

BANGKOK (regional)

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



KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ Through a project run by the Cambodian detaining authorities and the ICRC, some 1,000 female and juvenile inmates in one facility obtained health-care services at an upgraded health post and learnt hygiene practices.
- ▶ In November, the Thai Department of Corrections no longer allowed the ICRC to work in accordance with its standard procedures in prisons under the department's authority. The ICRC thus suspended its visits in these places.
- ▶ Disabled people in Cambodia continued to obtain rehabilitative care at two ICRC-backed centres. Lao government officials learnt more about managing such services during an ICRC-facilitated study tour of a Cambodian centre.
- ▶ Some violence-affected households in southern Thailand and disabled breadwinners in Cambodia earned money through small businesses set up with ICRC financial, material and technical support.
- ▶ The military and police in the region developed their understanding of international policing standards and/or IHL at ICRC workshops. A Cambodian university included mandatory IHL courses in its law curriculum.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	3,606
Assistance	4,692
Prevention	2,815
Cooperation with National Societies	1,200
General	326
Total	12,639
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>771</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	93%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	48
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	140

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 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 and assist violence-affected people in Thailand and visits detainees there and in Cambodia, where it supports the authorities in improving prison management. It helps meet the need for assistive and mobility devices in Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

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	1,286
RCMs distributed	1,941
Phone calls facilitated between family members	998
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	1
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	55,251
Detainees visited and monitored individually	274
Number of visits carried out	96
Number of places of detention visited	43
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	2,116
RCMs distributed	1,049
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	216

ASSISTANCE

	2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	2,400
Cash ¹	Beneficiaries	450
		281

WOUNDED AND SICK

Physical rehabilitation		
Projects supported	Projects	8
Patients receiving services	Patients	11,369

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

King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, who had ruled his country for seven decades, died on 13 October 2016; a one-year period of national mourning began. In December, the crown prince was proclaimed king.

In southern Thailand, violent incidents continued to cause civilian casualties and affect daily life. Peace talks between the government and armed groups progressed slowly.

Along the Myanmar-Thailand border, intermittent fighting between armed groups and the Myanmar military persisted. Over 100,000 Myanmar refugees continued to stay in camps along the border, but others had voluntarily returned to Myanmar.

The countries covered remained relatively stable, although social and political tensions persisted, particularly in Cambodia. The presence of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) – especially in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (hereafter Lao PDR) and Viet Nam – and natural disasters continued to be a major source of regional concern. Cambodia also had to deal with issues related to prison overcrowding. Fewer irregular migrants were reported to have passed through the region than in 2015; many, however, remained detained in immigration facilities in Thailand.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC's regional delegation in Bangkok focused on its activities for detainees, particularly its support for the Cambodian and Thai authorities' efforts to improve prison management. It also helped people cope with the effects of past and ongoing conflicts or other situations of violence. It sought to foster understanding of and acceptance for humanitarian principles and IHL among parties with influence in the region and among armed groups along the Myanmar-Thailand border.

In Cambodia and Thailand, the ICRC conducted visits to detainees according to its standard procedures and shared its findings confidentially to the detaining authorities. However, in November, it suspended these visits to Thai prisons after the Department of Corrections (DOC) no longer allowed the organization to work in accordance with its standard procedures. While it sought to discuss the issue with the authorities concerned, the ICRC also continued to visit immigration detention centres.

The detaining authorities in both countries drew on ICRC assistance to carry out concrete improvements in detainees' treatment and living conditions, focusing on health-care services and prison infrastructure. ICRC financial support enabled Cambodian officials to travel to four courts and finalize the sentences of several inmates in protracted detention. The Cambodian authorities and the ICRC continued to implement a project to create a national model for prison health care and hygiene. Under this project, female and juvenile inmates in one facility obtained health-care services from an upgraded health post and learnt about hygiene practices at monthly health-education sessions. Detainees in the two countries reconnected with their relatives through the Movement's family-links services. These services included ICRC-facilitated family visits in Thailand and, for the first time, in Cambodia.

Violence-affected households in southern Thailand earned income from small businesses established with productive inputs from the ICRC. The Cambodian Red Cross Society and the ICRC provided

financial support or offered interest-free loans to help disabled breadwinners to start similar businesses and to enable households in areas affected by weapon contamination to conduct livelihood activities in safer areas. People in three provinces in Viet Nam learnt safe practices at mine-risk awareness sessions conducted by the Red Cross of Viet Nam with ICRC input.

The ICRC maintained its comprehensive support for two Cambodian centres that provided physical rehabilitation services for disabled persons and offered activities that facilitated their social and economic reintegration. It also worked with local entities to help ensure the sustainability of the rehabilitation sector: for example, it helped develop the curriculum of a physiotherapy school. An assessment of rehabilitation needs in the Lao PDR led the ICRC to reconsider its support for three centres and focus instead on strengthening national capacities in managing rehabilitation services. Thus, officials from the pertinent ministries participated in an ICRC-facilitated study tour of a Cambodian centre. The ICRC covered the cost of treatment, in Thailand, for people wounded during clashes in Myanmar.

The ICRC continued to promote understanding of and support for humanitarian principles, IHL and/or international policing standards among the authorities and other influential members of society in the four countries covered. The military and the police drew on ICRC guidance to learn how to apply the relevant principles and norms in their operations. Government officials from three countries considered the possibility of ratifying or acceding to IHL-related treaties. Academic institutions throughout the region continued to improve IHL teaching: one Cambodian university began requiring law students to take IHL courses. University students strengthened their grasp of the subject through regional competitions and internships.

The region's National Societies continued, with ICRC support, to strengthen their ability to respond to emergencies, assist communities affected by mines and ERW, restore family links and broaden awareness of humanitarian principles and the Movement's work.

CIVILIANS

In southern Thailand, the ICRC relayed to weapon bearers the concerns of violence-affected people in the area, and urged them to comply with applicable norms while conducting their operations.

Over 80 vulnerable violence-affected households in the area (450 people) began to earn income from small businesses established with the help of ICRC-provided productive inputs. Some people received ad hoc ICRC support, including cash assistance for visiting a detained relative or covering funeral expenses.

Disabled people in Cambodia work towards self-sufficiency

ICRC financial support in Cambodia – sometimes channelled through the National Society – enabled roughly 80 disabled persons to undertake income-generating activities, such as growing mushrooms and repairing motorcycles. Some of these beneficiaries earned income and paid off their debts. Other efforts were made to facilitate the social and economic reintegration of disabled persons: identifying children in need of financial assistance for their schooling and referring adults for jobs or vocational training.

To help protect people from mines and ERW, the Vietnamese National Society, backed by the ICRC, conducted risk-awareness sessions for communities in three provinces. Nearly 160 heads

of households in Cambodia used interest-free loans from the National Society and the ICRC to begin small businesses in safer areas. Administrative constraints continued to delay ICRC training for a mine-clearance organization in the Lao PDR.

Vietnamese authorities approve the inclusion of family-links services in national disaster response

Families dispersed by various circumstances restored or maintained contact through family-links services provided by the National Society in their country and the ICRC. Thirteen people in Cambodia received ICRC travel documents; these were issued at the request of the UNHCR, to facilitate their resettlement abroad.

Representatives of National Societies in the region convened to discuss cooperation in restoring family links, particularly after disasters and in connection with migration. In Viet Nam, the National Society and the National Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control signed an agreement to include family-links services in the national disaster response. Forensic doctors and representatives of the Vietnamese defence and public security ministries strengthened their ability to manage human remains during emergencies, at workshops organized by the National Institute of Forensic Medicine and the ICRC.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC suspends prison visits in Thailand

Detainees in Cambodia and Thailand received ICRC visits carried out according to the organization's standard procedures. Security detainees and inmates with particular vulnerabilities – women and irregular migrants – received special attention. In November, the DOC no longer allowed the ICRC to work in accordance with its standard procedures; the ICRC therefore decided to suspend visits to prisons in Thailand. While it sought to discuss the issue with the authorities concerned, the ICRC continued to visit immigration detention centres.

Following the above-mentioned visits, the detaining authorities and the ICRC discussed confidentially the ICRC's findings on the treatment and living conditions of detainees. In Cambodia, senior police and *gendarmerie* officers received ICRC input for strengthening compliance with the procedures outlined in domestic legislation concerning the treatment of people during

arrests and the initial stages of detention. Support for the Thai authorities to implement anti-drug policies was no longer pursued because other organizations were already involved in the process.

Cambodian authorities take steps to provide skills training for inmates

Cambodian and Thai officials learnt more about internationally recognized standards for prison management at several local and regional seminars (see *Sri Lanka*). Together with the ICRC, a working group consisting of Cambodian government officials and other local stakeholders began to assess the educational needs of inmates at 17 provincial prisons, with a view to developing a skills-training programme for them. The Cambodian General Department of Prisons (GDP), a local organization and the ICRC agreed to provide vocational training, personal-development programmes and regular family visits for 40 detained minors, to improve their detention conditions and, after their release, to facilitate their social reintegration.

ICRC financial support enabled representatives of the GDP and the Appeals Court to travel to four courts to follow up cases that had been pending for several years. As a result, rulings on the cases of 22 detainees were finalized.

Detainees in Cambodia and Thailand, including irregular migrants held at Thai immigration detention facilities, restored or maintained contact with their families through the Movement's family-links services. In Thailand, over 200 inmates held far from their homes received ICRC-facilitated family visits. The ICRC organized such visits for the first time in Cambodia, benefiting seven detainees.

Women and minors in a Cambodian facility obtain basic health care and learn hygiene practices

Cambodian and Thai authorities continued to draw on ICRC support to improve health-care services and infrastructure in selected facilities where overcrowding was an issue. They took steps to reform their penitentiary health system; in Cambodia, the authorities worked with the ICRC and other partners to establish a working group to lead the reform process. Nurses and other prison health staff in Cambodia and Thailand learnt more about strengthening their services, during local training sessions organized by

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	Cambodia	Thailand
ICRC visits		
Detainees visited	14,671	40,580
<i>of whom women</i>	1,144	3,451
<i>of whom minors</i>	659	305
Detainees visited and monitored individually	128	146
<i>of whom women</i>	4	4
<i>of whom girls</i>	1	
<i>of whom boys</i>	3	
Detainees newly registered	100	115
<i>of whom women</i>	4	4
<i>of whom girls</i>	1	
<i>of whom boys</i>	3	
Number of visits carried out	37	59
Number of places of detention visited	14	29
Restoring family links		
RCMs collected	1,790	326
RCMs distributed	774	275
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		216
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	7	205

the authorities concerned and the ICRC. A Thai university worked with the ICRC to create a post-graduate course in prison health.

In Cambodia, the GDP and the ICRC continued to implement a project that provided basic health-care services and hygiene instruction at a facility housing around 1,000 female and juvenile inmates. The project focused on creating a standardized model for such services that could be replicated nationwide. With the help of an ICRC health team, personnel at the facility strengthened their ability to care for sick or injured inmates. Detainees obtained health-care services at an upgraded health post and learnt hygiene practices at monthly health-education sessions; a newly formed hygiene committee helped ensure that detainees applied what they had learnt. At another Cambodian prison, the GDP and the ICRC organized a campaign to treat scabies. Around 11,500 detainees and prison guards in Cambodian and Thai facilities received hygiene kits.

In Thailand, medical specialists from the health ministry and the DOC continued to work together to improve inmates' access to health services; ICRC support facilitated coordination between the ministry and the DOC. These efforts contributed to improvements that included screening of new inmates upon entry and referrals to secondary care. Two prison clinics better served inmates with the help of basic medical materials donated by the ICRC.

Cambodian and Thai officials learn more about maintaining infrastructure

Workshops organized or supported by the ICRC, or other assistance provided by it, enabled prison authorities in the region to strengthen their capacities in building and maintaining facilities. The Cambodian authorities used ICRC expertise to standardize prison infrastructure; notably, it finalized a manual on constructing energy-saving stoves, and discussed with the ICRC the adoption of minimum standards for prison construction and renovation. Local training sessions for Cambodian and Thai officials centred on maximizing resources through good maintenance practices for infrastructure such as electrical, water and waste-management systems. Cambodian and Lao prison officials attended the 5th Asian Conference of Correctional Facilities Architects and Planners (see *Beijing*).

Roughly 12,400 detainees in Cambodian and Thai prisons had better living conditions as a result of the authorities' continued efforts to upgrade prison infrastructure. These efforts – carried out jointly by local engineers and the ICRC, or supported by the ICRC through material donations or technical advice for the authorities – included construction and renovation of common areas and water and sanitation facilities, and distribution of water filters.

WOUNDED AND SICK

A few people injured in clashes in Myanmar crossed the border into Thailand; 24 had the costs of their treatment in Thai hospitals covered by the ICRC. Amputees in areas along the Myanmar-Thailand border were referred to an ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre in Myanmar.

Cambodian institutions and the ICRC work together to ensure the rehabilitation sector's sustainability

Over 11,350 physically disabled people in Cambodia improved their mobility with the help of free, good-quality rehabilitative care at two ICRC-supported centres. ICRC material, financial and technical support helped staff at these centres to improve their services. Outreach activities enabled repairs to be made to

the assistive devices of disabled people living far from the centres. National Society volunteers trained in identifying potential patients, with a view to helping more people from remote provinces obtain referrals to these centres' services. Local institutions and the ICRC worked together to ensure the sustainability of the physical rehabilitation sector: for instance, they helped draw up the curriculum of a physiotherapy school and developed a business model to help the national orthopaedic component factory take full responsibility for the production of components.

Some disabled patients eased their social and economic reintegration thanks to the ICRC and its local partners (see *Civilians*). With ICRC support, 40 female wheelchair basketball players continued their training for regional competitions.

Lao officials learn more about managing rehabilitation services during a study tour

After assessing physical rehabilitation needs in the Lao PDR, the ICRC discontinued its support for three centres and focused its attention on strengthening physical rehabilitation expertise in the country, for example, by sponsoring specialists to attend training courses abroad. During an ICRC-organized study tour, officials from the Lao health and labour and social welfare ministries learnt more about the tools and standards used at an ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre in Cambodia. The labour and social welfare ministry declined the ICRC's offer to train technicians and physiotherapists at one centre.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Lao military officials learn more about IHL at a defence ministry and ICRC workshop

During bilateral dialogue with the ICRC and/or workshops they organized annually with it, Cambodian and Thai military and security forces learnt more about the application of humanitarian principles and international policing standards in their operations. In southern Thailand, 30 senior police personnel, two military officers and several legal advisers to the military unit engaged in law enforcement operations learnt more about the norms applicable to their work.

Armed forces personnel from all four countries covered strengthened their ability to apply IHL in their operations; the ICRC gave them technical advice and sponsored their participation in events abroad. ICRC workshops helped senior officers from two Thai military academies advance their understanding of IHL; in the Lao PDR, the defence ministry and the ICRC organized a similar workshop for military officials. Military and naval officers from Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam refined their grasp of IHL by exchanging views with their counterparts abroad (see *Jakarta* and *Suva*).

During sessions conducted by the ICRC at the request of their officers, Cambodian, Thai and Vietnamese peacekeepers familiarized themselves with the provisions of IHL and international norms applicable to their role.

Representatives of armed groups from Myanmar continued to consult the ICRC to ensure that their codes of conduct conformed to IHL.

Cambodian officials study the possibility of acceding to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Guided by the ICRC, authorities in the region took steps to broaden support for IHL in their countries, for instance, by

engaging regional counterparts in dialogue at IHL events (see *Kuala Lumpur*). Officials from the Thai foreign ministry and the Vietnamese defence ministry sought the ICRC's expertise while exploring, where applicable, the possibility of ratifying or acceding to Additional Protocols I and II. During two conferences organized by a local think-tank and the ICRC, members of the Cambodian government and Cambodian academics discussed the possibility of acceding to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The ICRC maintained dialogue with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) departments of the pertinent ministries in the countries covered on operationalizing the ASEAN regional mine-action centre and on other subjects of common interest.

A Cambodian university makes IHL courses mandatory for law students

ICRC guidance, publications on IHL and sponsorship to attend events abroad helped academic institutions and university students strengthen IHL instruction and their grasp of the subject, respectively. A Cambodian university introduced mandatory IHL courses – taught by an ICRC-supported lecturer – into its law curriculum. At national and regional competitions (see *Beijing*), university students demonstrated their knowledge of IHL. Law students in Cambodia and Thailand had internships at the ICRC offices there.

The ICRC maintained contact with influential members of civil society throughout the region – particularly religious circles in southern Thailand – through bilateral dialogue and dissemination sessions on humanitarian principles and IHL. The general public

were informed of ICRC operations in the region and of the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action through traditional and new media, including the ICRC website. One journalist participated in a regional media conference, with ICRC sponsorship (see *Bangladesh*).

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies continued to work with the ICRC and to draw on its support to strengthen their ability to respond to emergencies, restore family links and assist communities affected by mines and ERW (see *Civilians*). The Cambodian and Vietnamese National Societies and the ICRC signed three-year partnership agreements. Both National Societies also strove to strengthen their ability to operate safely during emergencies by developing – with ICRC guidance – action plans for applying the Safer Access Framework. The Lao Red Cross began drafting its statutes.

A regional communication forum helped the four National Societies to develop their capacity to broaden public understanding of humanitarian principles, the Movement and the red cross emblem. With ICRC technical and financial support, the Lao and Thai National Societies organized briefing sessions on IHL and the Movement for over 3,500 staff and volunteers and community members. During train-the-trainer workshops, roughly 400 training relays from the Thai Red Cross strengthened their capacity to organize such sessions.

Movement components in the region coordinated their activities through periodic meetings and regional events.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected	1,286	2			
RCMs distributed	1,941				
Phone calls facilitated between family members	998				
Names published in the media	35				
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	56	13	6	3	
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	1				
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	78	21	7	4	
Documents					
People to whom travel documents were issued	13				
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines	1				
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited	55,251	4,595	964		
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually	274	8	1	3	
Detainees newly registered	215	8	1	3	
Number of visits carried out	96				
Number of places of detention visited	43				
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected	2,116				
RCMs distributed	1,049				
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	216				
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	212				

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	450	178	150
Cash ¹	Beneficiaries	281	65	152
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	11,550	2,351	
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	12,435	1,385	
Health				
Visits carried out by health staff		23		
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	18		
Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	5		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Patients whose hospital treatment has been paid for by the ICRC		24	2	
Physical rehabilitation				
Projects supported	Projects	4		
Patients receiving services	Patients	11,369	1,745	1,014
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	223	25	11
Prostheses delivered	Units	1,563	146	44
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	1,223	76	3
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	354	59	158
Orthoses delivered	Units	1,147	180	541
Patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	3,324	460	659
Walking aids delivered	Units	1,223	157	121
Wheelchairs or tricycles delivered	Units	548	202	49

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.