



pakistan

The ICRC began working in Pakistan in 1981 to assist victims of the conflict in Afghanistan. Its operations now focus on the situation in Pakistan and include: visiting security detainees; assisting victims of conflict and natural disaster; improving care of the weapon-wounded and the disabled; promoting compliance with IHL among officials and military forces; fostering dialogue with religious leaders, academic institutions and the media on IHL-related issues, the conduct of hostilities and neutral and independent humanitarian action; and supporting the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in enhancing its response capacity.

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection | 3,463 |
| Assistance | 15,274 |
| Prevention | 1,671 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,088 |
| General | - |

► **21,496**

of which: Overheads 1,312

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 84% |
|---------------------------|-----|

PERSONNEL

| | |
|-----|---|
| 56 | expatriates |
| 463 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

KEY POINTS

In 2007, the ICRC:

- visited 32,620 detainees in 19 places of detention after receiving authorization to begin visiting people held under the authority of the Ministry of Interior
- followed up detainees repatriated from Afghanistan and the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba
- supported the medical care of people wounded in military confrontations and rehabilitation services for the disabled
- carried out rehabilitation work in earthquake-affected communities, including livelihood-support and water and habitat programmes
- developed dialogue with religious leaders to promote understanding of the ICRC's mandate and IHL
- assisted the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in developing and improving its first-aid programme

CONTEXT

In March, the chief justice of Pakistan was suspended by President Pervez Musharraf, sparking protests in major cities. He was reinstated by the Supreme Court in July. After President Musharraf was re-elected in October, he imposed a state of emergency and suspended the constitution. The state of emergency was lifted in December, after legal measures were adopted to protect decisions taken while the constitution had been suspended.

Former prime ministers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif returned from exile to contest parliamentary elections. Benazir Bhutto was killed on 27 December during a rally in Rawalpindi, increasing political turmoil in the country ahead of the elections planned for January 2008.

Law and order deteriorated in the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), particularly in the southern districts of Tank and Bannu bordering Waziristan. The stand-off in Islamabad between militants in the Lal Masjid (Red Mosque) and the government ended in July when security forces launched an assault on the mosque. An upsurge in violence ensued in NWFP, including several bomb attacks that killed or wounded a large number of people. In response, the military targeted militant hideouts in tribal areas, particularly in North and South Waziristan, and later in the Swat Valley in NWFP, leading to some displacement of civilians. In the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), sectarian strife led to violent clashes between Shias and Sunnis in the Kurram agency, and a confrontation between supporters of rival religious leaders killed dozens in the Khyber agency.

After a winter lull following the killing of Baluch nationalist leader Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti in 2006, armed groups stepped up attacks on security forces, government officials, and private companies perceived to be exploiting the province's rich natural resources. The number of rocket, bomb and hand grenade attacks in Quetta increased and the violence spread to other areas of the province. The border areas of Baluchistan were affected by the armed conflict in Afghanistan, with large numbers of wounded people crossing the border. In June, some 200 people died and tens of thousands were made homeless by severe flooding throughout Baluchistan in the wake of cyclone Yemyin.

Recovery and reconstruction continued in the earthquake-affected areas of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, including the Neelum and Jhelum valleys. These were areas that before the ceasefire at the end of 2003 had long been affected by crossfire at the Line of Control between India and Pakistan and had been hardest hit by the 2005 earthquake.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

| | Total | | Total | Women | Children |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|----------|-------------|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) | | CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM | | | |
| Detainees visited | 32,620 | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i> | | | |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually | 338 | Essential household items | Beneficiaries | 45,155 | 28% 44% |
| | | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives | Beneficiaries | 220,157 | 28% 44% |
| | of whom females 13 | Water, sanitation and habitat projects | Beneficiaries | 172,348 | 28% 44% |
| | of whom minors 11 | <i>Health</i> | | | |
| Number of visits carried out | 30 | Health centres supported | Structures | 3 | |
| Number of places of detention visited | 19 | Consultations | Patients | 18,137 | |
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS | | | of which curative | Patients | 4,951 6,761 |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i> | | | of which ante/post-natal | Patients | 2,640 4 |
| RCMs collected | 1,708 | Immunizations | Doses | 14,219 | |
| RCMs distributed | 1,726 | WOUNDED AND SICK | | | |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i> | | Hospitals supported | Structures | 13 | |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered | 89 | Admissions | Patients | 711 | 96 70 |
| | of whom females 26 | Operations | Operations performed | 1,318 | |
| | of whom minors at the time of disappearance 31 | <i>Physical rehabilitation</i> | | | |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located) | 39 | Patients receiving services | Patients | 2,157 | 437 354 |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2007 (people) | 75 | Prostheses delivered | Units | 501 | 66 32 |
| | of which for females 16 | Orthoses delivered | Units | 502 | 42 267 |
| | of which for minors at the time of disappearance 23 | | | | |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED | | | | | |
| People to whom travel documents were issued | 12 | | | | |

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC pursued its activities for victims of armed confrontations in Pakistan. It followed the cases of detainees repatriated from Afghanistan and the US detention facility at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, helped families in Pakistan maintain contact with relatives detained abroad, supported hospitals treating the wounded and improved access to physical rehabilitation services for disabled people living in areas affected by security operations or by the 2005 earthquake.

Following dialogue with federal and provincial authorities, the ICRC began to visit people held in places of detention under the Ministry of Interior. During the year, delegates visited detainees in 19 prisons in all four provinces and shared confidential reports on the findings and recommendations with the relevant authorities.

The start of visits to detainees, along with a reduction in earthquake-related activities, reflected a shift in the ICRC's priorities to focus more on protection issues. The ICRC maintained close contact with the relevant authorities to facilitate its detention-related work.

The ICRC continued to cover the costs of the medical treatment of weapon-wounded people along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Security constraints in the FATA prevented the ICRC from gaining access to many places in those areas, but patients were brought to Bannu, Peshawar, Quetta and Tank. Hospitals in Bannu and Saidu Sharif received medical supplies following periods of intense violence in North Waziristan and Swat respectively. Two minor bomb explosions at the ICRC sub-delegation and workshop in Peshawar caused a temporary slowdown in the assistance programme for weapon-wounded.

The running of two basic health care units and one rural health centre in Pakistan-administered Kashmir was handed over to the Ministry of Health. The ICRC completed repair work on the three

health centres and construction of the new physical rehabilitation centre in Muzaffarabad, which began providing services for the disabled in July.

The rehabilitation of water supply and irrigation schemes continued to provide significant benefits to rural and urban communities. Programmes to help restore the livelihoods of earthquake victims, including distributions of livestock and saplings and the repair of irrigation canals, were implemented in spite of logistical constraints. Difficult road conditions, unpredictable weather and landslides were constant operational challenges and risks, requiring a strict approach to safety and security.

Cooperation with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society continued in the field of tracing, in the earthquake-affected areas and in regions hit by flooding. A review of the National Society's first-aid strategy was carried out.

CIVILIANS

Assisting residents and displaced people

Victims of the October 2005 earthquake continued to recover. Many of the camps housing displaced people closed and the occupants returned to their villages. Livelihood-support projects for earthquake-affected people continued.

The livestock project run jointly with the German Red Cross was completed, with nearly 2,000 cows with calves distributed between May and November. Improvements made after a review of the 2006 distributions reduced calf mortality and doubled milk production. The beneficiaries had enough milk for their families and a surplus, which was either shared within the community or sold. The 26 ICRC-trained community animal health workers improved the animal health care system and contributed to the cows' increased productivity. Ten local people were trained in artificial insemination and given equipment.

Some 24,000 people had better access to milling facilities after the ICRC provided financial and material assistance for the repair of nine local water mills. The local mills charged less than mills in large towns, and further savings could be made on travel time and costs. Since some farmers had given the lack of local milling facilities as a reason for not planting as many crops, this development encouraged them to plant more. Earthquake-affected people also received walnut saplings. After three to four years, the nuts produced by the mature trees would increase vulnerable families' incomes by up to 30%.

After fleeing violent clashes in the Swat Valley in December, some 3,500 IDPs received blankets and soap. People affected by floods in Baluchistan received shelter materials, clothing and soap from the Pakistani Red Crescent with ICRC logistical and material support.

- 45,155 people (6,581 households) received essential household items
- 220,157 people (31,451 households) benefited from agricultural, veterinary and micro-economic initiatives, including:
 - 13,139 people from the provision of livestock
 - 166,257 people from the community animal health worker training programme
 - 16,562 people from distributions of walnut saplings
 - 24,199 people from repairs to water mills

Rural residents in Muzaffarabad district continued to build gravity-fed water schemes for irrigation and home consumption with ICRC materials and technical support, provided in consultation with village water committees. By the end of the year, some 100 rural water supply schemes and one urban scheme were completed, providing safe water to approximately 80,000 people. Four irrigation schemes were rehabilitated, allowing some 2,000 people to increase their crop yields.

The ICRC continued to support the Ministry of Health in its efforts to ensure access to health care for victims of the earthquake. People in the Jhelum and Neelum valleys benefited from services provided by the primary health care units in Chinari, Dhanni and Pattika. The reconstruction of three health care centres in the earthquake-affected area was completed. In parallel, local health teams received the necessary training to run the health facilities themselves. As a result, by mid-July, Ministry of Health staff were running all of the health facilities. The ICRC monitored the health facilities until December, when support to the health programme ended.

- 172,188 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects, including:
 - 88,000 people from repairs to primary health care centres aimed at restoring medical services disrupted by the earthquake

In the 3 ICRC-supported health centres (catchment population: 25,700):

- 18,137 people given consultations, including 2,644 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 15,493 attending curative consultations
- 14,219 vaccine doses administered (including 11,840 to children aged five or under and 1,433 to women of childbearing age)
- 294 patients referred to secondary care, including 145 obstetric cases
- 122 health education sessions held

Tracing missing persons and helping maintain family links

Family members dispersed as a result of armed confrontations or separated by detention continued to use RCMs to keep in contact with one another. When approached by people who suspected that their relatives had been detained in neighbouring countries, the ICRC crosschecked its records of detainees visited and sought verification from the authorities concerned, informing the families of the results. In partnership with the Pakistani Red Crescent, the ICRC sought to determine the fate of persons reported missing after the earthquake. This involved checking official records, interviewing potential witnesses, keeping in close contact with families searching for relatives and conducting various media and awareness campaigns. Efforts to build the capacity of the National Society's tracing service continued.

- 1,568 RCMs collected from and 1,706 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 89 people (including 26 females and 31 minors at the time of disappearance); 39 people located; 75 people (including 16 females and 23 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 1 case of an unaccompanied/separated child still being handled
- 12 people issued with an ICRC travel document

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Since 2002, detainees repatriated from Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay had been receiving ICRC visits while in Pakistani detention facilities pending their release. After their release, the ICRC conducted follow-up visits to them at home and assisted those who needed help in accessing medical care or returning to work. These home follow-up visits also included people released from detention facilities in India.

After obtaining the necessary authorization, the ICRC began to visit people held under the authority of the Ministry of Interior. Based on its observations during these visits, the ICRC pursued a confidential dialogue with the relevant authorities.

- 32,620 detainees visited, of whom 338 monitored individually (including 13 females and 11 minors) and 328 newly registered (including 13 females and 10 minors), during 30 visits to 19 places of detention
- 140 RCMs collected from and 20 RCMs distributed to detainees

WOUNDED AND SICK

Care for people wounded in violence

Despite having limited access to areas of North and South Waziristan affected by fighting, the ICRC maintained its support to 13 hospitals treating weapon-wounded patients transferred from those areas, and covered the costs of their surgical and medical treatment. Hospitals in the area received medicines and medical materials. The number of patients supported in these hospitals was relatively low during the first five months of the year, owing partly to a lull in the fighting and partly to two security incidents at the ICRC's Peshawar sub-delegation, after which routine activities were put on hold. The assistance continued until the end of the year. To improve health care for the wounded, local surgeons and

health workers received war-surgery and first-aid training. Other hospitals in NWFP received medicines and medical materials on an ad hoc basis.

- ▶ 38 surgeons and 59 nurses in Peshawar and Quetta trained in war-surgery techniques
- ▶ 20 health workers in Peshawar trained in first aid

In the 10 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data:

- ▶ 711 patients (including 96 women and 70 children) admitted: of whom 668 weapon-wounded (including 88 women, 61 children, and 22 people injured by mines or explosive remnants of war), 28 other surgical cases and 15 medical patients
- ▶ 1,318 surgical operations performed
- ▶ 182 outpatients given consultations, including 317 attending surgical or medical consultations

Physical rehabilitation

Amputees and other disabled people were fitted with artificial limbs or other mobility devices through the ICRC's comprehensive referral system for patients from earthquake-affected and isolated conflict-affected areas. The Pakistan Institute for Prosthetic and Orthotic Sciences in Peshawar and the Christian Hospital in Quetta fitted patients referred to them by the ICRC, which reimbursed the costs. To improve the quality and sustainability of services, the centres began to introduce polypropylene technology and provide staff with further training, with support from the ICRC. Direct ICRC support to the Fauji Foundation in Rawalpindi ceased in May, when ICRC-trained staff moved to the new ICRC physical rehabilitation centre in Muzaffarabad. In September, the Ministry of Health and the ICRC signed a five-year memorandum of understanding with respect to the Muzaffarabad centre, which was to provide services to 160 disabled people. The Pakistani prime minister opened the centre on the second anniversary of the earthquake in October. As part of the centre's micro-economic assistance programme, in a pilot project, disabled people received grants to help them start small businesses and become more self-sufficient.

People with spinal cord injuries faced difficulties in receiving home care upon their discharge from medical facilities. To respond to these needs, the ICRC established a home care programme in Peshawar, setting up mobile outreach services for ongoing training and support for local carers.

- ▶ 2,157 patients (including 437 women and 354 children) received services at 4 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- ▶ 464 new patients (including 57 women and 30 children) fitted with prostheses and 308 (including 33 women and 137 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 501 prostheses (including 66 for women, 32 for children and 240 for mine victims), 502 orthoses (including 42 for women, 267 for children and 21 for mine victims), 385 crutches and 17 wheelchairs delivered

AUTHORITIES

Discussions continued between the authorities and the ICRC on IHL implementation. The ICRC also maintained contacts with relevant government officials in order to ensure support for its activities and mandate.

With the ICRC's support, three officials from the Ministries of Law, Justice and Human Rights, Defence and Foreign Affairs attended a symposium in Beijing, China, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the 1977 Additional Protocols (see *Beijing regional*).

The Research Society of International Law and the ICRC continued to plan workshops for various ministries within the framework of efforts to incorporate the 1949 Geneva Conventions into Pakistan's national legislation.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Pakistan armed forces continued to integrate IHL into their doctrine, training and operations. Discussions began with the army and air force to establish a formal basis for the teaching of IHL using the 2003 curriculum or a modified version of it. Pakistan's air force renewed efforts to integrate IHL fully into its training programmes. A train-the-trainer programme at the Pakistan army's Military Academy began in April.

- ▶ 247 army instructors participated in IHL train-the-trainer courses
- ▶ 43 instructors from the Frontier Force Infantry Regional Training Centre participated in an IHL train-the-trainer course
- ▶ 134 air force officers participated in IHL seminars
- ▶ 23 navy officers participated in an IHL train-the-trainer course
- ▶ 896 army, air force and navy officers and non-commissioned officers attended IHL dissemination sessions
- ▶ some 450 graduating cadets of the Pakistan Military Academy attended an IHL presentation

Negotiations on launching an IHL programme with the police continued.

- ▶ some 150 police personnel attended dissemination sessions on IHL and international human rights law

CIVIL SOCIETY

Journalists from both religious and secular print and electronic media in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Rawalpindi participated in workshops and dissemination sessions on the ICRC and humanitarian issues. In cooperation with the National Society and the International Federation, the ICRC also sponsored an award for journalists.

The ICRC and faculties relevant to IHL in universities discussed opportunities and ways to introduce IHL as a credit course in their curricula.

- ▶ 40 students sponsored to attend the national round of the Henry Dunant moot court competition
- ▶ a winning team from the national round sponsored to represent Pakistan in the regional Henry Dunant moot court competition in India
- ▶ a team from Pakistan participated in the Jean Pictet IHL competition in El Escorial, Spain
- ▶ members of religious circles attended 5 seminars on IHL and Islamic law
- ▶ 3 lecturers sponsored to attend the 10th South Asian Teaching Session on IHL held in Hyderabad, India (see *New Delhi regional*)

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society consolidated its activities in relation to the emergency phase of the earthquake response, developing a three-year plan to phase out these activities and move to longer-term programmes, mainly in disaster management and health. As part of this process, the National Society was able to focus on developing its first-aid and tracing capacities.

The Red Crescent branch in Pakistan-administered Kashmir moved into new premises donated by the Turkish Red Crescent Society, and the National Society extended its presence to two more districts. With ICRC support, it established a branch in Bannu in order to be able to reach conflict-affected people in the FATA.

Some 50 National Society staff participated in tracing workshops in Karachi, Lahore and Muzaffarabad organized by a joint team of National Society and ICRC staff and designed to reinforce their skills and response capacities.

A review of the National Society's first-aid programme, supported since 2004 by the ICRC, was carried out by an expert from the British Red Cross, who drafted a three-year strategy to standardize, strengthen, publicize and broaden the action of the National Society in this field. The National Society was in the process of reviewing the draft strategy with a view to adopting and implementing it. The recommendations included upgrading first-aid training and developing first-aid response teams in communities vulnerable to natural disaster and conflict.

Some 20 National Society volunteers received training in proper hygiene and sanitation practices. This training would be put to use in areas of Pakistan-administered Kashmir where people had benefited from the ICRC's rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems in order to increase the health benefits of the programme.

Coordination with all Movement partners working in Pakistan took place on a regular basis.