



ICRC

NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Activities

- First Aid Training session with Dawn TV Islamabad.
- Roundtable for media representatives and journalists in Karachi.
- Dissemination session on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) at National Defence University
- IHL training course at Armour School Nowshehra
- IHL training course for Air Force - Air War College & Air Force Academy
- IHL dissemination session at JAG department of GHQ
- 2 days seminar on Islamic rules of War and IHL in Rahim Yar Khan
- IHL certificate courses for the legal divisions of federal and provincial authorities.

Assisting the victims in NWFP

The humanitarian challenges for the population of North-Western Frontier Province (NWFP) are ongoing due to the armed violence. Although the need for peace is a common desire, the more urgent concern of the affected people is to have access to basic necessities of life.

Assisting victims of armed conflicts is the mandate of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which is working in this regard since 1864. Being present in the NWFP since 1981 to support Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion, the current situation is the focus of the ICRC's work. It coordinates its activities with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, authorities and other actors involved in the assistance in order to complement the effort.

In the NWFP, while running the already ongoing medical projects in Miranshah, Bannu, Tank and Peshawar for those injured by weapons, ICRC has advanced its endeavours. The Internally Displaced Persons in Swat were assisted by distributing blankets and soap to three hundreds families who had left their homes due to the crisis and shifted to safer places in Udigran, Tandodag and Qambar villages. The x-ray material and medical kits meant to treat and support hundred weapon-wounded patients injured during the clashes were also distributed in Sadda, Parachinar and Saidu Sharif hospitals, and requests for further assistance are followed.

The support to already existing structures remains a priority of the ICRC while directly helping the victims. Therefore, it has held workshops for more than 30 doctors and surgeons from FATA and NWFP about the techniques of war surgery and weapon-wound management. Concurrently, the ICRC has continued training courses for the armed forces across Pakistan, to minimize and prevent human damage during armed clashes. It is ready to enhance the sphere of its work depending upon the needs, which are estimated according to the neutral and independent assessment done by the ICRC in regions hit by violence.

Pascal Mauchle
Head of Delegation
ICRC Pakistan

July – December 2007:

An overview

- 17 detention visits to 13 prisons in Balochistan, the North West Frontier Province, Punjab and Sindh.
- More than 1,420 messages were collected and distributed both within Pakistan and to or from those held in Afghanistan or Guantanamo Bay.
- Around 500 weapon-wounded patients benefited from the medical services extended by the ICRC to the hospitals in NWFP and Balochistan.
- The ICRC orthopaedic program continued in Muzaffarabad, NWFP and Balochistan benefiting more than 1000 patients.
- Completed the livestock program in Pakistan-administered-Kashmir by distributing 1,307 cows and 1,288 calves to more than 9,000 beneficiaries in 43 villages.
- Accomplished the livelihood agricultural program by distributing 2,900 walnut saplings in Kaimanja, Chinarri and Gujarbandi Union Councils in Jhelum valley in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture as well as a one-day training session on planting for 2,665 beneficiaries in 21 villages.
- Assisted 188 displaced families with non-food items such as tarpaulins, blankets and clothes.
- A total of 95 rural water supply projects have been completed serving 70,000 earthquake-affected beneficiaries.



First Aid Training for the journalists

The freedom of journalists to exercise their profession falls outside the ICRC's mandate. However, the humanitarian issues involved in their disappearance or captivity in wartime or their detention in situations of internal disturbances and tensions are the matter of concern for the ICRC.

The present situation of Pakistan has marked an increase in physical risks for the population as well as journalists who face accidental incidents such as bomb blasts besides the hostile environment. As the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) is already running an extensive first aid training program in Pakistan for communities and institutions, the ICRC took the initiative to extend it to the media personnel as well in collaboration with the PRCS. The first two-day session thus took place in December, which was attended by 14 journalists from the Dawn newspaper Islamabad. The PRCS trainers gave lectures as well as did simulation exercises with the participants regarding the first aid techniques. Given the very encouraging response to it, the ICRC has planned to extend it to other media institutions in Pakistan.

Home Care Project

The ICRC has launched a Home Care Project (HCP) in NWFP that aims to provide assistance for the population with spinal cord injuries population, support their social reintegration and enables them to live in their place of origin in dignity and optimal functional independency. It also supports the family and national community rehabilitation providers to develop their skills and knowledge.



The beneficiaries of the HCP get orthoses, walking frames, crutches and sticks, standing tables, wheel chairs, seat- and back cushions etc. with certain exercises and trainings by an ICRC expert. These physical aids are manufactured at Pakistan Institute of Prosthetic and Orthotic Sciences PIPOS. For this purpose, the patients are either visited at their homes by the ICRC team, or they are brought to the Paraplegic Centre Hayatabad in Peshawar for treatment. A regular follow-up is maintained with the patients after the treatment, to note the condition as well as medical needs of the patient.

Re-establishment of family links: the capacity building of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society

The ICRC is efficiently committed to provide the re-establishment of family links (RFL) services, which is one of the core activities of the ICRC, since its very presence in Pakistan. One part of the ICRC RFL activities is to cooperate and build the capacity of the Pakistani Red Crescent Society in the field of civilian-to-civilian RFL activities by organizing tracing training workshops and orientation sessions for the PRCS staff members and the volunteers working in the field.

In this regard, the ICRC in collaboration with the National Headquarters of the PRCS organized RFL workshops and orientation sessions in the provincial headquarters of Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab, N.W.F.P and the State Branch of Pakistani Administered Kashmir started from November 2007 until January 2008.

The orientations mainly focused on offering an overview of the RFL services, which the PRCS provides to the beneficiaries. The topics covered during the orientation sessions mainly encompassed the general introduction to the civilian-to-civilian tracing activities of the PRCS, management and handling of RFL tools like Red Cross/Crescent Messages, tracing requests, welfare enquiries helpful to restore the contacts between the family members separated due to natural disasters. In addition, the protection of unaccompanied minors in peacetime and during emergencies was also discussed, so the PRCS can extend its services to identify and meet the existing RFL needs.

In order to have a more cohesive approach as far as the existing RFL infrastructure and activities of the PRCS is concerned; the ICRC/PRCS are presently in the process of finalising an on-line tracing and volunteer database to be installed in the PRCS NHQ and the Provincial HQs. The compilation of database would be momentous to bridge the existing gaps and to monitor the performance of the PRCS branches in regards to its RFL services.

Presently, the plans are also underway to find possible ways to exploit the potential strength of the PRCS in accordance with the existing national mechanisms in relation to disaster management in order to identify its prospective role during natural disasters.



IHL Dissemination session with police in Quetta

Promotion of IHL

The ICRC continues to maintain and strengthen contacts with the national authorities in Pakistan with a view to promoting international humanitarian law and gaining support for the ICRC's activities.

During this period, the ICRC also continued to support and assist the Pakistani armed forces to integrate IHL into their doctrine, training and education programmes and to improve their capacity to teach the law. It also sought to strengthen knowledge and respect for IHL among other sectors of society.

To this end, the ICRC between July and December 2007,

- Conducted 4 IHL dissemination sessions and 4 instructional courses at key training establishments.
- Sponsored a senior officer to participate in an IHL workshop in Switzerland.
- Sponsored a university professor to attend the 11th South Asian teaching session on IHL in India.
- Organized its annual moot court competition with the participation of 45 students across Pakistan.
- Held seminars on the compatibility of basic principles of IHL and Islamic Law in Bagh and in Multan for teachers, scholars and female madrassah students.
- Strengthened contacts with the Pakistani media through bilateral meetings in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore and Peshawar.





ICRC Orthopaedic Program



**War Surgery Seminar for doctors
from FATA & NWFP**



**First Aid
training
lecture &
exercises**



**Construction of water supply
scheme by the ICRC**



ICRC Irrigation Scheme in Kashmir