

BRASILIA (regional)

COVERING: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay



ICRC regional delegation
 ICRC mission
 ICRC office
 * ICRC regional communication support centre

The ICRC has been present in the region since 1975. It visits security detainees and responds to situations of violence and social unrest, often with the region's National Societies, which it supports in developing their capacities to act in such situations. It helps authorities identify human remains so as to provide families with information on their missing relatives. The ICRC promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation and the doctrine, training and operations of armed forces, and works with police forces to integrate international human rights law applicable to the use of force into theirs.

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

In 2014:

- ▶ as the ICRC wrapped up its multidisciplinary project in Rio de Janeiro's *favelas*, local partners began replicating some activities, especially in the areas of first aid, mental health and self-protection
- ▶ Brazil took on board ICRC recommendations on a new manual on law and order operations for the armed forces and on its revised rules of engagement for personnel operating in the *favelas*
- ▶ as part of an agreement between the Chilean forensic institute and the ICRC, 3,500 DNA samples from relatives of missing people were transferred for safekeeping to the ICRC's archives centre in Switzerland
- ▶ police officers in Chile and Paraguay, after they had been trained by the ICRC, conducted courses in international human rights law for future instructors

YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

MEDIUM

PROTECTION	Total
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	98
Detainees visited and monitored individually	98
Number of visits carried out	24
Number of places of detention visited	15

ASSISTANCE	2014 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries 3,500	
Cash	Beneficiaries	3
Work, services and training	Beneficiaries	90

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)	
Protection	1,752
Assistance	1,377
Prevention	2,738
Cooperation with National Societies	1,366
General	367

7,600

of which: Overheads 464

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	101%

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	8
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	55

CONTEXT

Amidst its growing international influence, several of Brazil's cities remained troubled by violence, particularly sections of Rio de Janeiro. The Rio de Janeiro state government pursued its "pacification" programme – large-scale law enforcement operations involving both the military and the police – in several slums, known as *favelas*. Clashes took place between these forces and armed gangs.

Brazil's National Truth Commission released its final report, which recognized victims of the military regime and called for a partial revocation of the amnesty law.

In southern Chile, the national police force – known as *Carabineros* – intervened in the increasing tensions between Mapuche communities and other groups over issues linked to land tenure; the situation was marked by violent confrontations, casualties on all sides, and the detention of several Mapuche leaders.

In Concepcion and San Pedro, Paraguay, clashes took place between security forces and armed elements, which led to injuries and deaths, the detention of several people and, for the communities affected, diminished access to basic goods and services.

The countries covered were members of various regional organizations and bodies, such as the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Union of South American States (UNASUR).

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

As unrest in the region continued, the Brasilia delegation drew the attention of authorities, weapon bearers and other influential actors – particularly in Brazil, Chile and Paraguay – to the concerns of the civilian population. It also engaged these actors in dialogue on the place of human rights norms in their work.

In Rio de Janeiro, the ICRC continued to urge the national and local authorities, including education/health officials, to replicate its recently concluded multidisciplinary project for mitigating the effects of armed violence in the *favelas*. The authorities received preliminary reports on the project – which concluded at the end of 2013 – and its results; the ICRC also provided them with technical and training support as they began their own initiatives. The authorities trained health workers to provide mental-health care and psychosocial support to violence-affected people, including adolescent mothers and their children. Health staff, students and teachers learnt about safe practices for dealing with the dangers they faced.

At the governments' requests, the ICRC lent some guidance towards keeping efforts to resolve cases of missing persons in line with international best practices and the wishes of the families concerned. Hence, it worked with the Argentine authorities to develop a consultation process with the families concerned regarding the recovery and identification of remains of soldiers who died during the Falklands/Malvinas Islands conflict; in Brazil, it pursued joint efforts with the authorities to establish mechanisms for the exhumation and identification of remains found in unmarked graves. As part of an agreement with the Chilean forensic institute, 3,500 DNA samples from relatives of people who went missing during the Chilean military regime were handed over to the ICRC for safekeeping, for the next 30 years, at its archives centre in Switzerland.

ICRC delegates visited detainees in Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay and, in line with the organization's standard procedures, monitored their treatment and living conditions; afterwards they submitted their findings/recommendations confidentially to the authorities concerned. The ICRC continued to support, with the Paraguayan Red Cross, a local livelihood project that enabled female detainees to produce handicrafts and textiles for sale, which provided them with a source of income and eased their social reintegration after their release.

The ICRC provided the Brazilian, Chilean and Paraguayan security/police forces with input on ensuring that international human rights law and other norms governing the use of force were reflected in their training programmes, in their planning processes and in the conduct of their operations. Thus, the Brazilian forces drew on feedback related to its manuals, as did Chile's *Carabineros*; in Chile and Paraguay, police officers also trained in instructing their colleagues on human rights norms.

To help advance IHL implementation, the ICRC focused on supporting the work of national IHL committees; the Argentine and Uruguayan committees finished preparing draft bills that sought the prohibition of certain weapons and the criminalization of people who persisted in their trade and use. Officials from the countries covered participated in international IHL events, such as those linked to the Health Care in Danger project and to the resolutions adopted at the 31st International Conference.

Working with Movement partners, particularly the National Society of the country concerned, the ICRC carried out communication activities marking "150 years of humanitarian action" and drawing attention to key humanitarian issues and the ICRC's activities.

The Argentine Red Cross, Brazilian Red Cross, Chilean Red Cross and Paraguayan Red Cross received specific assistance – technical advice and training – to build their operational capacities, particularly in first-aid/family-links services, and to ease their reorganization.

CIVILIANS

Brazilian authorities encouraged to replicate the Rio project

After the conclusion of the multidisciplinary initiative – known as the Rio project – to mitigate the effects of armed violence in selected *favelas* in Rio de Janeiro, the ICRC focused on encouraging/supporting the State and municipal education/health departments to replicate the projects that comprised the initiative. While it continued confidential dialogue with police and security forces operating in the city's *favelas*, including the "pacification" forces (see *Actors of influence*), the organization presented to the authorities its preliminary findings regarding the project and its outcomes.

Municipal health authorities strive to make mental-health care more accessible in the *favelas*

Health workers in Rio de Janeiro were better equipped to offer mental-health care and psychosocial support for people suffering the effects of violence-related trauma, as a result of the work done by the municipal health authorities to improve training modules on these subjects. The health authorities created a working group for replicating an ICRC project that provided adolescent mothers and their children with access to health and psychosocial assistance; the group also oversaw training for future instructors. In 2014, the authorities, with the ICRC's assistance, trained hundreds of health professionals in this area.

Health workers, students and teachers learn more about safe practices

Health staff were instructed in the Safer Access Framework, helping them cope with the risks they faced when working in violence-prone areas. Such training reached almost 2,500 health staff at 47 family health units, which contributed to making primary health care more accessible to around 700,000 people in the *favelas*. The municipal health authorities in Rio de Janeiro published safety guidelines on their website and shared them with their counterparts in two other cities.

Students and teachers in several *favelas* stood to benefit from the continuation of efforts to help them adopt safer practices. The State Secretariat of Education (SEEDUC) established train-the-trainer mechanisms to replicate the Safer Behaviour programme throughout Rio de Janeiro. Two regional directorates organized workshops at three schools without ICRC support, demonstrating the authorities' growing ownership of the initiative. SEEDUC also prepared to implement the Creating Humanitarian Spaces programme – which encourages students and teachers to discuss basic humanitarian principles – at 20 schools in 2015.

Partnership agreements signed with the Brazilian National Society's Rio de Janeiro state branch (CVB-FERJ) and four community-based first-aid associations formalized cooperation in providing timely aid and safe evacuation to health facilities for more sick/injured people.

Influential actors in Chile and Paraguay receive reports on civilians' concerns

In Chile and Paraguay, the ICRC brought up allegations of abuse with the authorities and/or other actors concerned; it continued to follow up these cases in subsequent contact with them. This was facilitated by the organization's proximity to victims, which developed from its expanded presence, and from efforts to broaden its networks in the two countries.

Through sessions conducted by the ICRC and the National Society concerned, people in Arroyito and Tacutay Poty in Paraguay, and in remote Mapuche communities in Chile, learnt basic first aid; Chile's *Carabineros* also acquired some first-aid skills during similar sessions. Around 50 Mapuche families benefited from health-care services delivered by the National Society/ICRC; some particularly vulnerable children received psychosocial support, and plans were under way to extend this support to adults.

Livelihood-support activities – notably a vegetable garden and a water-supply improvement project – began in two rural communities in Paraguay, following multidisciplinary assessments conducted by the ICRC.

DNA samples from Chilean families of missing persons stored by the ICRC

In Argentina, the ICRC continued to pay attention to developments in the identification of remains thought to be of some 120 soldiers killed in the Falklands/Malvinas Island conflict. After the government resumed consultations with the families concerned, the ICRC contributed to the development of procedures to ensure the families' informed consent regarding the process; this included training the government team that would interview the families. The ICRC also continued to advocate the purely humanitarian nature of the initiative.

The Brazilian authorities drew on ICRC advice for their work to identify remains found in a mass grave in São Paulo; such support

was geared towards establishing a mechanism for the exhumation and identification efforts and towards keeping the process in line with international best practices and the wishes of the families concerned. The ICRC maintained regular dialogue with associations of the families of the missing and with local/federal authorities.

In Chile, 3,500 DNA samples from relatives of people who went missing when the country was under military rule were handed over to the ICRC for safekeeping, for the next 30 years, at its archives centre in Switzerland, as part of an agreement with the Chilean forensic institute.

Forensic experts share best practices and pursue regional cooperation

Forensic workers in the region, particularly in Brazil, received support for adding to their expertise; a Brazilian police officer was trained in the use of the ICRC's ante/post-mortem data-management software. Experts were encouraged to attend capacity-building workshops and conferences abroad, so as to foster the sharing of best practices and bilateral cooperation in human remains management. An ICRC-organized regional conference for directors of medico-legal institutes brought together some 20 representatives from across Latin America; they reiterated the importance of defining/respecting international practices and of seeking out avenues of cooperation.

Brazilian authorities request ICRC help for assessing vulnerable migrants' conditions

The Brazilian authorities received the ICRC's findings/recommendations regarding the humanitarian situation of vulnerable migrants at a reception centre in Acre state along the Bolivia-Peru border; the ICRC had carried out the assessment at the authorities' request.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay were visited by ICRC delegates, who – in line with the organization's standard procedures – monitored their treatment and living conditions. The detainees visited included: Mapuche community leaders, three of whom were on hunger strike, in Chile; alleged members of armed groups in Paraguay; and people serving sentences for crimes against humanity in Uruguay. Following these visits, the ICRC submitted its findings – and, where necessary, its recommendations for improvements – confidentially to the authorities. In Paraguay, the ICRC's visits also presented the opportunity for multidisciplinary assessments; these, as well as the penitentiary reforms initiated by the authorities at the end of 2013, helped reshape the ICRC's analysis of the penitentiary system.

In Chile, the ICRC's meetings with the authorities concerned helped define priority issues in connection with the revision of a study on respect for detainees' judicial guarantees.

Twenty-seven detainees in Paraguay were visited by their family members, with the help of ICRC funding; these visits enabled several of the detainees to receive some assistance from their families.

Female inmates in Paraguay become professional artisans and gain a sustainable source of income

With ICRC support, around 30 female inmates of the Buen Pastor Prison in Asunción, Paraguay produced handicrafts and textiles for sale, which were displayed at an international trade fair; they also received certificates identifying them as professional artisans. The Paraguayan National Society and the ICRC helped the detainees

establish a cooperative to formalize the initiative, which strengthened former detainees' connection to the project and contributed to their social reintegration. Hundreds of female inmates at the same prison received hygiene kits from the ICRC, with logistical assistance from the National Society.

In Chile, three released detainees received cash assistance to help them pursue income-generating activities and ease their post-release conditions.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

ICRC discussions with the authorities, armed/police forces and other influential players in the region centred on the importance of respecting international human rights law while conducting law enforcement operations and of addressing the needs of violence-affected communities. After the Rio project concluded, the Brazilian authorities received ICRC reports on issues relating to the protection of the civilian population (see *Civilians*); in Brazil and Chile, aiming to create a community of concern around the issue, the ICRC discussed the Health Care in Danger project with the actors concerned.

Brazil makes use of ICRC recommendations regarding rules of engagement in the favelas

The region's armed and police forces developed, to various degrees, directives and protocols for incorporating IHL and international human rights law in their plans and training programmes, so as to ensure respect for the law in the conduct of their operations; in some cases, they did this with ICRC support.

Brazil adopted a manual on law enforcement operations for the armed forces, to which civil society and international organizations, including the ICRC, contributed. The Defence Ministry and the Land Operations Command also took into account several ICRC recommendations while drawing up rules of engagement for personnel involved in the "pacification" of the *favelas*. In Chile, the *Carabineros'* human rights department made use of ICRC advice/suggestions while developing protocols for police intervention in indigenous areas.

Police officers in Brazil, Chile, Paraguay add to their knowledge of international human rights law

In Chile, 34 police officers learnt how to relay messages on human rights to their colleagues; ICRC-trained instructors in Paraguay conducted their own sessions, resulting in 25 new trainers.

While progress was slow in integrating human rights norms into the curricula of Brazil's military police academy, the education department of the Army Joint Staff edited its programme of military ethics to emphasize IHL and human rights norms. The National Secretariat of Public Security and the school specifically for "pacification" forces in Rio de Janeiro developed/revised their e-learning courses for thousands of officers, with ICRC assistance.

Police officers from Brazil, Chile and Paraguay participated in regional meetings on the norms applicable to their work; at one such gathering in Ecuador, they shared their experiences in applying human rights norms during operations to maintain public order (see *Lima*). Senior officers from Argentina and Chile attended dissemination sessions on human rights and police administration.

The Argentine, Brazilian and Chilean armed forces sent high-level representatives to the Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations (see *International Law and Policy*).

Argentina and Brazil cover war crimes in their revised criminal codes

The region's governments continued to discuss IHL-related issues with the ICRC. They were urged to advance domestic legislation for implementing IHL: Argentina and Brazil both included chapters on war crimes in their revised criminal codes; Chile began to draft a bill that would protect the rights of land mine victims. The Argentine and Uruguayan national IHL committees concluded bills on the prohibition of certain weapons and the prosecution of those involved in their trade and use.

Argentina, Brazil and Chile participated in experts' meetings on legal protection for health-care services during armed conflict and other emergencies (see *Brussels*) and on the resolutions adopted at the 31st International Conference. Brazil also sent representatives to international events on developments/trends in conflict, such as cyber-warfare and autonomous weapons (see *Europe*).

ICRC communication activities build public awareness of key humanitarian issues

University students in the region learnt more about IHL during seminars and through ICRC legal papers. Argentine students demonstrated their knowledge of IHL at competitions abroad, including the Jean-Pictet Competition in IHL (see *Europe*).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	BRAZIL	CHILE	PARAGUAY
ICRC visits			
Detainees visited	20	16	62
<i>of whom women</i>		1	8
<i>of whom minors</i>		1	3
Detainees visited and monitored individually	20	16	62
<i>of whom women</i>		1	7
<i>of whom girls</i>			1
<i>of whom boys</i>		1	2
Detainees newly registered	20	5	16
<i>of whom women</i>		1	2
<i>of whom girls</i>			1
<i>of whom boys</i>		1	2
Number of visits carried out	3	10	11
Number of places of detention visited	3	5	7
Restoring family links			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support			31

The general public deepened its awareness of the ICRC's activities through photo exhibits and communication campaigns on topics such as "150 years of humanitarian action" and the Health Care in Danger project in Brazil, Chile and Paraguay. Media coverage of humanitarian issues and Movement initiatives drew further attention to these subjects.

The ICRC had some contact with the private sector, with a view to raising awareness of and support for its activities.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies build their emergency response capacities

The region's National Societies – particularly those of Brazil, Chile and, to a lesser extent, Paraguay – strengthened their capacities to provide first aid during situations of violence or other emergencies, with ICRC training/financial/technical support. In Chile, volunteers trained/equipped by the ICRC, mainly from Araucanía and Santiago de Chile, assisted people wounded during demonstrations. The Chilean Red Cross also received support for coordinating with the security forces and with influential student organizations, which helped reinforce respect for its mandate and activities. Some of its branches, including those along the Peruvian border, received training and security/office equipment, and strengthened contact with nearby branches of the Peruvian Red Cross, in anticipation of emergencies in the area.

In Rio de Janeiro, the CVB-FERJ prepared its four-year action plan, drafts of security procedures during situations of violence, and protocols for first-aid services during demonstrations.

Family-links focal points create a regional network

The Argentine, Brazilian, Chilean and Paraguayan National Societies developed their family-links services. In São Paulo, 20 new volunteers participated in a capacity-building workshop; Chilean volunteers explored the psychosocial dimension of family-links services during their session. Focal points from the four National Societies took part in a regional seminar in Brazil, at which they

learnt more about their duties and created a regional network for restoring family links; the Paraguayan focal point received ICRC support to conclude an assessment of the Paraguayan Red Cross's needs and capacities in this regard.

With backing from Movement partners, the Brazilian and Paraguayan National Societies pursued restructuring processes. The latter updated its statutes to include provisions for financial control mechanisms. The Brazilian Red Cross organized a workshop for branch secretary-generals, leading to increased coordination/contact within the National Society; its recovery plan also reflected points made in the independent external audit report commissioned by the International Federation and the ICRC.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		98	9	4	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		98	8	1	3
Detainees newly registered		41	3	1	3
Number of visits carried out		24			
Number of places of detention visited		15			
Restoring family links					
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		31			

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Cash		Beneficiaries	3	33%
Work, services and training		Beneficiaries	90	37% 29%
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Productive inputs		Beneficiaries	26	