



Since the May 2006 agreement between the government and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, which put an end to a 10-year non-international armed conflict, the ICRC has focused on: helping clarify the fate of missing persons and supporting their families; promoting full compliance with IHL; and helping improve local capacities, particularly of the Nepal Red Cross Society, to provide emergency response and physical rehabilitation services. In mid-2016, the ICRC's operations in Nepal were integrated into the work of its regional delegation in New Delhi.

YEARLY RESULT

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

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ With the support of the Nepal Red Cross Society and the ICRC, families of missing persons learnt about developments in the search for their relatives and claimed government benefits.
- ▶ Forensic professionals, including officials from the Department of Forensic Medicine, added to their knowledge of forensic anthropology, and became more capable of managing human remains, through ICRC-supported training.
- ▶ Disabled people received physical rehabilitation services and assistive devices at two centres that continued to benefit from various forms of ICRC support.
- ▶ Officers of the Nepalese Army and the Armed Police Force, and peace-support officers bound for missions abroad, learnt more about IHL and other applicable norms through ICRC presentations or training.
- ▶ The National Society, with comprehensive ICRC support, improved its family-links services; it strengthened the ability of its staff and volunteers to train others to provide these services.
- ▶ Nepal ratified the Biological Weapons Convention.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF	
Protection	799
Assistance	902
Prevention	483
Cooperation with National Societies	241
General	48
Total	2,473
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>151</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	95%

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	4
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	38

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	21
RCMs distributed	34
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	6
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	26
RCMs distributed	6

ASSISTANCE	2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Cash	Beneficiaries	57
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures	7
Physical rehabilitation		
Projects supported	Projects	2
Patients receiving services	Patients	2,151

CONTEXT

Two government commissions formed in 2015 – on disappearances linked to the past conflict and on “truth and reconciliation” – began their work.

People needed assistance to deal with the consequences of the powerful earthquakes that struck central Nepal in 2015 – particularly, physical injuries and damage to vital infrastructure.

Natural disasters, sporadic violence caused by sociopolitical tensions, and issues linked to transitional justice and the past conflict continued to affect people’s lives.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Together with the Nepal Red Cross Society, the ICRC maintained its efforts to help ascertain the fate of people missing in connection with the past conflict and to support their families.

The ICRC worked with trained National Society volunteers to collect, verify and update information on missing persons. It sustained dialogue with the authorities on addressing the needs of the families of the missing, and provided technical advice to the Commission on Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP), the government body dealing with the issue of people missing in relation to the past conflict.

National Society staff and volunteers continued to serve as points of contact with the families of the missing, keeping them informed of developments in the search for their relatives, and helping them claim government benefits.

A comprehensive project providing psychosocial and other support to the families of missing persons – run by a local NGO, the National Society and the ICRC – was completed in March. A total of 7,965 individuals, representing 1,295 families in 46 districts, benefited from the project since its inception in 2010.

Dialogue with forensic professionals and the medico-legal community focused on the importance of proper management of human remains, particularly during and after disasters. The Department of Forensic Medicine (DFM) streamlined its services with technical and material support from the ICRC. ICRC training enabled forensic professionals to add to their knowledge of forensic archaeology and develop their ability to manage human remains.

People with relatives abroad, including foreign detainees, restored or maintained contact with them through National Society family-links services. The National Society continued to strengthen its capacities in this area through ICRC training.

A prison that had been heavily damaged during the 2015 earthquake was renovated with ICRC technical assistance.

National Society teams, which included volunteers trained by the National Society or the ICRC, administered first aid to wounded people and/or referred them, where necessary, for advanced care, during or after episodes of violence. People needing such care were treated at hospitals that received medical supplies from the ICRC.

People with disabilities, including those injured during the 2015 earthquake, received assistive devices and treatment at two physical rehabilitation centres. Both centres strengthened their services with

technical and financial support from the ICRC; the construction of a dormitory, with ICRC assistance, expanded capacity at one centre.

Nepal ratified the Biological Weapons Convention. The national IHL committee, with assistance from the National Society and the ICRC, updated and reprinted an IHL handbook and attended a workshop on legal drafting, with a view to promoting and facilitating domestic implementation of IHL. Its members from judicial academies in Nepal and other Asian countries signed an agreement to strengthen IHL-related instruction in their training programmes.

The ICRC kept up discussions with the Nepalese Army and the Armed Police Force (APF) on incorporating IHL and other applicable norms in their doctrine, training and operations. Military and police officers, including members of peace-support contingents bound for overseas missions, learnt more about IHL and other applicable norms through ICRC presentations and workshops covering such topics as management of public order, the Health Care in Danger project, and sexual violence during armed conflict.

Media coverage of National Society and ICRC activities helped raise awareness of humanitarian issues and the Movement’s work. The National Society, with ICRC support, used its radio programme to broadcast messages on matters of humanitarian concern.

With financial, technical and material support from the ICRC, the National Society continued to boost its operational capacities and pursue organizational development.

In mid-2016, the delegation in Nepal was incorporated in the ICRC’s regional set-up in New Delhi, India, as a mission office. The restructuring came about after the completion of core programmes in Nepal – particularly those concerning psychosocial support for the families of missing persons – and because the ICRC’s partners had begun to assume responsibility for certain initiatives, as the National Society did for first-aid training activities.

CIVILIANS

Refugees and detainees reconnect with their families

People with relatives abroad benefited from Movement family-links services. Notably, families sent RCMs to their relatives detained in Malaysia. The Nepalese Red Cross and the ICRC assisted Bhutanese refugees in Nepal to visit relatives detained in Bhutan (see *New Delhi*).

ICRC travel documents helped 41 people, including one stateless minor, to resettle in third countries.

At an ICRC train-the-trainer workshop, National Society volunteers representing 19 disaster-prone districts strengthened their ability to instruct others on the provision of family-links services during disasters. They subsequently passed on their knowledge to some 650 other volunteers in 20 districts. At orientation sessions, over 430 volunteers learnt how to inform migrant and other vulnerable communities about the Movement’s family-links services. Following ICRC training, staff at National Society headquarters took on the task of managing their database of tracing cases.

At 12 prisons, foreign detainees, and inmates who had no other means of contacting their relatives, made use of National Society family-links services. Authorities at one prison – extensively damaged by the 2015 earthquake – renovated some of their facilities with ICRC support.

Families are kept informed of developments in the search for their missing relatives

Families were still seeking relatives – 1,337 people – missing in relation to the past conflict. To help shed light on this matter, the ICRC completed the process of collecting information from these families; this information was cross-checked against publicly available records. Following ICRC representations to the parties to the past conflict, additional information on the location of 14 possible gravesites was made available. The whereabouts of four persons missing in connection with the past conflict were established, and three new cases opened.

The National Society remained in charge of maintaining contact with the families of the missing. A pool of over 200 trained National Society staff and volunteers visited the families, kept them informed of developments in the search for their relatives, and helped them obtain government benefits (see below).

Government bodies assist the families of missing persons, with ICRC support

With administrative assistance from the National Society and the ICRC, 1,242 of the 1,337 families of missing persons registered by the ICRC had, to date, received financial assistance under the government's interim relief programme. The National Society and the ICRC continued to follow up the applications of 95 families who had not yet received such aid.

The ICRC continued to emphasize to the authorities the importance of ensuring that the needs of the families of people missing in relation to the past conflict were covered through the CIEDP's work. The National Society and the ICRC informed the families of the procedures for referring their missing relatives' cases to the CIEDP.

The ICRC gave the CIEDP technical advice for collecting ante-mortem data and biological reference samples from the families concerned, managing such data in accordance with international principles of data protection, and providing psychosocial support for the families.

The Nepal Society of Families of the Disappeared and Missing (NEFAD) continued to lobby for the creation of legal and administrative mechanisms to address the needs of missing people's families, in line with the findings of an ICRC-supported study in 2015. NEFAD organized two regional meetings of these families, to ensure that they knew about the pertinent government procedures and about NEFAD's advocacy strategy; the results of the regional meetings were communicated to CIEDP members and other key actors at a round-table. NEFAD continued to expand its organizational capacities with technical and financial assistance from the ICRC.

A comprehensive project providing psychosocial and other support to the families of missing persons – run by a local NGO, the National Society and the ICRC – ended in March. A total of 7,965 individuals (1,295 families in 46 districts) benefited from the project since its inception in 2010. Documentaries and reports and other publications on the project's methodology and results, and on areas for improvement, were produced.

Four people whose relatives were missing, and five people who had suffered sexual violence and/or torture during the past conflict, received specialized mental-health support through ICRC-managed referrals. Discussions with the government commission on "truth

and reconciliation", on the needs of people who had suffered sexual violence during the past conflict, continued; the ICRC gave the commission a paper containing its recommendations.

Forensic professionals strengthen their capacities, specifically for clarifying the fate of missing persons

The ICRC focused its dialogue with forensic professionals, the medico-legal community and the National Society on the importance of managing human remains properly, and on the necessity of having action plans ready in advance of disasters. It supported their participation in training sessions, workshops and conferences, in Nepal and elsewhere, to strengthen their capacities in this regard. These events included: forensic archaeology courses for senior DFM medical personnel; training in exhumation techniques and recovery of human remains for four DFM doctors; and an inaugural competition in forensic standards and best practices, in which postgraduate students participated. With the ICRC's guidance, DFM personnel began to establish standard procedures for their work and a centralized data-management system.

The ICRC helped forensic institutions, particularly the DFM and police units, bolster their services by providing them with books on forensic pathology and anthropology, laboratory equipment, and/or supplies for DNA analysis. The DFM drew on ICRC expertise to ensure proper management of human remains from an aircraft crash in February.

An ICRC-facilitated round-table on the CIEDP's work (see above) led to the development of a 12-point agenda by government ministries and others concerned for addressing specific forensic needs associated with clarifying the fate of people who had gone missing during the past conflict.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Injured people receive treatment

Hundreds of people wounded or injured by violence or in accidents received timely first aid from Nepalese Red Cross teams, which included volunteers with National Society or ICRC training. With support from other Movement components, the National Society took on the task of training other responders.

People requiring more than first aid received suitable treatment at six hospitals that the ICRC supplied with medical materials and at one hospital that received equipment. Some of the doctors who treated them drew on what they had learnt at past ICRC trauma-management courses. The Kathmandu University Hospital gave such courses regularly, with ICRC technical support. The ICRC gave the hospital two vehicles for conducting outreach activities in remote communities.

An ambulance that had been vandalized during protests was repaired with ICRC financial assistance.

Disabled people improve their mobility

A total of 2,151 people benefited from physical rehabilitation services at two ICRC-supported facilities: the Green Pastures Hospital and Yerahity National Rehabilitation Centre; 325 patients received free or subsidized services and many others were fitted with prosthetic/orthotic devices. Of these people who received treatment, 45 had sustained injuries in the 2015 earthquake. Some 180 people living far from rehabilitation centres obtained treatment through outreach services organized by the Yerahity centre, partner NGOs, and the ICRC.

The hospital and the centre strengthened the management and the provision of their services; the ICRC provided technical and financial support, for staff training, among other things. The Yerahity centre also received tools, equipment and other material assistance for refurbishing some of its facilities; ICRC-financed construction of a dormitory increased its bed capacity. The two centres continued to make preparations for sustaining their services as ICRC support tails off.

With financial assistance from the ICRC, the Prosthetics Orthotics Society of Nepal organized a workshop for representatives of the health and social-welfare ministries, physical rehabilitation service providers, and other government and non-government parties concerned. The legal and administrative difficulties of the physical rehabilitation sector were discussed during the workshop.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Nepal ratifies the Biological Weapons Convention

The ICRC engaged the authorities, and community leaders and other members of civil society – for instance, associations of conflict victims and their families – in dialogue on humanitarian issues and possibilities for cooperation in addressing them. Its interaction with government focused on the concerns of the families of missing persons (see *Civilians*).

Government officials, including staff and members of the CIEDP and the commission on “truth and reconciliation”, learnt more about IHL at information sessions and at a regional workshop (see *New Delhi*).

Nepal ratified the Biological Weapons Convention. A draft bill for implementing the 1949 Geneva Conventions awaited review by the defence ministry. With technical assistance from the Nepalese Red Cross and the ICRC, the national IHL committee updated and reprinted a reference handbook on IHL implementation for parliamentarians, civilian authorities and other policy-makers. Committee members and other government officials learnt more about drafting laws to implement IHL at a meeting in Switzerland for national IHL committees (see *International law and policy*) and at a workshop for legal draftsmen (see *Sri Lanka*). The National Society continued to lobby for a draft law to strengthen its legal status.

Military and peace-support personnel add to their knowledge of IHL

Dialogue with the Nepalese Army and the APF, on incorporating IHL and other applicable norms in their doctrine, training and operations, continued. The Nepalese army, with ICRC technical support, trained 24 officers to teach their troops IHL. Senior military officers learnt more about complying with IHL while planning operations at courses and workshops in San Remo and Switzerland, respectively (see *International law and policy*).

Several dozen army, police and APF officers added to their knowledge of IHL and other applicable norms during ICRC presentations or workshops. These included: a five-day module for police and APF personnel; a workshop on management of public order for police, APF and home affairs ministry staff; and a forensic workshop for police units (see *Civilians*).

In a new two-day module conducted by the ICRC as part of their predeployment training, some 140 army officers bound for peace-keeping missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South

Sudan and Sudan learnt more about IHL and humanitarian issues such as sexual violence during armed conflict and the protection of medical services.

Judicial officials in the region make a commitment to improve IHL-related training for their agencies

Twenty-five judges in Nepal developed their expertise in IHL through a workshop organized by the National Judicial Academy and the ICRC.

At a conference held in Kathmandu, Nepal, 17 officials representing national judicial academies and similar bodies from eight Asian countries signed an agreement to improve IHL instruction in their training programmes.

During their annual conference, in Kathmandu, members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Law had a panel discussion with the ICRC on laws and policies related to the issue of sexual violence during armed conflict.

Law students keep up with humanitarian affairs

Lecturers from law faculties familiarized themselves with recent developments in IHL at a regional training event (see *New Delhi*). Law students tested their knowledge of IHL at moot court competitions, including a regional round held in Nepal. Students from seven institutions, including five law schools, kept abreast of humanitarian issues through materials donated to their libraries by the ICRC.

Journalists were briefed regularly and invited to ICRC events; their coverage of National Society and ICRC activities helped inform the general public about humanitarian issues and the Movement’s work. The National Society, with ICRC support, used its radio programme to broadcast messages on matters of humanitarian concern, such as the necessity of respecting medical services and ensuring the unobstructed passage of ambulances.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Nepalese Red Cross continued – with financial, technical and material support from the ICRC – to work on strengthening its organizational and operational capacities. National Society volunteers underwent ICRC-supported training in restoring family links, managing human remains during emergencies (see *Civilians*), and the Safer Access Framework. After consulting Movement partners, the National Society drafted a plan for organizational development.

Mine-related incidents having declined, the National Society no longer conducted educational sessions on mine risks.

Aided by the International Federation and the ICRC, the National Society kept up efforts to strengthen its legal status (see *Actors of influence*) and its position as an auxiliary to the authorities. ICRC support enabled National Society officials to participate in Movement-wide dialogue and activities to enhance humanitarian action – such as a meeting of National Societies, held in Switzerland, to discuss the Health Care in Danger project, and regional meetings on civil-military relations and application of the Safer Access Framework.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		21			
RCMs distributed		34			
Names published in the media		1,334			
Names published on the ICRC family-links website		1,343			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		4		1	
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		6			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		1,337	107	34	109
Documents					
People to whom travel documents were issued		41			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		26			
RCMs distributed		6			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		5			

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)				
Cash	Beneficiaries	57	20	18
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	7		
Physical rehabilitation				
Projects supported	Projects	2		
Patients receiving services	Patients	2,151	716	123
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	73	14	6
Prostheses delivered	Units	127	24	12
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	5		
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	252	78	64
Orthoses delivered	Units	346	98	110
Patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	1,028	424	24
Walking aids delivered	Units	127	14	
Wheelchairs or tricycles delivered	Units	72	16	10