

SRI LANKA



ICRC delegation ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

In 2013:

- ▶ detainees in prisons and rehabilitation centres benefited again from previously suspended ICRC visits aimed at monitoring their treatment and living conditions
- ▶ some 2,250 detainees in 3 prisons enjoyed better living conditions owing to the renovation of water facilities, wards and a kitchen
- ▶ dialogue developed between the authorities and the ICRC regarding missing persons and their families, resulting in the resumption of some ICRC tracing activities in the north
- ▶ 152 former weapon bearers released from rehabilitation centres and 650 households headed by women and disabled persons increased their incomes by restarting livelihoods with the help of cash grants
- ▶ vulnerable people in the northern and eastern provinces accessed drinking water and sanitation facilities despite delays in the implementation of Sri Lanka Red Cross Society/ICRC projects

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)	
Protection	2,574
Assistance	1,087
Prevention	814
Cooperation with National Societies	438
General	-
	4,913

of which: Overheads 300

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	93%
PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	10
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	68

The ICRC has worked in Sri Lanka since 1989. Operations focus on assisting civilians affected by the past armed conflict; visiting detainees; enabling family members to remain in touch; supporting the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in helping boost the economic security of returnees, former detainees and particularly vulnerable residents; improving access to physical rehabilitation facilities; and supporting military training in IHL.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

HIGH

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	18
RCMs distributed	126
Phone calls facilitated between family members	80
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	55
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited and monitored individually	834
Number of visits carried out	53
Number of places of detention visited	27
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	157
RCMs distributed	25
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	50

ASSISTANCE	Targets	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Cash	Beneficiaries	3,200
		615
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	31,500
		12,985
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Physical rehabilitation		
Centres supported	Structures	1
		1
Patients receiving services	Patients	1,000
		1,573
Comments		
Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table may not reflect all activities carried out during the reporting period.		

CONTEXT

With macro-economic growth and stability restored after the end of the armed conflict in 2009, Sri Lanka continued on its path to recovery. The closure of Menik Farm in Vavuniya district in 2012 marked the end of major displacement in the country, with IDPs returning to their areas of origin – an undertaking that entailed allocating massive resources, rebuilding essential government services, demining land, and coordinating various aid providers. Despite these efforts, many returnees had still not established their livelihoods and access to basic services in some areas was still inadequate. Thousands of people remained unaccounted for, leaving their relatives in a constant state of anguish over their uncertain fate.

The number of people held in relation to the past conflict – both in places of temporary and permanent detention and in rehabilitation centres – decreased to 961.

The government implemented an action plan – created in response to recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission – to tackle the needs of those affected by the conflict, including returnees, families of missing persons and detainees; however, this met some delays. It also established a Commission of Inquiry on Disappearances and began an island-wide survey to determine the number of people killed and to assess the damage to property, with a view to compiling a list of the missing and the dead and creating a compensation scheme for the families affected.

Intercommunal tensions broke out in some parts of the country and demonstrations over the rising cost of living sometimes led to violent confrontations and arrests.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC continued to contribute to addressing the consequences of the past armed conflict in Sri Lanka. Whenever possible, it operated in partnership with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, which used ICRC financial, material and technical support to develop its emergency response and recovery capacities and its family-links services.

Following discussions with the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms (MoRPR), the ICRC regained access to prisons and rehabilitation centres. It resumed its visits to these places and also continued to visit persons held under the Terrorism Investigation Department (TID) and the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) and at police stations. ICRC delegates monitored inmates' treatment and living conditions, in accordance with the organization's standard procedures, and reported their findings and recommendations confidentially to the detaining authorities. The ICRC also restarted discussions with the authorities on addressing the causes and consequences of overcrowding. In some prisons, living conditions for inmates improved as a result of infrastructure rehabilitation projects implemented and material assistance provided by the authorities or the ICRC. National Society- and/or ICRC-facilitated family visits and RCMs helped detainees restore/maintain contact with their relatives, including those living abroad.

Dialogue developed between the authorities and the ICRC regarding missing persons and their families, notably on the need to establish a centralized database and a national mechanism and on an ICRC proposal to assess the needs of families of the missing. The government allowed the ICRC to resume some tracing activities in the north.

The National Society/ICRC continued to offer and reinforce their family-links services to people, including migrants, seeking to restore/maintain contact with their relatives. To help build national forensic capacities – particularly in relation to disaster response – the ICRC sponsored the participation of forensic experts in local and international training courses.

People in the northern provinces still struggling with the effects of the past armed conflict improved their livelihoods with National Society/ICRC support. Rehabilitees and households headed by women or disabled persons increased their incomes with the help of cash grants. A review of the micro-economic initiative launched in Vavuniya in 2011 and completed in 2013 showed that over half of the beneficiaries had increased their income by 60%. Despite some delays faced by the National Society/ICRC, vulnerable people in the northern and eastern provinces, including school-children, accessed drinking water and maintained their hygiene with the installation of water points and toilets.

The Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation (JJCDR) continued to provide services for people with conflict-related disabilities and worked towards self-sustainability, with ICRC technical and material support. Financial assistance to amputees treated at the Navajeevana physical rehabilitation centre ended by year's close.

In addition to helping address residual humanitarian needs, the ICRC held meetings, conducted study tours and organized events to encourage the authorities and civil society members to participate in scholarly discussions on IHL in post-conflict Sri Lanka and to advance IHL implementation. The armed forces/police developed their training programmes through evaluations and workshops conducted jointly with the ICRC; military officers deepened their knowledge of the relevant norms and standards on law enforcement.

CIVILIANS

Vulnerable communities in the northern and eastern provinces still struggling to cope with the consequences of the past armed conflict covered some of their needs with Sri Lanka Red Cross/ICRC assistance. With material, technical and training support from the ICRC, National Society staff in these provincial branches expanded their capacities to assess needs, to follow up and monitor livelihood activities, notably micro-economic initiatives, and to manage and maintain water sources. Administrative constraints faced by the National Society during the first half of the year led to delays in the implementation of National Society/ICRC projects, the cancellation of joint activities in Kilinochchi district and the partial reallocation of the ICRC budget for water improvement projects to prison infrastructure rehabilitation (see *People deprived of their freedom*). Increased dialogue between the two organizations helped overcome constraints in the provision of micro-economic initiatives by year-end.

Rehabilitees and returnees speed up their social reintegration

With the conclusion of the pilot micro-economic initiative launched in the Vavuniya district in 2011, a review confirmed that 70% of the primarily female or disabled heads of households who had received training and financial support had ensured the sustainability of their livelihoods and that half of the total beneficiaries had increased their income by 60%.

In Mullaitivu district, 650 female and disabled heads of households (3,250 people) restored their livelihoods through cash grants. Around 70% of them covered their daily expenses with their earnings; some of them used their income to repair their houses or to pay for their children's education.

At the government's request, similar livelihood support was provided to rehabilitees – people linked to the past armed conflict who had been released from the rehabilitation centres where they were being held. As a result, 152 of them increased the income of their families (in total 615 people) by starting/resuming businesses, such as livestock breeding, thereby easing their social reintegration. These rehabilitees replaced the remaining cash grant beneficiaries in Mullaitivu.

Over 9,100 vulnerable people in remote and disaster-prone areas of the northern and eastern provinces regained access to safe drinking water following the disinfection of public and school wells or the construction of open dug wells. In Mullaitivu district, around 3,800 people, including schoolchildren, maintained their health and hygiene following the installation of water tanks and toilets and their participation in National Society hygiene-promotion sessions.

Families of missing persons have their tracing requests pursued

Dialogue developed between the authorities and the ICRC, particularly on the need to create a national mechanism and a centralized system for data collection and on an ICRC proposal to conduct an assessment on the needs of families of the missing. During a workshop, government officials, representatives of NGOs involved in counselling, and mental health providers learnt more about supporting the families of the missing, especially by helping them cope with uncertainty and loss.

Foreigners and Sri Lankans in the country, as well as migrants abroad, continued to seek help in tracing relatives with whom they had lost contact or who were unaccounted for, submitting tracing requests to National Society branches or the ICRC in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. The authorities allowed the ICRC to resume its tracing activities in the northern province for potential cases related to the armed conflict. Nearly 30 families confirmed being reunited with previously missing relatives.

The National Society, with ICRC support, developed its family-links services, strengthening its relations with migration and prison authorities, embassies concerned and National Societies abroad, and regularly facilitating the collection/distribution of RCMs for detained migrants (see *People deprived of their freedom*). It also contributed to a workshop on enhancing the Movement's family-links strategy for migrants (see *Kuala Lumpur*). Coaching/training equipped volunteers from branches in the northern and eastern provinces to collect or respond to tracing requests and RCMs efficiently. The National Society also drew up contingency plans for mobilizing additional volunteers in the event of monsoon-related emergencies.

Forensic specialists better equipped to respond to disasters

To help build national expertise and capacities for responding to disasters, 42 specialists, mainly Health Ministry consultants, took part in the first forensic anthropology training session in Colombo, jointly held by the Health Ministry and an international organization specializing in the subject. Some of their colleagues also

participated in various forensics courses abroad, including one co-organized by the ICRC (see *Iran, Islamic Republic of*). A draft set of guidelines for managing dead bodies after disasters, drawn up by the Health Ministry-chaired national steering committee, awaited approval by the authorities.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees receive ICRC visits again

Following discussions between the MoRPR and the ICRC, the MoRPR permitted the organization to resume its visits to detainees in prisons and rehabilitation centres under its authority, after a one- and three-year suspension of visits in these facilities, respectively.

Detainees in MoRPR facilities, as well as those held in places of detention under TID, CID and police responsibility, received visits from ICRC delegates who assessed their treatment and living conditions according to the ICRC's standard procedures. They included people held in relation to the past armed conflict and under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. In total, 834 inmates in 27 places of detention benefited from individual monitoring. During visits, ICRC delegates provided the detaining authorities with confidential reports containing their findings and recommendations.

In parallel, the authorities, particularly from the MoRPR, and the ICRC resumed dialogue on the organization's 2011 offer to work with the authorities in addressing the causes and consequences of severe overcrowding that affected inmates in all prisons, including through possible support to detainee health care. The Justice Ministry, with input from an ICRC-sponsored consultant, completed the new Prison Administration Act, which was pending the approval of ministries concerned. Two MoRPR senior staff shared experiences and identified best practices in prison management at a course in Switzerland.

Detainees ease their living conditions

Independently or with ICRC material and technical support, detaining authorities in some facilities sought to improve the living conditions and diet of inmates, including high security detainees, as well as the family visits programme; for example, prisoners in TID centres participated in carpentry, computer and machine-repair workshops. ICRC infrastructure projects, which included the rehabilitation of water facilities, renovation of a kitchen and a visitors' area, and thermal insulation of wards, enhanced the living conditions of some 2,250 inmates in three prisons.

Around 9,800 detainees in the facilities visited, including migrants and those being held on drug-related charges, maintained their hygiene with cleaning materials and hygiene kits and eased the monotony of their incarceration with books and indoor/outdoor games. Disabled inmates regained their mobility with the help of crutches.

National Society/ICRC family-links services, such as RCMs, helped inmates in MoRPR and TID facilities keep in touch with their families. Migrants informed relatives of their detention through phone calls, and over 920 detainees maintained contact with family members who visited them every six weeks. Coverage of their transport costs home enabled 13 released detainees to save their often meagre resources for essentials.

WOUNDED AND SICK

ICRC-supported centre works toward sustainability

Some 1,500 amputees regained their mobility and functional ability with the help of the various services provided by the ICRC-supported JJCDR, the only longstanding physical rehabilitation centre in the north, which notably produced 297 prostheses and 278 orthoses, as well as other assistive devices.

The JJCDR, with ICRC technical/administrative support, raised most of the funds for its services from various sources. Two of its technicians refined their skills during a week-long training course at the Sri Lanka School of Prosthetics and Orthotics.

Nearly 70 economically vulnerable amputees had the cost of their rehabilitative care covered at the Navajeevana centre, a local NGO dedicated to helping disabled people in the south. ICRC financial support for these patients ended by year's close, as various actors already addressed their needs.

AUTHORITIES, ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Authorities discuss post-conflict humanitarian needs

The authorities, members of civil society, academic institutions and students participated in various events aimed at furthering understanding of the humanitarian priorities in Sri Lanka and cultivating support for IHL and the ICRC. Two round-tables, one co-organized with a local think-tank, enabled high-level authorities, academics and IHL experts to debate contemporary issues related to IHL. University students maintained their interest in the topic by participating in national and regional competitions (see *New Delhi*).

Government/army officials and university lecturers attended workshops abroad and local training courses that promoted the government's accession to several treaties, as well as the incorporation of IHL and/or internationally recognized standards in domestic law, in university curricula and in security forces' training and operations (see *Bangladesh, Caracas and International law and cooperation*).

The national IHL committee, with ICRC technical support, assessed the integration of IHL-related treaties into domestic law and continued the translation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions into the local languages. Bilateral dialogue with ministry officials focused on implementing weapon-related treaties and on the ICRC's offer to help the government put into practice some aspects of its action plan (see *Context*).

Police instructors enhance their teaching capacities

Over 40 army instructors reviewed their training programme with ICRC delegates to improve its quality and ensure its sustainability; advanced IHL seminars better prepared 64 air force, army and navy instructors for their tasks. Workshops and refresher courses, including for civil-military liaison officers and military officers from abroad, promoted respect for IHL. Moreover, 36 senior and 175 army officers underwent training that improved their grasp of relevant norms and standards on law enforcement.

The Sri Lanka Police Department, with ICRC input, reviewed its departmental orders, while its instructors evaluated their training programme at a curriculum development workshop. Trainers enhanced their teaching capacities by means of a resource centre set up with ICRC support; nearly 230 of them took part

in train-the-trainer courses. As a result, police officers, including newly recruited female inspectors and Tamil police officers, furthered their understanding of internationally recognized standards on the use of force and firearms.

At the UN peacekeeping training school, 2,215 personnel departing on peacekeeping missions learnt about IHL and the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action.

Journalists report on remaining humanitarian issues

Several initiatives, such as field trips and international conferences on conflict reporting (see *New Delhi*), for members of the media enabled them to report on remaining humanitarian issues in Sri Lanka and on National Society/ICRC activities for people affected by the consequences of the past conflict. At a round-table, local journalists and a veteran journalist from Nepal exchanged experiences and challenges in reporting the needs of families of the missing. Two reporters undertook a study tour in Nepal to see how the Nepalese authorities dealt with the needs of the families of missing persons. Over 10,000 people learnt about humanitarian principles and the Movement through dissemination sessions and community activities conducted by ICRC-trained National Society volunteers; World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May) celebrations reached an even broader audience.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Society boosts its emergency response capacities

The Sri Lankan Red Cross remained the ICRC's main operational partner. With ICRC financial, technical and material support, it responded to the needs of vulnerable communities by restoring family links, supporting income-generation activities and carrying out water and habitat projects (see *Civilians*). Training in first aid, search and rescue, rapid assessment and mine-risk education helped disaster response teams throughout the country strengthen their emergency preparedness and implement activities in accordance with the Safer Access Framework. These teams included 100 volunteers trained at the Anuradhapura and Bentota training centres, established with ICRC support.

ICRC-trained National Society volunteers helped promote humanitarian principles and the Movement through various activities (see *Authorities, armed forces and other bearers of weapons, and civil society*).

The National Society, with technical support from the ICRC, proceeded with the revision of its statutes and the drafting of a Red Cross Act. It regularly coordinated with Movement components to ensure a coherent response.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total		
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected		18		
RCMs distributed		126		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		80		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		95	20	18
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		55		
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		16,137	831	1,583
UAMs/SCs*, including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers			Girls	Demobilized children
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		18	8	
Documents				
People to whom travel documents were issued		15		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits			Women	Minors
Detainees visited and monitored individually		834	40	
Detainees newly registered		193	8	
Number of visits carried out		53		
Number of places of detention visited		27		
Restoring family links				
RCMs collected		157		
RCMs distributed		25		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		50		
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		922		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		709		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

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)				
Cash ¹	Beneficiaries	615	28%	37%
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	12,985	44%	44%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	3,246	
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	9,839		
Cash	Beneficiaries	13		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	2,250		
Health				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		11		
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		11		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Physical rehabilitation				
Centres supported	Structures	1		
Patients receiving services	Patients	1,573	423	130
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	104	28	2
Prostheses delivered	Units	320	87	6
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	109	
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	153	44	57
Orthoses delivered	Units	325	81	108
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	1	
Patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	708	200	99
Crutches delivered	Units	234		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	30		

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