

FACTS & FIGURES

APRIL - JUNE 2018



ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES OF MISSING PERSONS

Met 890 families to follow up on their tracing enquiries, and registered 73 new cases of missing persons; Provided (through the Accompaniment Programme) weekly psychosocial support sessions to relatives of over 500 missing persons, and referred around 50 of them to the resources required for assistance with economic, legal and administrative, educational and health needs; Gave over 110 families cash grants to develop their livelihoods.



DETAINEE WELFARE

Visited 11 places of detention holding around 3,400 detainees throughout the country, and shared findings and recommendations confidentially with detaining authorities; Gave 74 families each a travel allowance to visit their relatives in detention; Provided 403 detainees with ad hoc assistance in the form of educational and recreational items.



PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)

Conducted a briefing on IHL for 34 Army Officers following the 27th Potential Observer and Staff Officer Course at the Institute of Peace Support Operations Training, conducted a one-day training on use of force, firearms and detention for 153 Sinhala-speaking women constables, 30 Tamil-speaking constables and 177 probationary Sub-Inspectors at the Sri Lanka Police College. A four-day Training of Trainers (ToT) course was conducted for 26 Army Officers at the Armoured Corps Regimental Centre, organized by the Directorate of Overseas Operations. A UN peacekeeping briefing was conducted for 126 Air Force aviation personnel to be deployed in the Central African Republic. Two scholar monks from the Bikshu University in Anuradhapura were sponsored to participate in the South Asia Teaching Session (SATS) in Nepal; an academic from the University of Peradeniya and a legal officer from the Sri Lanka Navy participated in an advanced IHL course in Bangladesh.



SUPPORT TO THE SRI LANKA RED CROSS SOCIETY (SLRCS)

85 staff and volunteers from SLRCS Mannar, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Mullaitivu, Vavuniya and Ratnapura district branches received training in disaster response techniques including camp management; ICRC supported the SLRCS to provide water cans, school bags and books to people affected by the drought and flood; 18 dissemination sessions on humanitarian principles and the Red Cross Red Crescent movement were delivered by the SLRCS district branches to newly joined volunteers, students, professionals and the general public. The ICRC supports the SLRCS to promote these Fundamental Principles; 2 refresher trainings were organized and held by the ICRC for 55 SLRCS first aid instructors. 4 first aid services were delivered by SLRCS Ratnapura, Kegalle, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya branches at district level events, benefitting over 2'000 individuals.

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SRI LANKA

TOWARDS ACHIEVING HUMANE PRISONS

JANUARY - MARCH 2018



We know that once a prison is built it will need to last for generations and may need to function for a variety of inmate populations and trends within the criminal justice system. To the point – design matters. A prison is an environment and like any environment it can have a profound effect on the people who live and work there, those who visit and the surrounding communities in which they are a part of. A prison is, or at least should be, a reflection of conversations and decisions that arise out of a strategic planning process coupled with humanitarian standards. The end result being a ‘humane prison’.

The ICRC believes that any prison building project should be based on humanitarian principles first. The humane way to prison planning and design are based on four principles which are rooted in the Mandela Rules. They are: - do no harm, maintain a maximum of normality, promote health and personal growth and maintain connection with society.

Effective prison design involves a series of steps starting with the prison brief, legal frameworks, design and ultimately the post-occupancy evaluation and lessons learned. It is this process in particular that the Colombo delegation has been involved in with the Department of Prisons, having had three workshops already this year to incorporate the Mandela Rules and the legal framework into future prison design for Sri Lanka.

By encouraging the use of this approach, we hope to guide a process that creates a prison that provides safety and security, rehabilitation, healthy accommodation, a good working environment and be a member of the community in which it serves – in short a humane prison.

In Sri Lanka, the ICRC has been visiting places of detention all over the country since 1989. The aim of these visits is to support prison authorities with their endeavours to provide humane conditions and treatment for prisoners.