

# ICRC IN SABAH



A Training of Trainers (ToT) session for MRCS volunteers organised jointly by the ICRC and the MRCS.

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 in communities and to promote

humanitarian law and principles. The ICRC coordinates and cooperates with MRCS districts across Sabah as well as with the academicians, civil society, prison department and security forces.

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

In Sabah State, 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.



Police and ESSCOM officials participate in a workshop organised to strengthen the understanding of universal humanitarian principles and law enforcement.

## ENGAGEMENT WITH ACADEMIA

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.

## ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF DETAINEES



ICRC donates wheelchair and stretcher to the Menggatal Temporary Detention Centre.

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.

## BASIC FIRST-AID TRAINING “HARMONISASI” FOR REMOTE COMMUNITIES

In remote communities with limited access to health care, ICRC and MRCS volunteers train villagers by adapting based on their needs and availability of resources in basic first aid training (“harmonisasi”). The aim of these sessions are to ensure that villagers have basic first aid skills to respond effectively to emergencies until necessary medical support arrives. ICRC and MRCS also support Health Camp activities conducted by the District Health Offices.



Villagers and children from remote areas being trained in basic first-aid skills.

## HEALTH AND HYGIENE PROMOTION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

The ICRC and MRCS continued to provide health and hygiene awareness sessions for primary school children and their teachers in remote areas across Sabah. These

sessions aim at preventing the spread of communicable diseases with a focus on good daily hygiene practice.

## MALAYSIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY, SABAH STATE



A student demonstrates hand hygiene techniques that he learnt during a session organised by MRCS volunteers with the support of the ICRC.

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 across the state. Over the years, the MRCS 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.

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