

ICRC IN SABAH



November 2019
Sabah, Malaysia © ICRC

Organised by ICRC and MRCS, a first aid 'harmonisasi' training for communities in remote area.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a humanitarian, impartial, neutral and independent organization. Since 2013, we have been working with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) in Sabah State to provide training on basic first-aid 'harmonisasi'

in communities and to promote humanitarian law and principles. The ICRC coordinates and cooperates with MRCS districts across Sabah as well as with state health authorities, National Security Council, academics, civil society, prison department and security forces.

HEALTH CAMPS AND FIRST AID TRAINING FOR REMOTE COMMUNITIES

In remote communities with limited access to healthcare, ICRC and MRCS volunteers provide basic first aid training "harmonisasi" (FATH) to villagers, taking into account their needs and availability of resources.

These sessions are aimed to equip villagers with basic first aid skills, allowing them to respond effectively during emergencies until necessary medical support arrives.

The ICRC and MRCS also support Health Camp activities conducted by the District Health Offices (DHO). The health camps help communities in the state's most remote interiors receive primary healthcare services that include screening for communicable and non-communicable diseases, curative services and improving vaccination coverage.



April 2019
Sabah, Malaysia © ICRC

An MRCS volunteer explains how to transport a casualty using a stretcher made from local materials during a first aid 'harmonisasi' training with remote communities.



February 2020
Sabah, Malaysia © ICRC

MRCS volunteers conducting Health & Hygiene promotion with students at the Alternative Learning Center.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE PROMOTION IN THE SETTLEMENTS

Disease outbreaks caused by the spread of infectious diseases and compounded by inadequate waste management at the settlements may jeopardize the health of its populace.

Health Department, along with other stakeholders, are working to develop a community-based approach whereby volunteers work to identify the different health problems plaguing their settlement and are capable of responding promptly by alerting DHO in the event of an outbreak.

As a prevention measure, the ICRC, MRCS, and the Sabah

HEALTH AND HYGIENE PROMOTION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

The ICRC and MRCS continue to provide health and hygiene awareness sessions for primary school children and their teachers in remote areas across Sabah. These sessions are aimed at preventing the spread of communicable diseases with a focus on good daily hygiene practice.

VISITING DETAINEES

Working with the authorities as they address the needs, treatment and conditions of detention of all detainees, the ICRC has been visiting prisons and immigration detention centres across Malaysia, including in Sabah. These visits focus solely on the conditions of detention, including technical aspects such as health, water and habitat. Reports and recommendations are discussed bilaterally and confidentially with the state prison authorities and the National Security Council.



November 2019
Sabah, Malaysia © ICRC

Student practices hand hygiene techniques during a health and hygiene session organised by MRCS volunteers with the support of the ICRC.

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) WITH ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES

In Sabah, the ICRC collaborates with various agencies including the National Security Council, the Malaysian Armed Forces, Royal Malaysian Police and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) to disseminate and enhance understanding of IHL and other humanitarian norms and standards.

In partnership with the authorities, the ICRC conducts workshops and engages with the commanders and officers of the Malaysian Armed Forces, Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency, Senior Royal Malaysian Police Officers including Officers in Charge of Police District (OCPDs) and the officers operating under ESSCOM.



A senior officer from ESSCOM shares his experience during a workshop on international policing standards attended by different agencies including military, navy, police and marine police.

ENGAGEMENT WITH ACADEMIA

The ICRC supports the teaching of humanitarian law and principles, promoting IHL teaching at leading universities with the aim to reach tomorrow's decision-makers and opinion-leaders.

Working with universities in Sabah, the ICRC works to raise awareness of IHL and humanitarian principles. University lecturers and students are invited to participate in various local and regional events.



September 2019
Sabah, Malaysia © ICRC

ICRC discusses with MRCS volunteers on how to respond as a first aider.

WORKING TOGETHER WITH MRCS

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society's presence in Sabah dates back to 1948 when the Northern Borneo Branch of the British Red Cross was set up here. Today, the MRCS is present in every district across the state. Over the years, it has participated in welfare and disaster response activities, providing support to the state's most vulnerable communities.

Working with the authorities, volunteers from 22 MRCS districts and one chapter have responded by providing emergency first aid, mass cooking services, temporary shelter, blankets and clothing during floods and fires.

The MRCS in Sabah State also carries out community and health-related activities that encompass first aid, ambulance services, blood donation drives and youth development.

The ICRC continues to increase the capacity of MRCS through first aid training "harmonisasi" (FATH) and health and hygiene (H&H) sessions. This includes planning, conducting and evaluating the implemented activities.



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