

BANGKOK (regional)

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



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

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	2,776
Assistance	2,987
Prevention	2,352
Cooperation with National Societies	1,360
General	-

▶ **9,476**

of which: Overheads 578

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	104%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	32
National staff (daily workers not included)	74

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- ▶ during unrest in Bangkok, stood ready to act as a neutral and independent intermediary and to facilitate the provision of medical care
- ▶ strengthened dialogue with representatives of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and Royal Thai Police on the consequences for the civilian population of the ongoing violence in southern Thailand
- ▶ visited persons held in 12 prisons in Cambodia and detainees arrested in relation to the situation in southern Thailand in 36 places of detention, including 23 police stations and 1 police interrogation centre
- ▶ with the Thai Red Cross and civil authorities, provided 30,000 civilians and 8,000 detainees affected by floods in southern Thailand with water, food, stoves and hygiene articles
- ▶ discussed the findings of an assessment of the causes of prison overcrowding with the Cambodian detention authorities
- ▶ sent a high-level delegation to the first meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Having first established a presence in Bangkok in 1975 to support its operation in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, the ICRC now works to promote the ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties and the integration of IHL into military training in all the countries covered. It strives to raise awareness of humanitarian issues and supports National Societies in developing their IHL promotion and tracing activities. The ICRC visits detainees in Cambodia and Thailand and works to protect and assist vulnerable populations. Its prosthetic/orthotic project in Cambodia contributes to meeting the need for affordable, good-quality prostheses.

CONTEXT

Political instability continued to plague Thailand. Between March and May 2010, mass demonstrations followed by clashes between anti-government protesters and security forces paralysed central Bangkok and led to the deaths of a reported 90 people, while at least 1,400 others were injured. Over 400 people were reportedly arrested. The authorities took steps to implement a reconciliation plan, including a roadmap for general elections in 2011, but the potential for further unrest in the capital and parts of northern and north-eastern Thailand remained.

Meanwhile, in Thailand's three southern border provinces, violent incidents, in particular drive-by shootings and bombings in public places, continued to occur frequently, causing deaths and injuries among civilians. The extension of emergency law gave the security forces exceptional powers.

Torrential rains in Thailand caused the worst nationwide flooding in decades, including in the far south and in border areas of

Cambodia, affecting hundreds of thousands of people. Central Viet Nam was also devastated by repeated floods.

The conflict in Myanmar continued to have a spillover effect in border areas of Thailand, with civilians seeking refuge in camps located along the border as well as outside these camps. During and after the general elections in Myanmar, some 20,000 civilians fled to Thailand owing to a renewal of fighting between Karen armed groups and the Myanmar army.

Calm prevailed in the contested Thai-Cambodian border area, apart from one skirmish between troops of both sides.

The more than 4,500 ethnic Lao Hmong who had to return from Thailand to the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) in late 2009 were resettled in their country of origin.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages		Total	UAMs/SCs*
RCMs distributed		36	
Documents			
People to whom travel documents were issued		176	
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) ¹			
ICRC visits		Total	Women
Detainees visited		8,782	
Detainees visited and monitored individually		718	3
Detainees newly registered		139	1
Number of visits carried out		73	
Number of places of detention visited		48	
Restoring family links		Total	
RCMs collected		34	
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		44	

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Food ²	Beneficiaries	30,000		
Essential household items ²	Beneficiaries	30,000		
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives ²	Beneficiaries	30	66%	34%
Water and habitat activities ³	Beneficiaries	557	52%	30%
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat				
Food ²	Beneficiaries	8,000		
Essential household items ¹	Beneficiaries	18,689		
Water and habitat activities ⁴	Beneficiaries	7,947		

1. Cambodia and Thailand

2. Thailand only

3. Lao PDR only

4. Cambodia only

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

ASSISTANCE

WOUNDED AND SICK ⁴				
Water and habitat				
		Total	Women	Children
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	141		
Physical rehabilitation				
Centres supported	Structures	3		
Patients receiving services	Patients	10,662	1,144	743
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	238	31	8
Prostheses delivered	Units	1,806	153	45
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units		
		1,554		
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	349	61	136
Orthoses delivered	Units	1,264	253	416
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units		
		13		
Crutches delivered	Units	1,564		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	398		

4. Cambodia only

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

During the violent demonstrations in Bangkok, the ICRC called on all sides to observe humanitarian standards and to show respect for human life and dignity. It stood ready to facilitate the provision of medical care and to act as a neutral and independent intermediary, and maintained regular contacts with the Thai Red Cross Society, as the main emergency responder.

ICRC delegates monitored the violence in Thailand's three southern-most provinces and its consequences for the population. First-hand information on the humanitarian situation was collected during numerous field trips and brought to the attention of the relevant authorities for follow-up. Contacts were established with the leaders of political groups in Bangkok and the north/north-east, and broadened with Thai military and security forces, government representatives and community leaders in southern Thailand, to familiarize them with the ICRC's mandate and activities and to work with them to promote respect for civilians' lives and dignity.

On the Thai-Myanmarese border, the ICRC continued to monitor the situation of civilians seeking refuge in Thailand and the spillover effects of the armed conflict and violence in Myanmar. In Thai hospitals, the ICRC paid for the surgical treatment of patients with weapon-related injuries who could not be treated in Myanmar.

Within the framework of its visits to people arrested in relation to the situation in southern Thailand and those held in prisons in Cambodia, the ICRC encouraged prison authorities in both countries to share experiences. In Thailand, alongside visits to detainees held under the responsibility of the Thai Ministry of Justice and the Royal Thai Police, the ICRC pursued efforts to gain access to people held in all other places of temporary detention under emergency laws or in army camps. In Cambodia, the ICRC increased its cooperation with and support to the General Department of Prisons, providing guidance on issues related to prison management, health, water and sanitation, in order to help it improve detainees' living conditions and health care. The results of an assessment of the causes of the worsening prison overcrowding in Cambodia were

endorsed by the authorities. Coordination among the authorities and with other actors involved in health in detention increased, including through bi-monthly meetings facilitated by the ICRC.

In close cooperation with the relevant authorities, the ICRC continued to support the provision of physical rehabilitation services in Cambodia through two regional rehabilitation centres, their outreach programmes and the factory supplying prosthetic/orthotic components to all centres in the country.

In order to promote the ratification of further IHL treaties, their national implementation and the integration of IHL into military doctrine, training and operating procedures, the ICRC worked with government representatives in all four countries covered, including staff of the national secretariats of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). This included cooperation with the Royal Thai Police regarding training in internationally recognized standards relating to policing.

National Societies in the region, with ICRC support, strengthened their capacities in the core fields of family links, mine action and promotion of the Fundamental Principles, IHL and humanitarian principles.

CIVILIANS

During the unrest in Bangkok, the various parties were reminded of the need to respect human life and dignity, medical services and the red cross emblem. The Thai Red Cross, as the main emergency responder, and the ICRC kept in regular contact (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). The ICRC stood ready to facilitate the provision of medical care and to act as a neutral and independent intermediary if needed. Seven wounded civilians were evacuated from a temple during an ICRC-arranged ceasefire.

In southern Thailand, the civilian population continued to bear the brunt of the ongoing violence. Following regular ICRC field trips and assessments in the affected areas, observations and

issues of concern were raised with the relevant authorities and other entities, including religious and community leaders, who were also briefed on the ICRC's mandate and activities. Follow-up included strengthened dialogue with representatives of the Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTARF) and Royal Thai Police on the consequences of the violence for the population.

Violence-affected communities benefited from small-scale ICRC economic assistance, ranging from individual income-generating projects, such as sewing classes or the provision of livestock, to a bakery project for women who had lost their means of livelihood. An ICRC assessment of the effects of the violence on civilians' access to health care found that needs were mostly structural and were on the whole being tackled by the authorities.

In addition, over 30,000 civilians affected by the floods in southern Thailand received food, clean water, hygiene articles and stoves provided by Thai Red Cross/ICRC teams, in close cooperation with the civil authorities.

In the Lao PDR, following a National Society/ICRC assessment of the situation of vulnerable minorities in eight remote villages, 557 Hmong villagers gained access to sufficient water for household and livestock needs, thanks to the construction of a new water-supply system. They also benefited from new latrines in conjunction with a hygiene-promotion programme conducted by the Lao Red Cross. The ICRC did not yet have access to the Hmong, returned from Thailand in December 2009, to assess their situation and needs.

On the Thai-Myanmarese border, Myanmarese civilians who had sought refuge outside established camps voiced any concerns to ICRC delegates, who in turn communicated them to the relevant authorities. Myanmarese community leaders in Thailand, the Thai authorities and the police were made aware of the ICRC's mandate and activities, humanitarian principles and IHL. The ICRC participated in coordination meetings with other humanitarian actors operating in the area.

Civilians in the region were able to restore and maintain contact with relatives through the tracing and RCM services. Using ICRC-issued travel documents, 176 refugees, mainly Lao Hmong and Myanmarese, resettled abroad under UNHCR auspices.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People arrested in relation to the situation in southern Thailand and those held in prisons in Cambodia received ICRC visits, carried out in accordance with the organization's standard procedures. The findings and any recommendations on detainees'

treatment and living conditions were shared confidentially with the detaining authorities through meetings and reports.

To promote the sharing of expertise and experiences between prison authorities, exchange visits between the Thai Department of Corrections and Ministry of Public Health and their counterparts in Cambodia took place with ICRC support, focusing on health care practices in prisons, and a health specialist from the Thai Department of Corrections attended a seminar in Phnom Penh (see below).

Water and sanitation specialists from the prison departments of all four countries participated in a regional seminar in Indonesia (see *Jakarta*). The Vietnamese General Department of Criminal Sentence Execution and the ICRC held several meetings in order to identify areas of potential cooperation.

More detainees in Thailand visited by the ICRC

Detainees in 36 places of detention, including 23 police stations and 1 police interrogation centre in southern Thailand, received visits from ICRC delegates. Efforts to gain access to detainees held in all other places of temporary detention under emergency laws or in army camps continued.

Vulnerable detainees such as migrants and women were paid particular attention during prison visits. Whenever necessary, detainees contacted relatives via RCMs and received visits from them with the ICRC's help. Detainees, in particular migrants and women, benefited from hygiene articles, books and sports items. Sanitation conditions in three prisons improved following the provision of kitchen and water/sanitation equipment. Some 8,000 detainees affected by flooding in southern Thailand received emergency assistance from Thai Red Cross/ICRC teams.

Former security detainees were visited by ICRC delegates to assess their well-being after release.

At year-end, the ICRC had not yet received a final answer to its offer of services made to the Thai authorities to visit persons arrested in relation to the unrest in May 2010.

Detainees in Cambodia obtain improved living conditions

The General Department of Prisons in Cambodia pursued efforts to cope with the increasing number of detainees accommodated in old and overcrowded prisons. To support this process, an ICRC-recruited consultant carried out an assessment of the causes of the overcrowding, the final report of which was endorsed by the authorities. Plans were made to bring together relevant stakeholders to address the issues identified in 2011 with ICRC technical support. Meanwhile, ICRC delegates continued to regularly visit people held in prisons throughout Cambodia.

CIVILIANS		LAO PDR	THAILAND
Economic security, water and habitat			
Food	Beneficiaries		30,000
Essential household items	Beneficiaries		30,000
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries		30
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	557	

Following an ICRC-organized seminar on health care in prisons in 2009, the General Department of Prisons health office, the Ministry of Health and NGOs working in prisons strengthened their cooperation, including through bi-monthly meetings facilitated by the ICRC. In a significant step forward, the Ministries of Health and Interior signed a letter of agreement defining their respective responsibilities on health in prisons. Subsequently, health staff from all prisons attended a training course on tuberculosis (TB) supported by the ICRC. Several NGOs extended their support to other prisons, especially in the fields of HIV/AIDS and TB. At a second national seminar, facilitated by the ICRC in Phnom Penh, high-level representatives of the Health and Interior Ministries, prison directors and health staff discussed the year's achievements in combating TB in prisons and the steps ahead.

Some 8,000 detainees in 12 prisons enjoyed better living conditions, water supply and sanitation thanks to the upgrade and maintenance of infrastructure by engineers from the General Department of Prisons in cooperation with the ICRC. Salient projects included the equipping of a new prison with a solar water-pumping system and the installation of a biogas system in another prison. In addition, 9,200 detainees received ICRC hygiene items; nearly 2,700 of them were given anti-scabies treatment, conducted by prison health staff equipped and trained by the ICRC. In addition, anti-fungal treatment was carried out in one prison and other help was provided following cholera outbreaks and flooding.

The setting up of small-scale economic security projects in selected prisons was postponed, pending a full needs assessment by specialist ICRC staff in early 2011.

WOUNDED AND SICK

A total of 79 weapon-wounded patients from Myanmar seeking treatment in Thai hospitals, including 49 civilians injured by anti-personnel mines or shelling, had their medical costs covered by the ICRC.

The Thai authorities, medical NGOs and the ICRC initiated coordination efforts with a view to streamlining access to adequate rehabilitation services for war-wounded patients in need of artificial limbs.

Around 100 Thai surgeons, health personnel from various hospitals situated along the border with Myanmar, and medical staff from Karen areas of Myanmar received training in treating violence-related injuries at a seminar on weapon-wound management at Mae Sot Hospital, organized by the ICRC with the Thai Red Cross.

Physical rehabilitation services in Cambodia receive support

Despite longstanding mine-clearance and mine-risk education activities, in 2010 Cambodia registered its first increase in casualties resulting from landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) since 2005, with nearly 20% more people either killed or injured than in 2009. Many survivors among the 60,000 recorded mine/ERW casualties and other physically disabled persons still required regular rehabilitative and/or medical care.

Some 10,660 people in need of treatment had access to adequate services at the two ICRC-supported regional physical rehabilitation centres in Battambang and Kampong Speu. The national component factory in Phnom Penh ensured the production and supply of necessary components for the manufacture of prostheses, orthoses and walking aids to all physical rehabilitation service providers in Cambodia, including the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics. Rehabilitation centre and factory staff strengthened their technical and managerial skills thanks to ICRC mentoring and training opportunities.

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation continued gradually to take over increased financial and managerial responsibilities for running the two centres and the component factory, developing new tools for coordinating and leading the rehabilitation sector with ICRC support.

In cooperation with the ministry and the ICRC, Cambodian Red Cross Society branches played an active role in referring physically

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM		CAMBODIA	THAILAND
ICRC visits			
Detainees visited		8,122	660
Detainees visited and monitored individually		58	660
	<i>of whom women</i>	2	1
Detainees newly registered		5	134
	<i>of whom women</i>		1
Number of visits carried out		19	54
Number of places of detention visited		12	36
Restoring family links			
RCMs collected		1	33
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support			44

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM		CAMBODIA	THAILAND
Economic security, water and habitat			
Food	Beneficiaries		8,000
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	9,209	9,480
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	7,947	

disabled persons living in remote areas to the two centres. In addition, outreach teams comprising prosthetists, orthotists and physiotherapists carried out 176 field trips from Battambang and 116 trips from Kampong Speu, during which:

- ▶ 8,465 patients' conditions and needs were assessed
- ▶ 4,636 prostheses/orthoses and 654 wheelchairs were repaired
- ▶ 856 crutches and 171 wheelchairs were delivered
- ▶ 132 appointments were arranged for patients at the 2 centres

Sixty patients who had received services in ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres were referred to NGOs working in the field of socio-economic reintegration and inclusion. The two centres benefited from general maintenance and renovation work conducted with ICRC technical support.

AUTHORITIES

During the violence in Bangkok, the Thai authorities and the ICRC had contacts regarding the organization's mandate and possible role in situations of violence, protection of the medical mission, and respect for and use of the red cross emblem. At the end of the demonstrations, meetings with the Thai prime minister, the foreign minister and other high-ranking officials strengthened this dialogue.

In their contacts with the ICRC, government representatives in all four countries covered, including staff of ASEAN national secretariats, were encouraged to take steps to accede to major IHL treaties not yet ratified and familiarized with ICRC activities, humanitarian principles and IHL, with a view to gaining their support.

Representatives of various Thai ministries learnt more about the legal and technical aspects of the Convention on Cluster Munitions at a round-table discussion, co-organized by the Thai Foreign Ministry and the ICRC in order to promote ratification by Thailand of the treaty.

The first meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions was held in Vientiane, attended by representatives of 121 governments. The ICRC was represented by a delegation led by Vice-President Christine Beerli.

Government officials and academics in Cambodia and the Lao PDR had access to more information on customary IHL after a summary article on the subject was translated into the national languages with ICRC support.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

After introducing a new IHL curriculum in key military educational and training establishments, the Thai Defence Ministry worked to ensure sufficient teaching capacity. To back up these efforts, the ICRC supplied translated IHL texts and other materials and facilitated four officers' participation in the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations, held in

Lucerne, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*); IHL courses in San Remo; and the Annual Senior Officers' Security and Law Conference at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. RTARF troops preparing for UN peacekeeping missions attended ICRC pre-deployment briefings.

Cambodian military personnel participating in a US-sponsored exercise attended briefings on the ICRC and IHL. The ICRC was prepared to support the National Society in reviving a programme to assist IHL instructors in delivering their courses, once it was ready.

Senior military representatives from ASEAN member States learnt more about the ICRC's support to military training and educational facilities during a symposium at the National Defence Studies Institute of Thailand.

The Royal Thai Police Education Bureau and the ICRC worked together to raise awareness of international human rights law and internationally recognized standards of policing. Over 20 senior police officers attended an ICRC workshop on the subject, while an experienced instructor took part in an international conference for senior law enforcement officials in Geneva. Police officers from several Asian countries attended an ICRC module on policing and human rights standards at a regional conference organized by the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok.

Leaders of armed groups from Myanmar were periodically briefed on the ICRC's activities and the need to respect and promote respect for IHL, with emphasis on the issues of child soldiers and anti-personnel mines.

CIVIL SOCIETY

A broad spectrum of civil society – the media, NGOs, think-tanks, and, in Thailand, political parties, professional associations and community leaders – gained greater knowledge of humanitarian issues and understanding of the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent mandate and humanitarian activities through presentations and briefings, backed up by publications and audiovisual materials in local languages.

A team of students from Thailand's Chulalongkorn University tested their skills at the regional IHL moot court competition in Hong Kong (see *Beijing*), while a first-ever national moot court competition was held in Cambodia, co-organized by the Royal University of Law and Economics and the ICRC.

Some 60 students and lecturers from the National University of Laos learnt more about IHL at a seminar, while Thai students and lecturers visiting the ICRC delegation in Bangkok were familiarized with the organization and its work.

The Thai Red Cross Youth Bureau, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, monitored pilot lessons given by teachers using Exploring Humanitarian Law materials in 15 schools in

Bangkok and eight provinces. Selected programme materials in Thai were revised accordingly, in preparation for integration into the Red Cross Youth curriculum in secondary schools from 2011.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

During the unrest in Bangkok, the Thai Red Cross and the ICRC remained in regular contact. Leaflets on the emblem were handed over to the National Society for distribution. Other support, offered on several occasions, was not required.

In Thailand and Viet Nam, the National Societies provided flood victims with food, clothing and shelter items, with significant local funding and Movement support.

Staff from all four National Societies participated in a workshop on human remains management in Indonesia (see *Jakarta*).

The Cambodian Red Cross assessed current needs for family-links services, paying special attention to migrants and human-trafficking victims. It provided such services to the families of victims of a stampede in Phnom Penh and handled over 300 tracing requests. The Red Cross of Viet Nam held a workshop to raise government officials' awareness of family-links services and discuss coordination in case of natural disaster. Representatives of all four National Societies honed their skills at an ICRC/Cambodian Red Cross regional family-links meeting in Phnom Penh and at a workshop on restoring family links in disasters in Malaysia (see *Kuala Lumpur*).

All four National Societies received ICRC financial support for their communication programmes. An International Federation/ICRC initiative to train Thai Red Cross trainers in basic Movement matters continued.

The Cambodian Red Cross pursued its mine-risk reduction and education programme, with the support of the Australian Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the ICRC. The pilot project with the Red Cross of Viet Nam aimed at reducing the impact of ERW ended successfully in central Viet Nam and was extended to two other districts. Six first-aid courses for community representatives and volunteers were completed in Quang Tri province.

The Cambodian Red Cross revised its statutes with guidance from the ICRC/International Federation Joint Statutory Commission.