Dear Readers,

I am glad to share with you the fourth edition of the ICRC Pakistan newsletter. This newsletter aims to keep you informed about our various activities in Pakistan, the wonderful people and organizations we work with and last but not the least, the people we work for.

The approach of ICRC in Pakistan is to contribute to the building of in-country capacity and expertise, in order to address the humanitarian challenges that so many face. We are doing so by joining hands with credible and committed local organizations and individuals - public and private - in order to achieve impact which is sustainable and result oriented. In Particular we partner with some leading organizations and institutes of Pakistan in the fields of health, physical rehabilitation, forensics and promotion of international humanitarian law.

Another prominent feature of our methodology in Pakistan is the focus on transfer of knowledge and bringing together local and global expertise in a bid to reach excellence – be it in the provision of physical rehabilitation services or dignified management of mortal remains or addressing violence against healthcare.

At present, the ICRC in Pakistan is dedicating huge efforts and resources in organizing trainings in the fields of surgical treatment of weapon-wounded patients, mass casualty response in hospitals, de-escalation of violence in healthcare settings, management of mortal remains in disasters and emergencies, community based first aid and promoting safe behaviours in areas affected by mines and other unexploded ordnance or other explosive materials. Additionally, we run an extensive training program for armed forces, police and academic circles on international humanitarian law and human rights laws.

It is worth mentioning here that the start of 2017 brought us a great joy, happiness and contentment when seven Pakistanis,
who were detained in Yemen, were repatriated from Yemen after more than a decade. The sight of their family members hugging their loved ones with tearful eyes outside the Islamabad airport is something I will cherish for a long time. The ICRC facilitated the repatriation of these Pakistani fishermen upon the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan. Moments like this renew the motivation of me and my team to fulfill our mandate and serve humanity each and every day. At the end, I wish the year 2017 brings peace and happiness for Pakistan. Take care of yourselves and the people around you.

Reto Stocker, Head of Delegation, ICRC Pakistan

IN CONVERSATION WITH RAFIA QASEEM BAIG

Rafia is working as a member of the Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU) of KP Police. She has broken new ground in this otherwise male-dominated profession and became the first-ever woman of Pakistan joining the BDU. Rafia has two Masters degrees— in economics and international relations. Following her footsteps more women have since joined the BDU. The ICRC works closely with BDU as part of its program on community-based risk education related to mines and unexploded ordnance.

When and how did you join KP Police?
I joined KP police on 17th December 2009, when militancy was at its peak. At that time KP police force needed more manpower as many precious lives of police officials and civilians were lost in security incidents. There were openings for positions of constable where I applied. I successfully passed all the recruitment tests and was appointed as a constable.

What inspired you to be part of BDU team?
One day, I was going to hospital with my mother and on the way I witnessed a huge blast near session courts in Peshawar in which several people including civilians and police officials were killed. My mother got scared and asked me to resign from police but I was determined to work as police officer for my country. After that incident, I heard the great stories of some of the bravest officials of the BDU like Hukam Khan, Abdul Razia Tiger and Zahid. Inspired, that was the time when I decided to join BDU without any second thought.

How difficult was it to stand against all the odds and join BDU?
It was extremely difficult to stand against all the customs and norms of our society for shattering the stigma of female joining the BDU. Secondly, there was no example of any female BDU member before. But I think when you have guts to take risks then there is nothing which can stop you achieving your goals. I always follow this quote which says that people will always throw stones on you, it depends whether you make a wall of difficulties or a bridge towards success with those stones.

For more updates on the BDU and the ICRC’s work on mines and unexploded ordnance, visit our website.
As a woman, did you ever thought of quitting Police job?
No, I never thought of quitting my job for a moment. I feel proud of my department and its officials, and wish that I could serve in police till the last breath of my life as this department gave me a lot of respect and prestige being a woman.

How did you manage to compose your self during high risk incidents and witnessing the pain of victims?
It’s part of our training that we have to control our nerves and be stronger, during that time I only think about saving people’s life as much as we can in short period of time. In an emergency period we usually don’t have time to focus on anything except life safety as this is our core responsibility.

What steps do you think government can take to improve BDU?
The government should focus more on capacity building of BDU staff and also give them exposure to international standards and new technologies to deal with explosives. As exposure to new technologies is the need of the country to make it safer.

How do you foresee the future of young ladies in Police and BDU?
I foresee a bright future for ladies in Police and especially BDU as the staff of the department is supportive and they understand the role of females in making Pakistan safer. Since Pakistan is among the fastest developing countries so the role of females cannot be neglected in any field for competing with the world.

REVISED POLICE MANUAL HANDBOOK ON USE OF FORCE

The National Police Bureau, the ICRC and the Research Society of International Law launched a revised version of the publication ‘Frequently Applied Police Laws & Criminal Procedures’. The Manual includes all police procedures and laws relevant to law enforcement agencies. The manual also contains sections on the use of force and preventive detention. This manual will go a long way to ensuring compliance with human rights and humanitarian laws while conducting law enforcement operations by police in Pakistan. Officials of the National Police Bureau resolved to take the awareness and training of police forces on this manual down to the police station level.
PROMOTING CRICKETING ACTIVITIES AMONG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

In line with its efforts to promote social inclusion of people with physical disabilities, the ICRC continued promoting sporting activities in 2016, notably cricket. The ICRC is collaborating with Pakistan Disabled Cricket Association (PDCA) to promote cricket among players with physical disabilities. The year 2016 saw two major milestones. First was the organization of 5th ICRC National Disabled Cricket Championship in Karachi which was attended by 16 teams from regions across Pakistan. The championship was opened with a grand ceremony on the occasion of Pakistan’s Independence Day and attended by more than 250 players with physical disabilities from across the country. For the second consecutive year, the team from Multan won the title of national champions. The final match was live telecasted on Geo Super. Cash prizes and other gifts including five motorbikes were distributed among the teams and players who showed distinction in bowling, batting and fielding.

The second milestone was the victory of Team Pakistan of the ICC Academy Physically Disabled T20 Tournament in Dubai. It was a three nation tournament with teams from England, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Team Pakistan won the final by defeating England. ICRC supported the squads from Pakistan and Bangladesh to attend the tournament in Dubai. Upon their return, acknowledging the wonderful performance of the team, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) organized a reception in the honour of winning squad at their headquarters in Lahore. Acknowledgement and appreciation from the PCB was a dream come true for both the PDCA and the players.

Physical Rehabilitation Program (July-December 2016)

- More than 16,000 patients have been treated including 700 children in the 19 ICRC supported centres in Baluchistan, Punjab, KP and Pakistan-administered Kashmir.
- The ICRC continued to promote the social reintegration of children with disabilities. 130 disabled children from FATA, KP and Pakistan-Administered Kashmir are being supported with their education.
- 09 persons with disabilities benefitted from a livelihood program supported by ICRC. 11 amputee children were consulted by orthopaedic surgeon, 05 of them underwent corrective surgery. Social inclusion camps and sports days were sponsored for some disabled children of FATA, KP and Pakistan-administered Kashmir.
- World disability day was celebrated on 3 December in all 19 ICRC supported centres.
Health

- In collaboration with PRC, the ICRC provided 27,613 consultations to patients at TDP Camp, Baka Khel, Bannu.

- The ICRC supported the PRC to provide consultations to 5,547 patients at Primary Healthcare Center, Torkham.

- 02 sessions of University Module titled ‘Clinical Management of Weapon Wounded Patients’ designed for post graduate trainees in Surgery and allied fields were conducted. The Courses were accredited for 30 CME hours each.

- 02 Emergency Room Trauma Courses (ERTC) were conducted. The Courses were accredited for 15 CME hours through Dow University of Health Sciences Karachi and Khyber Teaching University, Peshawar.

- 1,466 individuals from ICRC partner organisations, including journalists, security forces, students and others, were trained on basic and advanced First Aid principles.

- Structural and managerial support to Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar continued.

- ICRC support to Jamrud hospital started in October 2016. Renovation work for the Emergency Department has been completed and installation of medical equipment is in process.

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LAUDABLE ASSOCIATION WITH LADY READING HOSPITAL

Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) in Peshawar is the largest hospital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It has also the largest Accident and Emergency department in the province and thousands of patients visit every day for treatment. The hospital has been designated as the main referral hospital for more than 25 district hospitals of KP and all FATA hospitals for emergency healthcare.

The ICRC is supporting the LRH to promote patient-centred care delivery by a well-functioning Accident and Emergency department and strengthening the capacities across the clinical care by medical teams. The objective of this collaboration is to ensure that wounded and sick patients referred to the hospital from various district hospitals of KP and FATA benefit from quality hospital care with functional infrastructure, proper resources and skilled staff providing treatment in line with international standards.

Felicity Machoka, the ICRC LRH Project manager said “The collaboration between ICRC and LRH has been a significant step to development of evidence-based skills and knowledge in the Accident and Emergency department through trainings like Emergency Room Trauma Course, Management of Weapon Wounded course and First Aid.”
Dr. Arshad Javed, Dean of the hospital, stated that this partnership has been proving very useful. "Who can say quantitatively how many lives were saved as a result of the ICRC training but I can certainly see its benefits in the form of efficiency and improvement of skills in our medical staff and foreseeing its benefits in the longer run."

Mukhtiar Zaman, Medical Director of the hospital said that the ICRC support in infection control, medical equipment maintenance, and hygiene and inventory management improved the quality of care for patients. The ICRC is also working closely with the nursing department of the hospital. Director Nursing LRH, Shaheen Ghanvi, said that the ICRC support to nursing is vital. "ICRC has helped us establish training lab and organizing basic life support training twice every week with particular focus on strengthening their leadership and management skills. Soon we will be collaborating with the ICRC to train nurses on infection control, intravenous therapy and other essential nursing skills."

SEVEN STRANDED PAKISTANIS REPATRIATED FROM YEMEN

On 11 February 2017, seven Pakistanis were repatriated from Yemen and reunited with their families in Pakistan. The ICRC facilitated their return on the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan. "We just cannot find words to express our joy and emotions on this occasion. I feared for his life as we were bearing worrying news coming from Yemen", said Asghar Ali, the brother of one of the repatriated Pakistanis. Similar joyous remarks were uttered by Miran Baloch, after reuniting with his uncle. "I thank god that my uncle is finally back after so many years. This is a time for happiness and not to remember the agony of all those years. I will not let him go away again.

The seven Pakistani fishermen, who had crossed international waters, were released from Sana’a Central Prison, where the ICRC first visited them in April 2016 as part of its routine detention visits in Yemen. "The ICRC shares this moment of joy with the families who met their loved ones after more than 10 years. We also thank the authorities in Sana’a and the Government of Pakistan for their support in making this reunion possible", said Reto Stocker, head of ICRC delegation in Pakistan, while receiving the repatriated Pakistanis at the Islamabad airport.

The ICRC strives to connect people to their loved ones who have lost their contacts during disasters, migration or violence and where possible help them reunite with their families.

ymen میں محسورات پاکستانیوں کی وطن واپسی
Pakistan hosted the first ever International Course on the Management of the Dead in Emergencies, organized by the ICRC from August 1st to 5th 2016. Twenty-four participants were in attendance from Afghanistan, Ecuador, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Lebanon, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Vietnam. The course brought together first responders and forensic specialists from these 13 countries in a multidisciplinary training environment. The experts from around the world participated enthusiastically in table-top and field exercises designed to simulate actual emergency scenarios. Interactive discussions, group work and country presentations also encouraged participants to interactively share their expertise and experiences. Particularly, it was a great opportunity for participants from Pakistan to share with their international counterparts, the experiences and best practice which the country has adopted while coping with recurrent natural and man-made disasters.

The course was professionally evaluated by Dr. Philip Beh, who is a South Asian forensic expert from the University of Hong Kong. Commenting on the course, he said, "The practical sessions and real-life simulation were of the highest possible standard and offered a very rich medium for allowing participants to assimilate and reflect on their understanding of the messages from the lectures. It also instilled upon participants the importance of team work, inter-disciplinary communication and cooperation in such situations." The event was widely covered by the media.

Hosting of an International Course is the first step in establishing a resource centre in the Management of the Dead in Pakistan. A 2nd International Course will take place from May 15 to 19, 2017 in Islamabad.

Management of the Dead in Emergencies (July-December 2016)

- 09 sponsorships were given to attend specialized forensic courses; the Indo-Pacific Association of Legal Medicine and Sciences Conference and the 1st South Asian Regional Conference on the Management of the Dead in Emergencies.

- Donation of a human remains kit to recover dead bodies from the PK 661 air crash; embalming equipment and chemicals were also made available to the authorities along with 300 copies of Management of the Dead manuals.

- Assistance to the National Disaster Management Authority on development of National Guidelines on the Management of the Dead in Emergencies.

- Support was given to the documentation procedure for unidentified bodies at the Edhi Foundation mortuary in Karachi, the largest in Pakistan.

- Additionally an embalming course was conducted in December 2016 in Karachi for the staff of Edhi Mortuary and Rawalpindi Medical College.

Banglami Majlis Mein Anasani Baqaiyan Kaandowest

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Since the 1980s, the ICRC has been accumulating experience in the niche of managing patients with weapon wounds and has shaped this knowledge into a university module. The ICRC in Pakistan has made efforts to introduce the module here for post graduate trainees in surgery and allied fields. For this purpose, the ICRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Isra University in 2016. Two Courses – of five days each - were conducted in July and November 2016. Senior ICRC surgeons from Switzerland taught the courses with support from faculty of Isra University, Islamabad Campus. These two courses, first of their kind in the whole of Asia, were hailed by all and the feedback from the sixty participants who attended the courses was encouraging for the ICRC which led it to plan the similar courses for 2017.

MAKING COMMUNITIES MORE RESILIENT – PAKISTAN RED CRESCENT

PRC, with technical and financial support from ICRC, is delivering First Aid (FA) training courses in 90 districts of Pakistan. This was a big shift from the traditional model, prior to 2016, of building capacity mostly in the provincial headquarters (PHQs), towards a more grass roots approach which concentrates on schools, colleges and other institutions including those in remote areas.

District FA trainers (DFAT) were recruited and trained, then tasked to conduct 5 courses each month in their area. This national program relies on the support of PRC provincial teams and is delivered in coordination and collaboration with respective education departments.

This new model enhanced the outreach of the FA program with a greatly increased number of people being equipped with essential lifesaving skills and in a vastly greater geographical area. DFATs typically visit different schools in their locality to provide 2-day basic FA training sessions. DFATs have been equipped with a training kit, communication materials, certificates, pictorial flip charts and, recently, a tablet computer for dashboard reporting. This dashboard system allows real time remote monitoring and reporting from the field which helps the provincial coordinators and national managers to give their timely feedback on the work as well as keep a close contact with their DFATs. Educational institutions and communities have become increasingly receptive towards the program, and are themselves asking for training to be conducted in their premises. This increasing demand, along with positive testimony and feedback, are strong indicators that PRC is delivering a service that has value. In 2016, PRC trained over 75,000 people (including more than 20,000 women) in 2,855 courses.

CLINICAL MODULE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE WEAPON WOUNDED PATIENTS

Balehal aham Pakstan (pi'ei Arsi)

Badhatat se nmeshen ke lile eqami

Abadoi ko Chalhiyeton Meej Aqidiyey

Ko lile Koshan

Balehal aham Pakstan (pi'ei Arsi)

Badhatat se nmeshen ke lile eqami

Abadoi ko Chalhiyeton Meej Aqidiyey

Ko lile Koshan
MAKING KARACHI SAFER FOR HEALTHCARE – MIDTERM RESULTS OF HEALTHCARE IN DANGER PROJECT

Achievements

- A media campaign was carried out in March 2016 in Karachi to sensitize the public on the need to give the right of way to ambulances in traffic. The campaign resulted in 16% improvement in behaviour of motorists towards ambulances.

- Training manuals on de-escalation of violence in healthcare facilities and caring for the victims of such violence were developed in English and Urdu. In pilot phase, around 500 health professionals from various hospitals of Karachi participated.

- A curriculum on prevention and management of violence in healthcare settings for medical college students was developed as well.

- Tools for assessment of hospital safety were developed and applied to selected facilities in Karachi.

- The ICRC and its partners in Karachi finalized the piloting and impact assessment of their training program on de-escalation of violence in healthcare settings.

After more than a year following the formal launch of the results of the Health Care in Danger research study in November 2015, the ICRC and its partners decided to share the progress of the project and the way forward with the public. A ceremony was organized on 10 December 2016 in Karachi which was co-hosted by the ICRC and the Department of Health, Government of Sindh. Health Minister Sindh, Dr Sikandar Mandhro was the chief guest. The event was attended by the representatives of hospitals, law enforcement agencies, ambulance service providers, ICRC partners and the media. For those who do not know, the ICRC is running the Health Care in Danger project aiming to address the issue of violence against healthcare staff, facilities and transport. The project partners include APPNNA Institute of Public Health of Jinnah Sindh Medical University, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, Edhi Foundation, Aman Foundation and Indus Hospital.
ICRC VICE PRESIDENT VISITED PAKISTAN

ICRC Vice President Christine Beerli paid a short visit to Pakistan during the month of December 2016. In Karachi, she visited the ICRC supported physical rehabilitation centre at Indus Hospital Karachi where she toured the facility, met with staff and interacted with patients to understand the delivery of the services. She also visited the Edhi Foundation headquarters in Karachi and was fascinated with their unconditional philanthropic spirit. Mr Faisal Edhi briefed the Vice President about the Edhi Foundation’s activities and collaboration with the ICRC. She also paid homage to late Abdul Sattar Edhi for establishing an exemplary structure of philanthropy for the country.

On her second day in Pakistan, Ms Beerli travelled to Peshawar. The visit started with the Paraplegic Centre Peshawar where patients and staff warmly welcomed her. She also went to the biggest partner of the ICRC in the field of physical rehabilitation, Pakistan Institute of Prosthetic and Orthotic Sciences, met with students and staff and had a tour of the facility. The final call of the day was to Lady Reading Hospital. "LRH" is the largest hospital of KPK and a key ICRC partner in the field of health. She had a thorough visit of Accident and Emergency Department and was briefed on the joint activities of the hospital with ICRC. She spent her last day in Islamabad, visiting CHAL Foundation, another ICRC partner in physical rehabilitation, and the national headquarters of Pakistan Red Crescent. She also paid a courtesy call at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before concluding her visit in Pakistan.
BLACK MARKETER TO A COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

Irfanullah is from Bajaur agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan. He used to gather and sell ordnance scrap to rogue dealers who used to pay him a competitive price among other buyers. It was his only source of income. He recalls the old times, “For me, this was a risky business as I had some perception of the danger, but I used to suppress my fears about the gravity of the situation”.

One fine day while visiting his relatives, by chance, he attended a gathering of some local people who were listening to orientation session on risky behaviours by men, women and children in those areas. This was being delivered by Pakistan Red Crescent. He was introduced to a program called “Community Based Risk Education”. The speakers told the audience and showed pictures that items similar to the ones he was scavenging for were actually a cause for gruesome injuries and deaths. It was there that he realized that all this time he was unknowingly putting his and others’ lives in danger. According to IrfanUllah, listening to those stories of how others had become victims from these seemingly harmless items made him decide there and then to take every possible step to avoid enduring the lives of others and of his own.

One day he was crossing a stream on his way home when he saw something strange next to that stream. He realized that he had just discovered a landmine on this path which was frequented by his fellow villagers. Following what he had learned in the risk education session, he contacted the nearest military post and informed the person in-charge about the object he had seen. When the team reached the location it was confirmed that the object was an anti-personal landmine with lethal potential. They immediately defused the mine. An army officer commended him for courage and commitment.

This event strengthened his new conviction and Irfanullah felt remorse for his past involvement in the trade of such awful items of death and injury. Since then he has taken it upon himself to spread the awareness of the risks of mines and other unexploded items among the villagers so that they do not become the victim of these silent killers.

Support to Pakistan Red Crescent (July-December 2016)

- PRC KP and FATA organized training on “Volunteering in Emergency” for volunteers from district and agency branches.
- PRC trained and equipped 08 newly formed Community Disaster Response Teams in Bajaur, 200 hygiene kits were distributed to the community.
- Over 58,000 people have been introduced to basic First Aid during 2,192 courses in 88 districts.
- PRC completed a baseline survey in Punjab and trained 15 RFL reporters there on attitudinal change for health care providers as part of their HCID programme.
Restoring Family Links

- The ICRC organized 308 video/phone calls between detainees abroad and their families in Pakistan, benefitting 151 families. 04 families were facilitated to visit their detained relatives in Afghanistan.
- Jointly with the PRC, the ICRC transmitted 113 oral and written family news and handled 218 tracing cases, mostly cross-border, to locate loved ones. Three Pakistani children were successfully reunited with their families within Pakistan and 10 video/phone calls were facilitated for minors in shelter homes with their families in Pakistan and abroad.
- With ICRC support, the PRC provided psychological first aid for 62,938 patients and their families and 703 free phone calls.

Promoting International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

- Conducted 19 dissemination sessions on IHL involving more than 600 individuals from Pakistan Armed Forces.
- 09 officers from Pakistan Armed Forces were sponsored to attend IHL related events in Switzerland and Italy.
- 02 information sessions were held at University of AJK and Isra University with around 150 students and law teachers.
- One IHL resource centre, named after ICRC founder Henry Dunant, was donated to the University of AJK.
- Round table was organized for 22 law teachers to discuss 'Conduct of Hostilities in an Armed Conflict'.
- 9th National Henry Dunant Moot Court competition was attended by 75 students and teachers while two teams were sent to regional round in Nepal.
- ICRC launched a Scholarship Program for LLM students. This scholarship is supporting 06 students at International Islamic University, Islamabad.
- ICRC delivered a 02-day IHL certificate course at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) for 26 law teachers from across Pakistan.
- The ICRC, for the first time, launched an internship program in Pakistan.
- An official from the Ministry of Law and Justice was sent to Colombo, Sri Lanka for Legislative Drafting Workshop on IHL.
- 04-day Regional Islam-IHL training course was organized in Islamabad for Islamic Studies professors from Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- 13 information sessions on ICRC activities were conducted, attended by 560 people.

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