

BANGKOK (regional)

COVERING: Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Thailand, Viet Nam



ICRC regional delegation + ICRC office ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

Having established a presence in Thailand in 1975 to support its operations in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, the ICRC promotes the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties and IHL integration into military training regionwide. It raises awareness of humanitarian issues and supports National Societies in developing their capacities in IHL promotion, family-links services and emergency response. It seeks to protect/assist vulnerable populations in Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, visits detainees in Thailand and in Cambodia, where it supports the authorities in improving prison management, and helps meet the need for assistive/mobility devices.

YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

MEDIUM

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

In 2014:

- ▶ inmates held in relation to the violence in southern Thailand and political protests in Cambodia and Thailand received ICRC visits, while detained irregular migrants contacted relatives using family-links services
- ▶ Cambodian and Thai officials took steps to address prison overcrowding by improving prison infrastructure to limit the spread of diseases and, in Cambodia, signing directives on alternative sentencing
- ▶ families affected by violence in Thailand and by weapon contamination in the Lao People's Democratic Republic began livelihood activities with support from the ICRC and/or its local partners
- ▶ the Lao Labour and Social Welfare Ministry/ICRC organized a workshop for representatives from the region to discuss domestic policies on and best practices in assisting victims of weapon contamination
- ▶ ICRC-supported Thai Red Cross Society information campaigns resulted in improperly used Movement emblems being replaced by the parties concerned with other signs during demonstrations/at checkpoints
- ▶ with ICRC support, the Cambodian Red Cross Society developed an action plan to make its neutral, impartial and independent approach more effective in assisting victims of violence

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)

Protection	3,840
Assistance	3,864
Prevention	3,050
Cooperation with National Societies	868
General	948

12,570

of which: Overheads 767

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	89%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	42
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	119

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	20
RCMs distributed	3
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	92,066
Detainees visited and monitored individually	527
Number of visits carried out	99
Number of places of detention visited	43
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	354
RCMs distributed	180
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	1,413

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) ¹		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	6,000
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	301
Cash	Beneficiaries	500
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,000
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Physical rehabilitation		
Centres supported	Structures	3
Patients receiving services	Patients	11,600
		10,183

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

CONTEXT

In May, the Thai military took over the government and imposed martial law countrywide, ending months of political protests that caused casualties and arrests; the head of the military was appointed the new prime minister. Demonstrations against the takeover occurred in northern and north-eastern Thailand.

In southern Thailand, despite the official resumption of the peace process, incidents of violence continued to occur, but fewer than in the past, owing to an increased military presence in the area during the second half of 2014. People continued to be affected by the violence and the emergency laws.

Clashes between Myanmar government forces and ethnic groups along the Thailand-Myanmar border, and sporadic intercommunal violence in other parts of Myanmar, resulted in people seeking safety in Thailand.

Cambodia's opposition party resumed their participation in the National Assembly; however, discussions on the joint election reform commission stalled. Protests related to the discussions and to wages and working conditions sometimes resulted in casualties and arrests.

In Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (hereafter Lao PDR) and Viet Nam, the presence of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) remained a major concern. The Lao PDR and Viet Nam took steps to address the issue, for instance, by mobilizing international support to accelerate clearance efforts.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC's regional delegation in Bangkok focused on detention-related activities and on assisting victims of past and ongoing conflicts and other situations of violence. It also helped raise awareness of and support for humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement's activities throughout the region.

The ICRC visited, in accordance with its standard procedures, detainees in Cambodia and Thailand. Those visited included people held in connection with the violence in southern Thailand and the political protests in both countries, and irregular migrants. ICRC delegates reported their findings/recommendations confidentially to the authorities and, to facilitate improvement in inmates' treatment and living conditions, mobilized or provided various kinds of support for the parties concerned. This resulted in the Cambodian Justice Ministry signing directives aimed at reducing prison overcrowding, and in improved prison health-care services and infrastructure in both countries. Detainees in Thailand, including foreigners, restored/maintained contact with relatives through the Movement's family-links network. In the Lao PDR, the rehabilitation of one facility was completed. The ICRC toured one prison in Viet Nam after securing the authorities' consent. Dialogue with the Lao and Vietnamese authorities on other detention-related activities did not progress.

Households affected by the violence in southern Thailand and by mines/ERW in the southern Lao PDR started income-generating activities with the help of supplies/equipment and training. To reduce communities' exposure to weapon contamination, the ICRC helped repair hand pumps close to people's homes in the Lao PDR and trained teachers and volunteers in conducting awareness campaigns in Viet Nam. The national mine-clearance operator in the Lao PDR worked with the ICRC to revise the training

curriculum for its medics and to hone the skills of medics attached to mine-clearance organizations.

Weapon-wounded people from Myanmar seeking treatment in Thailand had their medical expenses covered. Training sessions enabled health personnel in southern Thailand and from one state in Myanmar to bolster their abilities to treat weapon wounds. Services provided at ICRC-supported centres and/or by partner NGOs allowed disabled people in Cambodia to receive suitable care and to ease their social reintegration. The ICRC endeavoured to help improve the sector by continuing to cooperate with various parties concerned in the country.

The delegation continued to promote respect for humanitarian principles, IHL and/or internationally recognized policing standards among the authorities, security forces and civil society throughout the region, and among armed groups in Myanmar. It communicated to the authorities and other parties concerned – directly or through its network of contacts – its findings on the humanitarian needs of civilians in southern Thailand and along the Thailand-Myanmar border. By participating in workshops for police personnel, military officers in southern Thailand learnt more about their role in law enforcement operations. During the political crisis in Thailand, the ICRC discussed with stakeholders its possible role when visiting persons arrested in relation to the protests, and as a neutral intermediary in helping victims access medical care, if needed; together with the Thai Red Cross Society, it helped raise public awareness of the proper use of the emblem. Students from all four countries tested their knowledge of IHL at regional competitions.

With ICRC support, the region's National Societies strengthened their capacities to provide emergency assistance and family-links services and to promote awareness of humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement. The Cambodian Red Cross Society sought to enhance its response to victims of unrest by developing an action plan based on the Safer Access Framework.

CIVILIANS

Vulnerable heads of households in southern Thailand achieve a degree of economic self-sufficiency

People fleeing clashes in Myanmar and staying along the Thailand-Myanmar border received visits from ICRC delegates who shared their findings regarding the humanitarian situation with the parties concerned. In southern Thailand, the authorities, security forces, members of civil society, community/religious leaders, and the ICRC maintained dialogue on the humanitarian needs of people in the areas most affected by the ongoing violence.

With various kinds of ICRC support, the National Societies in the Lao PDR and Thailand delivered relief goods to victims of floods.

Some 70 vulnerable heads of households in southern Thailand started small businesses with tools/equipment and training provided by the ICRC, which benefited about 301 people; around 95% of them became economically self-sufficient to an extent. Ad hoc material assistance helped other victims of the violence cope with their immediate needs.

In areas of the southern Lao PDR affected by mines/ERW, nearly 30 heads of households began income-generating activities with training and material assistance from the local authorities, the National Society and/or the ICRC (benefiting about 140 people);

some of them also received household essentials. Repairs to hand pumps enabled 902 people, including 31 victims of mines/ERW, to obtain clean water nearby, reducing their need to walk long distances through contaminated areas.

Medics from mine-clearance agencies in the Lao PDR enhance their emergency response capacities

During National Society/ICRC training sessions, school teachers and National Society volunteers and staff in two provinces in Viet Nam learnt more about safety measures, enabling them to share their knowledge with communities in affected areas.

UXO Lao, the national mine-clearance operator, updated its training curriculum for medics with the ICRC's technical assistance. Over 20 medics from humanitarian mine-clearance agencies and the Lao People's Army took a one-month UXO Lao/ICRC training course, and strengthened their ability to respond to injuries caused by mines/ERW.

Members of dispersed families maintain contact using family-links services

Training sessions and a regional family-links seminar helped the National Societies covered strengthen their family-links capacities and coordination during disasters. Discussions with the Thai Red Cross focused on urging them to incorporate family-links services in their national disaster-response training programmes.

People in Cambodia and in the Lao PDR, including the families of detainees held abroad and Cambodian migrants returning from Thailand, maintained contact with their relatives through their National Societies' family-links services. After a lull in its family-links activities, the Red Cross of Viet Nam's tracing unit resumed the follow-up of pending and new cases. The concerted efforts of the pertinent National Societies enabled a newly released detainee to leave Cambodia and rejoin his family in Viet Nam.

Refugees resettled in third countries using ICRC travel documents, issued in coordination with IOM, UNHCR and the embassies concerned.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in Cambodia and Thailand received regular ICRC visits, carried out according to the organization's standard procedures.

They included people arrested in relation to the violence in southern Thailand and to the political protests in Cambodia and Thailand; irregular migrants in Thailand and women and minors received particular attention.

After their visits, ICRC delegates shared their findings and recommendations, if any, confidentially to the detaining authorities, including senior security forces personnel. In Thailand, the issues of concern included ensuring proper living conditions and treatment for people in the initial stages of detention. Detainees in Cambodia spent more time outdoors after the Interior Ministry and the General Department of Prisons (GDP) received an ICRC report on detainees' access to fresh air.

In Thailand, detainees, especially foreigners from neighbouring countries, restored/maintained contact with their relatives through the Movement's family links network. Irregular migrants made 1,413 phone calls to their families to inform them of their whereabouts; 141 inmates held far from their homes received ICRC-facilitated visits from up to five relatives each.

ICRC support for the authorities in the areas of health and infrastructure, as well as distributions of material assistance, helped improve living conditions for detainees.

With more water provisions, inmates in a Thai prison reduce the spread of skin diseases

Representatives of the Department of Corrections and the Public Health Ministry, officials/health staff from nine prisons in southern Thailand, other parties concerned and the ICRC convened to discuss the ICRC's 2012 assessment of health-care provision at these nine prisons. ICRC mobilization efforts among officials in Songkhla in southern Thailand resulted in the establishment of a referral clinic that provided basic health care, including weekly visits from a hospital team, to some 7,000 detainees at four prisons.

The technical working group for improving/maintaining detention facilities jointly conducted three out of the five ICRC assessments of five prisons throughout the country. Renovations at five prisons and one immigration detention centre improved water and sanitation facilities for some 9,900 inmates.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	CAMBODIA	THAILAND
ICRC visits		
Detainees visited	9,229	82,837
<i>of whom women</i>	722	5,290
<i>of whom minors</i>	274	37
Detainees visited and monitored individually	40	487
<i>of whom women</i>		8
<i>of whom girls</i>		7
<i>of whom boys</i>		3
Detainees newly registered		220
<i>of whom women</i>		6
<i>of whom girls</i>		7
<i>of whom boys</i>		3
Number of visits carried out	25	74
Number of places of detention visited	11	32
Restoring family links		
RCMs collected		354
RCMs distributed		180
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		1,413
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		141

In southern Thailand, one prison's referral hospital, burdened with a large number of cases of skin disease, received anti-fungal cream from the ICRC. The installation of a water piping network in the prison doubled the quantity of water available to detainees for showering and washing clothes; the distribution of hygiene kits to the detainees helped them maintain their hygiene. All these contributed to limiting the spread of skin diseases.

Cambodian Justice Ministry takes steps to reduce prison overcrowding

The Cambodian GDP, Justice Ministry officials and other parties concerned continued to discuss the causes and consequences of prison overcrowding at two round-tables organized by the ICRC. These discussions resulted in 35 detainees having their sentences finalized after waiting for several years and in the Justice Ministry signing circulars on the implementation of judicial supervision, community service and probationary suspended sentences.

In several prisons visited by the ICRC, over 8,600 inmates, including women and, in some cases, prison officials, maintained proper health and hygiene practices with the help of hygiene items; awareness campaigns in two of these prisons further helped inmates in doing so. The GDP drew on ICRC recommendations on general access to health care and individual medical cases to improve health services for detainees, for example by providing anti-scabies treatment for 200 minors at one facility. A pilot health project at two prisons, organized by the Health/Interior Ministries, the GDP and the ICRC, remained under development.

During ICRC-supported field missions, the GDP Construction Office boosted its technical knowledge and its capacity to assess and address infrastructural issues. The construction/renovation of sleeping quarters/kitchens/sanitation and water facilities by the GDP/ICRC benefited 12,300 detainees at 12 prisons.

Vietnamese officials allow ICRC to tour one prison

Assistance to one Lao facility continued and resulted in 1,500 male detainees gaining access to a renovated/expanded kitchen area.

The Vietnamese Public Security Ministry allowed the ICRC to tour one detention centre to help establish mutual understanding of each other's work.

Dialogue with the Lao and Vietnamese authorities regarding other possible detention-related activities remained limited.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Medics in Thailand and in one state in Myanmar boost their trauma care capacities

Twenty-seven people from Myanmar, most of them injured by landmines, sought treatment at Thai hospitals; their medical expenses were covered by the ICRC.

During a workshop organized jointly with the Karen Department of Health and Welfare, some 20 medics working in remote areas of Karen state in Myanmar, and with limited resources, learnt more about stabilizing trauma patients. Health personnel from three provinces in southern Thailand added to their capacities in weapon-wound surgery during a seminar conducted in coordination with the Thai Red Cross. Hospital assessments planned for the Lao PDR were replaced by first-aid training for medics (see *Civilians*).

ICRC-supported centres' quality prostheses enable nearly all amputee patients to walk unassisted

The Cambodian Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation Ministry continued to work with the ICRC and to benefit from the organization's financial and technical support for managing/improving services at the national orthopaedic component factory. This factory supplied 13,000 prostheses/orthoses and 4,300 walking aids to the 11 physical rehabilitation service providers in the country, including the ICRC-supported Battambang and Kompong Speu centres. While facilitating coordination within the physical rehabilitation sector at the national level, the ministry introduced a standardized patient management system and explored ways to increase its budget for the sector.

Senior staff/technicians from the two ICRC-supported centres and the component factory honed their managerial/technical skills through mentoring and workshops. A prosthetist/orthotist embarked on a three-year advanced training course.

Outreach teams carried out 264 field trips, assessing and addressing the needs of 8,261 patients, of whom 172 were referred to the two centres to receive further treatment. A total of 10,183 patients, including some who had their treatment/travel costs covered, regained/improved their mobility at the two centres, which produced 1,647 prostheses and 1,174 orthoses and delivered 497 wheelchairs. The quality of the prostheses provided at the two centres enabled some 90% of amputees to walk without any assistive devices.

To facilitate their social and economic reintegration, 32 of the centres' female patients were trained in wheelchair basketball; 58 other patients were referred to NGOs providing the appropriate services.

Coordination, and, where necessary, sharing of expertise with parties concerned continued, with a view to helping improve national physical rehabilitation services and promote the sector.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Thai military officers learn more about the military's role in law enforcement operations

During local and regional workshops, senior Cambodian, Thai and Vietnamese police officers and trainers furthered their understanding of internationally recognized policing standards. At the

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM		CAMBODIA	LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	THAILAND
Economic security, water and habitat				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries			335
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	8,620		30,355
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	12,300	1,500	9,944
Health				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		28		14
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		7		10

Thai police's request, more military officers in southern Thailand took part in these workshops, and added to their knowledge of the rules and standards for military participation in law enforcement operations. The military attendees confirmed their interest in holding information sessions on this subject for their personnel. Thai troops bound for service in southern Thailand continued to receive briefings on the subject.

During seminars, Cambodian and Lao military officers became more adept at applying humanitarian norms during operations, sometimes with the help of virtual reality tools. At a workshop organized with the Thai Defence Ministry, representatives of the military and the Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs exchanged views on new weapons and IHL; military legal advisers discussed weapon-related issues and cyber-warfare at an ICRC round-table. Thai and Vietnamese naval officers attended a workshop on the law of armed conflict at sea (see *Kuala Lumpur*). Political tensions limited the ICRC's contacts with operational officers of the Thai army.

Students attending peacekeeping courses in Thailand, and Cambodian troops awaiting deployment abroad, familiarized themselves with IHL and the ICRC during lectures/predeployment briefings.

Armed groups in Myanmar and the ICRC discussed the incorporation of humanitarian principles and IHL in their respective codes of conduct. Attention was paid to issues such as anti-personnel mines, the recruitment of child soldiers by weapon bearers, and victims' access to health care. One group included the ICRC's recommendations in its revised doctrine.

Thai demonstrators and military personnel show respect for the emblem

The authorities, security forces, officials from international organizations, journalists, representatives from NGOs, Islamic circles and academic institutions, especially those in southern Thailand, enhanced their knowledge of humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement during bilateral meetings and National Society and/or ICRC dissemination sessions. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) departments of various governments and the ICRC discussed cooperation in matters of common interest, particularly weapon contamination, disaster management and peacekeeping. Publications, audiovisual materials and/or features in the ICRC blog in Thai on, for instance, the Health Care in Danger project, reinforced these efforts.

Stakeholders in Thailand's political crisis and the ICRC discussed the organization's possible role when visiting persons arrested in relation to the protests (see *People deprived of their freedom*), and as a neutral intermediary in helping victims access medical care, if needed. Following ICRC-supported Thai Red Cross communication campaigns on the proper use of the red cross emblem, some demonstrators and military personnel took down improperly used emblems displayed during political rallies or at checkpoints and replaced them with other signs/logos.

University students throughout the region demonstrated their grasp of IHL at national and international competitions (see *Beijing*). Vietnamese academics bolstered their IHL teaching capacities by participating in a workshop abroad. In southern Thailand, approximately 240 secondary school students in Islamic institutions learnt about humanitarian principles and IHL through modules of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme.

Regional representatives share best practices in assisting victims of weapon contamination

To facilitate their countries' accession to IHL treaties and domestic IHL implementation, officials from the countries covered attended various events devoted to these matters, including a regional IHL teaching session (see *Philippines*). Officials from various Lao ministries participated in a national IHL seminar on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, organized with the Institute of Foreign Affairs. With ASEAN and ICRC support, the Labour and Social Welfare Ministry of the Lao PDR organized a workshop on children and families affected by weapon contamination; 24 representatives from Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam discussed national policies and best practices for assisting them (see *Jakarta*). Thailand signed the Arms Trade Treaty, but was yet to accede to Additional Protocol I.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT Cambodian National Society develops action plan for responding to unrest

The region's National Societies continued to work with the ICRC, and to draw on its technical/material support to enhance their abilities to restore family links, assist communities in mine/ERW-affected areas and promote understanding of humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement (see *Civilians and Actors of influence*).

In response to unrest in parts of Cambodia, the National Society began to develop an action plan based on the Safer Access Framework; the aim was to improve its neutral, impartial and independent approach to assisting victims and to raise awareness among its staff and the public of its activities and its auxiliary role in relation to the government.

The region's National Societies participated in various Movement events, such as a meeting for National Society leaders in the region (see *Kuala Lumpur*) and the International Federation's Red Cross Red Crescent International Nursing Conference in Thailand.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)¹					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*		
RCMs collected		20	16		
RCMs distributed		3			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		3	1	2	
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		3	1	2	
Documents					
People to whom travel documents were issued		40			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)²					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		92,066	6,012	311	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		527	8	7	3
Detainees newly registered		220	6	7	3
Number of visits carried out		99			
Number of places of detention visited		43			
Restoring family links					
RCMs collected		354			
RCMs distributed		180			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		1,413			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		141			

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Thailand

2. Cambodia, Thailand

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)¹				
Food commodities ²	Beneficiaries	6,000	38%	9%
Productive inputs ²	Beneficiaries	301	40%	27%
Water and habitat activities ³	Beneficiaries	902		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)⁴				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Food commodities ²	Beneficiaries	335		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	38,975		
Water and habitat activities ³	Beneficiaries	23,744		
Health				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		42		
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		17		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals²				
Patients whose hospital treatment has been paid for by the ICRC	Patients	27		
Physical rehabilitation⁵				
Centres supported ⁶	Structures	3		
Patients receiving services	Patients	10,183	1,514	983
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	234	26	11
Prostheses delivered	Units	1,647	147	44
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	1,326	
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	333	50	148
Orthoses delivered	Units	1,174	179	552
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	5	
Patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	2,993	472	468
Crutches delivered	Units	1,357		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	497		

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

2. Thailand

3. Lao People's Democratic Republic

4. Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand

5. Cambodia

6. Including a component factory