

PAPUA NEW GUINEA OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

January – December 2017



Protecting vulnerable people

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Papua New Guinea (PNG) visits places of detention in correctional institutions and police lock-ups to monitor the existing conditions and the treatment of detainees. Our reports and findings from the visits are treated as confidential and shared only with respective authorities. Recommendations from the findings are implemented with support from authorities. The ICRC also assists authorities with distribution of hygiene material, recreational items and medical equipment. Projects on water and sanitation are also implemented in many facilities. In 2017, the ICRC:

- Visited 11 places of detention 24 times in area of operations in PNG to assess conditions of detention and treatment of detainees.
- Delivered medical equipment to four correctional institutions.
- Assisted a pilot gardening project in Bui-lebi CI and Baisu CI to supplement the nutritional needs of detainees.
- Provided recreational items to five police lock-ups and correctional institutions.
- Facilitated the attendance of a correctional services officer at a seminar on health in detention organized in Thailand.
- Carried out changes in seven police lock-ups so that they adhere to basic standards, specifically with regards to ventilation. These lock-ups were in Wabag, Tari, Mendi, Mt Hagen, Arawa, Buka and Buin.
- Supported the Bui-lebi Correctional Institution with construction material for water catchment.

Restoring and maintaining family links

The ICRC in coordination with the PNG Red Cross, supports the families from Bougainville to visit their loved ones who have been detained. In 2017, the ICRC:

- Assisted 66 family members to visit 21 detainees in Buka Police lock-up and Beikut Correctional Institution.
- Assisted 20 family members to visit seven detainees in Kerevat Correctional Institution.

Missing persons from the Bougainville Crisis

As per the international humanitarian law, families have the right to know what happened to their loved ones who went missing during the Bougainville crisis. In 2017, during the International Day of the Disappeared, the ICRC offices in Bougainville supported the community's initiative to build a monument in the north of the island and financed a sea burial ceremony in the south to help families of missing persons from these communities to find closure. The events were attended by over 1,000 people.

Helping people affected by tribal fights

We seek to reduce the effects of armed violence on the community by promoting respect for basic principles of humanity. The ICRC continuously engages in a dialogue with leaders, fighters and members of communities involved in tribal fighting in the Highlands about their responsibility to take concrete measures to prevent such incidents. We regularly organize comic skits and performances that encourage communities not to attack women, children and civilians, not to destroy health facilities and public infrastructure and also highlight the prevention of sexual violence. In 2017, the ICRC:

- Produced and launched a documentary film on tribal fighting titled "From Spears to Semi-Automatics". It brought forth the humanitarian consequences of tribal fighting, resulting in dozens of articles, blogs, photo exhibition and interviews being done on the subject.
- Organized eight drama shows in different parts of the Highlands.
- Carried out six tribal meetings to discuss traditional tribal rules and to build a consensus around them.
- Organized dissemination sessions attended by over 6,000 people, particularly in the Highlands.
- Launched a Facebook page that currently has 2,000 followers.

Providing relief to affected people

The ICRC works closely with the PNG Red Cross Society to deliver relief to people affected by tribal conflicts in the Highlands. We help the most vulnerable families with essential household items ranging from kitchenware, basic shelter kits, water containers, bedding and gardening tools. In 2017, the ICRC:

- Provided assistance to over 15,000 people who have been displaced in Enga, Hela and Southern Highlands Provinces.

Access to health care

The ICRC works in regions affected by armed violence to improve access to health care. In 2017, the ICRC:

- Constructed a family support centre in Mount Hagen Hospital, providing medical and psychosocial care to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. The centre catered to the Western Highlands Province, which has a population of 363,000 people.
- Constructed a maternity wing at the Yakisu Community Health Post in Kalolo, Southern Highlands Provinces.
- Supported community health posts of Uma and Yakisu in Southern Highlands Provinces. These facilities provided consultations to over 5,000 patients and antenatal mothers. More than 2,200 doses of vaccine were administered to children under five years of age.
- Ensured that seven additional health facilities in Enga, Southern Highlands Provinces and Western Highlands Province received ad hoc donations for election-related contingency, enabling more than 10,000 patients to receive treatment.
- Facilitated an awareness session on sexual violence in coordination with the National Department of Health. Over 20 health workers representing 16 health facilities in Enga, Southern Highlands Provinces and Western Highlands Province attended the session.
- In partnership with the PNG Red Cross Society, facilitated nine first-aid training sessions in the Highlands, involving more than 150 participants, including 20 nurses in Hela.
- Supported the training of seven PNG Red Cross Society first-aid trainers in Bougainville.

Providing clean and safe water

- Constructed water harvesting system in Pajapawi School, allowing over 100 staff and students to have access to clean water.
- Constructed water harvesting system in Kunu village, allowing enhanced community protection especially for over 700 people, mostly women and girls who do not have to walk long distances to access water.
- In partnership with the PNG Red Cross Society, constructed 12 pit toilets at Keluwa Primary School in Mt Hagen, improving hygiene and sanitation for 700 students and enhancing skills of 15 volunteers in brick laying and basic carpentry.

Promoting the law

Use of Force in Law Enforcement Operations

The ICRC works with the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) and Papua New Guinea Correctional Services to ensure that officers and their personnel are aware about the rules governing the use of force in law enforcement operations, about international humanitarian law (IHL), international human rights law and international policing standards. In 2017, the ICRC:

- Conducted five police workshops for over 120 police officers, military personnel and correctional services officers in Bomana, Mt Hagen and Port Moresby, including at the Joint Forces College in Lae.
- Facilitated two PNGDF officers to attend seminars in Thailand and Malaysia.

Academe and the PNG IHL Committee

In support to the academic circle and the government's efforts in strengthening and promoting IHL in PNG, the ICRC:

- Facilitated the attendance of a UPNG professor in the Southeast Asia session on IHL in Japan, resulting in the reintroduction of humanitarian law into the university's law curriculum.
- Supported the PNG government to establish a National IHL Committee and convened three meetings in 2017, including endorsing a work plan prioritizing ratification of the Additional Protocols. As many as 18 government officials participated in a two-day IHL training facilitated by the ICRC at the request of PNG's IHL Committee.
- Facilitated the process so that members of the IHL Committee could attend training sessions and meetings abroad.

Partnership with the PNG Red Cross Society

Working in partnership with the PNG Red Cross Society in the Highlands and Bougainville, the ICRC effectively positioned the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement through relevant and effective communication activities. In 2017, the ICRC:

- Financially supported four positions based at the PNG Red Cross Headquarters and in the two branches.
- Provided guidance and expertise wherever possible and appropriate.
- Various activities and programmes were conducted in cooperation with the Western Highlands and Bougainville Branches, including those on first-aid training, relief assistance, water and sanitation activities and communication.



*Yapaime Yakili enjoying clean drinking water built by ICRC at Kunu village, SHP.
Photo credit: R Tabel/ICRC*



*A beneficiary at the ICRC distribution in Teremanda, Enga Province
Photo credit: A Madrazo/ICRC*



*Correctional Services officers attended a seminar workshop facilitated by the ICRC.
Photo credit: Q Alomp/ICRC*



*A family visiting the ICRC support monument for the missing in Sipotavai, Bougainville
Photo credit: Q Alomp/ICRC*



*Kakhaber Khasaia, ICRC Head of Office in Mount Hagen, in a dialogue with PNGDF in Enga Province
Photo credit: A Madrazo/ICRC*



*Red Cross Volunteers and ICRC staff unloads the relief supplies for distribution in the Highlands
Photo credit: A Madrazo/ICRC*

FACTS & FIGURES

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2017



TO HELP ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF DETAINEES AND FAMILIES OF THE MISSING, THE ICRC HAS:

- Conducted **24** visits to **11** correctional institutions and police lock-ups.
- Facilitated **86** families to visit their loved ones detained in different places of detentions in East New Britain and Bougainville.
- Supported the construction of a monument for the missing in Sipotavai and organisation of a sea burial in Buin, allowing **25** families to find closure.



TO HELP ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF VULNERABLE POPULATION, THE ICRC HAS:

- Improved the access to maternal health care for **706** women at the ICRC constructed Yakisu Community Health Post in Kalolo, SHP.
- Provided **1000** school children and villagers with access to water in the Highlands.
- Provided assistance to over **15,000** displaced people in Enga, Hela and Southern Highland Provinces.



TO PROMOTE IHL, THE ICRC HAS:

- Increased the knowledge of **123** personnel from RPNGC, PNGDF and CS on IHL, human rights and principles of law enforcement.
- Organized three IHL meetings, including one for **18** government officials who participated in a two-day IHL training facilitated by the ICRC at the request of PNG's IHL Committee.
- Organized over **50** disseminations and community engagements and attended by over **6,000** people in order to improve ICRC's acceptance, access and security.

The ICRC Mission in Papua New Guinea opened in 2007. It is part of the ICRC Regional Delegation in the Pacific based in Suva, Fiji. We help people around the world affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, doing everything we can to protect their dignity and relieve their suffering, often with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. We also seek to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

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