce the number of bodies kept refrigerated in the Guerrero forensic science service.	
	Build the technical capacity of the state forensic institutions.	
	Comply with the Missing Persons Act as regards forensic records.	
Partner organizations	Public prosecutor's office, Guerrero health department and the ICRC.	
Scope	Acapulco, Chilpancingo and Iguala forensic science services.	
Results	In 2018, 281 post-mortem reports on unidentified remains were completed.	
Replication	The experience of the Guerrero Project was shared with the Jalisco authorities.	



EACH CASE IN WHICH REMAINS ARE ANALYSED

REQUIRES THE INVOLVEMENT OF AT LEAST FOUR EXPERTS (CRIMINAL LAWYER, ANTHROPOLOGIST, ODONTOLOGIST AND DOCTOR





Technical advice and follow-up

were provided for the construction of new units at Chilpancingo forensic cemetery in Guerrero, where 14 of the 80 units each contain the remains of 320 unidentified people.



20 officials

from the missing persons bureau and the Forensic Science Institute in Jalisco were informed about the importance of forensic identification.



Technical advice was provided

made up of state officials and 25 representatives of five family

for the construction of an ossuary in Chilpancingo forensic service in Guerrero, where 79 bodies are interred.



to review and improve basic post-mortem reports, and 500 body bags and forensic equipment were donated to the Forensic Science Institute in Jalisco.

A technical forensic committee was set up



Training on mental health

and psychosocial support for victims was organized for officials working on human rights and missing people in Jalisco.



2 working groups were set up

Guidelines on interment in Guerrero were drafted.



Technical advice was provided

to review the cases and basic post-mortem reports of the remains of 450 unidentified people in Jalisco.



122 bodies were interred in Coyula

cemetery and 322 in Guadalajara cemetery (Jalisco).



The needs of families of missing people

and care pathways were assessed with the Jalisco Mental Health Institute, the Executive Commission for Victim Care, and the Jalisco state and Guadalajara council's system for comprehensive family development.



3 workshops were held with the police and forensic authorities

in Jalisco on good practices in forensic investigation, care for families and the Missing Persons Act.

■ SOUTH ■



THE ICRC WORKED ON THE IMPLEMENTATION

of the Missing Persons Act in Veracruz alongside the authorities, congress and families of missing people, and submitted observations and recommendations on Veracruz state's draft law on declaring missing persons and on the structure of the Citizens' State Council and the State Search Commission.



4 ASSOCIATIONS OF FAMILIES OF MISSING PEOPLE

in Veracruz participated in a workshop on their needs and strengthening their organization.



MATERIALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN OSSUARY

were donated to the forensic service of the high court of justice in Puebla state.



THE ICRC PARTICIPATED IN THE ADVISORY AND OBSERVER

council that led the emerging programme in response to the crisis of serious human rights violations in relation to missing people in Veracruz.



FORENSIC ADVICE AND SUPPORT WERE PROVIDED

to associations of families of missing people and the expert services secretariat of the Veracruz public prosecutor's office.



THE ICRC FACILITATED THE PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES

from Puebla and Veracruz in national groups working on *ante-mortem/post-mortem* data and on drafting national odontology and anthropology protocols.



WHAT WE DO FOR PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY



In 2018 the ICRC visited federal social reintegration centres to learn more about the Mexican federal penitentiary system, the situation of people deprived of their liberty and the treatment they receive prior to arrest and during the investigation of cases. This was made possible by the penitentiary collaboration agreement signed in 2016 with the National Security Commission, which includes authorization for the ICRC to visit federal social reintegration centres in Mexico.

The ICRC focused on the specific needs of women detainees in the women's detention facility in Coatlan del Rio (Morelos). In terms of health care, the ICRC is improving management of the penitentiary health-care system in Morelos state by facilitating the development of a new law on health care in prisons. We take part in a working group with the <u>state health department and the administrative body for prevention and social reintegration.</u> With this body, the ICRC organized the third workshop on prison management and infrastructure, which brought together 70 specialists from 15 Latin American countries to discuss how to solve common problems encountered in prisons based on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, also known as the Nelson Mandela Rules.

The ICRC also organized the regional workshop *Challenges in the Management of Penitentiary Centres for Women:* A Gender Focus, which brought together 36 Latin American managers of women's prisons in Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

The ICRC also supported the following initiatives:

- assessing the mental health of women prisoners in the Morelos social reintegration centre
- setting up a project to implement a progressive penitentiary regime with a view to improving the community skills of women prisoners reaching the end of their sentences.



WHAT WE DO TO PROMOTE AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH (PEOPLE'S LIVES AND DIGNITY ARE RESPECTED

The ICRC endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. This endeavour involves, on one hand, promoting, developing and fostering the implementation of international humanitarian law and other norms of international law and, on the other hand, raising awareness of the humanitarian challenges facing affected communities and ensuring that the ICRC's work to address those challenges is understood and facilitated.

1. PROMOTING AND INTEGRATING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND INTERNATIONAL **HUMAN RIGHTS LAW**

The ICRC's cooperation with the Mexican government, which has played an important role in various multilateral processes, extends to several areas, such as dialogue on the drafting of new international standards and support for the development of suitable domestic standards on supporting victims of violence. The ICRC supported Mexico's inter-ministerial commission on international humanitarian law to:

- conduct the ninth annual course for officials and academics
- hold a training seminar on international humanitarian law and its challenges for university professors
- organize an event to present the International Review of the Red Cross issue on migration and displacement.

After the Missing Persons Act came into effect, the ICRC worked on implementing it and on strengthening local legal frameworks, particularly in the states of Veracruz, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Puebla and Mexico, where we took part in events to raise awareness of and promote the Missing Persons Act and met with the authorities to put in place coordination agreements.

In academic circles, a team was set up at the National Autonomous University of Mexico to take part in the international Jean Pictet Competition on international humanitarian law, to be held in France in 2019, and whose purpose is to introduce students to the humanitarian reality of armed conflict through simulations and roleplay.

2. PROMOTING AND INTEGRATING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN THE ARMED AND **SECURITY FORCES**

In 2018 dialogue was stepped up with the armed and security forces on humanitarian issues. At the federal level, the ICRC interacted with the Secretariat of National Defence, the Naval Secretariat and the federal police through training activities and support for instructors trained by the ICRC.

Workshops were held with the Secretariat of National Defence and the Naval Secretariat on the use of force. A training course for instructors was given in both institutions on international standards on the powers of law enforcement officers. In all these activities discussions continued on the challenges faced by armed forces when taking part in public security operations.

The ICRC also gave lectures with the Secretariat of National Defence on the challenges of international humanitarian law and conducted academic activities in military training centres attended by some 1,500 members of the armed forces.



RESULTS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

■ NORTH-WEST



150 members of the Naval Secretariat

in Baja California Sur and the Secretariat of National Defence in Chihuahua participated in events on the use of force organized by the ICRC in collaboration the Secretariats' instructors.

■ CENTRE AND NORTH-EAST



Training on human rights

and policing was given to members of the federal police and the Secretariat of Public Safety in Mexico City.



62 trainers participated

in a training workshop on human rights, the use of force and humanitarian principles organized with the Secretariat of National Defence and the Naval Secretariat.

324 people participated in events on the use of force organized with the Secretaria of National Defence in Nuevo Leon.



9 federal police officers were trained



Matamoros (Tamaulipas).



from the Naval Secretariat participated in events on the use of force in Veracruz.



22 staff from the Secretariat

of National Defence and the Naval Secretariat were trained in managing firearm wounds in Matamoros (Tamaulipas).



23 senior and mid-ranking commanders

from the Naval Secretariat participated in events on the use of force in Matamoros (Tamaulipas).

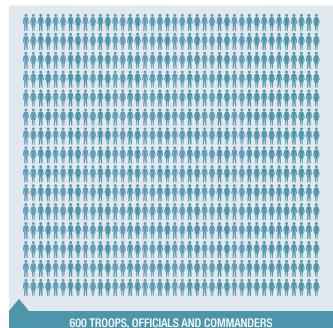


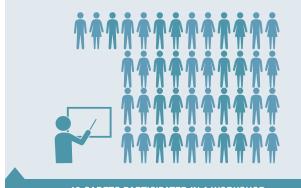
■ SOUTH



21 OFFICIALS AND TROOPS PARTICIPATED IN TRAINING

on the use of force at the Naval Pacific Operational Training Centre in Colima.





43 CADETS PARTICIPATED IN A WORKSHOP

on the use of force at the state police academy in Puebla.

WHAT WE DO TO SUPPORT THE MEXICAN RED CROSS



In 2018 the ICRC provided the Mexican Red Cross with technical and financial support to strengthen and implement the Safer Assess Framework. This methodology to mitigate the risks to which volunteers are exposed during operations focuses on strengthening their operational capacities and preventing risks, and on improving the acceptance, perception, access and safety of Red Cross staff in violent situations. Some 3,000 copies of the <u>Safer Access Framework</u> manuals were printed by the Mexican Red Cross.

Last year the ICRC-supported Caring for Carers programme came to an end. Over a two-year period, 520 Mexican Red Cross volunteers were trained to develop self-care and psychological support tools both among themselves and for the communities they serve.

More joint workshops on operational communication were held in 2018 in various Mexican states in response to the difficult situations faced by the Mexican Red Cross. This strengthened the Mexican Red Cross's capacity to equip volunteers to look after their mental health and psychosocial support needs. Methodological guides were developed to replicate the programme nationwide from 2019.



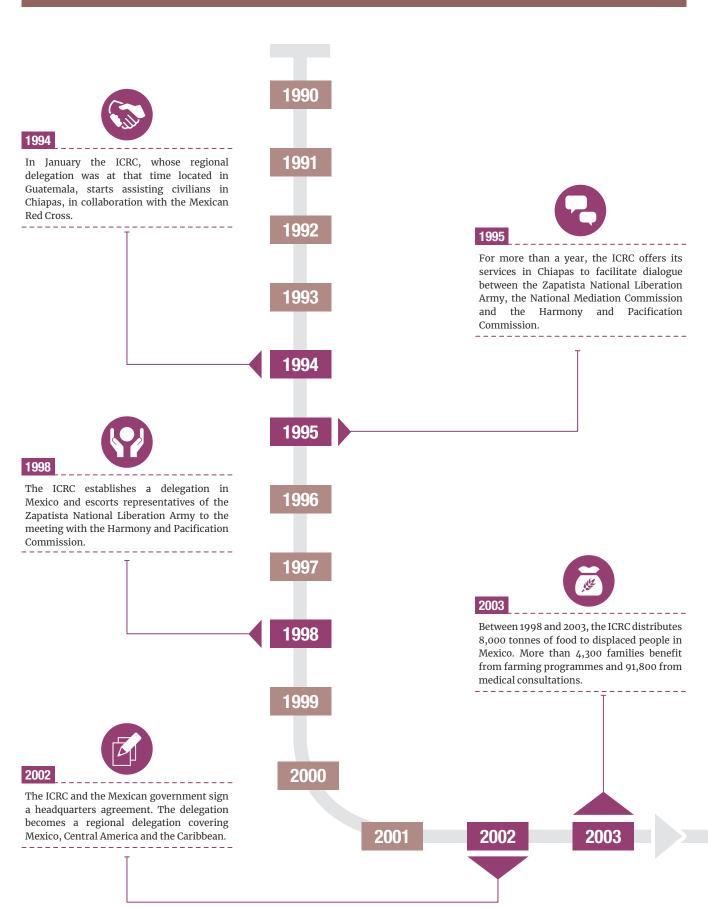


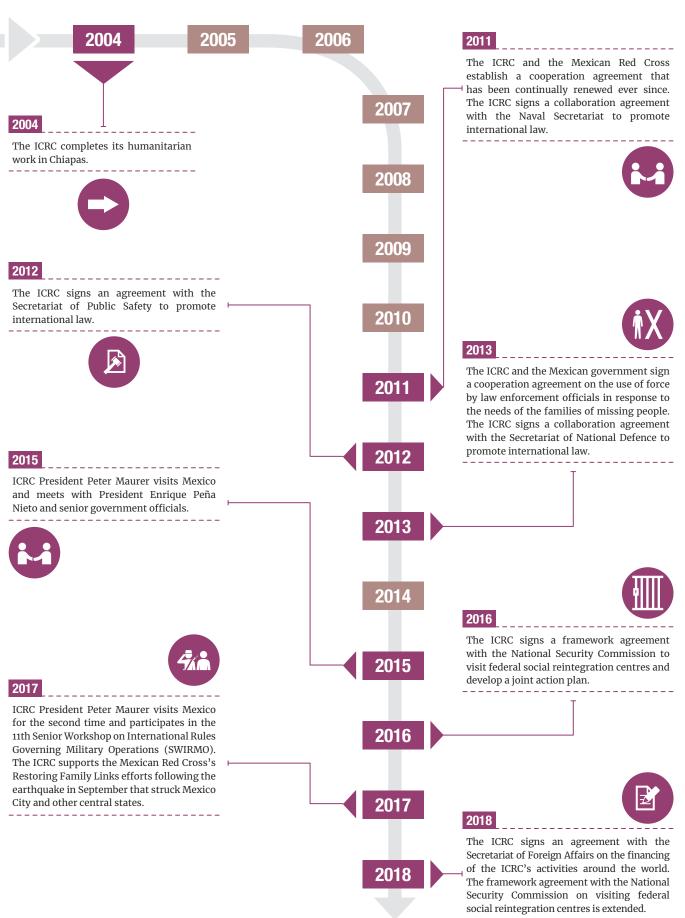
Situations of

violence that occur in some communities in Mexico can have psychosocial and mental health effects on teachers and students. Mayra, psychologist with the Red Cross in Chihuahua, explains how they train teachers in basic psychological support.

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TIMELINE











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