

BRASILIA (regional)

COVERING: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay



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

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ The governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the ICRC, signed an agreement tasking the ICRC to identify Argentine soldiers buried in the Falklands/Malvinas islands.¹
- ▶ In Brazil, the authorities in 10 cities or municipalities replicated the methods used to ensure people's access to health and other services in volatile areas of Rio de Janeiro. These methods originated from a past ICRC project.
- ▶ Violence-affected people in southern Chile and northern Paraguay learnt to provide first aid and psychosocial care with the ICRC's help. The Paraguayans also had better access to water, grew more food and earned more money.
- ▶ In Chile and Paraguay, ICRC technical input – based on visits to detainees – helped the authorities improve detainee treatment and living conditions. Aided by the ICRC, female detainees in Paraguay pursued livelihood activities.
- ▶ Aided by the ICRC, Chilean and Paraguayan security forces incorporated international policing standards more fully in their training and operations. Peacekeepers learnt more about IHL at ICRC-supported presentations.

¹ The designations employed in this document do not imply official endorsement nor the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the ICRC concerning the legal status of any territory, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Whenever a disputed territory is given different names by the parties concerned, the ICRC uses those names together, in alphabetical order.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	1,915
Assistance	1,611
Prevention	2,935
Cooperation with National Societies	1,246
General	130
Total	7,837
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>478</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	95%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	9
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	62

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.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action **HIGH**

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
Phone calls facilitated between family members	1
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	13,513
Detainees visited and monitored individually	107
Number of visits carried out	46
Number of places of detention visited	20
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	1

ASSISTANCE	2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved	
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	220	435
Services and training	Beneficiaries	220	
Water and habitat			
<i>(in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</i>			
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,400	1,737

CONTEXT

Brazil continued to be troubled by political instability and an economic downturn. The incidence of armed violence in urban areas, such as the *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro, grew. Thus, despite budgetary constraints, “pacification” programmes involving military and police forces were maintained. In Paraguay, massive protests demanding political and socio-economic reforms led to violence. In the north, violent encounters took place between the joint military and police task force and armed elements. In southern Chile, including Araucanía, tensions over land tenure, between Mapuches and other communities, persisted; the *carabineros* conducted security operations there.

Many families still awaited news of relatives missing since past conflict and military rule. Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereafter UK) agreed to identify Argentine soldiers buried in the Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas.

Natural disasters – floods in several countries – caused deaths and displacement, and dispersed families.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC’s delegation in Brasilia strove to address the various needs of violence-affected people throughout the region and of detainees; it also sought to broaden awareness of IHL and other international norms and support for ICRC activities.

Representatives of the Argentine and UK authorities met at the ICRC’s headquarters in Switzerland, and agreed to have the ICRC identify, in 2017, the remains of Argentine soldiers buried in the Darwin cemetery on the Falklands/Malvinas islands. The ICRC also maintained support for Brazil and Paraguay to improve their forensic services. In Brazil, the ICRC assessed needs among some families whose relatives went missing during the military regime; some of these families learnt to provide psychosocial care to their peers.

In Brazil, the ICRC continued to help the authorities replicate activities from the “Rio project” – an initiative to help people mitigate the effects of armed violence in selected *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro – which concluded in 2013. For example, health workers were trained to instruct others in psychosocial care. The authorities extended this project beyond Rio de Janeiro to other cities or municipalities: 10 such projects ran in three states.

Vulnerable people in northern Paraguay and southern Chile were given psychosocial support and/or first aid, or taught how to provide such care. Some community members in northern Paraguay were assisted in improving their access to water, growing more food, and earning more money. In both countries, vulnerable families whose breadwinners were detained also benefited from livelihood aid. In Paraguay, the Paraguayan Red Cross and the ICRC continued to back a livelihood project for female detainees; they also supported female ex-detainees, with a view to helping them reintegrate into society.

The ICRC visited detainees throughout the region and shared its findings and other pertinent observations confidentially with the detaining authorities, to help them improve detainees’ treatment and living conditions. At ICRC-organized regional events, penitentiary officials from Brazil, Chile and Paraguay learnt more about improving prison management and infrastructure maintenance. Paraguayan penitentiary authorities continued to

benefit from ICRC expertise for updating system-wide policies and from direct ICRC support for making improvements in selected prisons. The penitentiary authorities agreed to cover the expenses of redesigning the electrical system in one prison; the ICRC then helped them renovate the water infrastructure to prevent water shortages.

Through confidential dialogue with the ICRC, the region’s authorities, weapon bearers and community leaders were informed of allegations of abuse, with a view to helping them implement measures for preventing recurrence of abuses and for mitigating the effects of violence. In Chile, the health ministry and the ICRC implemented a tool for monitoring risks faced by health services. Military/security forces throughout the region worked jointly with the ICRC to further the incorporation of pertinent international norms in their training and doctrine, notably international policing standards for Brazilian, Chilean and Paraguayan military and police forces. Some peacekeepers were briefed on IHL. The region’s authorities took into account the ICRC and national IHL committee’s views while implementing IHL-related treaties. The ICRC also endeavoured to broaden support among all parties of influence for its activities and other Movement initiatives.

The region’s National Societies increased their capacity to respond to needs arising from situations of violence and natural disaster with help from the International Federation and the ICRC. The Brazilian Red Cross and the Chilean Red Cross strengthened their family-links set-up with the ICRC’s assistance; the Brazilian National Society was also helped to develop first-aid services throughout Brazil. Movement components met regularly to coordinate their activities in the region.

CIVILIANS

The ICRC relayed allegations of abuse confidentially to the region’s authorities, military/security forces, community leaders and other key figures, with a view to helping them take measures to prevent the recurrence of abuses and to mitigate the effects of violence. In Chile, the health ministry and the ICRC continued to implement a four-year action plan to ensure the safety of health-care personnel. The health ministry created a tool for monitoring threats to health services, and implemented it in Santiago, Chile’s capital, and northern Araucanía.

Brazilian authorities replicate safer-access tools in 10 cities or municipalities in three states

Health authorities in Rio de Janeiro continued activities jointly developed with the ICRC during the “Rio project”. For instance, 160 health staff were trained to instruct others in psychosocial care for violence-affected people; the aim was to make this service available in more *favelas* and other violence-prone areas. The authorities moved to institutionalize these activities by incorporating them in existing policies and establishing management structures (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

At the request of local authorities, the ICRC supported similar initiatives in eight other municipalities of Rio de Janeiro state, in Florianopolis city, Santa Catarina state and in Porto Alegre city, Rio Grande do Sul state. Health personnel in volatile areas were trained to minimize risks and implement the Safer Access Framework.

Vulnerable people in northern Paraguay and southern Chile become caregivers as well

In southern Chile, the Chilean National Society and the ICRC maintained their efforts to increase the availability of basic care.

In Araucanía, around 500 families were trained in first aid and encouraged to form networks. Elsewhere, members of one Mapuche community received psychosocial support and learnt to provide it for others, and members of another community were encouraged to form a peer-support association. In northern Paraguay, teachers and students learnt basic first aid – and teachers, basic psychosocial care as well. Psychosocial-support activities facilitated by the ICRC partially assuaged the suffering of more than 140 families and 150 children. All these efforts helped ensure that some basic care was available in both countries to people suffering emotional or physical distress.

Vulnerable people in northern Paraguay also benefited from other forms of ICRC assistance. In Nueva Fortuna, some 70 households (400 people) consumed or sold produce they had grown with ICRC-provided agricultural supplies. In Arroyito and Nueva Fortuna, around 1,700 people had better access to water for personal or agricultural use after the ICRC renovated community infrastructure.

Argentina and the UK task the ICRC to identify Argentine soldiers buried in the Falklands/Malvinas

Representatives of the Argentine and UK authorities met at the ICRC's headquarters in Switzerland, and agreed to have the ICRC identify, in 2017, the remains of Argentine soldiers buried in the Darwin cemetery on the Falklands/Malvinas islands.

In Brazil, the ICRC assessed the compatibility of domestic legislation on missing people with international norms, and the needs of some families of persons missing since past military rule. The findings will be shared with the authorities in 2017, to help them improve State forensic procedures. ICRC-supported workshops enabled 16 forensic workers to develop their skills and 35 relatives of missing persons to learn more about providing psychosocial care for their peers.

ICRC workshops in Paraguay also helped 25 forensics professionals to learn more about mapping high-risk zones and documenting cases during emergencies, and 11 others to develop their ability to conduct autopsies.

South American National Societies reinforce their family-links network

Members of families separated by natural disasters, migration or other circumstances maintained contact using Movement family-links services. The Brazilian and Colombian National Societies and the ICRC worked to ensure that families knew the fate of relatives who had died in an airplane crash in Colombia. The Brazilian Red Cross offered family-links services and emergency aid during the Olympic Games.

South American National Societies strengthened their family-links services with ICRC financial and technical support; they met in Brazil to explore means of improving coordination among them and expanding the regional network. The Brazilian National Society created a department to develop family-links activities throughout the country; its São Paulo branch assessed its ability to assist migrants. The Chilean National Society opened a new office in Chile's central region, to enable a speedier family-links response to emergencies.

In Uruguay, six former detainees of the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba continued to have their

situation monitored by the ICRC. One spent time with his relatives during an ICRC-organized family visit.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Thousands of detainees in Chile and Paraguay were visited by the ICRC in accordance with the organization's standard procedures. Some people were followed individually, notably: in Chile, detained Mapuches; and, in Paraguay, alleged members of armed groups in northern Paraguay and people held by special police forces. The ICRC also monitored the situation of several inmates serving sentences for crimes against humanity in Uruguay and one alleged member of a Paraguayan armed group held in Argentina. Afterwards, confidential feedback from these visits were shared with the authorities; this, together with ICRC expertise and other support, helped them improve the treatment and living conditions of detainees.

In Paraguay, 43 detainees were visited by their families and thereby received some material assistance. In Chile, households – 35 people – whose breadwinners were detained established small businesses or planted market gardens with livelihood support from the pertinent National Societies and the ICRC.

Paraguayan authorities upgrade prison infrastructure

Penitentiary officials from Brazil, Chile and Paraguay exchanged best practices in prison management and infrastructure maintenance with their counterparts from other countries at workshops abroad (see *Colombia* and *Mexico City*). In Brazil, the penitentiary authorities organized a seminar for over 100 prison architects and engineers, at which the ICRC made a presentation.

The ICRC signed an agreement with the Paraguayan penitentiary authorities formalizing its role in facilitating penitentiary reforms. This process consisted of: recommending changes to system-wide policies, for example, revision of the national penitentiary school's curriculum; and directly supporting improvements in overcrowded prisons, with a view to helping the authorities reflect these improvements in other prisons.

The penitentiary authorities renovated infrastructure at the Tacumbu prison, which houses 3,600 detainees, taking into account recommendations by parties concerned during an ICRC-organized round-table. The penitentiary authorities agreed to cover the costs of redesigning the prison's electrical system as proposed by a local company and the ICRC. The ICRC also installed a new water tank and pump at the prison after floods had disrupted its water supply. Infrastructural upgrades by the authorities and the ICRC improved ventilation at the Buen Pastor female prison; 18 elderly inmates benefited. A few hundred inmates in four places of detention were given items for maintaining their hygiene; and the health services of the Tacumbu prison and of the special police forces were given medical supplies for treating wounded detainees.

Some detainees at the Buen Pastor prison learnt to sew – with a view to monetizing their skilfulness – at a course run by the Paraguayan Red Cross with ICRC financial support. Former detainees continued to make and sell handicrafts and textiles through an ICRC-backed cooperative, which also eased their reintegration into society. These efforts benefited a total of 47 detainees.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Brazil, Chile and Paraguay strengthen instruction in international policing standards

Chile's *carabineros* and Paraguay's national police signed two-year partnership agreements with the ICRC for the organization's technical support for updating curricula and manuals on international human rights law, and for training instructors, respectively. In addition, the *carabineros* were given advice for incorporating international standards on the use of force in their operational procedures; and Paraguay's joint military and police task force requested and received the ICRC's comments on the rules of engagement for its operations in northern Paraguay. In Brazil, the Security Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice drew on ICRC expertise to develop e-learning programmes on international policing standards; and ICRC briefings supplemented courses for military cadets on the use of force. At a conference abroad (see *Lima*), police officers from the region learnt more about standards applicable to their duties.

Advice from the ICRC helped the Uruguayan defence ministry to incorporate IHL and international human rights law more fully in the training of peacekeepers, and to produce a training manual. Troops attending seminars at peacekeeping centres in Paraguay and in Brazil were briefed by the ICRC on IHL applicable to peacekeeping. Brazil, Chile and Paraguay sent senior military officials to advanced courses abroad (see *International law and policy*).

Chilean officials draft a bill on compensation for mine victims

The region's authorities, including foreign and justice ministry officials, were urged by the ICRC and their national IHL committees to implement IHL-related treaties and pledges and resolutions made during the 32nd International Conference and at OAS meetings, and given pertinent guidance.

In Chile, the armed forces and the national institute of human rights requested and received the ICRC's advice for drafting a bill defining the compensation due to victims of anti-personnel mines. In Argentina, a draft bill on the proper use of the emblem, prepared by the National Society and the ICRC, was presented to the parliament for approval. In Brazil, the ICRC urged the national IHL committee and the justice ministry to support a bill for implementing the Rome Statute.

The ICRC sponsored government officials' attendance at meetings in Switzerland, at which: Brazilian foreign ministry officials contributed to discussions on legislation regulating autonomous weapon systems; and Argentine, Brazilian and Chilean officials participated in the Strengthening IHL process. The five countries covered sent representatives to the annual meeting of national IHL committees, where they exchanged best practices with their counterparts from other countries.

The Brazilian public learns more about IHL and the Movement

Communication efforts by National Societies and the ICRC broadened awareness of IHL and international human rights law, and of issues concerning migrants, violence-affected communities and health services, among actors capable of facilitating Movement action. In Brazil, social media campaigns, initiatives with journalists and participation in events related to the Olympic and Paralympic Games raised the public profile of the ICRC as a global actor and a source of reference in the humanitarian field, and helped encourage donations from the private sector. The ICRC continued to brief local authorities and organizations on the results of the "Rio project".

Universities partnered the ICRC in various initiatives. In Brazil, students and lecturers at universities in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, and participants in a forum on international public law, learnt more about IHL through ICRC briefings; a Brazilian lecturer attended an IHL conference abroad (see *Armenia*). University libraries were given reference materials. Law students from Argentina tested their grasp of IHL at moot court competitions abroad. All these initiatives fostered academic interest in IHL. In Argentina, the number of university lecturers teaching IHL increased.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies in the region drew on the ICRC's financial and technical support to develop their ability to assist people affected by violence. The Brazilian and Chilean National Societies worked to standardize and improve their first-aid education programmes, training some 50 and 20 volunteers, respectively, to be first-aid instructors. In Rio de Janeiro, the 20-person emergency response team of the National Society's local branch cared for over 450 people wounded during protests. In Araucanía, 125 Chilean Red Cross volunteers were trained to provide psychosocial care and livelihood assistance, and to conduct water-and-sanitation activities. The Paraguay Red Cross used ICRC expertise to improve its family-links services and, in line with the Safer Access Framework, its security measures.

Aided by the International Federation and the ICRC, the Brazilian and Paraguayan National Societies pursued organizational reform. The former strengthened its internal control mechanisms and its public communication and youth recruitment strategies; the latter approved a new institutional strategy and revised its statutes. Both underwent external audits.

Partnership agreements between the ICRC and the National Societies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Paraguay, and regular meetings, facilitated coordination among Movement components throughout the region.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact					
Phone calls facilitated between family members		1			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons					
			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		32	4		
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		32	4		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits					
			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		13,513	1,072	60	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		107	7		
Detainees newly registered		30	3		
Number of visits carried out		46			
Number of places of detention visited		20			
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		1			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		43			

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)				
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	435	120	211
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	400	100	200
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,737	1,706	
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	47	47	
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	3,902	351	39
Health				
Visits carried out by health staff		4		
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	4		