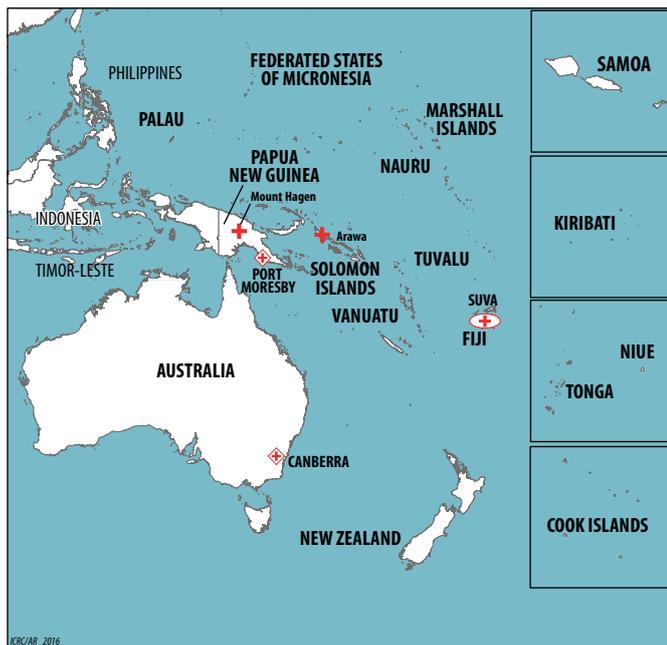


SUVA (regional)

COVERING: Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and the territories of the Pacific



Since 2001, ICRC operations in the Pacific have been carried out by the Suva regional delegation. With the National Societies, the ICRC assists governments in ratifying and implementing IHL treaties, and promotes respect for IHL and other international norms among armed and security forces and awareness of such among academic circles, the media and civil society. The ICRC works to ensure that victims of violence in Papua New Guinea receive emergency aid and medical care; it visits detainees there and elsewhere in the region. It helps National Societies build their emergency response capacities.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

MEDIUM

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ The authorities concerned received ICRC feedback on issues faced by detained migrants – notably, their mental health and their uncertain status – in processing centres on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea, and in Nauru.
- ▶ In the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea, some victims of violence, including sexual abuse, were treated at ICRC-supported facilities. One of these facilities, built by the ICRC in 2015, began to function in July.
- ▶ Military legal advisers from the Asia-Pacific region strengthened their ability to foster compliance with IHL in military operations, through a course conducted in Australia by the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law and the ICRC.
- ▶ Members of families dispersed when a cyclone struck Fiji, restored contact through phone calls and other family-links services provided by the Fiji Red Cross Society with support from the ICRC and other Movement partners.

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	1
RCMs distributed	2
Phone calls facilitated between family members	18
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	10
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	5,928
Detainees visited and monitored individually	91
Number of visits carried out	56
Number of places of detention visited	35
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	3
RCMs distributed	4
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	8

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	2,182
Assistance	1,901
Prevention	2,326
Cooperation with National Societies	1,516
General	33
Total	7,958
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>486</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	100%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	17
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	40

ASSISTANCE

	2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries 15,000	6,343
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries 4,000	3,780
Health		
Health centres supported	Structures 3	2

CONTEXT

In the Enga, Hela and Southern Highlands provinces of Papua New Guinea, communal fighting caused casualties and displacement, and disrupted basic services. In the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, a policy adopted in 2014 to address the needs of the families of people unaccounted for since the armed conflict in the 1990s had yet to be implemented.

Asylum seekers and other migrants intercepted off the coast of Australia were reportedly turned back. Hundreds awaited the resolution of their cases in processing centres on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea, and in Nauru. In April, Papua New Guinea's supreme court ruled that the detention of migrants at the processing centre on Manus Island was unlawful. In November, the governments of Australia and the United States of America (hereafter United States) agreed to resettle detainees from Manus and Nauru in the United States.

As part of efforts to counter “terrorism”, Australia took part in an international military coalition (see *Iraq* and *Syrian Arab Republic*) and, with New Zealand, helped the Iraqi government train its forces. Australia and Fiji provided troops for international peace-keeping operations.

A tropical cyclone struck Fiji in February, reportedly killing dozens of people and displacing tens of thousands of others.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC delegation in the Pacific worked to protect and assist people affected by violence or deprived of their freedom, helped National Societies build their capacities and supported efforts to advance IHL implementation.

The ICRC kept up its multidisciplinary efforts to mitigate the effects of communal violence, including instances of sexual violence, on communities in Papua New Guinea's Hela and Southern Highlands provinces and, since September, in the Enga province. It discussed allegations of abuse bilaterally with the parties concerned, emphasizing the necessity of facilitating, in an impartial manner, access to medical treatment for the wounded, the sick and victims of sexual violence. In the Southern Highlands, some victims of sexual violence received care at two family-support centres given material assistance by the ICRC. Health workers familiarized themselves with the specific needs of sexual violence victims through an ICRC course. Over 200 community members were trained to administer first aid more effectively. Two health posts in the Southern Highlands offered health services with ICRC support; one of them, built by the ICRC in 2015, began functioning in July after overcoming personnel difficulties.

The ICRC visited, in accordance with its standard procedures, detainees in Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and, for the first time in three years, Vanuatu, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. With support from the Australian Red Cross, it also checked on the circumstances of migrants in processing centres on Manus Island and in Nauru; migrants undergoing treatment at medical transit facilities in Port Moresby received ad hoc visits. Subsequently, the ICRC discussed its findings with the authorities concerned, with a view to helping them make the necessary improvements. The ICRC informed the pertinent authorities in Australia, Nauru and Papua New Guinea of matters of persistent concern to the migrants mentioned above; these included

mental-health and child-protection issues and uncertainty about their status.

Members of families separated by detention, migration or natural disasters reconnected through Movement family-links services. The ICRC arranged for dozens of inmates in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands to be visited by relatives. Migrants in processing centres on Manus Island and in Nauru filed tracing requests to locate their relatives. People separated from relatives during a tropical cyclone in Fiji sought them through phone calls and other family-links services provided by the Fiji Red Cross Society with support from the ICRC and other Movement components. A working group, composed of representatives from various local bodies, had discussions with the ICRC about developing a mechanism to address the needs of the families of people unaccounted for since the armed conflict in Bougainville in the 1990s.

Regional conferences and regular contact with national and regional authorities, armed forces personnel and members of civil society fostered support for IHL, relevant international standards, humanitarian principles and Movement activities. Military legal advisers from the Asia-Pacific region learnt more about the application of IHL in military operations, through a workshop conducted in Australia by the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law and the ICRC. The ICRC bolstered its efforts to foster respect for international law enforcement standards through workshops for police officers in Fiji, Nauru and Papua New Guinea, and through its participation, for the first time, in the annual conference of the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP). In Papua New Guinea, the government and ICRC signed an agreement defining its status in the country; the agreement had yet to be ratified by the parliament.

The ICRC contributed – together with the National Societies of Australia and New Zealand, and other Movement components – to strengthening the organizational and emergency response capacities of the Pacific Islands Red Cross Societies.

CIVILIANS

In Papua New Guinea, the ICRC continued to promote respect for basic principles of humanity, with a view to mitigating the effects of communal violence in Enga, Hela and the Southern Highlands. It relayed documented allegations of abuse to the parties concerned and urged them to prevent the recurrence of such unlawful conduct. During bilateral talks with them, the ICRC emphasized the necessity of: facilitating, in an impartial manner, access to medical treatment for the wounded, the sick and victims of sexual abuse; and protecting health-care staff and facilities. These and other related concerns were also highlighted at workshops for police officers on international standards applicable to law enforcement, and through plays staged in violence-affected provinces (see *Actors of influence*).

Over 6,300 individuals (1,228 households) affected by fighting in Hela and the Southern Highlands set up temporary shelters or improved their living conditions with tools, tarpaulins and other essential household items distributed by the ICRC.

Local health-care personnel pay particular attention to the medical needs of sexual violence victims

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society and the ICRC worked with local communities to address the effects of violence on their access to water and health care. The National Society strengthened its capacities with the help of training – for example, in conducting

activities to improve sanitation and access to water – and other support from the ICRC (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

In the Southern Highlands, nearly 3,800 people increased their water supply with the help of rainwater-harvesting systems installed by the ICRC. Patients and staff at six health facilities had better access to water and/or electric power after repairs to water-supply systems were completed and solar-power systems installed at these facilities.

Training sessions organized by the National Society and the ICRC equipped over 200 community members to administer emergency care to casualties of clashes. National Society volunteers learnt how to conduct first-aid training through an advanced course. An ICRC course trained staff from 11 health-care facilities in addressing the specific needs of sexual violence victims. Victims of abuse received counselling and specialized care from family-support centres at two hospitals in the Southern Highlands; these centres received supplies from the ICRC on an ad hoc basis. A new centre at a hospital in the Western Highlands was being set up with ICRC support.

People in the Southern Highlands continued to have access to primary health care at an ICRC-supported health post in the village of Uma. However, challenges in deploying qualified staff to such health posts hampered the ICRC's plans to support other primary-health-care facilities. In Kalolo, a village in the same province, a health post constructed in 2015 by the ICRC in partnership with the provincial health authority began functioning in July, after the provincial health authority overcame difficulties in assigning staff members to it.

At the two ICRC-backed health posts, about 1,300 people, including children, were vaccinated against common diseases, and pregnant or nursing mothers and other patients benefited from over 10,000 consultations.

Authorities discuss the creation of a mechanism for assisting missing persons' families

In Bougainville, a working group on missing persons – composed of parties concerned from various local bodies, including the military, the Directorate of Peace and Reconciliation, and an NGO called the Bougainville Peace Building Programme – engaged in discussions with the ICRC about developing a mechanism and exploring other possibilities for ascertaining the fate of missing people and providing their relatives with the necessary support.

In southern Bougainville, relatives of missing persons established a family association with encouragement from the ICRC; the association enabled members to provide mutual psychosocial support and collectively request assistance from government agencies and other relevant institutions. The association was the third of its kind on the island.

Disaster-affected people in Fiji exchange news with relatives

In Fiji, the National Society, with ICRC technical support, delivered emergency family-links services to people, including detainees (see *People deprived of their freedom*), affected by a tropical cyclone. The Australian Red Cross and the ICRC assigned a tracing delegate to train Fiji Red Cross Society staff in restoring family links during crises.

People sought news of their relatives through a Fiji Red Cross hotline and the ICRC's family-links website (familylinks.icrc.org),

which listed the names of people who had registered themselves as safe and of those still unaccounted for. Members of some families exchanged news via phone calls facilitated by the National Society.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Authorities are informed of the specific concerns of migrants held in processing centres

The ICRC visited, in accordance with its standard procedures, detainees in selected places of detention in Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and, for the first time in three years, Vanuatu, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. In Papua New Guinea, people held in several police stations and correctional services facilities received particular attention. ICRC visits to migrants, including asylum seekers, in processing centres on Manus Island and in Nauru took place with the support of the Australian Red Cross; the ICRC also visited migrants undergoing medical treatment at transit facilities in Port Moresby.

After these visits, the ICRC discussed its findings and recommendations with the detaining authorities, with a view to helping them make the necessary improvements. Dialogue with police commands in Papua New Guinea covered, among other matters, international standards applicable to arrests and detention and the importance of ensuring respect for judicial guarantees. Based on reports submitted to them in 2015, the ICRC discussed with the pertinent authorities in Australia, Nauru and Papua New Guinea matters of persistent concern to migrants in processing centres: mental-health and child-protection issues, allegations of sexual abuse and uncertainty about their status. The ICRC's director-general and the Australian immigration minister met to discuss these concerns and the need for lasting solutions to them. In light of an agreement between Australia and the United States on the resettlement of people held on Manus Island and in Nauru, the ICRC sent a written reminder of the issues mentioned above to the parties concerned, requesting immediate action to benefit particularly vulnerable detainees, including those who were mentally ill. In line with the ICRC's recommendations, the Australian government released a child-protection framework, which outlined measures to make the environment safer for children at the processing centres.

The ICRC's confidential dialogue with detaining authorities was supplemented by regional forums on internationally recognized detention standards. Several Fijian police trainers and one senior police officer from Nauru took part in a workshop in Fiji on international law enforcement standards, such as those applicable to arrests and detention (see *Actors of influence*). At the Fijian government's request, the ICRC contributed input during a workshop on the benefits and challenges of ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Penitentiary officials from Fiji and Papua New Guinea exchanged best practices in prison management with their peers at a regional conference organized jointly by the ICRC and prison authorities in Sri Lanka (see *Sri Lanka*).

Prison authorities received ICRC assistance in enhancing detainees' living conditions. The ICRC supported the delivery of health services in one facility and gave advice on developing medical referral schemes for inmates in police stations. In the Highlands, for instance, 110 people held at two police stations benefited from infrastructural improvements carried out by the ICRC. About 390 inmates received hygiene items. Two prison management staff added to their knowledge of designing and constructing detention facilities at the 5th Asian Conference of Correctional Facilities

Architects and Planners in Seoul, Republic of Korea (see *Beijing*); the ICRC sponsored their participation in the event. The Fijian authorities drew on ICRC expertise in reviewing plans for a new detention facility.

Detainees are visited by their families

In Bougainville and Kerevat, 65 inmates were visited by relatives, who stayed in tents put up by the ICRC near their prisons; the ICRC also covered the families' transport costs. In the Solomon Islands, 35 detainees serving life sentences received family visits financed by the Solomon Islands Red Cross with ICRC support.

The ICRC maintained its efforts to respond to tracing requests made in 2015 by people held at the Manus Island processing centre. Migrants at the processing centre in Nauru, including asylum seekers, continued to benefit from tracing services provided by the Australian Red Cross.

Some detainees in Fiji contacted their relatives after a tropical cyclone, through phone calls facilitated by the National Society.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Through dialogue, the ICRC drew the attention of authorities at national and regional levels to matters of humanitarian concern, and cultivated support for its response to these issues. Talks with the Australian authorities dealt with such matters as migration-related concerns, the Strengthening IHL process, and the ICRC's activities in key contexts. Notably, some parliamentarians made public statements in support of ICRC activities. During an ICRC-facilitated meeting, an Australian official exchanged views with experts on IHL provisions applicable to autonomous weapon systems.

In Papua New Guinea, the government and the ICRC signed an agreement defining the ICRC's status in the country; the agreement had yet to be ratified by the parliament.

Military legal advisers in the Asia-Pacific region strengthen their knowledge of IHL

The ICRC conducted workshops for weapon bearers in the region, with a view to promoting respect for IHL and relevant international standards.

In Australia, 19 military legal advisers from across the Asia-Pacific region strengthened their ability to foster compliance with IHL during their operations, at a workshop conducted by the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law and the ICRC. The ICRC

customized a training module with virtual scenarios for Australia's Peace Operations Training Centre; the aim was to increase instructors' effectiveness in teaching IHL to peace-support troops. Nearly 100 peacekeeping personnel and trainers were briefed on the ICRC's work. Participation at ICRC regional events enabled Australian Defence Force officers to learn more about the application of IHL at sea and emerging challenges to implementing IHL. At an ICRC-led session, some 180 military officers from Australia and Asian countries deepened their understanding of the ICRC's activities for detainees. Australian civil-military liaison officers learnt about the ICRC's mandate through a presentation.

Police personnel in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and, for the first time, Nauru participated in workshops on international policing standards. A senior police officer from Nauru attended a train-the-trainer session for the Fiji police. The ICRC attended the PICP's annual conference for the first time, as an observer.

Members of violence-prone communities in Papua New Guinea were urged to respect the basic principles of humanity, particularly in relation to sexual violence, and learnt more about the Movement, through dramatic plays and bilateral discussions.

States take steps towards ratifying IHL treaties

Government officials, particularly in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Samoa, benefited from the ICRC's advice on becoming party to IHL-related instruments. In Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, the authorities and the ICRC held workshops on ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty. Tongan authorities consulted the ICRC about ratifying the Rome Statute, and Samoan officials learnt more about IHL through an ICRC-led session. The Tonga Red Cross Society launched, in cooperation with the Australian Red Cross and the ICRC, a handbook to guide parliamentarians towards IHL implementation. Drawing on recommendations by the Australian Red Cross and the ICRC, an independent review of Australian legislation to protect movable cultural heritage urged the Australian government to ratify the protocols to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property. At ICRC-facilitated meetings, Papua New Guinean authorities learnt more about the role of national IHL committees through discussions with officials from Australian, New Zealand and Samoan IHL committees.

Legal experts, academics and media professionals advance their understanding of IHL

In Australia and New Zealand, conferences with legal professionals and academics, and briefings for university students, enabled the

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	Fiji	Nauru	Papua New Guinea	Solomon Islands	Vanuatu
ICRC visits					
Detainees visited	1,396	486	3,620	320	106
<i>of whom women</i>	51	63	181	3	2
<i>of whom minors</i>	3	54	119	14	1
Detainees visited and monitored individually	38	14	32	7	
<i>of whom women</i>		3			
Detainees newly registered	29	5			
<i>of whom women</i>		1			
Number of visits carried out	14	6	30	2	4
Number of places of detention visited	10	3	16	2	4
Restoring family links					
RCMs collected	3				
RCMs distributed	1		3		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	3		5		
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support			65	35	

ICRC to stimulate debate on IHL and related issues. At its annual conference, the Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law included a panel discussion – organized by the Australian and New Zealand National Societies and the ICRC – about how IHL seeks to protect civilians. In Australia and New Zealand, several academics and experts in related areas were briefed on the updated Commentary on the First Geneva Convention. Australian government officials and academics learnt more about the ICRC's physical rehabilitation activities at an exhibition. Students competed in moot-court competitions with ICRC support.

Journalists from throughout the region learnt more about ICRC activities from a presentation at the biennial conference of the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) and other similar events. An article published by PINA highlighted the ICRC's priorities in the Asia-Pacific region. In Australia, ICRC briefings for foreign correspondents aimed to foster accurate coverage of humanitarian issues. The Australian Red Cross and the ICRC surveyed the Australian public's views on torture in armed conflict; local media reported the findings.

Online content – social media posts, an online newsletter, and blog articles – raised awareness of ICRC activities throughout the world.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Pacific Island National Societies responded to emergencies in line with the Safer Access Framework, fostered awareness of IHL and built their capacities with support from the ICRC and other Movement partners. Movement components in the region coordinated their activities, particularly their response to a destructive tropical cyclone in Fiji. (see *Civilians*)

Aided by the Australian Red Cross, the International Federation and the ICRC, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society continued to undertake organizational reforms. With ICRC financial support, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross shared its communication expertise with the Solomon Islands Red Cross to back its response to an earthquake in December. Staff from several Pacific Island National Societies participated in regional forums on communication and other key areas.

The ICRC held meetings with the prime ministers of Tonga, Tuvalu and Samoa – together with the National Societies concerned – to urge government support for their National Societies' work. The Vanuatu Red Cross Society briefed police and corrections personnel about IHL, with ICRC support.

The National Societies of Australia and New Zealand, jointly with the ICRC, trained new delegates bound for humanitarian operations abroad.

The Fiji Red Cross Society drew on the ICRC for advice on talking with national authorities about enacting a law recognizing its status. The "Republic of the Marshall Islands Red Cross" worked towards recognition as a National Society; it submitted its constitution to the Joint Statutes Commission for evaluation.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		1	1		
RCMs distributed		2			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		18			
Names published on the ICRC family-links website		41			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		4	1		1
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		10			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		19	5	2	
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		5,928	300	191	
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		3			
RCMs distributed		4			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		8			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		100			

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	6,343	1,648	2,726
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	5,265	1,368	2,263
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	3,780	1,814	945
Health				
Health centres supported	Structures	2		
Average catchment population		9,523		
Consultations		10,088		
	<i>of which curative</i>	9,525	247	185
	<i>of which antenatal</i>	563		
Immunizations	Patients	1,328		
	<i>of whom children aged 5 or under who were vaccinated against polio</i>	576		
Referrals to a second level of care	Patients	113		
	<i>of whom gynaecological/obstetric cases</i>	18		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	389	56	26
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	110	28	
Health				
Visits carried out by health staff		12		
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	11		
Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	1		