

TASHKENT (regional)

COVERING: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan



ICRC/AR_2016
 ICRC regional delegation ICRC mission ICRC office/presence
 *Map shows structures supporting ICRC operations in Afghanistan

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ In Kyrgyzstan, detainees at nine police stations – including four new sites receiving support – improved their access to primary health care through a project implemented by the health and internal affairs ministries with the ICRC.
- ▶ Doctors and medical specialists from across the region expanded their capacities in emergency trauma care and weapon-wound surgery at courses organized by the ICRC with the pertinent National Societies and authorities.
- ▶ In Tajikistan, more than 300 families of missing persons met some of their needs through an ICRC-supported programme run by a local NGO and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan; a similar project was begun in Kyrgyzstan.
- ▶ Military officers sought to incorporate IHL in their training and operations with ICRC guidance. The Tajik authorities incorporated ICRC recommendations concerning families of the missing in draft civil and criminal codes.
- ▶ Clerics and scholars from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and other countries discussed IHL and Islam at a regional conference organized by the ICRC and the Center for Islamic Studies under the president of Tajikistan.
- ▶ First-aid instructors from National Societies in the region, having strengthened their emergency response capacities with ICRC training, conducted training sessions for local communities, other organizations and companies.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	3,107
Assistance	6,833
Prevention	2,168
Cooperation with National Societies	1,307
General	122
Total	13,537
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>826</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	91%
---------------------------	-----

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	28
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	184

The ICRC has been present in Central Asia since 1992. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, it works to protect and assist vulnerable people suffering the consequences of conflict and other violence, in cooperation with the National Societies. In Kyrgyzstan, it helps the authorities improve detainees' treatment and conditions, especially with regard to health-care access. The ICRC assists the region's National Societies in building their capacities, particularly in emergency preparedness, restoring family links and promoting IHL. Regionwide, it supports the implementation of IHL and other norms relevant to the use of force, and fosters understanding of the ICRC's mandate and work.

YEARLY RESULT

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

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	26
RCMs distributed	37
Phone calls facilitated between family members	931
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	17
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	9,721
Detainees visited and monitored individually	392
Number of visits carried out	144
Number of places of detention visited	59
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	32
RCMs distributed	20
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	74

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 ¹ Beneficiaries		6,509
Cash Beneficiaries	1,155	1,541

WOUNDED AND SICK

Water and habitat		2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	1,200	880

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table and in the narrative part of this report may not reflect the extent of the activities carried out during the reporting period.

CONTEXT

The five Central Asian countries faced economic and security challenges in varying degrees; they also had to cope with an influx of people who had returned home because of economic and political difficulties in the countries to which they had migrated.

Cross-border criminal activities, competition for natural resources, and issues related to border demarcation were the main sources of tensions in the region, and occasionally led to violence.

Geopolitical issues of interest in the region included the fight against “terrorism”, the shifting power dynamics in international affairs, economic hardship and the use of water and energy resources. Central Asian countries remained engaged with multilateral bodies such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Eurasian Economic Union, NATO and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, many families remained without news of relatives who went missing in relation to past conflict, other situations of violence and migration. Communities along Tajikistan’s borders with Afghanistan and Uzbekistan were at risk from mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In Central Asia, the ICRC continued to prioritize: assisting the authorities to address the needs of detainees and people affected by past conflict, other situations of violence and migration; helping expand local emergency response capacities; and promoting IHL and its implementation.

In Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC visited detainees held by the internal affairs ministry, the State Committee for National Security (GKNB) and the State Service for the Execution of Punishments (GSIN). Following these visits, ICRC delegates confidentially shared feedback with the authorities, with a view to helping them improve detainees’ treatment and living conditions. The ICRC conveyed to the GSIN the findings and recommendations from its comprehensive assessment of the health needs of detainees. It continued to provide technical guidance to the GSIN and the health ministry for controlling TB among detainees in two facilities. The GSIN also received advice for managing facilities for detainees serving life sentences. The ICRC extended a primary-health-care project for detainees to four more police stations.

Dialogue with the Turkmen authorities, on visits to detainees in accordance with standard ICRC procedures, continued. In Tajikistan, discussions with the authorities continued to explore the possibility of resuming ICRC visits to detainees.

The importance of clarifying the fate of missing individuals remained a subject of discussion between the ICRC and the Tajik authorities. People with relatives still unaccounted for in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan submitted tracing requests to the ICRC or the National Society concerned. An ICRC-supported accompaniment programme, carried out by a local NGO and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, enabled families of missing people in Tajikistan to obtain psychosocial support and referrals to service providers for their other needs. A similar project was begun in Kyrgyzstan.

In Tajikistan, officials concerned with the management of human remains bolstered their capacities through training facilitated

by the ICRC. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, dialogue with the pertinent authorities – on standardizing protocols and procedures for managing human remains – got under way.

Mine-affected households in Tajikistan used ICRC cash grants to cover physical rehabilitation costs or start income-generating activities.

With the help of various forms of support from the ICRC, National Societies in the region strengthened their emergency preparedness and their ability to carry out – in line with the Safer Access Framework – family-links, psychosocial support and first-aid activities. First-aid instructors from the National Societies, having strengthened their capacities through ICRC training, conducted commercial training sessions for other organizations and for companies. Doctors and medical specialists across the region advanced their skills through courses on emergency trauma care or weapon-wound surgery organized by the ICRC with the National Societies, the authorities and other local partners.

The ICRC continued to seek engagement with the authorities, the armed forces and security forces, and other pertinent actors throughout the region, with a view to fostering acceptance for IHL and other applicable norms, and promoting their domestic implementation. The ICRC and the Center for Islamic Studies under the president of Tajikistan organized a regional conference on humanitarian work and the principles of IHL and Islam for clerics and scholars. The organization supported the participation of government officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in IHL conferences abroad. In Tajikistan, the National Center of Legislation incorporated ICRC recommendations concerning missing persons and their families in draft civil and criminal codes. Military officers across the region pursued efforts, with ICRC assistance, to incorporate IHL in their training and operations.

CIVILIANS

Its presence in the field enabled the ICRC to monitor the situation of residents of violence-prone areas in Kyrgyzstan, especially along the country’s borders with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The organization maintained its dialogue with the authorities concerned, with a view to following up cases or making representations, if necessary.

Migrants at retention centres in Kazakhstan maintain contact with relatives

In Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, members of families dispersed by migration, detention or other circumstances maintained contact through RCMs and phone calls facilitated by the National Societies and the ICRC. They included 917 migrants at retention centres in Kazakhstan, some 580 of whom eased their situation with the help of hygiene items from the Kazakh Red Crescent Society and the ICRC. The National Society and the ICRC visited more retention centres in Kazakhstan than in the past.

Volunteers and members of the national disaster-response team in Kyrgyzstan strengthened their capacities in restoring family links during emergencies through workshops facilitated by the National Society and the ICRC. To broaden awareness of family-links services among the general public, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent produced posters and a TV spot, and the National Societies in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan organized round-tables for local authorities, all with ICRC support. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, together with the ICRC, produced a video for migrants and their

families, urging them to keep each other's contact information safe in order to prevent loss of contact.

In Tajikistan, officials concerned with the management of human remains bolstered their capacities through ICRC-facilitated training. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, dialogue with the pertinent authorities, on standardizing protocols and procedures for managing human remains, began.

The ICRC continued – through a National Society social-integration project that it supported – to monitor the situation of four people resettled in Kazakhstan after their release from the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba. For instance, ICRC doctors assessed their health needs. However, the project did not conclude in December, as planned, because the individuals had to be resettled again; the ICRC maintained its financial support for their stay in Kazakhstan.

Families of missing persons in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan obtain support for meeting their needs

In Tajikistan, more than 300 families with missing relatives obtained psychosocial support – including individual counselling, and referrals to service providers for their economic, legal and administrative needs – through an ICRC-supported accompaniment programme implemented with a local NGO and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan. The ICRC began working with the National Society to expand the reach of the project. Some relatives of missing people participated in ceremonies commemorating the International Day of the Disappeared, which relieved some of their distress. In Tajikistan, a video produced by the ICRC, explaining the issue of missing persons and the accompaniment programme, broadened the general public's awareness in this regard. A similar accompaniment project was begun in Kyrgyzstan. The ICRC reminded the Kyrgyz authorities to keep the families of missing persons, including those who went missing in connection with the June 2010 events, informed of developments in the search for their relatives.

The ICRC submitted a list of 78 missing migrants, originally from Tajikistan, to senior prison authorities in Kyrgyzstan for record-checking, to determine whether they were in detention. The Kyrgyz prison authorities did not find any of the migrants on the list. Other people with relatives still unaccounted for in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan lodged tracing requests with the ICRC and/or the National Society concerned. The ICRC continued to engage the Tajik authorities in dialogue on the importance of clarifying the fate of missing persons.

Around 200 mine-affected households in three central districts and provinces in Tajikistan used ICRC cash grants to cover physical rehabilitation costs or start entrepreneurial activities that increased their income by at least 15%. The Tajikistan Mine Action Centre, the National Society and the ICRC assessed and documented the needs of 169 victims of mines and ERW. The programme for mine-affected households in Tajikistan concluded at the end of the year; efforts to provide similar assistance for mine victims in Kyrgyzstan were no longer pursued. People in mine-affected communities in Tajikistan learnt more about mitigating the risks to their safety at education sessions organized by the National Society with the ICRC.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in Kyrgyzstan receive ICRC visits

A total of 9,721 detainees in facilities under the authority of the internal affairs ministry, the GKNB and the GSIN received ICRC visits, conducted according to the organization's standard procedures; 392 potentially vulnerable inmates – security detainees, people serving life sentences, women, minors and foreigners – were monitored individually. After these visits, the ICRC conveyed its findings confidentially to the authorities, to help them improve detainees' treatment and living conditions.

Discussions with the Kyrgyz authorities, on formalizing the ICRC's access to all detainees, continued.

Tajik and Turkmen authorities maintain dialogue with the ICRC on visits to detainees

The Turkmen authorities and the ICRC continued to discuss the possibility of ICRC visits to detainees in Turkmenistan, in line with a cooperation plan agreed upon in 2015.

During a round-table in Tajikistan – part of the ongoing dialogue with the Tajik authorities on the possibility of resuming visits to detainees – senior officials learnt more about the ICRC's activities in places of detention.

Inmates reconnect with families

In Kyrgyzstan, 208 detainees received ICRC-sponsored family visits. A total of 74 detainees in Tajikistan and 60 in Uzbekistan also reconnected with relatives, who had their transportation and accommodation costs covered by the ICRC.

CIVILIANS	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan
Red Cross messages (RCMs)				
RCMs collected	6	14	4	2
RCMs distributed	9	25	3	
Phone calls facilitated between family members	917		14	
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons				
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		26	335	2
<i>of whom women</i>		7	7	1
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - girls</i>		1		
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - boys</i>			15	
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		14	3	
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		104	505	2
<i>of whom women</i>		21	7	1
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - girls</i>		9		
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - boys</i>		9	23	
Documents				
People to whom travel documents were issued		9	3	

Kyrgyz authorities learn more about managing facilities for detainees serving life sentences

The Kyrgyz authorities continued to work with the ICRC to improve detainees' treatment and living conditions: for instance, the ICRC provided technical support for the G SIN to develop its training centre. The G SIN, with ICRC assistance, drafted a plan for managing a new facility for detainees serving life sentences. As preparation for the plan's implementation, penitentiary personnel attended a training session facilitated by the ICRC. During a study trip to Georgia, Kyrgyz detention authorities familiarized themselves with best practices in managing facilities for detainees serving life sentences.

The G SIN drew on ICRC recommendations – based on a comprehensive assessment of the health needs of detainees – to improve access to primary-health-care services for detainees under its jurisdiction. The G SIN and the ICRC organized a series of meetings to discuss measures for implementing health-related reforms in prisons.

Newly arrived detainees in more places of detention undergo TB screening

With ICRC support, the G SIN and the health ministry continued to tackle TB among detainees. In Penal Institution 31 and at a pre-trial detention centre, 177 TB-affected detainees completed treatment, and 227 others started it. Thousands of detainees, including the newest arrivals, underwent screening for TB. These detainees included people held in the places of detention where the ICRC launched a TB-screening exercise in February.

The staff at the two facilities mentioned above continued to bolster their services with the help of daily on-site guidance from the ICRC for managing TB. Maintenance teams supported by the ICRC oversaw the functioning of equipment and infrastructure at the two facilities. With material and technical aid from the ICRC, the penitentiary authorities maintained an electronic database for monitoring and evaluating the prison TB-management programme in Kyrgyzstan. Working groups responsible for the different aspects of TB management continued to receive ICRC technical assistance. The national TB laboratory in Bishkek and the inter-provincial laboratory in Osh – both providers of diagnostic services to the prison sector – bolstered their capacities with training, supplies and equipment from the ICRC.

A primary-health-care project for detainees in Kyrgyzstan extends to four more police stations

Detainees at nine police stations in Kyrgyzstan, including four that began receiving support in 2016, had better access to primary health care owing to a pilot project based on a 2013 agreement between the health and internal affairs ministries and the ICRC. The project covered about 70% of all those detained in police stations. Under the project, health staff at stations previously renovated by the ICRC continued, with ICRC advice and training, to develop their skills in diagnosing and treating common diseases.

A total of 1,398 detainees benefited from the ICRC's renovation of common facilities in ten places of detention. The ICRC also made improvements to one section of a facility for detainees serving life sentences. Around 4,800 inmates eased their situation with the help of ICRC-donated hygiene, recreational and educational items.

WOUNDED AND SICK

People in areas prone to violence and/or disasters expanded their first-aid skills at seminars organized by the National Societies in the region and the ICRC (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

Doctors and medical specialists in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan strengthened their capacities in emergency trauma care through courses organized by the ICRC with the National Societies, the authorities and other local partners across the region. ICRC-facilitated seminars in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan enabled a total of 40 surgeons to become more adept at weapon-wound surgery. Participants in all of these courses learnt more about the protection and respect due to patients and medical workers, in line with the goals of the Health Care in Danger project. The ICRC discussed with certain medical universities in the region the incorporation of emergency trauma care in their curricula.

In Tajikistan, the health services unit of the justice ministry and a provincial hospital bolstered their services with the help of ICRC-donated medical consumables. The ICRC upgraded basic infrastructure at a few health facilities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan – in remote regions or in areas prone to violence and/or disasters.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The ICRC kept up its efforts to engage the authorities, the armed forces and security forces, and other stakeholders throughout the region, with a view to fostering acceptance for IHL and other applicable norms, and promoting their domestic implementation.

Military training centre in Kazakhstan continues to run IHL course for peacekeepers

More than 600 military officers in Kyrgyzstan and 150 in Tajikistan learnt more about IHL and the ICRC's work at briefing sessions organized by the pertinent National Society and the ICRC.

Military officers across the region pursued efforts to incorporate IHL in their training and operations, with support from the ICRC. For instance, senior officers from Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan attended an international workshop on the rules governing military operations (see *International law and policy*). A NATO military training centre in Kazakhstan continued to run a mandatory IHL course for peacekeepers.

The ICRC engaged the Tashkent-based Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the SCO in dialogue on humanitarian issues, and attended an SCO military exercise in Kyrgyzstan as an observer.

In Kyrgyzstan, 75 police officers discussed international policing standards during an ICRC-organized event.

Tajik authorities incorporate ICRC advice on missing persons' families in draft civil and criminal codes

Officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan strengthened their grasp of IHL by participating in conferences abroad, with ICRC support (see, for example, *Moscow*).

The ICRC continued to pursue the implementation of a cooperation agreement with the government of Turkmenistan on addressing humanitarian issues. Efforts in this regard included an ongoing compatibility study of the country's criminal code with IHL and an analysis of the extent to which IHL had been incorporated in domestic legislation.

In Tajikistan, the National Center of Legislation incorporated ICRC recommendations concerning missing persons and their families in draft civil and criminal codes, which were pending government approval.

Dialogue between the Kazakh government and the ICRC covered cooperation in addressing issues related to nuclear weapons. Pertinent experts guided by the ICRC, carried out a comparative study of legislation in Kazakhstan and international treaties on nuclear weapons, with a view to communicating the findings to the authorities. No progress was made in developing a law on the proper use of the emblems protected under IHL. Discussions on formalizing the ICRC's legal status in Kazakhstan continued.

In Kyrgyzstan, the health ministry, aided by the ICRC, initiated the process of acceding to Additional Protocol III. The pertinent authorities incorporated, in the country's revised penal code, the ICRC and the defence ministry's views on punishment for the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Clerics and scholars discuss IHL and Islam at a regional conference in Tajikistan

In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, traditional and religious leaders regularly exchanged views with the ICRC on the similarities between IHL and Islam and on issues concerning missing persons and their families. With ICRC assistance, a representative of the committee for religious affairs in Tajikistan participated in a regional conference on IHL and Islam (see *Iran, Islamic Republic of*). Around 100 clerics and scholars from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and other countries attended a regional conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on humanitarian work and the principles of IHL and Islam; the conference was organized by the ICRC and the Center for Islamic Studies under the president of Tajikistan. The Tajik media covered the conference.

Journalists and other representatives of the media in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, who attended ICRC-organized briefing sessions, reported on humanitarian issues and the ICRC's activities.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies in the region enhanced their emergency preparedness and their ability to carry out – in line with the Safer Access Framework – family-links, psychosocial support and first-aid activities, with the help of various forms of support from the ICRC. Notably, the five National Societies appointed persons at headquarters or branch level who could train others to provide psychosocial support.

The National Societies and the ICRC carried out various joint initiatives, such as first-aid courses for communities in areas prone to violence and/or disasters. National Society personnel in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan attended train-the-trainer sessions on first aid; in Uzbekistan, an ICRC-trained trainer from the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan conducted these sessions. First-aid instructors from the National Societies in the region, having strengthened their capacities through ICRC training, conducted commercial training sessions for other organizations and companies.

The National Societies continued, with ICRC support, to conduct public communication activities to promote the Movement's work. For example, in Kazakhstan, the National Society developed an online learning platform on the Movement and IHL.

The National Societies in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan began drafting or revising their legal bases with the ICRC's help.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		26			
RCMs distributed		37			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		931			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		363	15	1	15
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		17			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		611	29	9	32
Documents					
People to whom travel documents were issued		12			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		9,721	520	107	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		392	23		5
Detainees newly registered		139	13		4
Number of visits carried out		144			
Number of places of detention visited		59			
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		32			
RCMs distributed		20			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		74			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		342			

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 ¹	Beneficiaries	6,509	2,789	759
Cash	Beneficiaries	1,541	384	780
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	4,849	708	73
Cash	Beneficiaries	39	2	12
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	3,498		
Health				
Visits carried out by health staff		84		
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	28		
Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	11		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	880		

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table and in the narrative part of this report may not reflect the extent of the activities carried out during the reporting period.