



June - December 2015

NEWSLETTER

ICRC PAKISTAN



Dear Reader,

Happy New Year! May 2016 bring more happiness to your lives and make Pakistan prosper by leaps and bounds. Building on progress made in 2015, the ICRC is committed to continue its support for ongoing efforts in the fields of health, physical rehabilitation, re-connecting the separated families, working with Pakistan Red Crescent and promoting respect for international humanitarian law (IHL).

Looking back at 2015, we have implemented, together with our local partners, a number of significant activities. A study on violence against healthcare in Karachi was carried out and results were released in November. This study will help raise awareness of the general public on this issue, and indeed those in authority who can make a difference. The ICRC is committed to provide support to authorities and other local actors in translating the

findings and recommendations of the study into concrete actions. Encouragingly the authorities in Karachi have not only owned but significantly contributed towards this initiative to make Karachi a safe place for both patients and healthcare professionals. Another important area where we have made significant progress is the promotion of IHL in Pakistan. In December, the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), and the ICRC, jointly hosted the 11th round of the South Asia Regional Moot Court Competition on IHL for students. The standing partnership with the Research Society of International Law also resulted in the production of several research articles and policy briefs. A wide range of topics were covered and these included themes related to cyber warfare, preventive detention and domestic implications of adapting conflict paradigm, so as to facilitate for policy makers in their tasks. Similarly, the start of collaboration with Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services is envisaged to stimulate discussions on humanitarian laws and other relevant issues.

Last year also witnessed growth in the physical rehabilitation program (PRP). Three new centres were established in Muzaffargarh, Karachi and Lahore respectively, with the support of the Indus Hospital and Chal Foundation. In 2015 alone, more than 19,000 people have benefited from the PRP by receiving artificial limbs and other assistive devices across the country. Similarly, a lot of rewarding work has been done by reuniting separated family members and imparting

trainings on management of mortal remains, mass casualty response and weapon-wound surgeries.

In conclusion, may I take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the cause and ideals of the ICRC.

Sincerely,
Reto Stocker
Head of ICRC Delegation in Pakistan

In this issue

Pakistani people will support my dream!

Violence against healthcare in Karachi: A multi-centre study

Cricket championship brings delight and happiness to players

Regional training on Islamic Law and IHL in Islamabad

Matloob Qureshi: braving the odds

Humanitarian Law seminar at Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services

Embalming course held

11th Regional Henry Dunant Moot Court on IHL in Lahore

Operational highlights: June to Dec 2015



ICRC

EDHI: PAKISTANI PEOPLE WILL SUPPORT MY DREAM!



As a service provider of health care and the largest ambulance service in Pakistan, the Edhi Foundation has also contributed data to the ICRC's Health Care in Danger study that focuses on violence against health care workers in Karachi.

"The little shoulders on which rests the biggest welfare empire in the world" was the headline of the Express Tribune article on 28 September 2015, about the life of a living Pakistani legend, Abdul Sattar Edhi. Meeting the Edhi family at their head office in Karachi, in modest surroundings of Mithadar that belies their importance to the people of Pakistan, was a humbling experience for the visiting ICRC staff.

Since 1951, Abdul Sattar Edhi and his wife Bilquis Edhi have provided social welfare services through their non-profit organization, the Edhi Foundation. As Edhi said, "I started the welfare organization with the spirit that I have to do something for the people of Pakistan as there was a severe need in Karachi at the time". Bilquis Edhi vividly recalls her husband's passion and commitment to his vision, even though the odds seemed to be against him. "He had a dream to work in all places in the country," she said. "People used to call him crazy. How can he do this without a rupee in his pocket? They asked. He always replied that Pakistani people will support my dream," she added. Consequently, over the last 64 years their services have expanded to include medical and hospital care, homeless shelters, drug rehabilitation centres and services for the dead.

More recently, the ICRC and the Edhi Foundation have strengthened their relationship through implementation of joint activities within the framework of Management of the Dead and Health Care in Danger programs respectively.

The Edhi Foundation plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the unidentified and unclaimed dead are managed in a dignified manner. Hospitals and the police transfer unidentified bodies to the Edhi mortuary where the dead receive proper funeral rites

and a burial space. Edhi staff document and photograph each body to ensure traceability in the event that relatives appear searching for their missing loved ones. More recently, Edhi mortuary have also acquired refrigerated containers to respond to high numbers of dead in disaster situations, such as Karachi heat wave in July 2015 that saw almost 2,000 deaths.

Edhi staff have participated in all of the eleven 'Management of the Dead' courses organized by the ICRC in Pakistan since 2010. Faisal Edhi, the son of the Edhi couple and Trustee of the foundation, delivers presentations during the course and has become a key resource person for Forensic Services. More recently, and at Faisal's request, the Edhi Foundation and the ICRC held the first embalming course in Karachi. "We want to keep unidentified bodies longer before burial to allow relatives to reach the mortuary and identify their family member", notes Faisal. The ICRC Forensic Services and the Edhi Foundation continue to work together to improve the documentation system in order to decrease the number of unclaimed bodies throughout the country.

As a service provider of health care and the largest ambulance service in Pakistan, the Edhi Foundation has also contributed data to the ICRC's Health Care in Danger study that focuses on violence against health care workers in Karachi. The ICRC-supported study, carried out by Karachi academics, has shown that ambulance drivers are the most vulnerable of all health care workers in the city. They are routinely subjected to verbal and physical abuse and many have lost their lives in the line of service. According to Faisal, the violence has been here for hundreds of years and health workers have always been targeted. "However, if we can do something to reduce the casualties then we must do it", said Faisal.

When asked about the future of the Edhi Foundation, Mr Edhi simply stated that it will "continue activities to support the people of Pakistan in the best possible way." Bilquis Edhi added that with Faisal's education and direction the Edhi Foundation will work in a better way. Faisal, however, immediately pays homage to his parents. "It is the less educated people in this world that have given the best systems to the world."



VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTHCARE IN KARACHI: A MULTI-CENTRE STUDY

On 13 November 2015 the ICRC launched two major reports as part of its Health Care in Danger project aimed at preventing violence against health care in Karachi and minimising its negative effects. The launch was attended by representatives of authorities, hospitals, ambulance services, health NGOs, Islamic charities, medical associations, law enforcement and military officials, civil society and the media. The chief guest on the occasion, Honourable Health Minister of Sindh, Jam Mehtab Dahar, said that "the government takes full ownership of the findings of the research, which will be a guide for us in the development of effective policies to better protect health care workers from violence".

The report "Violence against Health Care: Results from a Multi-Centre Study in Karachi" was prepared by a team of Karachi academics under the leadership of Prof.

Lubna Ansari Baig, Dean of APPNA Institute of Public Health. It contains an in-depth analysis of patterns of violence against health care staff in Karachi. Such analysis facilitates for policy makers and organisations working in the field of health to design counter-measures based on sound understanding of the problems on the ground.

"Towards Protecting Health Care in Karachi: A Legal Review" is the title of the second report prepared by the Research Society of International Law. It presents a thorough analysis of the legislative and administrative framework affecting the security of health care staff, facilities and vehicles. The report further proposes measures and strategies to bring about improvement.

Based on the findings of the research and in cooperation with its local partners (APPNA

Institute of Public Health, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre and the Indus Hospital), the ICRC is planning to implement a set of interventions aimed at improving the protection of health care and ultimately access to care for the entire public. The interventions will range from a series of trainings for hospital and ambulance staff, a media campaign on respect for ambulance services and lobbying for legislative improvements.

(The reports are available on Pakistan page of www.icrc.org)



CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP BRINGS DELIGHT AND HAPPINESS TO PLAYERS

As part of activities to mark the 2015 International Day for Persons with Disabilities, the ICRC, in partnership with the Pakistan Disabled Cricket Association, organized the ICRC National Disabled T-20 Cricket Championship. The tournament, which brought together a total of 216 players from 12 regions, was held in Karachi from 29 November to December 5.

The tournament showcased participants as valuable members of society who have something to contribute if given the opportunity. It also facilitated an environment where people with disabilities are treated and respected as normal, in an effort to fight stigma and promote the concept of

social inclusion. As one of the participants from Karachi, Fawad Khan, 19, put it, "the only help for us is the normal treatment by society". While addressing the players, Reto Stocker, the head of ICRC in Pakistan encouraged them not to allow their disability to be an obstacle. "Challenge your disability and show the world that you are differently abled people" He implored.

It was fascinating to watch players without legs, arms and hands running, diving and jumping all over the grassy fields of National Stadium Karachi. The six by Jhangir Tiwana of Multan will be evoked for long as it went out of the stadium, a feat never achieved by any player. Each ball played over five days of

this extravaganza was a delight to watch. Multan after defeating Karachi was crowned as the national champion. The event was supported by Pakistan Cricket Board.



REGIONAL TRAINING ON ISLAMIC LAW AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN ISLAMABAD

Within the framework of the ongoing ICRC global dialogue on commonalities between IHL and Islamic Law, a four-day regional training on Islamic Law and humanitarian

law for Professors and Islamic Scholars was held Islamabad last October. A representative group of 25 Islamic Studies/Sharia professors from Pakistan, Bangladesh and

Afghanistan participated in the course. The main objective of the training was to encourage discussion on thematic issues in the domain of IHL and Islam, with a view of considering the possibility of including elements of IHL and Islamic Law of war in the curricula.

Renowned professors of Islamic Law facilitated during the training. Participants expressed appreciation to the ICRC for taking this initiative and facilitating the enriching scholarly exchanges in this regard. Notably, Islamic scholars from Pakistan have been at the forefront of taking this intellectual endeavour to advanced stages.



MATLOOB QURESHI: BRAVING THE ODDS

Matloob Qureshi, 25, captain of Multan disabled cricket team never allowed his upper arm amputation prevent him from having a normal life. He travelled to Dubai and Bangladesh to represent Pakistan and scored the first hundred for his country in a cricket match against England.

He was only 5 years old when he was hit in a road accident and lost his right arm. Overwhelmed by hopelessness, Matloob had serious adjustment issues at a very young age. His family and friends rescued him and gave him courage to move on with life. He managed to continue with his education until he graduated from Government College University Faisalabad. He developed a keen interest in cricket at a very young age. While talking to the ICRC on the occasion of ICRC National Disabled T-20 Cricket Championship in Karachi, Matloob explained, "cricket was my passion and it was difficult for me to stay away from the ground". He felt fortunate to have received full support from his family and friends. He grew up with this passion and continued playing cricket despite all limitations. His efforts were rewarded when he found his way to Pakistan Disabled Cricket Association. He started playing at Multan city level and soon he was spotted as a bright prospect by the selectors who included him in the Pakistan cricket team for people with disabilities.

About societal attitudes towards people with disabilities, Matloob expressed disappointment at the general attitude and lack of support. "We do not need sympathy but equal participation in matters of day to day life." He was glad for the opportunity to participate in the championship and was very excited at winning the tournament. "The last time we lost in a close contest so we worked really hard and believed in ourselves that we will win and by the grace of Almighty we achieved what we planned," he explained. Interestingly, similar

sentiments were expressed by the captain of Pakistan national disabled cricket team, Hasnain Alam, during Bangladesh tour last year. 'Things are impossible only until you take the first step. Take the first step and your goals will become easier,' said Hasnain. Matloob expressed gratitude to coaches and management of his team for their support and guidance.



HUMANITARIAN LAW SEMINAR AT PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

The Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) in collaboration with the ICRC and hosted a seminar on "The Significance of IHL in Pakistan and the Way

Forward" on 5th of November 2015 in Islamabad. The aim of the event was to impart knowledge of the fundamentals of international humanitarian law (IHL) to staff

members at PIPS, the Senate, the National Assembly, and officials of the Ministry of Law. Presentations were divided into three segments, an introduction to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the work it does globally, an introduction to IHL, and the significance of IHL for Pakistan respectively. A lively and enriching discussion ensued among the learned audience on the existing legal framework dealing with conflict situations, their applicability and some gaps where legislation is required. In the future, PIPS and the ICRC plan to expand the scope of such deliberations to include parliamentarians on this important field of humanitarian law.



EMBALMING COURSE HELD

As part of efforts to promote best practices and skills development in the area of managing the dead, the ICRC organized an Embalming* Course in Karachi, conducted in two respective sessions. The first session in October was based on demonstration and the development of practical skills. The second, a reinforcement session, was held two months later in December. It ensured proficiency and provided a forum to

address challenges encountered during practical embalming at the respective institutions. The objectives were to develop practical skills of persons responsible for embalming at major hospitals/centres in Pakistan and to promote best practices to facilitate the identification of unidentified/unclaimed bodies. Participants included representatives from the Edhi Foundation, Civil Hospital and Jinnah Post

Graduate Medical Centre (JPMC) in Karachi, the Federal Government Services Hospital Islamabad and Rawalpindi Medical College (RMC), Rawalpindi.

* Embalming is a process of using chemicals to prevent dead bodies from decaying.

11TH REGIONAL HENRY DUNANT MOOT COURT ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN LAHORE

In partnership with Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law (SAHSOL), the ICRC organized the 11th Regional Henry Dunant Moot Court on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) from 1-2 December,

ian law in the contemporary world. He expressed appreciation for the LUMS' willingness to host the first ever regional round of the Henry Dunant moot competition in Pakistan. In his opening remarks, Dr Ali Qazilbash, Chair of SAHSOL, welcomed

only happy to hone their moot skills and IHL knowledge during the event but were also particularly impressed by the culturally rich aesthetically beautiful Lahore. There were nine universities from five countries including Sri Lanka, Nepal, Iran, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Six international Judges adjudicated in three rounds. Retired Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan, Chairman of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and former judge of International Criminal Court judged in the final rounds of the competition. The event concluded on December 2, 2015 with a team from Shahid Behesti University Tehran securing the winning slot. The top four teams from the regional round will also be attending the 14th Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot taking place in Hong Kong in March 2016.



2015. It was the first collaborative activity between the two institutions since the signing of MoU late last year. Reto Stocker, Head of the ICRC Pakistan was the chief guest at the opening of the moot. He highlighted the importance of humanitar-

the teams participating in the IHL Moot Court and said "ICRC and LUMS are into long term partnership and will work together to sensitize academia, policy makers and the civil society on IHL". The participating foreign students were not

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

Cooperation with Pakistan Red Crescent (PRC)

- Following the October 26 earthquake, the ICRC provided financial support to PRC for providing essential household and shelter items to 500 affected families in Bajaur and Mohmand.
- With ICRC support, PRC concluded setting up two new branches in Kurram and South Waziristan, making it a total of four in FATA.
- The ICRC continued supporting PRC's First Aid and restoring family links programme.

Health

- The PRC, with ICRC support is running a Primary Healthcare Center at Baka Khel TDP Camp, Bannu. From its inception till December 2015, a total of 75,673 patients have been treated.
- More than 43,400 patients have been treated in five ICRC supported PRC Primary Healthcare Centres.
- The ICRC is providing managerial support to Accident and Emergency Department at Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar.
- 130 doctors from military and civilian hospitals have been trained during two trainings; Emergency Room Trauma Course and War Surgery Seminar held in Karachi and Rawalpindi / Islamabad from May till December 2015.
- In the span of seven months, first aid trainings were delivered to 459 individuals from police, Bomb Disposal Squad, and Frontier Constabulary along with journalists and ambulance drivers at Peshawar.

Physical Rehabilitation

- More than 19,000 patients have been treated at 19 ICRC supported centres across the country.
- A new Rehabilitation Centre at Lahore was inaugurated on December 25, 2015 by the Chief Minister Punjab.
- The ICRC entered into partnerships with Dow University of Health Sciences Karachi, Comprehensive Health and Education Forum International and with Pakistan Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences.
- Public Private Partnership with Government of Punjab for the establish-

ment of nine physical rehabilitation centres across Punjab in coming years.

- 17 people from Peshawar with spinal-cord injuries participated in a national wheelchair cricket tournament with ICRC support, followed by the sponsoring of ICRC National Disabled T-20 Cricket Championship 2015 in Karachi.
- 60 disabled children from FATA, KP and Pakistan-administered Kashmir continued their schooling with ICRC financial aid; fifteen of them underwent corrective surgery sponsored by the ICRC.

Forensic Services

- The 11th National Course on the Management of the Dead in Emergencies took place in Karachi with 24 participants from civil and military hospitals, police and rescue services, ambulance service providers and government health department.
- Implementation of the Instruction and Reinforcement Modules of Embalming Course held at the mortuary of the Edhi Foundation in Karachi from 11-15 October and 7-10 December 2016.

Restoring Family Links

- The ICRC facilitated 233 phone and video calls to exchange family news between detainees abroad and their relatives in Pakistan. In addition, 303 family news letters were collected and distributed in Pakistan.
- In Pakistan, PRC with ICRC support followed up 178 requests from family members to locate and restore contacts with their beloved ones in and from Pakistan. In addition, two Afghan children in Peshawar were reunified with family in Jalalabad.

Mine Risk Education

- A total of 178,726 individuals were sensitized on the dangers of unexploded ordnances (UXOs)/mines in KP, FATA and AJK by PRC MRE team. 91 survivors of UXOs/mine incidents were referred to ICRC supported physical rehabilitation centres at Peshawar and Muzaffarabad.
- Two 1-day workshops on 'mine risk education' have been organized for 38 religious scholars on 30 September and

21 November at Peshawar and Muzaffarabad respectively.

Promoting the Law

- LUMS and ICRC signed a partnership MOU for promotion of IHL in Pakistan.
- Two 3-day training courses on IHL and IHL/Islamic Law took place in Peshawar in which 60 professors of Law and Islamic studies from various KP universities participated.
- Three 2-day certificate courses on IHL in three universities of KP and Punjab, attended by 300 students.
- A total of six IHL resource centres, Henry Dunant Rooms, named after the ICRC founder and first Nobel Peace laureate Henry Dunant, were donated to different universities.
- The ICRC together with its partners launched the results of study on violence against health care in Karachi on 13 November 2015.
- A half-day seminar on IHL was held at PIPS on 5 November 2015.
- The national round of the Henry Dunant Moot Court competition on IHL was organised which was won by the team from Bahria University Islamabad.
- The essay competition on the topic, Making a difference: volunteerism and philanthropy in Pakistan successfully concluded in December. Ms Aimen Wajid from Islamabad won the 1st prize, Mir Arif Bangulzai from Mastung 2nd prize and Ms Sheema Khan from Karachi secured 3rd prize.
- The South Asia regional round of the Henry Dunant Moot Court competition was organised in collaboration with LUMS at Lahore where students from six countries participated.
- The Research Society of International Law, with ICRC support, established Pakistan's first ever Conflict Law Centre to promote research on IHL.
- A one day awareness session on humanitarian principles was conducted with staff of the member organizations of Pakistan Humanitarian Forum in Karachi on 10th June 2015.
- Three information sessions on IHL were conducted at the International Islamic University and School of International Law Islamabad.

ICRC Islamabad Delegation

House 12, Street 83,
G-6/4, Islamabad.

T 051 2824780, F 051 2824758

E-mail: isl_islamabad@icrc.org

www.icrc.org

© ICRC April 2013

Peshawar Sub-Delegation

40, Jamaluddin Afghani Road,
University Town, Peshawar

T 091 5841916