

AMERICAS

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2017

- ▶ In Colombia, with the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary: people released by armed groups rejoined their families; demobilized children were transferred to reception centres; and human remains were recovered for identification.
- ▶ Violence-affected people in the region received ICRC assistance – such as relief and livelihood support – in meeting their needs, or gained access to basic services, through the ICRC's support to the local authorities.
- ▶ In line with an agreement between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the ICRC exhumed and identified most of the remains of Argentine soldiers who perished in the 1982 conflict between the said countries.
- ▶ Wounded and sick people, persons with physical disabilities and victims of sexual violence across the region obtained appropriate care from ICRC-supported centres. Health workers learnt of ways to protect themselves.
- ▶ Migrants obtained drinking water, lodging and health and family-links services at ICRC-supported facilities along the migration route. Vulnerable migrants and deportees or returnees received cash to access medical care or travel home.
- ▶ Detainees received ICRC visits. With ICRC input, detaining authorities took steps – for instance, the development of guidelines on prison management – to improve detainees' treatment and living conditions.

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	71
RCMs distributed	71
Phone calls facilitated between family members	91,648
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	230
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Places of detention visited	106
Detainees in places of detention visited	158,379
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	456
Visits carried out	239
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	639
RCMs distributed	402
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	51

ASSISTANCE	2017 Targets (up to)	Achieved	
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)			
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	5,600	5,439
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	35,500	5,025
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	5,150	12,353
Cash	Beneficiaries		38,437
Services and training	Beneficiaries	4,850	
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)			
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	108,900	97,769
Health			
Health centres supported	Structures	10	17
WOUNDED AND SICK			
Hospitals			
Hospitals supported	Structures	1	14
Water and habitat			
Water and habitat activities	Beds		52
Physical rehabilitation			
Projects supported	Projects	11	12
Patients receiving services	Patients	350	18,167

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF	
Protection	24,480
Assistance	29,228
Prevention	19,393
Cooperation with National Societies	7,730
General	1,323
Total	82,155
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>5,014</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	96%
PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	151
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	642



DELEGATIONS

Colombia
Haiti

REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Brasilia
Caracas
Lima
Mexico City
Washington
New York

 ICRC delegation
  ICRC regional delegation
  ICRC mission



Mexico, Tlaxcala State. At a shelter, an ICRC delegate provides a migrant with a brochure containing advice for migrants on how to reduce risks to their safety and where to obtain assistance.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSES

In 2017, the ICRC helped people cope with the consequences of past and ongoing armed conflicts and other situations of violence in the region. It assisted families of missing persons, migrants, detainees and other vulnerable people, particularly in urban areas. In most cases, it worked with local partners, including the National Societies operating in the region. In July 2017, the ICRC's remaining activities in Haiti were integrated into the work of its regional delegation in Mexico City.

Colombia remained the ICRC's largest operation in the Americas. Despite ongoing peace efforts in the country, hostilities between government forces and armed groups – and clashes between such groups – persisted. The ICRC continued to encourage the parties concerned to respect IHL and other applicable norms. It served as a neutral intermediary in the peace talks between the government and the National Liberation Army (ELN). In the same capacity, it helped people released by armed groups to rejoin their families, transferred demobilized children to reception centres, and facilitated the recovery of human remains for identification. It helped the Colombian government and the Fuerza Alternativa Revolucionaria del Común (FARC) to implement the humanitarian aspects of their peace agreement, signed in 2016, particularly with regard to missing persons (see below).

With ICRC support, Colombian State services strengthened their capacities to meet the material needs of IDPs and other violence-affected people in rural and urban areas. Where budgetary or access constraints hampered State services, the ICRC filled gaps in assistance, often with the Colombian Red Cross. Distributions of food and cash helped households meet their immediate needs. The provision of agricultural inputs and other livelihood support,

and upgrades to water-supply and other facilities, helped people – including those in areas contaminated with mines or explosive remnants of war – to build their self-sufficiency and reduce risks to their safety.

Elsewhere in the region, vulnerable people coped with the consequences of armed violence, with various forms of ICRC interventions. People in Peru's Apurímac-Ene and Mantaro Valley (VRAEM), in northern Paraguay, and in parts of Panama had access to potable water, thanks to ICRC-built or -refurbished facilities. Others drew on ICRC financial or material assistance to improve their living conditions or pursue income-generating activities. Victims of violence – such as those in southern Chile and Guatemala – received psychosocial support from the ICRC or its local partners. Community members – for instance, teachers, health staff and National Society volunteers in Guatemala and Mexico – received ICRC training in managing stress and/or providing psychosocial support to others. With ICRC technical and other assistance, the Belize Red Cross Society and the Jamaica Red Cross expanded their projects to alleviate the impact of violence on young people through, for instance, sports-related and educational activities or conflict-management workshops. In Brazil, municipal authorities and the ICRC focused on adapting 'safer-access' measures – originally for health workers – for use by teachers and social workers as well. These measures were developed within the ICRC's Rio project, completed in 2013, to help health professionals and residents in selected *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro protect themselves from the effects of violence.

The plight of families of persons who went missing in relation to past and ongoing conflicts remained a major concern in the region. The ICRC supported the efforts of the authorities and/or local

partners to reinforce their capacities to search for missing persons and address their families' needs. In line with an agreement between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the ICRC exhumed the remains of 122 Argentine soldiers who had perished during the 1982 conflict between the above-mentioned countries, and identified 88 of them; the results were handed over to the authorities of both countries.

With ICRC technical assistance, the Colombian authorities developed legislation establishing a national mechanism for clarifying the fate of missing persons, and the Mexican authorities enacted a law establishing such a mechanism. To facilitate future identification of human remains, the ICRC backed the efforts of the Honduran medico-legal institute to create a unit for that purpose, and of the Guatemalan authorities to develop national forensic standards. With ICRC training and/or technical assistance, forensic experts and other actors in the region learnt more about managing human remains and related data. ICRC staff and/or ICRC-trained personnel provided psychosocial support to relatives of missing persons across the region, to help them cope with their situation. The Brazilian federal authorities were urged to implement the recommendations of the ICRC's assessment of the needs of families of persons who had disappeared during past military rule.

The ICRC helped ensure that wounded and sick people, persons with physical disabilities and victims of sexual violence across the region obtained good-quality health care. In support of the goals of the Health Care in Danger project, the ICRC reminded the authorities and weapon bearers of their obligations to respect and facilitate the work of such services. With ICRC advice, the Peruvian health ministry and the Peruvian Red Cross produced a set of guidelines on how health workers can protect themselves in unsafe environments, and distributed them to over 5,000 such workers in the country. In parallel, the ICRC helped boost local capacities to directly provide medical assistance. With ICRC-provided medical supplies, hospitals coped with influxes of patients – for instance, following clashes in Colombia. As part of a two-year project, the ICRC provided comprehensive support – staff training, donations of equipment and infrastructural upgrades – to a hospital in Honduras, to help it improve its treatment for victims of violence. With ICRC financial and material support, the Venezuelan Red Cross provided medical treatment for some 1,300 people during five months of anti-government demonstrations in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereafter Venezuela). Disabled people – including patients wounded by mines or in fighting, detainees and migrants – obtained appropriate treatment from ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres, for example, in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

Migrants, returnees and deportees traveling through El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico benefitted from comprehensive assistance at facilities located along the migration route and run by the National Societies and other local entities, with ICRC support. Assistance included the provision of drinking water, health care, family-links services and/or temporary lodgings; some of the migrants availed themselves of such assistance more than once. With the help of informational materials distributed along the route, migrants learnt where to find assistance and how to stay safe. Vulnerable migrants and deportees/returnees also received ICRC material assistance, or cash to access medical care or travel home.

Detainees across the region received ICRC visits conducted according to the organization's standard procedures. Those visited

included security detainees, migrants, and internees at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba. The ICRC also visited people held in facilities to which it previously had no access: inmates at Mexican federal penitentiary centres, and migrants in some Panamanian facilities. Following the visits, the ICRC shared its findings confidentially with the pertinent authorities. In El Salvador, visits to adult inmates remained suspended owing to tighter security measures implemented by the authorities to curb gang violence; the ICRC engaged the authorities on the impact of such measures on inmates. As it remained unable to visit inmates in Venezuela, the ICRC continued to engage the pertinent authorities in dialogue to clarify the humanitarian nature of its activities for detainees.

Penitentiary authorities across the region drew on ICRC technical assistance to improve detainees' treatment and living conditions. The Colombian authorities pursued efforts towards criminal policy reform to address system-wide issues affecting the country's penitentiary system, such as overcrowding. In El Salvador, the authorities launched a project to reduce overcrowding in selected prisons by expediting early-release procedures. In Honduras, the prison authorities continued to implement at selected prisons a registration system to facilitate legal proceedings for detainees. Penitentiary authorities in the Plurinational State of Bolivia (hereafter Bolivia), Ecuador and Peru developed new guidelines on prison management and bolstered their efforts to ensure compliance with existing ones. In various parts of the region, inmates benefited from improved health services and infrastructure. For example, ICRC upgrades to water, sanitation and/or other facilities – as in Bolivia, Honduras and Panama – helped enhance detainees' living conditions. Through the efforts of the local authorities, other relevant entities and the ICRC, tens of thousands of detainees in Peru gained access to mobile libraries, and participated in cultural and educational activities.

The ICRC sustained its dialogue with State weapon bearers, urging them to respect IHL and/or international human rights law. It informed them of documented allegations of abuse, with a view to preventing their recurrence. In Peru's VRAEM, for instance, dialogue focused on persuading military commanders to ensure people's safe access to goods and services. At briefings and workshops, the armed and police forces drew on ICRC technical expertise in pursuing efforts to incorporate IHL and/or pertinent internationally recognized standards into their operations and training. Military and police officers and instructors – for instance, in Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru – refined their skills in teaching IHL, international policing standards and/or other relevant norms to their peers. Police officers in the region discussed international policing standards at an ICRC regional symposium in Chile. Discussions with senior military officers from Canada and the United States of America (hereafter US) focused on the need to uphold IHL and other applicable norms, in countries where the Canadian or US armed forces were conducting operations and/or providing military support.

With help from their national IHL committees and the ICRC, State authorities advanced IHL implementation: Honduras acceded to the Arms Trade Treaty; Argentina ratified two amendments to the Rome Statute, in relation to international and non-international armed conflict. Drawing on ICRC support, Argentina's national IHL committee began work on officially marking infrastructure as protected under IHL. The Peruvian authorities and national IHL

committee integrated the ICRC's recommendations into the draft of a legislative decree establishing the scope of the military's use of force. Representatives from the national IHL committees across the region discussed weapon-related topics, such as the clearance and destruction of anti-personnel mines, at a regional meeting organized by the ICRC, with support from the Costa Rican foreign affairs ministry. The Organization of American States incorporated ICRC recommendations into its resolutions on migration and human rights. In its regular interactions with the UN and regional bodies, their Member States and other pertinent organizations, the ICRC called attention to topics of humanitarian concern worldwide, such as the protection of civilians, displacement, weapons control, peacekeeping and the humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad region and in the Middle East. At negotiations and other meetings held in connection with the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration – a UN-led intergovernmental process – the ICRC emphasized the need to protect migrants, particularly to uphold the principle of *non-refoulement*; it also made practical recommendations for international cooperation on the issue of missing migrants. The ICRC contributed to discussions that led to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the UN General Assembly.

To raise public awareness of and support for humanitarian principles and for the Movement and its activities around the world, the ICRC held various events and produced communication materials for traditional and new media.

Together with the International Federation, the ICRC helped National Societies working in the region build their capacities to respond to emergencies and to assist victims of conflict and other violence in line with the Safer Access Framework. Regular coordination meetings between Movement components and with UN agencies and other humanitarian players fostered in more efficient humanitarian action. The Movement finalized a two-year action plan to implement a unified response to the issue of migration.

PROTECTION MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

AMERICAS													
	CIVILIANS												
	RCMIs collected	RCMIs distributed	Phone calls facilitated between family members	UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period	People transferred or repatriated	Human remains transferred or repatriated	Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	Places of detention visited	Detainees in places of detention visited	<i>of whom women</i>	<i>of whom minors</i>	Visits carried out	Detainees visited and monitored individually
Colombia	63	53		104	113	19	150	24	48,281	3,521	813	85	151
Brasilia (regional)								16	16,125	1,077	21	33	78
Caracas (regional)		1	4				2						
Lima (regional)	2	6	22				78	31	65,874	5,399	575	59	152
Mexico City (regional)	5	9	91,322					34	28,044	2,080	1,658	57	27
Washington (regional)	1	2	300					1	55			5	48
Total	71	71	91,648	104	113	19	230	106	158,379	12,077	3,067	239	456

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

<i>of whom women</i>	<i>of whom girls</i>	<i>of whom boys</i>	Detainees newly registered	<i>of whom women</i>	<i>of whom girls</i>	<i>of whom boys</i>	RCMs collected	RCMs distributed	Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	Detainees visited by their relatives with ICHC/National Society support	Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC	People to whom a detention attestation was issued	
17	6	36	69	6	4	21	20		6	28	2	1	Colombia
6			17	1						50			Brasilia (regional)
													Caracas (regional)
25			22	4			14	1	16	78		4	Lima (regional)
2			27	2			10	5	29				Mexico City (regional)
							595	396				2	Washington (regional)
50	6	36	135	13	4	21	639	402	51	156	2	7	Total

ASSISTANCE MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

AMERICAS											
	CIVILIANS									PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	
	CIVILIANS - BENEFICIARIES					HEALTH CENTRES				Food commodities	Essential household items
	Food commodities	Essential household items	Productive inputs	Cash	Water and habitat activities	Health centres supported	Average catchment population	Consultations	Immunizations (patients)		
Colombia	3,313	4,838	11,277	15,403	11,559	4	31,088				
Brasilia (regional)	2,055	88	1,076		931						
Caracas (regional)											
Lima (regional)	71	81		362	2,325					6	37,716
Mexico City (regional)		18		22,672	82,954	13	54,524	21,108	80		2,252
Total	5,439	5,025	12,353	38,437	97,769	17	85,612	21,108	80	6	39,968
<i>of whom women</i>	1,662	1,513	3,194	10,169	4,716						4,937
<i>of whom children</i>	2,447	2,014	6,250	10,988	5,766						
<i>of whom IDPs</i>	2,070	2,694	266	9,286	81,229						

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	WOUNDED AND SICK											
	FIRST AID		HOSPITALS		PHYSICAL REHABILITATION							
Water and habitat activities	Sessions	Participants (sum of monthly data)	Hospitals supported	including hospitals reinforced with or monitored by ICRC staff	Projects supported	Patients receiving services (sum of monthly data)	New patients fitted with prostheses	New patients fitted with orthoses	Prostheses delivered	Orthoses delivered	Patients receiving physiotherapy	
880	83	753	13		7	11,215	430	5,646	737	7,536	2,423	Colombia
4,060												Brasilia (regional)
	29	366										Caracas (regional)
1,084												Lima (regional)
12,796	11	160	1	1	5	6,952	119	798	242	1,150	4,924	Mexico City (regional)
18,820	123	1,279	14	1	12	18,167	549	6,444	979	8,686	7,347	Total
574						6,192	137	1,482	190	1,981	3,361	<i>of whom women</i>
52						6,034	35	3,233	53	4,501	1,578	<i>of whom children</i>
												<i>of whom IDPs</i>

COLOMBIA



ICRC delegation ICRC sub-delegation ICRC office/presence

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2017

- ▶ With the help of the ICRC as a neutral intermediary, people released by armed groups rejoined their families; demobilized children were transferred to reception centres; and human remains were recovered for identification.
- ▶ ICRC dialogue with the pertinent parties helped clarify the fate of 150 missing persons. The ICRC assisted State authorities to draft laws for establishing a national body for ascertaining the fate of missing persons.
- ▶ IDPs and other violence-affected people in urban and rural areas – including mine-affected areas – improved their living conditions, with ICRC repairs or upgrades to their water-supply facilities and other community infrastructure.
- ▶ People wounded in clashes, victims of sexual violence, physically disabled people and others in need of medical care obtained treatment at local facilities that received material and technical support from the ICRC.
- ▶ The authorities concerned drew on ICRC technical expertise in their efforts to reform policies concerning the judicial guarantees and other fundamental rights of detainees, including minors formerly associated with armed groups.
- ▶ Aided by the ICRC, the army and the police continued their efforts to incorporate IHL and other applicable international norms in their doctrine and training, and learnt ways to prevent sexual violence during armed conflict.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	9,100
Assistance	13,681
Prevention	3,281
Cooperation with National Societies	1,852
General	673
Total	28,587
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>1,745</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	101%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	65
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	294

In Colombia since 1969, the ICRC strives to protect and assist victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence, secure greater compliance with IHL by all weapon bearers, and promote integration of IHL and international human rights norms into the security forces' doctrine, training and operations. It visits detainees and assists the authorities in addressing systemic issues affecting the penitentiary system. It supports efforts to address the needs of families of missing persons, provides relief to violence-affected IDPs and residents, and helps ensure their access to health care. It runs a comprehensive mine-action programme. It works closely with the Colombian Red Cross and other Movement components active in Colombia.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives and plans of action	HIGH
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PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	63
RCMs distributed	53
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	151
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Places of detention visited	24
Detainees in places of detention visited	48,281
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	151
Visits carried out	85
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	20
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	6

ASSISTANCE	2017 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries 5,000	3,313
Essential household items	Beneficiaries 5,000	4,838
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries 3,900	11,277
Cash	Beneficiaries	15,403
Services and training	Beneficiaries 3,600	
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries 16,500	11,559
Health		
Health centres supported	Structures	4
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures	13
Water and habitat		
Water and habitat activities	Beds	52
Physical rehabilitation		
Projects supported	Projects 9	7
Patients receiving services	Patients 350	11,215

CONTEXT

The Colombian government and the Fuerza Alternativa Revolucionaria del Común (FARC, formerly known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army) implemented the terms of their peace agreement. For instance, they carried out joint humanitarian demining projects, and facilitated the identification and burial of people killed in the past conflict. The FARC also undertook – and completed by mid-year – the demobilization process of child soldiers associated with it. State authorities worked towards establishing mechanisms to ensure transitional justice, particularly a national body for ascertaining the fate of missing persons.

In February 2017, the Colombian government and the National Liberation Army (ELN) began peace talks in Ecuador, amid clashes; they subsequently implemented a bilateral ceasefire from October 2017 to January 2018. Violent confrontations between government forces and armed groups – and clashes among armed groups – persisted, particularly in urban areas.

People continued to suffer the consequences of past and ongoing hostilities, such as disappearances and displacement. Instances of sexual violence and attacks on health-care services continued to be reported in violence-affected urban and rural areas.

State authorities worked towards criminal policy reform, in response to the Constitutional Court's declaration in 2015 that the state of affairs in the country's penitentiary system was unconstitutional.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In 2017, the ICRC focused on assisting the Colombian government and the FARC in implementing the humanitarian aspects of their peace agreement – particularly with regard to missing people; it also continued to help State efforts to respond to the needs of people suffering the consequences of past and ongoing violence. It engaged the parties concerned in confidential dialogue, based on documented allegations of abuses, and reminded them of their obligations under IHL or other applicable law. In parallel, it supported the military and police forces' efforts to incorporate IHL and other applicable international norms in their doctrine and training. It strove to broaden public awareness of IHL and the Movement's work through various communication channels.

The activities mentioned above helped further acceptance for the ICRC's role as a neutral intermediary among parties to conflict. Acting in this capacity, the ICRC transferred minors formerly associated with the FARC to reception centres; ensured the return of people released by armed groups back to their families; recovered the remains of people killed in fighting, for identification and burial; and provided logistical support for the government and FARC's joint humanitarian demining projects. At the request of both parties, the ICRC ensured safe passage for ELN representatives to and from Ecuador, for the peace talks with Colombian authorities.

Drawing on ICRC technical expertise, State authorities began developing legislation to establish national mechanisms for transitional justice, particularly a body for ascertaining the fate of missing people. At ICRC workshops, government officials discussed the importance of taking a multidisciplinary approach – combining forensic identification with economic, legal and psychosocial support – to meeting the needs of missing people's

families. Members of these families learnt how to cope with their situation and exercise their rights, at support-group sessions organized by the ICRC with the Colombian Red Cross or other local partners.

Assistance activities concentrated on helping State services strengthen their capacity to respond to the needs of IDPs and other violence-affected people. Where State services faced budgetary or access constraints, the ICRC filled gaps in assistance, often with the National Society. Relief distributions enabled IDPs and other violence-affected people to meet their immediate needs. In parallel, the provision of agricultural inputs and other livelihood support, and upgrades to water-supply and other facilities, helped people – including those in areas contaminated with mines or explosive remnants of war (ERW) – to build their self-sufficiency and reduce their safety risks.

The ICRC helped ensure people's safe access to health care, especially in areas affected by fighting. At ICRC seminars, health personnel learnt more about their rights and duties, and the proper use of the emblem of the Colombian medical services. Sick and wounded people, victims of sexual violence and physically disabled people obtained necessary treatment at facilities that received technical or material support, either regularly or on an ad hoc basis, from the ICRC.

The ICRC geared its activities for detainees towards advising the authorities in addressing systemic issues affecting the penitentiary system. Thus, although it continued to visit detainees, including minors, to monitor their treatment and living conditions, the ICRC visited fewer detention facilities than in previous years. It provided technical advice towards the reform of policies concerning the judicial guarantees and other fundamental rights of detainees, including minors formerly associated with armed groups. The authorities drew on the ICRC's expertise in pursuing efforts to standardize the provision of prison health services, and to improve water and sanitation infrastructure to help ensure better living conditions for inmates.

CIVILIANS

The ICRC engaged the parties concerned in confidential dialogue on: the protection of civilians; the release of minors associated with armed groups; allegations of sexual violence; and attacks on people seeking or delivering health services. It reminded weapon bearers of their obligations under IHL or other applicable law, through oral and written representations based on documented allegations of abuses. In parallel, the ICRC trained community leaders in informing conflict victims about their rights and how to obtain State assistance, and promoted self-protection measures among vulnerable people at community briefings. Some 570 civilians in violence-affected areas reached safer places, with the ICRC covering their transport costs.

Demobilized minors are transferred to reception centres

At the request of and with the agreement of the different parties concerned, the ICRC served as a neutral intermediary in various instances. It ensured safe passage for ELN representatives to and from Ecuador, for peace talks with the Colombian authorities. It facilitated transport for people implementing the government and FARC's joint humanitarian demining projects. It transferred 107 child soldiers demobilized by the FARC to reception centres run by the State or humanitarian organizations, where they received psychosocial support to ease their social reintegration.

The ICRC also provided logistical assistance for 13 people – held and subsequently released by armed groups – to rejoin their families.

Members of families dispersed by conflict reconnected through Movement family-links services. Where appropriate, the ICRC helped re-establish links between demobilized minors and their families, and visited some of them to monitor their social reintegration.

Authorities develop laws for clarifying the fate of missing persons

Dialogue with the pertinent parties resulted in the resolution of 150 missing-persons cases. In 19 cases, remains were recovered for identification; the ICRC handed over the identified remains of five people to the families concerned, who were given psychosocial support throughout the process. In parallel, the ICRC provided technical assistance to the authorities concerned in developing legislation to establish national mechanisms for transitional justice, particularly a body for clarifying the fate of missing persons. The International Commission on Missing Persons and the ICRC organized a meeting, at which missing people's families shared their concerns with a government committee involved in setting up the said body.

At ICRC workshops, 118 civilian and military prosecutors, investigators and forensic experts tackled the need to address the needs of missing persons' families through a multidisciplinary approach, combining economic, legal and psychosocial support, and forensic identification. The ICRC and/or the Colombian Red Cross provided psychosocial support to 101 people whose relatives were missing. Local health providers trained and financially supported by the ICRC gave over 220 people similar assistance. The ICRC helped some 640 families in obtaining State services, for instance, by briefing them on the procedures for such. With ICRC cash assistance, 101 families gave their relatives' remains a dignified burial; microeconomic initiatives enabled 35 other families to rebuild their livelihoods.

With a view to facilitating future identification of human remains, the ICRC helped forensic experts in standardizing national forensic procedures. The Colombian Medical Legal Institute (INMLF) and the ICRC – in consultation with local NGOs – designed methods of collecting data on missing persons and burial sites, to be handed over to the above-mentioned national body. Over 80 FARC representatives learnt how to document such data, at INMLF-ICRC training sessions. The ICRC collected biological samples from the relatives of missing persons, and monitored their processing by local forensic services. It constructed a morgue and 430 vaults – for storing unidentified or unclaimed remains – at three cemeteries.

National Society responders benefited from ICRC training in managing human remains during emergencies. The ICRC gave them logistical and material support for mounting rescue operations after a landslide in southern Colombia.

IDPs build their self-sufficiency

With ICRC financial and material support, the State's victim assistance unit, other institutions and local authorities provided aid to violence-affected people, especially in areas inaccessible to State services. Where State services faced budgetary constraints, the ICRC, often with the National Society, helped fill gaps in coverage. Distributions of food to 3,313 IDPs and other conflict-affected

people (949 households), and household essentials to 4,838 people (1,324 households), helped these people meet their immediate needs. Over 4,000 people (1,072 households) received cash for covering basic expenses.

Where circumstances allowed, the ICRC helped conflict-affected households, including those led by women, become more self-sufficient. Over 1,895 breadwinners (supporting 7,000 people) received cash assistance for vocational training or as partial coverage of their salaries. Similar assistance – together with vocational training provided by a local partner and facilitated by the ICRC – enabled 793 breadwinners (supporting 3,172 people), whose livelihoods had been disrupted by violence, to make their small businesses more productive; some of these people were supporting relatives with physical disabilities. Over 3,000 households (10,727 people) – including 382 students of agriculture – increased or diversified their harvests with supplies and equipment from the ICRC.

ICRC infrastructure projects improved access to clean water, health care and other essential services for 11,559 IDPs and other violence-affected people in urban and rural areas; these projects were occasionally supplemented with briefings on proper sanitation. Among these beneficiaries were some 5,540 people in ERW-affected areas, who regained access to schools (876 students) and livelihood and other facilities in their communities, reducing their exposure to further risks.

At National Society- and ICRC-organized workshops, 11,978 community members and authorities learnt more about the rights of ERW victims and safe behaviour in ERW-contaminated areas. With ICRC technical input, the authorities developed national standards for conducting mine-risk education.

Victims of sexual violence receive appropriate care

With ICRC training, 120 National Society volunteers and 380 civilians in violence-affected areas learnt more about providing psychosocial and other services to victims of sexual violence; some of them provided psychological care to some 200 victims of sexual violence and/or referred them for medical treatment.

The ICRC promoted the protection of those seeking or providing health care, especially in areas affected by fighting. With the National Society, it helped distribute the protective emblem of the country's medical services to 3,224 health-care personnel, including for marking facilities and vehicles, and briefed them about its proper use. At ICRC information sessions, 1,221 National Society volunteers and other people in violence-prone areas learnt how to strengthen the protection of health-care services in their regions.

Ad hoc donations of medical supplies from the ICRC helped four health centres to cope with influxes of patients; repairs to facilities at three other centres helped improve their services.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC visited detainees, including minors, according to its standard procedures. As its focus was on supporting the central authorities in addressing system-wide issues, such as overcrowding, it visited fewer detention facilities than in previous years. Following its visits, the ICRC confidentially shared its feedback with the authorities, to help them ensure that detainees' treatment and living conditions conformed to national and internationally recognized standards.

Around 30 of the minors visited reconnected with their families through the Movement's family-links services or ICRC-facilitated family visits; some of their family members received ICRC cash assistance for their travel. Together with a children's rights organization, the ICRC briefed 10 minors on their rights.

Authorities work towards prison reform

The ICRC aided the government's efforts towards prison reform by participating in the committee responsible for tackling the issues raised by the Constitutional Court (see *Context*). It lent its expertise to judicial and penitentiary authorities for refining policies on judicial guarantees and other fundamental rights of detainees, including minors formerly associated with armed groups. At ICRC seminars, over 360 penitentiary officers learnt more about international human rights norms, including those concerning the use of force and the proper treatment of women prisoners. With ICRC support, Colombian prison administrators attended the second regional conference on prison management in Chile (see *Brasilia*).

At an ICRC seminar, national penitentiary authorities and regional experts exchanged views on designing and managing health systems in Colombian prisons. The Colombian government began to standardize the provision of health services for detainees, in line with the ICRC's recommendations; however, administrative challenges forced them to postpone implementation of a new national health-care model. Penitentiary authorities received technical input on ensuring compliance with internationally recognized standards in building prison infrastructure.

A total of 200 detainees – including physically disabled inmates – benefited from ICRC upgrades to water, sanitation, health and/or sports facilities; 680 detainees regained access to clean water, thanks to ICRC water-trucking operations, following a landslide in southern Colombia.

WOUNDED AND SICK

People injured by mines and other physically disabled people obtain rehabilitation services

At National Society- and/or ICRC-conducted training sessions, around 750 people in mine/ERW-contaminated areas strengthened their first-aid skills; some 50 medical personnel and students learnt more about weapon-wound management. Over 580 sick and wounded people received appropriate care through national health services; the ICRC covered their transport and accommodation costs. People wounded in clashes were evacuated to medical facilities, with the help of the ICRC as a neutral intermediary. One-off donations of medical supplies helped 18 first-aid posts and 13 hospitals to cope with influxes of patients.

People with disabilities obtained services and/or assistive devices at seven physical rehabilitation centres that received raw materials and technical support from the ICRC regularly. The ICRC covered transportation, accommodation and treatment expenses for some 370 people, including people injured by mines or ERW; 81 detainees benefited from services provided in prisons by local professionals and ICRC staff.

The national health authorities and two training institutes enhanced their application of good practices in prosthetic and orthotic services in consultation with the ICRC; 56 professionals took specialized courses. Two wheelchair-manufacturing facilities received ICRC supplies on an ad hoc basis.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Dialogue with the authorities and weapon bearers emphasized the need to ensure the safe and unhindered delivery of health care and other aid to violence-affected communities. Such interaction fostered acceptance for the ICRC's role as a neutral intermediary and for its assistance activities. The ICRC maintained its efforts to strengthen its dialogue with armed groups in violence-affected urban areas.

Policy-makers discuss the need to uphold victims' rights, in line with the peace agreement

At high-level meetings, government officials – including the country's president – and the ICRC president reaffirmed their commitment to working together to realize the humanitarian agenda of the peace process, particularly concerning the demobilization of minors, missing-persons cases and penitentiary reform. At an ICRC workshop, key legal personnel from the government and civil society, and international experts, discussed policies focusing on, among others, the continuing applicability of IHL in the wake of the peace agreement between the government and the FARC, and the implementation of mechanisms for transitional justice. During a public panel discussion organized by a university in Bogotá and the ICRC, government officials and other stakeholders exchanged views on the judiciary's role in implementing the parties' key obligations under IHL, particularly with regard to upholding victims' rights.

At the sixth Augusto Ramírez Ocampo Course in IHL, organized by the national IHL committee with ICRC technical support, policy-makers – many of them from violence-affected regions of Colombia – discussed challenges in the application of IHL in Colombia. With ICRC sponsorship, members of the national IHL committee discussed IHL and the means and methods of warfare at a regional conference in Costa Rica (see *Mexico City*). Two other public events, organized by the ICRC with Colombian universities, helped promote the updated Commentary on the Second Geneva Convention and marked the 20th anniversary of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

At ICRC workshops, 250 State officials learnt more about ways of preventing sexual violence during armed conflict and of using a gender-sensitive approach in responding to victims' needs. At dissemination sessions organized with universities, 130 law students deepened their knowledge in offering legal assistance to victims of sexual violence. Javeriana University and the ICRC initiated a study on women in detention, with a view to helping policy-makers incorporate women's concerns more fully in their penitentiary reforms.

The armed forces incorporate IHL and other international norms in their doctrine

Drawing on the ICRC's technical advice, the armed forces reviewed the integration of IHL and international human rights law into its new training doctrine. The national police received ICRC input for its development of new doctrines, for instance, on the use of force. At ICRC workshops and round-tables, over 500 military and security forces personnel learnt more about applying IHL and international norms on the use of force – particularly in their joint law enforcement operations – and about ways of preventing sexual violence.

Journalists broaden public awareness of the lingering humanitarian issues in Colombia

The ICRC's public-communication efforts focused on broadening awareness of the humanitarian consequences of violence, and the need to reform the criminal policy in order to ensure respect for detainees' rights. To these ends, it published an annual report covering these issues through traditional and online media platforms, posted audiovisual materials on social media platforms, and organized several field trips for members of the local and international press. Various media organizations made use of ICRC-produced articles and videos about its activities in Colombia.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Colombian Red Cross remained the ICRC's main partner in meeting the needs of people affected by armed conflict and other violence (see *Civilians* and *Wounded and sick*). Technical and financial support from the ICRC enabled National Society volunteers enhanced their capacity to assist victims of violence, for instance, in obtaining State services. Owing to constraints in

human resources, the National Society did not push through in training its staff to autonomously conduct sessions for security forces on international human rights law and the use of force.

Together with the ICRC, the National Society trained volunteers and staff from 26 branches in applying the Safer Access Framework, to help them enhance their ability to operate safely in violence-prone areas. It also carried out assessments at 12 of its branches, to identify weaknesses in their application of the framework. ICRC upgrades to facilities enabled five National Society branches to expand their operational capacities.

The National Society and the ICRC further strengthened their partnership by developing joint strategies for activities, in such areas as addressing the needs of missing persons' families and of communities affected by urban violence.

Meetings among the Movement components in Colombia facilitated the coordination of activities, formulation of a strategy for further cooperation, and exchange of information.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		63	59		
RCMs distributed		53	32		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People transferred or repatriated		113			
Human remains transferred or repatriated		19			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		834	98	123	152
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		151			
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		1			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		1,575	140	168	297
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		7			
Unaccompanied minors (UAMs)/separated children (SC), including demobilized child soldiers			Girls		Demobilized children
UAMs/SC newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		107	61		107
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		104	61		104
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Places of detention visited		24			
Detainees in places of detention visited		48,281	3,521	813	
Visits carried out		85			
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		151	17	6	36
<i>of whom newly registered</i>		69	6	4	21
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		20			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		6			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		28			
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC		2			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		1			

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	3,313	1,012	1,400
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	2,070	597	890
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	4,838	1,464	1,963
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	2,694	825	1,016
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	11,277	2,870	5,725
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	266	77	133
Cash	Beneficiaries	15,403	5,240	6,280
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	9,284	3,341	3,557
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	11,559	3,623	4,952
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	1,207	362	495
Health				
Health centres supported	Structures	4		
Average catchment population		31,088		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Cash	Beneficiaries	20	12	2
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	880	35	
Health				
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	10		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	13		
First aid				
First-aid training				
	Sessions	83		
	Participants (sum of monthly data)	753		
Water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Beds	52		
Physical rehabilitation				
Projects supported	Projects	7		
Patients receiving services (sum of monthly data)		11,215	3,842	3,681
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	430	115	21
Prostheses delivered	Units	737	153	32
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	68	10	1
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	5,646	1,410	2,606
Orthoses delivered	Units	7,536	1,904	3,521
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	25	4	
Patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	2,423	1,239	292
Walking aids delivered	Units	716	197	85
Wheelchairs or tricycles delivered	Units	1,113	330	341



ICRC delegation *Dominican Republic is covered by the ICRC delegation in Haiti

The ICRC has been present in Haiti since 1994. It responds to acute humanitarian situations in prisons and supports national authorities in improving conditions of detention and respect for judicial guarantees. While sustaining dialogue with the authorities and weapon bearers on humanitarian concerns, it helps the national security forces disseminate international human rights law, other relevant norms and standards, and humanitarian principles. With other Movement partners, the ICRC helps strengthen the emergency response capacities of the Haitian National Red Cross Society and the Dominican Red Cross.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives and plans of action

HIGH

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2017

- ▶ Aided by the ICRC and another partner, Haitian prison officials conducted a study on gaps in the food supply and malnutrition and mortality rates in prisons and submitted their findings to a presidential commission on detention.
- ▶ Responsibility for projects aimed at tackling prolonged pre-trial detention, and enhancing infrastructure and health services in prisons, was handed over by the ICRC to the Haitian authorities and their international partners.
- ▶ The Haitian National Red Cross Society received various forms of ICRC input to improve its family-links, first-aid and other activities, as part of the Movement's response to the humanitarian consequences of Hurricane Matthew.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	473
Assistance	207
Prevention	266
Cooperation with National Societies	507
General	18
Total	1,471
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>90</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	92%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	1
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	13

CONTEXT

After a protracted presidential and legislative electoral process, a new government took office in Haiti in March 2017.

The Haitian authorities and their international partners pursued efforts to strengthen the capacities of the local police force. The mandate of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) ended on 15 October 2017. A smaller peacekeeping mission, composed of civilians and UN Police personnel, replaced MINUSTAH and took on the role of advising the Haitian authorities on law enforcement operations.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The situation in Haiti having stabilized in recent years, the ICRC gradually phased out most of its activities in the country: it closed its delegation there on 30 June.

In the six months leading up to the delegation's closure, the ICRC continued to focus on helping Haitian officials meet the needs of people deprived of their freedom – primarily by addressing structural issues at places of detention. These efforts included networking activities to help local and international parties initiate or reestablish working relations.

MINUSTAH and the ICRC supported penitentiary authorities in conducting a comprehensive study on gaps in the food supply, and malnutrition and mortality rates, in prisons. A report containing the findings of the study was shared with all institutions and actors concerned, and submitted to a presidential commission on improving detainees' living conditions. The pertinent authorities and the ICRC carried out projects to tackle prolonged pre-trial detention and to enhance prison infrastructure and health services. As planned, the ICRC handed over responsibility for the projects to these authorities and their international partners.

During briefings and information sessions, the ICRC urged the authorities, members of the international community and other relevant parties to find and put into effect immediate and long-term solutions to the situation in prisons and police stations.

The ICRC contributed to the Movement's initiatives to strengthen overall coordination, especially in responding to the humanitarian consequences of Hurricane Matthew which passed through Haiti in October 2016. These initiatives included the creation of a platform for collective decision-making and information management. The ICRC provided the Haitian National Red Cross Society and, to a lesser degree, the Dominican Red Cross with various forms of support for improving their family-links and/or first-aid services and strengthening their ability to monitor and analyse the needs of migrants and other vulnerable people.

In June, the ICRC's Mexico City regional delegation took over implementation of the Haiti delegation's remaining activities: dialogue with the Dominican and Haitian authorities on humanitarian issues and IHL; and cooperation with the Dominican and Haitian National Societies. It also assumed responsibility for monitoring the situation in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

BRASILIA (regional)

COVERING: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay



ICRC/AR_2017
 + ICRC regional delegation + ICRC mission + ICRC office/presence

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2017

- ▶ The ICRC exhumed and identified most of the remains of Argentine soldiers buried in the Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas,¹ in line with a mandate from Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- ▶ Brazilian authorities developed and implemented self-protection measures – based on a past ICRC project – for health workers, teachers and social workers to ensure safer access to basic services in four violence-affected municipalities.
- ▶ Officials from 14 countries shared best practices in prison management at a workshop organized by the Chilean authorities and the ICRC. In Paraguay, the authorities began overhauling the electrical power system at one prison.
- ▶ Brazilian authorities sought to do more for missing people's families. ICRC support for this included reports on the families' needs and on the compatibility of the Brazilian legal system with international norms.
- ▶ Argentina and Paraguay advanced their implementation of the Rome Statute, with ICRC technical support. Argentina ratified two amendments to it, and Paraguay passed a bill that incorporated key provisions on war crimes.

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EXPENDITURE IN KCHF	
Protection	2,370
Assistance	2,965
Prevention	2,993
Cooperation with National Societies	1,460
General	95
Total	9,883
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>603</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	102%

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	12
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	63

The ICRC has been present in the region since 1975. It visits detainees and responds to situations of violence and social unrest, often with the region's National Societies, which it supports in developing their capacities to act in such situations. It helps authorities identify human remains so as to provide families with information on their missing relatives. The ICRC promotes the incorporation of IHL in national legislation and the doctrine, training and operations of armed forces, and works with police forces to integrate international human rights norms applicable to the use of force into theirs.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives and plans of action **HIGH**

PROTECTION	Total
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Places of detention visited	16
Detainees in places of detention visited	16,125
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	78
Visits carried out	33

ASSISTANCE	2017 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	2,055
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	88
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	1,250
Services and training ¹	Beneficiaries	1,076
Services and training ¹	Beneficiaries	1,250
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,750
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	931

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table and in the narrative part of this report may not reflect the extent of the activities carried out during the reporting period.

CONTEXT

In urban areas of Brazil, including the cities of Rio de Janeiro, Natal and Fortaleza, armed gangs fought one another or clashed with the police – more intensely than in 2016. Authorities in Rio de Janeiro, hampered by budget cuts, struggled to maintain the police’s “pacification” programmes.

In Paraguay, protests for political reform led to violence; in Asunción, people protested a constitutional amendment permitting the president to seek re-election. In the north, violent encounters took place between a joint military and police taskforce and armed elements. In southern Chile, including the Araucanía region, tensions over land ownership between Mapuches and other communities persisted; the *carabineros* carried out security operations.

Many families awaited news of relatives missing since past conflict or military rule. Under an agreement between the governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereafter UK), Argentine soldiers buried in the Falkland Islands/Islands Malvinas¹ (hereafter Falklands/Malvinas) were exhumed and identified.

People lost their lives, were displaced or lost contact with their families, owing to natural disasters – landslides in Argentina, earthquakes and fires in Chile – but also during migration.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The delegation in Brasilia worked to address the protection and assistance needs of people, including detainees, in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, and to foster support for IHL, international human rights law and the Movement’s activities.

In line with a mandate from the Argentine and UK authorities, the ICRC exhumed and identified most of the remains of Argentine soldiers buried in the Darwin cemetery in the Falklands/Malvinas. It handed over its forensic reports to the Argentine and UK authorities, who took charge of informing the families concerned. Brazil’s federal authorities worked towards improving their response to the needs of families of people missing in relation to the past military regime and contemporary urban violence – and towards revising or adapting the legal framework covering these needs. Forensic staff in Brazil and Paraguay enhanced their skills through ICRC training sessions.

In Brazil, municipal authorities and the ICRC focused on adapting ‘safer-access’ measures, originally for health workers, for use by teachers and social workers as well – in four major municipalities. These measures were developed by the ICRC’s Rio project, completed in 2013, to help health professionals and residents in selected *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro protect themselves from the effects of violence. In northern Paraguay and southern Chile, teachers and health workers were trained to cope with emotional stress or to help others do so. ICRC agricultural support and upgrades to water systems helped some people in Paraguay to pursue livelihood activities; those unable to cultivate crops because of the weather received ICRC food aid. The Paraguayan Red Cross and the ICRC continued to back an income-generating project for female detainees and female ex-detainees, which helped them support their families and reintegrate into society.

The ICRC visited detainees in Paraguay and Chile, in accordance with its standard procedures, and communicated its findings and recommendations confidentially to the detaining authorities, to help them improve detainees’ treatment and living conditions. The Paraguayan penitentiary authorities drew on the ICRC’s advice to upgrade electrical and other infrastructure at the Tacumbu prison. The ICRC helped the authorities at the Tacumbu and Buen Pastor prisons develop protocols for fire safety.

In Paraguay and Chile, the ICRC informed authorities, weapon bearers and community leaders, confidentially, of allegations of abuse, to help these parties prevent the recurrence of such conduct and assist violence-affected people. In southern Chile, the ICRC and the Chilean Red Cross helped health officials identify the threats to the safe delivery of health care. Military and security forces in the region – but especially in Brazil, Chile and Paraguay – drew on ICRC expertise to further incorporate international policing standards in their training and doctrine. In Chile, the *carabineros* took over training for human-rights instructors; the Paraguayan police strove to do the same. The authorities in the five countries covered took into account the ICRC and their national IHL committees’ views while implementing IHL-related treaties. Argentina and Paraguay advanced their implementation of the Rome Statute. The ICRC sought to broaden support among all parties of influence for its activities and for other Movement initiatives.

In Argentina, Brazil and Chile, families separated by natural disasters, migration or other circumstances maintained contact through the Movement’s family-links services. The ICRC arranged family visits for two people who were formerly held at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, and were resettled in Uruguay; an ex-internee’s wife and children, aided by the ICRC, visited his family on the West Bank (see *Israel and the Occupied Territories*). Despite various administrative constraints, the National Societies of the five countries covered strove to improve their organizational capacities and respond to humanitarian needs, with the International Federation’s and the ICRC’s help.

CIVILIANS

During confidential dialogue with them, the ICRC relayed allegations of abuse to the authorities, military and security forces, community leaders and other key figures in the five countries covered, with a view to helping them prevent the recurrence of such unlawful conduct and assist violence-affected people.

Remains of Argentine soldiers buried in the Falklands/Malvinas are identified

In line with a mandate from the Argentine and UK authorities, the ICRC exhumed and identified the remains of Argentine soldiers buried in the Darwin cemetery in the Falklands/Malvinas: 122 sets of remains were exhumed and 88 identified. The ICRC handed over the results of its forensic work to the Argentine and UK authorities, who took charge of informing the families concerned.

In Brazil, the federal authorities and authorities in São Paulo state received two ICRC reports: one assessed the needs of the families of people missing in relation to the past military regime or to contemporary urban violence; and the other examined the compatibility of Brazilian laws with international norms applicable to missing people and their families. These reports, and the recommendations they contained, aimed to help the authorities improve their response to the needs of missing people’s families.

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In São Paulo, ICRC psychosocial-support sessions helped some 35 members of such families to manage their emotional distress. At the ICRC's urging, the authorities released statistics – for the first time – on people who had gone missing between 2006 and 2016, some of them in connection with violence.

In Brazil and Paraguay, forensic officials and organizations drew on ICRC expertise to strengthen their capacities and develop guidelines for forensic work; the ICRC encouraged organizations in São Paulo state to coordinate their work. At an ICRC-supported meeting in São Paulo, Brazilian and other forensic experts from the region shared best practices in searching for missing people.

Brazilian authorities in four major municipalities improve measures for reducing safety risks

Municipal authorities in Rio de Janeiro, Duque de Caxias, Porto Alegre and Florianópolis, together with the ICRC, improved the 'safer-access' measures originally developed for health workers by the ICRC's Rio project, which was completed in 2013. They adapted these measures for use by teachers and social workers as well, and developed protocols for safer conduct during various emergencies.

In Porto Alegre, the ICRC briefed some 470 staff from 14 health posts and an emergency health unit, and 30 personnel from six social work facilities, on the use of the 'safer-access' measures. In Rio de Janeiro, teachers – who attended similar briefings – applied these measures at around 180 schools in violence-prone areas. Roughly 120 instructors – from Rio de Janeiro, Duque de Caxias, Porto Alegre and Florianópolis – learnt how to teach others about safer conduct, at ICRC training sessions.

Health workers and teachers learn to cope with the psychological effects of violence

In Araucanía, the Chilean Red Cross and the ICRC helped the local health authorities to identify the threats to the safety of medical workers and facilities, with a view to ensuring safe access to medical care, in line with the goals of the Health Care in Danger project. At ICRC sessions, about 30 State mental-health staff learnt techniques for dealing with the psychological effects of violence; they also familiarized themselves with the cross-cultural issues involved in providing psychosocial support to Mapuches. In Arroyito, in Paraguay, roughly 40 teachers were trained to cope with violence and to help others do so; five of them learnt, from ICRC-backed hospital psychologists, how to develop psychosocial initiatives for their communities. All these activities, organized by the ICRC, helped about over a hundred violence-affected adults and children find some relief from emotional distress.

In northern Paraguay, some 185 households (1,065 people) in two communities consumed or sold produce they had grown with seed, tools and training support from the authorities and the ICRC. During the winter, frost damaged some of their crops and those of people in two other communities; the authorities and the ICRC provided food for about 2,060 people (383 households). Clean water, for personal or agricultural use, became available to around 930 people after the ICRC renovated community infrastructure; in 2017, fewer beneficiaries lived in communities targeted by the ICRC for such upgrades.

In Araucanía, a few households (11 people) earned money from small businesses begun with supplies and equipment, and guidance, from the Chilean Red Cross, which received material support from the ICRC. ICRC-supported National Society

workshops strengthened some 90 first-aiders' capacities; they were also given first-aid supplies.

Members of separated families in Argentina, Brazil and Chile restore contact

In Argentina, Brazil and Chile, members of families separated by natural disasters, migration or other circumstances maintained contact through family-links services provided by the National Societies with ICRC technical and financial support. The Argentine Red Cross helped members of families affected by a mudslide and floods to remain in touch. The Brazilian Red Cross began offering such services to migrants, in cooperation with various local institutions assisting them.

The ICRC continued to monitor the situation of six people who were formerly held at the Guantanamo Bay internment facility, and were resettled in Uruguay. The ICRC arranged family visits for two who had been apart from their families for some 14 years. A former internee's wife and three children – two of them newborn – visited his family on the West Bank (see *Israel and the Occupied Territories*), with ICRC financial support.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC visited, in accordance with its standard procedures, detainees in Argentina, Chile and Paraguay. It monitored the following people individually: in Chile, detained Mapuches; in Paraguay, alleged members of armed groups and people held in connection with high-profile criminal cases; and, in Argentina, one alleged member of a Paraguayan armed group. In Chile, it also visited people detained in connection with protests in Asunción (see *Context*). Afterwards, findings from these visits were communicated confidentially to the authorities; this, together with expert advice and other ICRC support, helped the authorities improve the treatment and living conditions of detainees.

Regional prison officials expand their managerial capacities

Representatives from 14 countries in the region shared best practices in prison management at a workshop, in July, organized by the Chilean prison authorities and the ICRC in Chile. At an ICRC workshop in Costa Rica (see *Mexico City*), prison officials from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Paraguay learnt more about maintaining infrastructure.

The ICRC arranged family visits for certain detainees, majority of whom were detained in Paraguay. In Chile, the ICRC monitored the situation of several families whose main breadwinners were detained, partly to check on the results of the livelihood support that the Chilean Red Cross and the ICRC had given them in the past.

Paraguayan authorities work to overhaul the electrical system in one prison

In line with a 2016 agreement, the Paraguayan penitentiary authorities continued to draw on ICRC support to make improvements at places of detention, such as upgrading infrastructure at overcrowded prisons. They worked to upgrade the electrical power system at the Tacumbu prison, based on the recommendations of an ICRC study: they replaced or installed electrical fixtures, to improve fire safety and enable detainees and staff to have light at night. The ICRC completed a similar study on the electrical power system at the Buen Pastor women's prison, to support the authorities' efforts to improve living conditions for the 520 people held there. Prison and fire department officials, aided by the ICRC, developed safety protocols for both prisons.

A number of detainees at the Buen Pastor's women's prison helped their families outside, with profits earned from selling textiles they had woven; they had learnt to weave at an ICRC-financed course run by the Paraguayan Red Cross. Several ex-detainees continued to make and sell handicrafts and textiles through an ICRC-backed cooperative, which also helped their social reintegration. Some elderly inmates benefited from improvements to their cells. Detainees were given hygiene items; several of them received diapers for their babies.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The *carabineros* in Chile and the Paraguayan police take over training for human-rights instructors

Under their two-year partnership agreements with the ICRC, the *carabineros* of Chile and Paraguay's national police continued to receive ICRC support for updating their operational procedures and training programmes – including curricula and manuals – in line with international policing standards. ICRC support for these forces included train-the-trainer courses for human-rights instructors: the *carabineros* in Chile were able to assume full responsibility for these courses during the year; the Paraguayan police took steps towards doing the same. Some 200 *carabineros* were also trained in first aid by the Chilean Red Cross. In Brazil, the public security office of the justice ministry and the ICRC incorporated human-rights norms in an e-learning course.

The ICRC and military commands and training centres, and defence ministries, in the region continued to cooperate in reinforcing respect for IHL among troops. In Brazil and Argentina, military officers and troops bound for peacekeeping missions learnt more about IHL and ICRC activities at predeployment briefings. Senior Paraguayan military officials drew on the ICRC for advice on the rules of engagement applicable to security operations, specifically in northern Paraguay. Police officers from 15 countries discussed international policing standards at an ICRC regional symposium in Chile, in November.

Argentina and Paraguay advance their implementation of the Rome Statute

The authorities in the five countries covered worked to implement IHL-related treaties with support from the ICRC and, in Argentina, Brazil and Chile, from their national IHL committees. Argentina ratified two amendments to the Rome Statute, in relation to international and non-international armed conflict; the national IHL committee, guided by the ICRC, prepared the relevant draft bills. Paraguay passed a bill – drafted with the ICRC's advice – that incorporates penalties for war crimes and provisions on cooperation with the International Criminal Court. In Brazil, the ICRC also worked to persuade government officials to take steps to implement the Rome Statute, a draft bill for which had been awaiting the National Congress's approval for years.

The national IHL committee of Argentina strove to have objects protected under IHL – dams, power plants and other works and installations containing dangerous forces, and culturally significant monuments and buildings – officially marked as such. In Brazil, a Congressional commission drew on ICRC expertise to draft a bill protecting the Movement's emblems.

The ICRC made expert contributions to local and regional events organized by the authorities in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay, on such subjects as: migration; attacks against schools; eradication of nuclear weapons; and incorporation of IHL in military doctrine.

With the ICRC's financial assistance, the five countries covered sent representatives of national IHL committees and/or other government officials to IHL-related meetings abroad (see *Mexico City* and *Lima*).

Argentine and Brazilian universities and media raise awareness of IHL and the Movement's work

Universities joined the ICRC in broadening awareness of IHL and the ICRC's activities. The ICRC provided technical support for an Argentine university to set up an institute dedicated to collecting and analysing IHL-related information. A team of Argentine university students won the annual Jean-Pictet IHL competition in Georgia.

In Argentina and Brazil, social media campaigns, initiatives with mainstream media and other efforts helped raise public awareness of the ICRC's global presence and its status as a main source of reference for IHL and matters related to humanitarian work; the ICRC's forensic work in the Falklands/Malvinas was widely covered by the media. The ICRC organized a photo exhibition, at Brazil's national museum, highlighting the issue of missing people and the plight of their families; it also organized a competition for Brazilian journalists covering humanitarian issues.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Societies of the five countries covered strove, with the ICRC's technical and financial assistance, to strengthen their ability to respond to needs arising from situations of violence; they did so despite various administrative constraints, particularly for the Brazilian and Chilean National Societies.

From January to May 2017, the Brazilian National Society took steps to enhance its capacities in first-aid training and emergency response; notably, it treated 799 persons wounded during protests. During the latter half of the year, however, it focused on providing family-links services, as it adjusted to the restructuring (see below) that limited its other activities. Chilean National Society volunteers in Araucanía and Bio Bio received first-aid training and training in conducting assistance activities and protecting themselves while doing so in violence-prone areas; 15 volunteers became certified first-aid instructors and trained first responders in some communities. Argentine National Society volunteers also instructed some 90 people in first aid; at an ICRC training session, hundreds of volunteers learnt about the Fundamental Principles and the emblems protected under IHL.

The Brazilian, Uruguayan and Paraguayan National Societies – with support from the International Federation and the ICRC – worked to restructure themselves. The Brazilian National Society improved its internal control mechanisms and financial procedures, and reinforced its public-communication capacities and programmes promoting volunteerism among young people. The Uruguayan Red Cross underwent an external audit, and strove to build its organizational capacities with ICRC support.

Cooperation agreements between the five National Societies and the ICRC, and periodic meetings, facilitated Movement coordination.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total		
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons				
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		32	Women 4	Girls Boys
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits				
Places of detention visited		16	Women	Minors
Detainees in places of detention visited		16,125	1,077	21
Visits carried out		33		
RCMs and other means of family contact				
Detainees visited and monitored individually		78	Women 6	Girls Boys
	<i>of whom newly registered</i>	17	1	
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support				
		50		

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	2,055	617	1,015
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	88	26	44
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	1,076	324	525
Services and training ¹	Beneficiaries			
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	931	279	
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	4,060	528	41

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table and in the narrative part of this report may not reflect the extent of the activities carried out during the reporting period.

CARACAS (regional)

COVERING: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela



ICRC regional delegation

The boundaries, names and designations used in this report do not imply official endorsement, nor express a political opinion on the part of the ICRC, and are without prejudice to claims of sovereignty over the territories mentioned.

The Caracas regional delegation was established in 1971. It reinforces the capacities of the region's National Societies in the fields of emergency response, assistance to victims of violence, restoring family links and IHL promotion. It seeks to visit detainees in Venezuela and monitors the humanitarian situation along Venezuela's border with Colombia. It supports the incorporation of IHL into national legislation and into the operational procedures and training of the region's armed forces, as well as the inclusion of human rights standards in police manuals and training. It helps build local capacities in weapon-wound surgery.

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2017

- ▶ With ICRC financial and material support, the Venezuelan Red Cross treated more than a thousand people – demonstrators and security forces personnel – injured during anti-government protests that lasted five months.
- ▶ In Venezuelan states bordering Colombia, vulnerable communities learnt about good health practices and disease prevention at information sessions held by the Venezuelan Red Cross and the ICRC.
- ▶ The Belizean and Venezuelan National Societies, aided by the ICRC, instructed victims of violence in self-protection and/or first-aid methods. The Jamaica Red Cross facilitated young people's access to sports and educational activities.
- ▶ Military and police personnel in four countries discussed IHL and/or international policing standards, particularly for their joint law enforcement operations, at ICRC-organized meetings, training sessions and workshops.
- ▶ Venezuelan penitentiary officials, sponsored by the ICRC, attended regional workshops on prison management. The ICRC remained unable to visit detainees in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	1,761
Assistance	539
Prevention	847
Cooperation with National Societies	1,079
General	52
Total	4,277
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	261

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	69%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	9
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	20

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives and plans of action

MEDIUM

PROTECTION

	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs distributed	1
Phone calls facilitated between family members	4
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	2

CONTEXT

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereafter Venezuela) continued to suffer the effects of a deteriorating economy, particularly shortages of essential goods and high inflation rates. Looting and violence persisted in many districts. Between April and August, a rise in nationwide protests occurred, in response to certain rulings made by the Venezuelan Supreme Court; these protests often led to casualties and arrests. Talks between the government and opposition parties resumed in September, but no concrete agreements were reached. The situation drove many people to other Latin American countries, such as Brazil and Colombia. People in areas along the border with Colombia remained vulnerable to the effects of armed conflict in that country.

A number of countries in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) continued to deal with high levels of gang violence and crime. Police and military forces often conducted joint law enforcement operations. Migrants arrived in or passed through certain CARICOM States – for instance, the Bahamas, Belize and Trinidad and Tobago.

Border disputes between Belize and Guatemala, and between Guyana and Venezuela, persisted.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC worked closely with National Societies in the region, particularly the Venezuelan Red Cross, and other local partners to address the needs of people affected by violence in certain areas, armed conflict in Colombia and migration in the region. It continued to help the National Societies build their capacities in preparing for and responding to emergencies, and in broadening acceptance for the Movement's activities. Active coordination among Movement partners helped ensure effective implementation of projects.

The ICRC and the National Societies in Belize and Venezuela provided first-aid training for violence-affected people, to help them be ready for medical emergencies. The ICRC boosted its support for the Venezuelan Red Cross to reinforce its response to medical emergencies during demonstrations between April and August (see *Context*). Public-communication campaigns conducted by the ICRC and the National Society helped to facilitate safe access for the latter's staff and volunteers to people injured during the demonstrations. In Venezuela, ICRC workshops enabled health personnel from public and military hospitals to become more adept at performing weapon-wound surgery and/or managing emergency-room trauma. With ICRC backing, the Venezuelan Red Cross promoted good health practices among vulnerable communities along the Colombia-Venezuela border.

In Belize, Jamaica and Venezuela, the ICRC helped the National Societies to enable vulnerable people, particularly young people, to build their resilience against the consequences of violence. With the Venezuelan Red Cross, it instructed students and teachers on self-protection strategies. It guided the Jamaica Red Cross's initiatives to alleviate the impact of violence on young people through sports and educational activities. The Belize Red Cross Society received technical assistance for providing psychosocial support to victims of violence. The ICRC continued to encourage and support National Societies in the region, particularly the Venezuelan National Society, to strengthen their capacities in restoring family links.

Efforts to promote respect for international policing standards and IHL throughout the region were sustained. Military and police forces received ICRC technical assistance for coordinating their joint-security operations. Venezuelan military officials and instructors attended ICRC training sessions and workshops on IHL held within the country and elsewhere. Although the ICRC remained unable to visit detainees in Venezuela, it continued to engage in dialogue and cultivate a working relationship with penitentiary officials, through workshops on internationally recognized standards for detention.

CIVILIANS

The ICRC stepped up its cooperation with Movement and other partners in the region, particularly in Venezuela, in responding to the needs of people affected by violence. Through its field presence and dialogue with key parties, the ICRC acquired a better understanding of these people's situation, and broadened acceptance for the Movement's activities in Venezuela and the wider region.

The ICRC continued to engage with key actors on matters of common concern. Discussions with the Venezuelan authorities covered such subjects as the use of force during law enforcement operations in response to the demonstrations (see *Context*), and the emblems protected under IHL. The ICRC also pursued dialogue with Trinbagonian authorities on protecting migrants; with the International Federation, it conducted a workshop to help strengthen the Bahamas Red Cross Society's migration-related activities.

The ICRC continued to urge the National Societies in the Bahamas, Jamaica and Venezuela to improve their family-links services. With ICRC support, the Venezuelan Red Cross acted to increase the scope and efficiency of its services: it trained focal points throughout the country in restoring family links and appointed a national director to improve coordination among them. The ICRC donated body bags to some morgues in Venezuela, to help them with the handling of human remains.

People affected by violence in Venezuela learn self-protection strategies

People in violence-prone urban areas in Venezuela strengthened their emergency preparedness at workshops and training sessions held by the Venezuelan Red Cross, a local NGO and the ICRC. Around 90 students and 30 teachers at one school learnt how to protect themselves more effectively against violence. Together with other community members, some of them were also trained in first aid (see *Wounded and sick*).

With technical and other assistance from the ICRC, the National Societies in Belize and Jamaica expanded their projects to alleviate the impact of violence on young people. The Jamaican project provided sports-related and educational activities, and psychosocial support. For instance, more than 70 schoolchildren affected by gang violence, and without access to government services, began or continued to learn reading, writing and basic arithmetic, and to acquire vocational skills, at ICRC-supported National Society schools. The Belize Red Cross Society continued to organize conflict-management workshops and first-aid training for young people affected by violence; it received technical support from the ICRC to provide mental-health and psychosocial support to people affected by gang violence.

In border areas of Venezuela, where health-care services were limited, nearly 600 community members learnt good health practices at National Society and ICRC information sessions, which helped them reduce their risk of illness.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC continued to engage the Venezuelan authorities in dialogue to explain the humanitarian nature of its detention-related activities, with a view to resuming visits to detainees; these visits had been suspended since December 2012. During the dialogue, the ICRC also emphasized the importance of meeting internationally recognized standards for detention.

Some penitentiary officials attended regional workshops on prison management (see *Brasilia* and *Mexico City*), with ICRC financial support. Around 300 military prison guards familiarized themselves with internationally recognized detention standards through training events organized by the pertinent authorities, which the ICRC attended.

WOUNDED AND SICK

People injured during demonstrations receive medical care from the Venezuelan Red Cross

In Belize and Venezuela, people affected by urban violence – particularly young people – became more capable of dealing with medical emergencies after attending first-aid training sessions held by the National Societies concerned and the ICRC.

The ICRC increased its financial and material support for the Venezuelan Red Cross (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*) to respond to medical emergencies during violent incidents. About 1,300 people were given medical treatment by the National Society – mostly during the five months of anti-government demonstrations; furthermore, 24 hospitals were reinforced with surgical supplies that had been pre-positioned by the ICRC at National Society branches. The ICRC imported another batch of surgical supplies for pre-positioning at National Society branches or for donation to hospitals in violence-prone areas; it was one of only two international organizations permitted to bring medical goods into the country.

At courses conducted by the ICRC, about 130 civilian and military health professionals in Venezuela became more adept at treating people injured or wounded by firearms or explosives; some 25 others added to their knowledge of emergency-room trauma management. ICRC dissemination sessions helped personnel from a military facility to understand the necessity of respecting health services, and the differences between international human rights law and IHL. The ICRC pursued dialogue with the Venezuelan health ministry on improving care for patients with severe trauma and illnesses.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Venezuelan military personnel deepen their knowledge of IHL and international policing standards

The ICRC kept up its dialogue with the military and the police in Belize, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, to promote the incorporation of IHL and international standards for law enforcement in their doctrine, training and operations. Discussions with the ICRC enabled the military and the police to understand more fully the necessity of coordinating their security operations and of conducting training sessions adapted for specific purposes. The ICRC participated in an international conference aimed at strengthening the implementation of international standards for the use of force during law enforcement operations of CARICOM security forces.

Venezuelan military officers based in a state bordering Colombia, and military instructors, strengthened their ability to instruct others in IHL and/or international standards for the use of force during ICRC train-the-trainer courses. Two Venezuelan military officials attended an international workshop on rules governing military operations (see *International law and policy*), with support from the ICRC. The Venezuelan police and the ICRC continued to develop their working relationship and their dialogue on subjects of common concern.

Venezuela, CARICOM States and the ICRC continue to discuss ratification of IHL-related treaties

The ICRC maintained its dialogue with every State covered by the delegation and pertinent regional or multilateral bodies, such as the CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS), on ratifying and implementing IHL-related treaties. It contributed to the contents of two resolutions on migration and human rights that were adopted by the Organization of American States' General Assembly.

The ICRC sponsored government officials from Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela, and representatives of CARICOM IMPACS, to attend a regional meeting of national IHL committees, at which IHL and other legal frameworks governing the use of weapons were discussed (see *Mexico City*). Venezuelan representatives attended an international conference on the ICRC's updated Commentary on the First Geneva Convention (see *Brussels*).

Members of Venezuelan civil society familiarize themselves with the Fundamental Principles

The ICRC provided support for a seminar on international criminal law at a Venezuelan university; the students and lawyers in attendance broadened their understanding of various issues related to the protection of cultural property.

The Venezuelan Red Cross and the ICRC conducted social-media campaigns and other public-communication activities to broaden awareness of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian activities among members of civil society and the general public. These campaigns helped explain the National Society's role in emergencies, particularly during the anti-government demonstrations from April to August, and promoted respect for health services and the proper use of the emblems protected under IHL.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies in the region continued to receive financial, material and technical support from the ICRC and other Movement partners for improving their institutional set-up and strengthening their capacity to respond to emergencies and/or to the consequences of violence. Such support enabled the Venezuelan Red Cross to bolster its operational capacities during the anti-government protests from April to August, particularly in such areas as transportation for its volunteers, distribution of drinking water to protesters and security forces personnel, and treatment of casualties (see *Wounded and sick*).

At ICRC workshops on the Safer Access framework, around 180 Venezuelan Red Cross staff and volunteers learnt how to deliver aid safely, especially in areas prone to violence. ICRC training helped other staff and volunteers to develop their capacities in restoring family links (see *Civilians*) and explaining the Movement's activities to the general public (see *Actors of influence*).

Movement partners throughout the region shared experiences and explored possibilities for cooperation during meetings and ICRC-facilitated peer-to-peer sessions; various agreements on coordination mechanisms and joint security measures were drafted. Joint missions were conducted to monitor the implementation of projects.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total		
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC	
RCMs distributed		1		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		4		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		4		
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		2		
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		3		

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
First aid				
First-aid training				
	Sessions		29	
	Participants (sum of monthly data)		366	

LIMA (regional)

COVERING: Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru



ICRC/AR_2017
 ICRC regional delegation ICRC mission ICRC office/presence

The delegation in Lima opened in 1984, becoming a regional delegation in 2003. The ICRC visits detainees, addresses the issue of missing persons and monitors the humanitarian situation in violence-affected areas in Peru and along Ecuador's border with Colombia. It seeks to address the needs of people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, and helps the region's National Societies reinforce their capacities to do likewise. It assists government forces in integrating IHL and international law enforcement standards into their doctrine, training and operations. It promotes the incorporation of IHL in national legislation.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives and plans of action

HIGH

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2017

- ▶ In Peru, the authorities started implementing a law concerning the search for people missing in relation to past conflict. They integrated psychosocial care for missing persons' families into the search process, with ICRC support.
- ▶ People once held by the Militarized Communist Party of Peru had access to potable water and pursued livelihood opportunities, with ICRC aid; a State protocol formalizing such aid awaited implementation.
- ▶ In Peru, IHL and/or international policing standards were discussed with military commanders in the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro Valley, and incorporated in the modules of the police's new training centre.
- ▶ Inmates in Bolivian prisons benefited from ICRC upgrades to water facilities. Penitentiary personnel in the region, guided by the ICRC, drafted new protocols or directives and strengthened respect for those already in existence.

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	2
RCMs distributed	6
Phone calls facilitated between family members	22
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	78
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Places of detention visited	31
Detainees in places of detention visited	65,874
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	152
Visits carried out	59
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	14
RCMs distributed	1
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	16

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	1,989
Assistance	816
Prevention	1,741
Cooperation with National Societies	875
General	89
Total	5,509
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	336

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	97%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	3
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	44

ASSISTANCE

	2017 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	71
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	81
Cash	Beneficiaries	362
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,300
		2,325

CONTEXT

In the Apurímac, Ene and Mantaro Valley (VRAEM) of Peru, clashes between government forces and the Militarized Communist Party of Peru (PCP-M) intensified; they were also more frequent than in 2016. The military oversaw security operations in the area, and participated in police-led operations against drug trafficking, in the Ayacucho district, for instance. The clashes led to casualties and arrests of alleged PCP-M members; they also damaged property and endangered health workers. As a result, essential goods and services became less accessible to people, particularly those once held by the PCP-M.

People living in northern Ecuador, for instance in Sucumbíos Province, were vulnerable to the illicit activities of armed groups near the Ecuador–Colombia border (see *Colombia*); minors were at risk of recruitment. There were violent confrontations between these groups and Ecuadorean police forces. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia (hereafter Bolivia), Ecuador and Peru, protests – related to labour issues, mining projects and political discontent – occasionally turned violent. More Venezuelans settled in or passed through the region to other destinations.

Heavy rains caused flooding and landslides, dispersing families and affecting over 700,000 people, mostly in Peru.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The Lima regional delegation worked to protect and assist vulnerable people in the VRAEM; it also monitored the needs of people living along Ecuador's border with Colombia. The concerns of vulnerable people and the dangers faced by health workers in violence-prone areas were documented and reported to the authorities. The aim was to help or persuade the authorities to improve these people's situation and ensure the safety of health workers. To this end, the ICRC guided the Peruvian authorities' implementation of a protocol outlining support for people who had been held in PCP-M camps; it also helped the authorities draft guidelines on the rights and duties of health workers. National IHL committees and the ICRC backed the authorities' efforts to implement IHL and foster regionwide respect and support for it. At ICRC workshops, police and military personnel in the region – notably, senior military commanders in the VRAEM – learnt more about international policing standards and/or IHL, as well as how to instruct their colleagues in these matters.

The ICRC continued to provide material assistance to violence-affected people in the region, including those once held in PCP-M camps; it ended its support for Bolivian physical rehabilitation services, as planned. With the Movement's backing, the Ecuadorean Red Cross instructed people living near Ecuador's northern border in first aid and good hygiene.

In Peru, the ICRC continued to support local partners working to ascertain the fate of people missing in relation to the 1980–2000 conflict and to address their families' needs; it helped these partners reinforce their forensic capacities and their provision of psychosocial care, especially during the search process. The Peruvian Red Cross led the Movement's response to natural disasters, by helping affected people to contact their relatives; National Societies in the region sought to bolster their response to such emergencies and those created by violence, by enhancing their capacities with help from the International Federation and the ICRC.

In accordance with its standard procedures, the ICRC visited places of detention in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru – including those where people were being held on security-related charges. Findings and recommendations were subsequently communicated confidentially to the authorities, and technical and other support were provided. The aim was to help the authorities improve detainees' living conditions and treatment and develop protocols or training modules to this end. Detainees held far from their homes in Ecuador and Peru received ICRC-organized family visits. The ICRC facilitated the visit of some Bolivian officials to an Ecuadorean prison, to exchange best practices with their counterparts there. Detainees in some Bolivian prisons had better access to water, after ICRC-backed improvements to certain facilities.

In December 2017, the ICRC closed its office in Lago Agrio, owing to a decrease in protection cases along Ecuador's border with Colombia. It continued to monitor the humanitarian situation in the area from its mission in Quito, which the ICRC planned to convert into an office in 2018.

CIVILIANS

Peruvian authorities work to protect and assist former PCP-M captives

Vulnerable people in the VRAEM reported their concerns to ICRC delegates who discussed them, and the concerns of health workers in the area, with the authorities, weapon bearers and other parties concerned. Military commanders and the ICRC discussed, in particular, the proper use of force in the conduct of operations in the VRAEM, in line with reports on armed personnel's occupation of schools and indiscriminate attacks to farms (see *Actors of influence*). The ICRC sought to help or persuade these authorities to improve the situation of people in the VRAEM and ensure their safe access to essential goods and services. The ICRC also continued to monitor the humanitarian needs of people along Ecuador's border with Colombia.

In line with the Health Care in Danger project, the Peruvian health ministry and the Peruvian Red Cross adopted a set of standardized guidelines – produced with the ICRC's advice – for health workers' protection in unsafe environments. Over 5,000 health workers in the VRAEM and elsewhere in Peru received copies of the guidelines, and were briefed on the contents by the health ministry and the ICRC. Certain Peruvian Red Cross volunteers were helped to strengthen their grasp of the Health Care in Danger project, so that they could instruct others.

People in violence-prone areas in the region receive limited ICRC assistance

A multisectoral commission in Peru drew on the ICRC's expertise to implement a protocol, whose approval by the Peruvian Congress in 2016 was supported by the ICRC; this protocol outlines the protection and assistance due to people who had been held in PCP-M camps, particularly women, children, or people with disabilities. The ICRC also provided some assistance to vulnerable people in the VRAEM. Seed and tools for agriculture, raw materials for handicrafts, and educational supplies from the ICRC eased the process of social integration for 86 people, including 34 children – mostly people who had left or once been held in PCP-M camps. Food and household essentials also helped these people improve their living conditions, and cash to cover their travel expenses enabled some of them to return home. Some 2,320 violence-affected people in 18 communities had access to potable water after the ICRC upgraded chlorination facilities, in coordination with local authorities.

In Ecuador, two people who were displaced by the situation in Colombia, were given ICRC financial support. Two communities affected by the drug trade in Esmeraldas Province planted fruit orchards with the Ecuadorean Red Cross's help. Some 80 violence-affected people from four communities in Sucumbíos learnt more about first aid, and pest control and waste-management techniques to help them reduce their risk of illness and practice better hygiene, during training sessions organized by the Ecuadorean Red Cross with support from the International Federation and the ICRC. Such support also enabled students and teachers in another province to hold training sessions in first aid and disaster preparedness in schools.

As planned, the ICRC ended its six-year physical rehabilitation programme in Bolivia, which benefited dozens of destitute patients. Notably, in 2017, the ICRC donated walking aids to improve their mobility; some 16 of them were given cash to cover their treatment, transportation, and lodging expenses.

Missing persons' families in Peru benefit from psychosocial care and other support

With ICRC support, government agencies and local organizations in Peru strove to clarify the fate of people missing in relation to the 1980–2000 conflict and to assist their families. In 2017, the authorities set up a mechanism to lead the search for missing persons in Peru. With technical and logistical support from the ICRC, this mechanism initiated an approach in Ayacucho that incorporates psychosocial support for missing persons' families in the search process. The approach also involved reminding these families of their right to know the fate of their missing relatives and to seek State assistance in this regard (see *Actors of influence*). Some 170 specialists became more adept at providing psychosocial care through ICRC-supported training sessions. Members of associations of missing people's families, forensic professionals and prosecutors were encouraged to use ICRC guidelines in lessening families' emotional distress during the exhumation process; they also learnt how to manage work-related stress.

Families wishing to take part in the search for their missing relatives received ICRC logistical support: about 340 people were assisted to travel to exhumation sites or legal offices; others who came from remote areas had free temporary lodgings at the Peruvian Red Cross branch in Ayacucho. ICRC informational videos enabled some families to learn about the State assistance available to them.

Forensic capacities in Bolivia and Peru are reinforced

Training and technical guidance in managing human remains helped Peruvian forensic experts and anthropologists build their capacities. ICRC financial support enabled two forensic experts to attend related events abroad (see *Brasilia*). Local organizations drew on the ICRC's expertise to process the cases of about 500 families' missing relatives. Through dialogue with the ICRC, some Bolivian authorities learnt more about searching for missing people and managing human remains during emergencies; they also received an ICRC booklet on these subjects.

In Peru, members of families dispersed by flooding and landslides reconnected through the Movement's family-links services; through ICRC training sessions, Peruvian Red Cross volunteers learnt how to provide family-links services and to instruct others in doing so.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Penitentiary officials draft or familiarize themselves with protocols for prison management

In accordance with its standard procedures, the ICRC visited places of detention in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru – including those where people were being held on security-related charges. Findings and recommendations were subsequently communicated confidentially to the authorities, and training and other support were provided, with a view to helping them improve detainees' treatment and living conditions.

Aided by ICRC expertise, penitentiary authorities in the region drafted new protocols or directives and strengthened respect for those already in existence. In Bolivia, police officers prepared a manual setting out their duties and responsibilities in prisons; the authorities drew on local experts to develop protocols for providing legal, psychological and social-welfare assistance to detainees. The Peruvian National Penitentiary Institute and the ICRC jointly produced educational materials to help inform prison personnel, during training sessions, about such matters as: a 2016 directive providing for comprehensive care for female detainees; directives on education and work opportunities for detainees; and means to mitigate the effects of overcrowding. Guided by the ICRC, the institute updated a manual on human rights for prison personnel. Ecuadorean officials produced a training module for penitentiary personnel.

Penitentiary authorities and personnel in the region, Bolivian lawyers, social workers and psychologists, and security officers in Peru developed their ability to design and manage prisons; the ICRC provided training materials and organized or supported national and regional workshops to this end (see also *Brasilia*). At these workshops, some Peruvian lawyers also learnt more about matters related to the early release of detainees.

In Peru and Ecuador, people detained in prisons far from their homes received ICRC-organized family visits. Financial assistance from the ICRC helped over 20 people return home after their release.

Bolivian authorities work to improve prison infrastructure

In Bolivia, the authorities drew on the ICRC for technical support to draft plans for new prisons and maintain those already in existence. The Ecuadorean authorities and the ICRC arranged for Bolivian officials to visit a prison in Ecuador and familiarize themselves with best managerial practices, specifically in connection with health care in prisons. Over a thousand detainees in prisons in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba had better access to water after the ICRC, the authorities and local organizations renovated or constructed water or sanitation facilities.

More than 37,000 inmates in Peru were able to borrow books from mobile libraries and benefit from various cultural and educational activities, such as poetry readings, owing to the efforts of the national library, the National Penitentiary Institute, the ICRC, and several other public and private institutions.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Military and police personnel strengthen their grasp of IHL and other applicable norms

Senior military commanders in charge of certain operations in the VRAEM advanced their knowledge of various matters – IHL, the respect due to health workers, and weapon contamination – in an

ICRC-hosted workshop. At the request of one senior commander, the ICRC replicated the workshop for military officers in the VRAEM.

Military and police officials from Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru participated in ICRC-organized courses and workshops on IHL, and/or international law enforcement standards; during the workshops, participants simulated the use of force in real-life scenarios. Among the participants were about 30 instructors from the Ecuadorean military and 60 from the Bolivian or Peruvian police forces; the workshops and courses enabled them to develop their ability to instruct others in these subjects, and helped them improve their training programmes. With the ICRC's encouragement and advice, the Peruvian police established a centre for training personnel in international policing standards. In Peru, the ICRC organized discussions for police officers and public prosecutors on ensuring that human rights are respected during law enforcement. The Bolivian police drafted a manual and a handbook on police operations during social unrest.

In Lima, Peru, in August, officials from the defence ministries of Members States of the Union of South American Nations advanced their understanding of IHL through a course on IHL and human rights organized by the Peruvian defence ministry with ICRC support.

Authorities in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru learn more about IHL and humanitarian issues

Authorities in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru – including weapon bearers and judicial officials – added to their knowledge of IHL through courses organized by national IHL committees with ICRC support. These courses also touched on the Health Care in Danger project and the incidence of sexual violence. At an ICRC-hosted regional meeting in Costa Rica (see *Mexico City*), members of national IHL committees in the region discussed their role in advancing domestic IHL implementation, specifically regarding weapon-related treaties. At events organized by the Organization of American States (see *Washington*), representatives from these three countries discussed the needs of migrants in the region; Ecuadorean authorities described the enactment of a relevant law in their country in 2017.

In Peru, the authorities and the national IHL committee incorporated the ICRC's recommendations in the draft of a legislative decree establishing the scope of the military's use of force. Peruvian officials participated in a round-table about regulating the conduct of private military and security companies in Peru; this was organized by the ICRC and other organizations, with a view to fostering support for the Montreux Document.

Ecuadorean students test their knowledge of IHL in a national competition

The ICRC engaged academics, diplomats, journalists and other key members of civil society in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru in dialogue, and conducted workshops for them. The aim was to persuade them to contribute to and shape public discussions on certain issues of pressing concern in the region – the various threats to the safety of health services, sexual violence, the plight of missing persons' families, and overcrowding in prisons – and to cultivate public support for humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement.

Students in the region learnt more about IHL and/or tested their understanding of it: in Bolivia, they attended the national IHL committee's information sessions; and in Ecuador, ten teams from different universities took part in a national competition organized by former participants, the Ecuadorean Red Cross and the ICRC.

In Peru, the ICRC organized workshops and photo exhibits in the Ombudsman's Office, a museum, and an archbishop's office, with a view to drawing the public's attention to the needs of missing people's families. Members of associations of missing people's families learnt about their rights through ICRC training sessions, and were thus better placed to deal with government agencies.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies reinforce their capacities to respond to emergencies

The Bolivian, Ecuadorean and Peruvian National Societies responded to emergencies arising from violence and natural disasters (see *Civilians*); they enhanced their capacities to do so with financial and technical support from the International Federation and the ICRC. At workshops on the Safer Access Framework and on the Movement, nearly 1,400 staff and volunteers of the Ecuadorean Red Cross strengthened their grasp of the Fundamental Principles and learnt how to protect themselves more effectively in violence-prone areas. About 240 volunteers of the Peruvian Red Cross (see *Civilians*) were briefed on these matters and on the Health Care in Danger project.

National Societies in the region worked with the ICRC to broaden public awareness of humanitarian principles and the Movement (see *Actors of influence*).

The Peruvian Red Cross strengthened its institutional bases and managerial capacities. Despite certain administrative constraints, the Bolivian Red Cross continued to work on modernizing its internal procedures, with Movement support. Regularly held meetings helped ensure coordination among Movement components in the region.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		2			
RCMs distributed		6			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		22			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		93	28	2	2
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		78			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		1,302	197	45	10
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		1			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Places of detention visited		31			
Detainees in places of detention visited		65,874	5,399	575	
Visits carried out		59			
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		152	25		
<i>of whom newly registered</i>		22	4		
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		14			
RCMs distributed		1			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		16			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		78			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		4			

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	71	33	32
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	81	23	7
Cash	Beneficiaries	362	182	7
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	2	1	1
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	2,325	814	814
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	6		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	37,716	4,987	
Cash	Beneficiaries	25	1	
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,084	11	11

MEXICO CITY (regional)

COVERING: Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti (see separate report), Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama



ICRC regional delegation ICRC mission

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2017

- ▶ Migrants obtained drinking water, temporary accommodations and health and family-links services at ICRC-supported facilities located along the migration route and run by National Societies and other local partners.
- ▶ With ICRC advice, the Mexican authorities drafted and enacted a law on missing people and the needs of their families. Financial assistance from the ICRC enabled people to attend burials of relatives once missing.
- ▶ Violence-affected people in five countries, including children and IDPs, obtained psychosocial and other kinds of health care with ICRC support. An ICRC medical team bolstered the emergency services of a Honduran hospital.
- ▶ The ICRC began visits, according to its standard procedures, to federal penitentiaries in Mexico and to other facilities holding migrants in Mexico and Panama. The suspension of visits to adult inmates in El Salvador continued.
- ▶ Some 80 military officers from around the world gathered at an IHL workshop organized by Mexico's secretariat of defence and the ICRC. Military and police instructors learnt how to train their peers in international policing standards.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	6,580
Assistance	10,816
Prevention	3,171
Cooperation with National Societies	1,338
General	359
Total	22,263
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>1,359</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	97%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	46
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	171

The Mexico delegation opened in 1998, becoming a regional delegation in 2002. It helps the region's National Societies strengthen their capacities and works with them to address the most urgent humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants and of persons affected by organized violence. The ICRC monitors detainees' conditions and endeavours to ascertain the fate of missing persons. It helps integrate IHL into armed forces' doctrine and into academic curricula, and human rights norms applicable to the use of force into the doctrine, training and operations of security forces. The delegation hosts the regional advisory service on IHL.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives and plans of action **HIGH**

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	5
RCMs distributed	9
Phone calls facilitated between family members	91,322
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Places of detention visited	34
Detainees in places of detention visited	28,044
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	27
Visits carried out	57
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	10
RCMs distributed	5
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	29

ASSISTANCE	2017 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)¹		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries 600	
Essential household items	Beneficiaries 30,500	18
Cash	Beneficiaries 22,672	
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries 89,350	82,954
Health		
Health centres supported	Structures 10	13
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures 1	1
Physical rehabilitation		
Projects supported	Projects 2	5
Patients receiving services	Patients 6,952	

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table and in the narrative part of this report may not reflect the extent of the activities carried out during the reporting period.

CONTEXT

Armed violence persisted throughout the region, particularly in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico; homicide rates and the level of violence rose in several Mexican states. The government of El Salvador extended, until May 2018, the stricter security measures it imposed at six prisons in 2016, in order to curb gang violence. In some of the countries covered, military troops aided law enforcement operations. People living in violence-affected areas, including displaced persons, continued to be at risk of injury or death, and of abduction. Young people were especially vulnerable to recruitment by weapon bearers. Access to health, education and other basic services was compromised by the violence.

People, primarily from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, continued to seek safety and better opportunities elsewhere. Migrants heading to or deported from Mexico and the United States of America (hereafter US) were at risk of physical abuse and other dangers along their route and on their return. Stricter migration policies in Mexico, Panama and other countries complicated or ended their journey. The US administration's announcement that it would be implementing similar policies resulted in migrants changing their routes and facing more risks to avoid being arrested and subsequently deported.

Families throughout the region continued to seek information about relatives who were missing in connection with migration, past armed conflict and ongoing situations of violence.

In Honduras, several people were reportedly killed and hundreds arrested during demonstrations that took place after the presidential elections in November; attacks against health-care providers were also reported.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC's regional delegation in Mexico City continued to focus on protecting and/or assisting migrants, missing people's families, detainees and other violence-affected people, and on promoting respect for humanitarian principles. It maintained close cooperation with National Societies in the region and helped them strengthen their ability to reach and safely aid migrants and violence-affected communities.

ICRC-supported facilities run by National Societies and other local partners helped ease the journey of people travelling along the migration route through El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. They provided migrants with drinking water, health services, temporary accommodations and/or a means to contact relatives; informational materials gave migrants advice on reducing the risks to their safety and where to obtain assistance. The ICRC also gave vulnerable migrants and deportees/returnees material assistance, or cash to access medical care or travel home.

To help ensure the availability of suitable medical care for people in violence-affected areas in Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama, the ICRC provided various types of support for primary-health-care facilities, physical rehabilitation centres, and partners offering psychosocial and psychological care. It bolstered its comprehensive support for one hospital in Honduras by assigning a medical team to help the hospital's staff treat patients needing life-saving care. The National Society and/or the ICRC

implemented recreational and other activities to help people cope with their situation or access basic services; some IDPs in El Salvador and Honduras received food rations.

The ICRC continued to offer technical and infrastructural assistance for Guatemalan, Honduran, Mexican and Salvadorean forensic services to help develop their ability to properly manage and identify human remains. It also provided financial assistance for families to attend their relatives' burial, and for children of missing migrants to go to school.

The ICRC visited places of detention in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama to monitor the treatment and living conditions of detainees – in accordance with its standard procedures. These places included federal penitentiaries in Mexico and migrant detention facilities in Mexico and Panama. The suspension of visits to adult inmates in El Salvador continued. The pertinent authorities drew on the ICRC's expertise, or worked with the organization, to set up or reinforce initiatives to reduce prison overcrowding and address the material and health needs of inmates. In one Panamanian facility, prison officials and/or the ICRC upgraded infrastructure and provided technical assistance for a recycling project run by detainees, to help ensure more hygienic surroundings.

The ICRC strove to advance understanding of and support for humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement throughout the region. It maintained dialogue with and/or organized activities for the authorities, pertinent organizations and the general public. It continued to hold training sessions for military and police personnel, and instructors, on international policing standards. In Mexico, together with the Secretariat of National Defence, the ICRC organized an IHL workshop for military officers from around the world. Members of national IHL committees and other government officials in the region drew on ICRC expertise to promote or implement IHL-related treaties and pertinent international norms domestically; some States signed or acceded to these treaties, and Mexico enacted a law on missing people and their families.

In June, the Mexico City regional delegation took over the remaining activities of the Haiti delegation (see *Haiti*, for a separate report of its main activities in 2017).

CIVILIANS

The ICRC strove to broaden awareness among the authorities of the plight of migrants, missing people's families and other violence-affected people, and of the need to facilitate humanitarian access to vulnerable communities. Where appropriate, it relayed allegations of abuse to the pertinent parties, with a view to preventing their recurrence.

Migrants obtain health-care and family-links services

People travelling along the migration route through El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico benefited from comprehensive assistance – some of them more than once – at facilities run by National Societies and other local actors. These facilities received various forms of support that the ICRC provided in coordination with other humanitarian organizations and civil-society groups. Vulnerable returnees and deportees heading to Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico also benefited from support that sought to address their protection and assistance needs.

Migrants received practical medical advice, information on reducing risks to their safety and the location of assistance points through radio spots and National Society-distributed leaflets. They informed their families of their situation through over 91,000 free phone calls from 63 contact points, 27 of which offered free internet access.

In-transit and deported or returning migrants obtained free consultations and medical treatment at mobile or fixed health facilities: one run by the Honduran Red Cross and nine by the Mexican Red Cross. Distribution of bottled water and water-purifying chlorine tablets made potable water available for some 35,900 migrants. In Mexico, the ICRC renovated 12 NGO-run shelters, which enabled them to continue offering free temporary accommodations for some 43,750 people.

The ICRC gave vulnerable migrants and deportees or returnees ad hoc financial assistance to: obtain medical care – for sexual violence and physical disabilities, for instance (see *Wounded and sick*); reunite with their relatives; or travel home. In Guatemala and Honduras, approximately 20,000 migrants received material aid to meet their immediate needs.

Violence-affected schoolchildren and teachers are better placed to cope with their situation

The ICRC worked with the pertinent authorities and humanitarian organizations to respond to IDPs' needs in El Salvador and Honduras (see *Actors of influence*), while also helping strengthen the authorities' ability to do so. Some of these IDPs received food rations from the ICRC, or from civil-society groups who used funds from the ICRC to buy and distribute these goods. Almost 370 IDPs in El Salvador benefited from refurbished shelters.

Recreational and other projects carried out by National Societies and/or the ICRC in urban areas of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama helped people cope with their situation and reduce their vulnerability to becoming participants to the violence. Thirty-seven Guatemalan and Mexican schools took part in efforts to create 'safer educational spaces' for students and teachers and to promote humanitarian values among them. Roughly 300 young people benefited from vocational courses offered by the Salvadorean Red Cross Society.

Material and technical assistance from the National Society and the ICRC improved services at two primary-health-care centres in Mexico that were run by the Secretariat of Health. The Secretariat fully equipped one of these centres, partly as a result of discussions with the ICRC about facilitating people's access to adequate health services. Communities in two remote regions of Panama obtained basic health care from a mobile health unit operated and backed by the health authorities, the Red Cross Society of Panama and the ICRC. As planned, the ICRC concluded its support for this activity by year's end.

In Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, teachers, medical personnel and National Society volunteers were trained in stress management and in providing psychological or psychosocial support. Roughly 280 victims of violence – including sexual violence – in Guatemala, and nearly 80 high-school students in Mexico, were given follow-up consultations and other psychological care by psychologists volunteering for the National Society in their country.

ICRC infrastructural projects improved water and sanitation facilities for some 2,500 community members in Darién, Panama.

States introduce mechanisms to expedite the search for missing people

The ICRC continued to give States expert advice on the issue of missing people: Mexico drafted and enacted a law for missing people and their families, which provided for the creation of a national search commission; Guatemala advanced the drafting of national guidelines for forensic identification; and in Honduras, the medico-legal institute established a unit for identifying human remains.

Guatemalan, Mexican and Salvadorean officials used ICRC data-management software to record missing-persons cases. ICRC training sessions enabled some 600 forensic personnel, investigators and others – in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico – to develop their ability to manage human remains in accordance with best practices, cope with work-related stress and improve their communication with missing people's families. Construction of burial niches in Guatemala and Mexico enabled the dignified burial of unidentified remains.

At ICRC information sessions throughout the region, missing people's relatives learnt about forensic identification and possibilities for participating in the search process. In Honduras and Mexico, ICRC-trained psychologists and social workers provided psychological and psychosocial support for families during stressful occasions such as exhumations. Financial assistance from the ICRC helped around 750 people in El Salvador and Guatemala to attend dignified burials for relatives once missing, and 20 children – whose relatives had gone missing during migration – to go to school.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC visited detainees, in accordance with its standard procedures, at places of detention in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama. It began conducting visits to federal penitentiaries in Mexico and to other facilities holding migrants in Mexico and Panama. Together, these places held some 28,000 detainees, including women and adolescents. ICRC visits to adult inmates in El Salvador, however, remained suspended owing to the security measures imposed by the authorities (see *Context*).

After these visits, the ICRC discussed its findings on detainees' treatment and living conditions confidentially with the authorities. Topics discussed included: the effects of prolonged segregation; alternatives to detention for migrants; and in El Salvador and Honduras, the impact of stricter detention measures on detainees and the ICRC's ability to assist the authorities concerned.

The Salvadorean public defender's office drew on ICRC expertise to launch a project to reduce overcrowding in five prisons by expediting early-release procedures. The Honduran penitentiary authorities continued to implement, at selected prisons, a registration system to facilitate legal proceedings for detainees. Sponsored by the ICRC, prison officials from five countries attended a regional course on prison management (see *Brasilia*).

Detainees reconnected with their relatives through RCMs and oral messages relayed by ICRC delegates.

Inmates in El Salvador, Honduras and Panama have better living conditions

At an ICRC workshop in Costa Rica, representatives of 13 Latin American countries discussed best practices in managing prison infrastructure. After upgrades to basic facilities at selected prisons – conducted by the ICRC, or by the authorities with ICRC support – roughly 10,300 inmates in Honduras and Panama, and some 700 minors in El Salvador, had better living conditions and/or broader access to health services.

In addition to these infrastructural upgrades, the officials involved and the ICRC pursued a holistic approach to ensuring more hygienic surroundings for inmates at one of the prisons in Panama mentioned above. About 2,200 inmates there received hygiene and cleaning kits from the ICRC; some of them learnt about hygienic practices at ICRC information sessions. To ensure that a recycling project initiated by inmates at the prison was sustainable, the ICRC offered technical advice to prison officials and facilitated contact between these officials and potential partners.

The ICRC gave nine prison clinics in El Salvador, Honduras and Panama material and technical support to strengthen their services for detainees. In Honduras, the ICRC helped the National Penitentiary Institute and the health ministry implement an agreement to reinforce health-care services at five prisons; one of these prisons' clinics began implementing health ministry standards. The ICRC pursued similar efforts in Panama.

WOUNDED AND SICK

ICRC medical team reinforces emergency services at a hospital in Honduras

During the political violence in Honduras (see *Context*), Movement components reminded the authorities of the necessity of protecting medical personnel and vehicles and facilitating their access to the injured.

To help ensure the availability of life-saving care for wounded people in Mexico, the National Society and the ICRC trained and equipped potential first responders, health staff at public institutions, and military and police personnel.

Within the framework of a two-year project that began in 2016, the ICRC provided comprehensive support for the Tegucigalpa Teaching Hospital in Honduras to improve treatment for victims of violence. An ICRC medical team advised and assisted the emergency department's staff in dealing with influxes of patients needing urgent attention. At ICRC training sessions, staff from a Mexican naval hospital developed their ability to administer emergency trauma care, and selected health personnel in Honduras and Mexico learnt about the goals of the Health Care in Danger project. Salvadorean health officials and service providers, and the ICRC, explored possibilities for cooperation in providing secondary-level care for wounded people.

A university in Honduras included wound management in its undergraduate curriculum.

Disabled people in Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico – including migrants, returnees and victims of violence – obtained rehabilitative assistance at five ICRC-backed physical rehabilitation centres; in Honduras and Guatemala, some of these people also

benefited from psychological and psychosocial support. The ICRC gave these centres raw materials and equipment, and funds, for manufacturing prosthetic and orthotic devices; it also covered treatment, transportation and lodging costs for patients. ICRC scholarships enabled two rehabilitation specialists from Honduras to attend advanced courses abroad.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Mexican defence secretariat and the ICRC hold international workshop on IHL

Armed forces and police in the region drew on ICRC support to promote respect for international policing standards and international human rights law among their personnel. The ICRC, sometimes with the pertinent police and military authorities, organized workshops in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama to help police and military officers and instructors, and military personnel with law enforcement duties, expand their knowledge of these standards or develop their ability to teach their peers about them. The Mexican federal police approved a protocol on the use of force that sought to ensure the transparency and legality of law enforcement operations.

In October, some 80 military officers from around the world gathered in Mexico for the annual Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations (see *International law and policy*). The event, organized by the Secretariat of National Defence and the ICRC, enabled participants to share experiences and best practices during military operations and to discuss challenges for IHL in modern armed conflict. A high-level panel – that included Mexico's deputy secretary for foreign affairs and the ICRC's president – chaired the event.

Members of IHL committees in the Americas discuss weapons-related issues at a regional event

Authorities, members of national IHL committees and lawyers in the region continued to promote and/or implement IHL domestically, with ICRC advice (see also *Civilians*). Such input focused on the incorporation in domestic law of international norms on the repression of war crimes and the protection due to the Red Cross emblem and, in Honduras, of a multidisciplinary emergency response to IDPs' needs. The Costa Rican foreign ministry and the ICRC organized a regional event in May for roughly 20 government officials from throughout the Americas, including representatives from national IHL committees; participants discussed various weapons-related issues, such as transferring arms responsibly under the Arms Trade Treaty and clearing and destroying anti-personnel mines.

Honduras acceded to the Arms Trade Treaty, and eight countries covered by the delegation signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The new headquarters agreement between El Salvador and the ICRC took effect in April.

The ICRC continued to raise humanitarian issues – concerning migrants and detainees in particular – during multilateral forums and processes, such as the Regional Conference on Migration. States included ICRC recommendations for protecting and assisting vulnerable migrants in the outcome documents of these events. The ICRC maintained its dialogue with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Traditional and social media bring regional humanitarian issues to the public's attention

Various ICRC events enabled university professors and students in Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala and Mexico to stay abreast of the challenges faced by IHL.

National Societies in the region and the ICRC helped raise public knowledge of the Movement and regional humanitarian issues through traditional and social media and awareness-raising activities. They drew the public's attention to various subjects, particularly the necessity of protecting medical services in light of the post-election violence in Honduras and the Movement's emergency response to the earthquake in Mexico. Mexican media organizations covered the ICRC president's visit to Mexico, which included a meeting with the president of Mexico at which the ICRC's work in the country was discussed. ICRC workshops for journalists in Guatemala and Honduras encouraged participants to report more on humanitarian issues. Guatemalan journalists published articles or broadcast radio programmes describing the ICRC's activities for missing people's families.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Various forms of support from Movement partners helped National Societies in the region strengthen their ability to respond

to emergencies – such as the political violence in Honduras and the earthquake in Mexico – and to the needs of vulnerable people (see *Civilians*). At ICRC workshops, nearly 1,100 Costa Rican, Honduran and Mexican National Society volunteers were trained to apply the Safer Access Framework in their activities and to provide psychological support to peers.

Twenty-two health staff from Cuba, and 12 others from elsewhere, bolstered their ability to respond to large-scale health emergencies through a course held in Cuba and organized by the Cuban Red Cross, a local medical institution and the ICRC.

Expert advice from the ICRC helped National Societies in the region to strengthen their capacities in public communication (see *Actors of influence*) and to advance the revision of their statutes. Sponsored by the ICRC, representatives of four National Societies attended the 2017 Council of Delegates.

Movement components in the region continued to coordinate their activities. They finalized a two-year action plan to implement a unified Movement response to the issue of migration. The ICRC made material and technical contributions to the Movement's activities for victims of natural and man-made disasters in the region.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		5	2		
RCMs distributed		9	1		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		91,322			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		10	5	2	2
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		11	5	2	2
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Places of detention visited		34			
Detainees in places of detention visited		28,044	2,080	1,658	
Visits carried out		57			
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		27	2		
	<i>of whom newly registered</i>	27	2		
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		10			
RCMs distributed		5			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		29			

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)¹				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	18		
Cash	Beneficiaries	22,672	4,747	4,701
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	82,954		
	<i>of whom IDPs¹</i>	80,022		
Health				
Health centres supported	Structures	13		
Average catchment population		54,524		
Consultations		21,108		
	<i>of which curative</i>	21,025	2,066	946
	<i>of which antenatal</i>	83		
Immunizations	Patients	80		
	<i>of whom children aged 5 or under who were vaccinated against polio</i>	17		
Referrals to a second level of care	Patients	91		
	<i>of whom gynaecological/obstetric cases</i>	2		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	2,252		
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	12,796		
Health				
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	19		
Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	9		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	1		
	<i>including hospitals reinforced with or monitored by ICRC staff</i>	1		
Services at hospitals reinforced with or monitored by ICRC staff				
Consultations		108,757		
First aid				
First-aid training				
	Sessions	11		
	Participants (sum of monthly data)	160		
Physical rehabilitation				
Projects supported	Projects	5		
Patients receiving services (sum of monthly data)		6,952	2,350	2,353
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	119	22	14
Prostheses delivered	Units	242	37	21
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	798	72	627
Orthoses delivered	Units	1,150	77	980
Patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	4,924	2,122	1,286
Walking aids delivered	Units	86	24	17
Wheelchairs or tricycles delivered	Units	11	1	4

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table and in the narrative part of this report may not reflect the extent of the activities carried out during the reporting period.

WASHINGTON (regional)

COVERING: Canada, United States of America, Organization of American States (OAS)



ICRC regional delegation ICRC delegation ICRC office

Established in 1995, the Washington regional delegation regularly engages in dialogue on IHL and issues of humanitarian concern with government officials and bodies, academic institutions and other interested groups in Canada and the United States of America. The delegation heightens awareness of the ICRC's mandate and priorities within the OAS. It mobilizes political and financial support for ICRC activities and secures support for IHL implementation. It visits people held at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba. It works closely with the American Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross Society.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives and plans of action

HIGH

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2017

- ▶ In Canada and the United States of America (hereafter US), the ICRC discussed IHL-related issues – such as migration – with the authorities, multilateral bodies and members of civil society, and cultivated support for its work.
- ▶ Canadian and US operational commands and troops learnt more about IHL and its applicability to the conduct of hostilities in countries where Canadian or US armed forces operated or provided support for other weapon bearers.
- ▶ People held at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba kept in touch with relatives through RCMs, video or phone calls, and pre-recorded video messages; an ICRC doctor assessed their health needs.
- ▶ US authorities worked to improve internees' treatment and living conditions at the Guantanamo Bay internment facility and elsewhere; they were aided by the findings and/or recommendations from ICRC prison visits.

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	1
RCMs distributed	2
Phone calls facilitated between family members ¹	300
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Places of detention visited	1
Detainees in places of detention visited	55
<i>of whom visited and monitored individually</i>	48
Visits carried out	5
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	595
RCMs distributed	396

1. Phone or video calls facilitated between people held at the Guantanamo internment facility and their families abroad.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	2,207
Assistance	206
Prevention	4,060
Cooperation with National Societies	620
General	36
Total	7,129
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	435

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	93%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	11
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	27

CONTEXT

The US remained influential in international affairs. Its involvement in military operations overseas, such as in Somalia and Yemen, continued; it expanded its military presence in Afghanistan. The US led an international military coalition in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) against the Islamic State group; it launched air strikes and provided technical and other support to security forces and armed groups. The US continued its military exercises in certain areas of East Asia. Tensions between the US and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea intensified (see *Beijing*).

A total of 41 people were still being held at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba.

Canada raised its international profile. It put issues concerning women at the centre of its international assistance policy. Its defence strategy focused on training military forces in Iraq and Ukraine, and on reinforcing NATO's presence in the Baltic countries; it provided financial support to UN peacekeeping operations worldwide.

Migrants from Central America and Mexico, including unaccompanied minors, crossed the border into the US, risking loss of contact with their families, deportation, or arrest; there were also reports of deaths in border areas. Some migrants in the US, whose immigration status would expire in 2018, began seeking entry into Canada.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Detention practices and policies remained the main topic of discussion between the ICRC and the US authorities, particularly the treatment and living conditions of people held at the Guantanamo Bay internment facility; where possible, the ICRC pursued dialogue with Canadian or US authorities on access to other detainees of concern to it. After its visits to the Guantanamo Bay internment facility, the ICRC communicated its findings and recommendations confidentially to the authorities, emphasizing the necessity of respecting judicial guarantees and the principle of *non-refoulement*. It continued to back the authorities' efforts to put internees in touch with their families and to provide them with adequate health care.

The ICRC urged American and Canadian military personnel – senior officers and troops – to respect IHL and other applicable norms, in countries where US or Canadian armed forces operated and/or supported other military forces; it urged them to incorporate these norms in their military doctrine and training programmes. Dialogue and other modes of contact with military officials, decision-makers, the Organization of American States (OAS), and influential members of civil society enabled the ICRC to cultivate support for IHL and for its neutral, impartial and independent action worldwide. Where possible, the ICRC sought to mobilize these pertinent parties on issues of pressing humanitarian concern, such as the protection of civilians and health services in armed conflict or other situations of violence, and the humanitarian consequences of migration, particularly for migrants along the US–Mexico border. It reinforced its position as a key source of reference on IHL: the ICRC brought its expertise on humanitarian issues to meetings with policy-makers and the OAS; it also helped to shape discussions on IHL through meetings and events with the media, academic institutions, US-based

technology companies, and other members of the private sector. Dialogue with the World Bank focused on humanitarian needs and support for the ICRC's operations, especially in contexts with active conflicts.

The ICRC sought to cultivate its relationship with the American and Canadian National Societies, by exploring innovative ways to promote IHL and broaden public awareness of humanitarian issues. It backed the American Red Cross's efforts to provide family-links services and disaster relief, by publicizing them on its online platforms. It strengthened its strategic partnership with the Canadian Red Cross, particularly in providing health care during emergencies; the Canadian Red Cross maintained its support for the ICRC's field operations.

CIVILIANS

Authorities and the ICRC discuss the humanitarian consequences of overseas military operations

The issue of protecting civilians in countries where US armed forces operated, or supported other military forces, continued to figure prominently in the ICRC's dialogue with US defence authorities and pertinent executive and legislative officials from the federal government. During meetings with decision-makers, and briefings and training exercises for military commanders and troops, the ICRC emphasized the necessity of addressing the humanitarian needs arising from the conduct of hostilities (see *Actors of influence*). These meetings, briefings and training sessions focused on the US's involvement in military operations in the Middle East, including its detention policies and practices, and its provision of technical and material support for security forces and armed groups in the region; dialogue about the US's military engagements in Afghanistan, Somalia and other contexts continued. The ICRC made recommendations, as necessary, to certain US commands on specific issues.

Discussions with military advisers and commanders of the Canadian armed forces centred on IHL and on its incorporation in Canadian efforts to train, advise, and assist other armed forces. At an ICRC seminar, officials from the foreign and humanitarian assistance ministries learnt more about the protection due to civilians during armed conflict.

The ICRC continued to draw the attention of policy-makers and members of civil society in the two countries to the violence endangering patients and health-care services during armed conflict and other violence – in its public communication and during dialogue with them; its aim was to help them ensure the safe provision of health care. The dangers faced by health workers and the destruction of hospitals in Afghanistan and Yemen were two of the subjects that the ICRC brought up.

Authorities are apprised of the plight of vulnerable migrants

Vulnerable migrants restored or maintained contact with their relatives through phone calls made available by the American Red Cross at key transit points along the US–Mexico border.

The ICRC pursued dialogue with the pertinent US authorities on the humanitarian consequences of migration and specific deportation practices, and contributed to discussions on the subject at regional events (see *Actors of influence*). It continued to monitor the situation and assess the needs of vulnerable migrants gathered along the border, and to work with local organizations on the issue

of missing persons and on the management of human remains. The ICRC developed a migration strategy to guide its efforts to shape public policy and to cooperate with others in helping vulnerable migrants in the region.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

US authorities work to improve the treatment and living conditions of Guantanamo Bay internees

The ICRC visited people held at the Guantanamo Bay internment facility, in accordance with its standard procedures, and monitored their treatment and living conditions. During private interviews with the ICRC, some internees discussed their physical and psychological condition and other matters related to their situation.

The ICRC communicated its findings and recommendations confidentially to administrators at the Guantanamo Bay internment facility, defence authorities and policy-makers – to help them, when necessary, to respect judicial guarantees and procedural safeguards, and to meet internationally recognized standards, particularly regarding family contact, medical ethics, and educational opportunities for internees. No internees were transferred or repatriated from the Guantanamo Bay internment facility after 19 January 2017; the ICRC continued nonetheless to emphasize the importance of respecting the principle of *non-refoulement* and of mitigating the humanitarian consequences of transfers.

The ICRC also maintained its confidential dialogue with US authorities about access to other detainees of ICRC concern held in civilian prisons, particularly people formerly held under the custody of the US Department of Defense and transferred to other facilities.

Guantanamo Bay internees maintain family contact and have their health needs assessed

Internees contacted their families in various countries through RCMs and 300 phone or video calls. Several among them recorded videos that their relatives viewed at ICRC or National Society offices near them. Internees also received 69 parcels of food prepared by their relatives, which allowed them to eat in accordance with their dietary norms.

The authorities worked to ensure, with ICRC support, that the concerns of internees – particularly those who were elderly, physically disabled, mentally ill or on hunger strike – were addressed. An ICRC doctor visited the facility to assess internees' health, meet with medical and psychiatric staff, and review the medical records available; findings, and where necessary, recommendations were communicated to the authorities.

Some internees had access to a library set up by the authorities, for which the ICRC provided reading materials in various languages.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The ICRC discussed matters of common interest with decision-makers in Canada and the US, officials from the OAS and the World Bank, and influential members of civil society – for instance, through the ICRC president's meetings with them and at other events. This also enabled the ICRC to cultivate support for its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, and for its working methods – notably, confidentiality. The parties concerned were reminded to ensure: the proper conduct of hostilities; and violence-affected people's access to essential goods and services, such as education and health care (see *Civilians*). The

ICRC also drew the attention of US authorities and OAS officials to the needs of migrants and missing people's families.

Canadian and US authorities and OAS Member States reaffirm their support for humanitarian action

Discussions with executive and legislative officials from the US federal government, in particular, focused on humanitarian issues in contexts of common concern, the evolving nature of humanitarian action, and the plight of people held at the Guantanamo Bay internment facility (see *People deprived of their freedom*). At their request, some senators were apprised by the ICRC of the dire conditions of conflict-affected people in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen; the ICRC urged them to promote respect for IHL and to help address the needs of people there.

In Canada, ICRC representatives engaged senior federal government officials and the Canadian Red Cross in dialogue about promoting global compliance with IHL and supporting humanitarian operations carried out by the ICRC worldwide.

The OAS General Assembly adopted a resolution on migration that incorporated some of the ICRC's concerns, and submitted it to the UN General Assembly, with a view to its inclusion in the Global Compact on Migration (see *New York*). The OAS also published, jointly with the IOM, a report on migration from other continents to the region, which contained the ICRC's recommendations for receiving States.

Canadian and US military personnel broaden their understanding of IHL

Senior US military officials and the ICRC discussed humanitarian issues pertinent to these officials' areas of operation and the applicable international legal framework. Meetings with Canadian military and police personnel, at legal and operational levels, covered Canada's military engagement overseas; the ICRC contributed its expertise in IHL to a round-table on Canada's role in peacekeeping operations, which was attended by various government officials and representatives of civil society. The ICRC maintained its dialogue with US-based NATO bodies and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Briefings and military training exercises were organized, with expert advice from the ICRC, for senior officers and soldiers of the Canadian and US militaries – including those bound for missions abroad – and for weapon bearers from OAS Member States; they helped advance understanding of IHL and the ICRC's mandate and operations. Future commanders, and legal and/or other military personnel, learnt more about the same subjects through ICRC presentations and events at Canadian and US military educational institutions, such as the Canadian Army Command and Staff College and the US Joint Forces Staff College. The ICRC expanded its contact with the training centres for US special operations forces, by contributing to courses and events.

Experts in military operations, law and policy – from the navy and other branches of the military, government and NATO – and/or academics from various countries advanced their knowledge of IHL through events organized jointly by the authorities and the ICRC. Some experts attended a workshop about the applicability of IHL to military operations in outer space, held in Florence, Italy, in July; about 30 others attended the annual transatlantic workshop on the 1949 Geneva Conventions in Newport, Rhode Island – in the US – in February. Canada continued to work towards acceding to the Arms Trade Treaty; the ICRC monitored its progress.

Members of civil society contribute to the debate on humanitarian challenges and IHL

The Swiss government and the ICRC set up a US-based hub for developing partnerships between the ICRC and key sections of civil society in the US to tackle humanitarian issues, by hosting discussions and leading research initiatives, such as on the humanitarian risks posed by cyber warfare. Meetings between US-based technology companies and the ICRC focused on the incorporation of digital technology in ICRC operations. In Canada, with support from the Canadian Red Cross, the ICRC made expert contributions on IHL to various conferences at academic institutions, and to one on forensics.

The general public stayed abreast of the humanitarian situation in places like Afghanistan and the Middle East through various means: coverage of the ICRC and its work by leading American and Canadian media outlets; podcasts and articles featured on the Intercross blog; and updates on the ICRC's social media platforms.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and the ICRC strove to develop innovative and technology-driven approaches to humanitarian action (see *Actors of influence*); notably, the ICRC drew on the Canadian Red Cross for advice on making electronic cash transfers to violence-affected people. The Canadian Red Cross and the ICRC strengthened their partnership in providing health care during emergencies and in helping other National Societies – such as the Lebanese Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent – to build their capacities. They also continued to cooperate in promoting IHL and their joint activities among policy-makers in Canada, and in recruiting ICRC staff.

The American Red Cross led the Movement's emergency response to people affected by heavy floods in areas of the southern US; the ICRC lent its expertise in public communication to the National Society, and helped it to raise public awareness of such efforts via online platforms. The American Red Cross strengthened its ability to provide family-links services to vulnerable migrants, notably by enhancing its phone services (see *Civilians*). Dialogue between the American Red Cross and the ICRC focused on gaining support for the Movement from the private sector.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		1			
RCMs distributed		2			
Phone calls facilitated between family members ¹		300			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Places of detention visited		1			
Detainees in places of detention visited		55			
Visits carried out		5			
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		48			
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		595			
RCMs distributed		396			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		2			

1. Phone or video calls facilitated between people held at the Guantanamo internment facility and their families abroad.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
Health					
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	1			

The multiple tasks and activities of the UN often have implications of a humanitarian nature. Operating since 1983, the ICRC delegation to the UN serves as a support and a liaison for ICRC operational and legal initiatives. The delegation conveys the ICRC's viewpoints on issues within its purview and keeps updated on trends and developments relating to humanitarian issues and promotes IHL.

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2017

- ▶ The ICRC made several statements at the UN General Assembly and Security Council; it emphasized the necessity of ensuring compliance with IHL, protection for civilians and safe humanitarian access to conflict-affected people.
- ▶ The ICRC's active participation in multilateral mechanisms helped ensure that IHL was reflected in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and taken into account during discussions on the Global Compact for Migration.
- ▶ UN officials and representatives of Member States learnt about the ICRC's work in certain geographical areas. State representatives, legal advisers, diplomats and the ICRC discussed such matters as contemporary challenges to IHL.
- ▶ The ICRC kept abreast of developments in the humanitarian field, which influenced decision-making throughout the organization and helped strengthen field activities.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives and plans of action

HIGH

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	-
Assistance	-
Prevention	3,035
Cooperation with National Societies	-
General	-
Total	3,035
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>185</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	99%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	4
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	10

CONTEXT

The UN and the wider international community grappled with numerous armed conflicts and other situations of violence throughout the world – many of which were protracted and/or transnational affairs – such as those in Iraq, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria), Yemen and the Lake Chad region of Africa. While each situation presented specific challenges – in relation to the conduct of hostilities and the search for a long-term solution – they all gave rise to many of the same issues of humanitarian concern (see below). In most cases, negotiations between parties to conflicts were at an impasse and the political landscape was fractured; the space for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action was increasingly restricted.

Issues related to migration, violent extremism and weapons proliferation figured prominently in discussions among world leaders. In July 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which affirmed Member States' commitment to total nuclear disarmament.

UN peacekeeping missions continued to be deployed in several countries; a number of them were authorized to use force tactically.

The UN secretary-general led reforms to the UN system, in support of its Agenda 2030; these included restructuring the UN peace and security architecture and setting up a new office for counter-terrorism.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC was in regular contact with UN bodies, Member States and other influential parties in New York, which enabled it to draw attention to pressing issues of humanitarian concern and urge greater respect for IHL. It drew on its legal expertise and on its long-established presence in conflict-affected areas throughout the world, to influence the drafting of UN policy documents, guidelines and resolutions. Such interaction also enabled the ICRC to explain its distinct mandate and principled humanitarian action to various decision-makers, and secure their support.

The ICRC paid close attention to matters of particular concern to it, such as: efforts to counter violent extremism; the dangers faced by migrants, regardless of whether or not they crossed State borders; the protection of civilians during hostilities; and the inaccessibility of essential services during conflict. It also followed international debates and developments in international law and other legal matters that bear on humanitarian action, particularly those related to arms control and peacekeeping. The information gathered by the delegation helped the ICRC streamline its humanitarian diplomacy and its operational practices and policies.

As a permanent observer at the UN, the ICRC was able to draw attention to the humanitarian aspects of the issues mentioned above and the need to ensure compliance with IHL. It served as an expert briefer during the Security Council's open debate on the protection of civilians, where: it expressed concern over the use of explosive weapons in urban settings; and reiterated the legal obligation of parties to conflict to respect IHL provisions on the conduct of hostilities, and to facilitate safe humanitarian access to conflict-affected people. It also made statements to the General Assembly on such matters as contemporary challenges for IHL and the importance of universal jurisdiction. The ICRC also participated in a number of multilateral mechanisms, which enabled it to

help shape discussions and outcome documents on such issues as global migration and weapons control.

The ICRC sought direct engagement with UN officials and representatives of Member States, such as meetings between the presidents of the Security Council and the ICRC. When the opportunity arose, it gave its views on contexts where it had large-scale operations, particularly in Africa and the Middle East.

The New York University School of Law and the ICRC jointly organized their annual seminar on IHL for diplomats, which was on the 1977 Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. The ICRC discussed contemporary challenges for IHL with State legal advisers and diplomats; together with the Swedish government, it organized the first workshop for Security Council legal advisers, on the applicability of IHL to counter-terrorism operations.

The ICRC continued to cooperate with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), providing feedback on IHL-related matters in the context of peacekeeping operations. Their annual joint workshop enabled the DPKO and the ICRC to discuss their experiences in connection with the protection of civilians.

The ICRC continued to coordinate closely with other organizations and with Movement partners. The ICRC stepped up its presence on social media and maintained its contacts among UN-accredited media, with a view to broadening public awareness of its concerns and activities.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Regular interaction with various UN bodies and Member States enabled the ICRC to closely monitor issues and legal developments of particular concern to its work. The information it gathered helped it to streamline its humanitarian diplomacy and operational practices or policies. As a permanent observer at the UN, the ICRC also helped ensure that IHL and humanitarian issues were given due consideration and reflected in UN decision-making, resolutions, policies and documents. Meetings and discussions with various decision-makers helped them understand the ICRC's mandate and work, and its positions on various legal issues.

The ICRC promotes humanitarian considerations in UN discussions and decision-making

As an expert briefer during the Security Council's open debate on the protection of civilians, the ICRC expressed its concern over the use of explosive weapons in urban settings, and described the consequences for civilians. It stressed the obligation of warring parties to: ensure that they comply with IHL provisions on the conduct of hostilities – and in joint military operations, that others do so as well; and facilitate safe humanitarian access to conflict-affected people. The ICRC also continued to emphasize the protection due to health-care services, partly in support of the UN secretary-general's call for Member States to implement the resolution on the subject adopted by the Security Council in 2016. During the Security Council's debate on peace and security in Africa, the ICRC linked ensuring greater respect for IHL to fostering an environment conducive to economic development.

At the General Assembly's regular session, and during committee debates and side events, the ICRC drew attention to such matters as: the plight of displaced people, universal jurisdiction, education,

disability and contemporary challenges for IHL – particularly its applicability to counter-terrorism efforts and new technologies of warfare. During a session on measures to eliminate international “terrorism”, the ICRC stressed the importance of aligning the UN’s draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism with IHL, to minimize overlaps and prevent contradictions between them.

The ICRC directly engaged with UN officials and Member States: for instance, it met with the president of the Security Council every month. At 11 high-level panels on the sidelines of the General Assembly’s regular session, the ICRC’s president explained the organization’s activities in Iraq, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, and the Lake Chad region, and its views on the situation in those places; the ICRC president also discussed subjects of relevance to humanitarian action, such as innovation, conflict prevention and sustainable development. The ICRC president’s meetings with regional leaders and representatives of emerging States aided organization-wide efforts to expand relationships with all humanitarian stakeholders.

Over 100 State representatives discussed the 1977 Additional Protocols during the annual seminar on IHL for diplomats organized by the New York University School of Law and the ICRC. A series of events on international law – hosted by the General Assembly’s committee on legal issues – gave the ICRC an opportunity to reach out to State legal advisers and diplomats and discuss IHL compliance and contemporary challenges for this body of law. Security Council legal advisers exchanged views on the applicability of IHL to counter-terrorism efforts, during a workshop organized for the first time by the Swedish government and the ICRC.

The ICRC contributes to the content of various UN outcome documents

The ICRC participated in various multilateral mechanisms, to draw attention to the need for: a stricter weapons regime; better protection and assistance mechanisms for migrants, regardless of whether or not they crossed State borders; and more space for principled and neutral humanitarian action. During these events, the ICRC also highlighted the issue of missing migrants, and presented a policy paper to Member States containing recommendations for international cooperation on the issue.

The ICRC helped strengthen the language and content of various outcome documents: the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted by the General Assembly in July, called for a comprehensive prohibition against nuclear weapons and the elimination of existing stockpiles, and recognized the ICRC’s efforts in pushing for these demands; the summary of the chair of the stock-taking phase of the Global Compact on Migration prominently featured the ICRC’s key messages on protection of migrants and the principle of *non-refoulement*; and the Economic and Social Council resolution on humanitarian action and coordination included humanitarian and legal references reviewed by the ICRC.

The DPKO and the OLA use the ICRC’s recommendations to revise peacekeeping guidelines

The DPKO drew on the ICRC’s advice and recommendations to revise general UN guidelines for the protection of civilians by peacekeeping missions, and a training module on the subject it developed with the ICRC in 2016; it also asked for and received the ICRC feedback concerning a system it had developed for handling cases of people deprived of their freedom.

Their sixth annual workshop enabled the DPKO and the ICRC to discuss their experiences in connection with the protection of civilians and other issues of common interest. During briefings and consultations, the DPKO, the OLA, the General Assembly’s special committee on peacekeeping operations, and the ICRC discussed such matters as IHL in the context of peacekeeping and the ICRC’s protection work around the world. The DPKO and the ICRC also discussed the findings of a review conducted by the DPKO of its interim standard operating procedures for detention in peacekeeping operations.

Future decision-makers and the general public learn more about IHL

The ICRC was in regular contact with Movement partners and UN-affiliated humanitarian organizations; this enabled all parties to understand more fully one another’s positions and roles in responding to pertinent issues. Other organizations drew on the ICRC for guidance on IHL-related matters.

UN-accredited media made use of the ICRC’s press releases, and presentations by its senior staff on key issues, to report on its activities. At ICRC events, future lawyers, doctors, journalists and decision-makers advanced their understanding of IHL. The delegation continued to streamline its public-communication activities; it stepped up its presence on social media and intensified its engagement with the public.