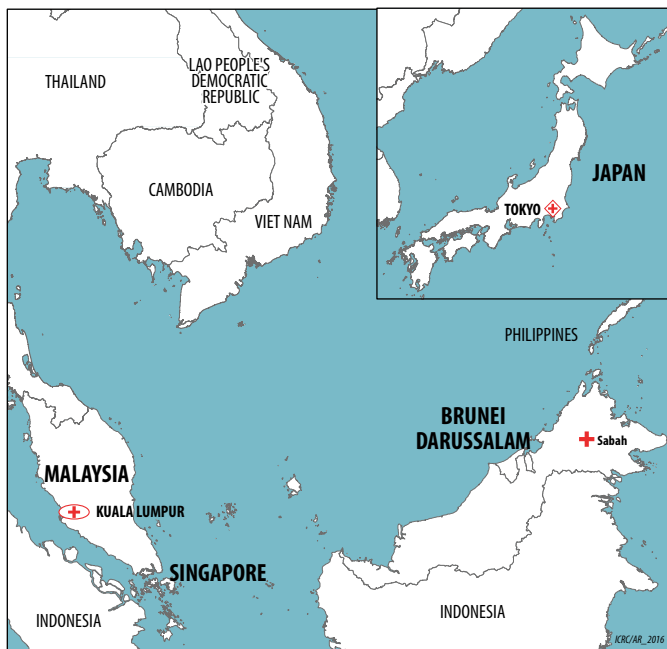


KUALA LUMPUR (regional)

COVERING: Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore



ICRC regional delegation ICRC mission ICRC office

Having worked in Malaysia since 1972, the ICRC established the Kuala Lumpur regional delegation in 2001 and a mission in Japan in 2012. It works with governments and National Societies – including through the regional resource centre supporting delegations in East and South-East Asia and the Pacific – to promote IHL and humanitarian principles and gain support for the Movement’s activities. In Malaysia, it visits detainees, works with authorities to address issues identified during visits, and helps detained migrants contact their families. In Sabah, it works with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society in favour of communities in the field of health.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

MEDIUM

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ Communities in Sabah, Malaysia, were better placed to address basic health issues after residents and Malaysian Red Crescent Society volunteers were trained in first aid and/or good hygiene practices.
- ▶ In Malaysia, people held in immigration detention centres availed themselves of expanded Movement family-links services; six centres benefited from ad hoc donations of medical equipment and medicines from the ICRC.
- ▶ Government agencies in Malaysia and Movement partners across the region strove to improve their responses to the humanitarian consequences of migration; they reflected on this issue at various events held in Malaysia.
- ▶ Military lawyers from the countries covered and from armed forces in other Asia-Pacific countries strengthened their grasp of IHL and cultivated relationships with the ICRC, following two events on laws governing military operations.
- ▶ Several constraints led to the postponement, cancellation or adjustment of some planned activities.

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	60
RCMs distributed	101
Phone calls facilitated between family members	3,157
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	16
People reunited with their families	3
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	24,314
Detainees visited and monitored individually	866
Number of visits carried out	50
Number of places of detention visited	14
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	272
RCMs distributed	35
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	635

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	1,430
Assistance	799
Prevention	2,914
Cooperation with National Societies	619
General	77
Total	5,839
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>356</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	92%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	18
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	39

CONTEXT

Migration and human trafficking remained prominent topics of discussion in the region. Conflicting territorial claims in the South China Sea continued to cause political tensions.

In Malaysia, the government dealt with migration by detaining, or where possible, repatriating irregular migrants. New laws and measures related to security were introduced; these were said to be a response to attacks in the region and to the alleged recruitment of Malaysians by foreign armed groups. Malaysia contributed troops to peacekeeping operations abroad.

A reorganization of Japan's Self-Defense Forces began, after laws redefining its role took effect in 2016.

In Singapore, the armed/security forces were reportedly on alert, in response to threats of "terrorism".

The political situation and the economy in Brunei Darussalam remained stable; discussions concerning a defence partnership with the United States of America's Pacific Command (USPACOM) were under way.

Countries in the region contributed to efforts by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN; see *Jakarta*) to promote regional cooperation in such matters as disaster management and migration.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC pursued initiatives to broaden awareness of and support for humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement among influential parties throughout the region. In Malaysia, it also endeavoured to address humanitarian issues concerning detainees, members of dispersed families, and particularly vulnerable people in Sabah.

The ICRC continued to visit detainees held in prisons and immigration detention centres in Malaysia, including in Sabah. It strove to secure regular access to security detainees. After its visits, the ICRC discussed its findings on detainees' treatment and living conditions confidentially with the authorities concerned. Information sessions with prison and immigration department staff, on such matters as disease control and project management, supplemented these discussions. Several immigration detention centres were better placed to treat sick inmates following donations of medical equipment and medicines from the ICRC.

To help address the health needs of communities in remote rural areas of Sabah, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society and the ICRC held first-aid training sessions for residents and National Society volunteers, and hygiene-promotion sessions for schoolchildren.

Members of families dispersed by migration or detention restored or maintained contact using the Movement's family-links services. In Malaysia, in particular, people in immigration detention centres benefited from the increased availability of means to contact their families, following the National Society's efforts to provide, with the ICRC's support, more frequent and expanded family-links services there.

At several occasions, National Societies and other Movement components in the region discussed their roles in enhancing the provision of family-links services along migratory routes. The ICRC

facilitated discussions with and among Malaysian government agencies and Movement partners in the Asia-Pacific region on improving and coordinating the response to the humanitarian consequences of migration.

Authorities in the region continued to draw on the ICRC's expertise for implementing IHL-related treaties – particularly, the Arms Trade Treaty. The ICRC continued to work with the authorities and with sections of civil society – including academic institutions and the media – to broaden awareness of humanitarian issues. It organized and attended various events, and sponsored participation in specific events for people with influence over the humanitarian agenda. These events included: an experts' meeting on the Strengthening IHL process; seminars organized with the Japanese government and the Japanese Red Cross Society on sexual violence in armed conflict; and events held with Malaysian and Singaporean think-tanks and universities. The ICRC maintained its dialogue with regional bodies/forums such as the ASEAN secretariats of the countries covered and the ASEAN body for coordinating police work (ASEANAPOL), which was based in Malaysia.

Armed/security forces personnel in the region learnt more about IHL, other international norms, and the Movement at ICRC training sessions or presentations held locally or abroad – for instance, a regional workshop on IHL applicable to armed conflicts at sea. The ICRC cultivated relationships with military lawyers in the Asia-Pacific region at two events focused on laws governing military operations.

University students refined their understanding of IHL at lectures and competitions. National Societies in the region worked on improving IHL instruction in their secondary-school and/or youth programmes. ICRC communication/information materials and events helped journalists to produce stories on humanitarian themes.

Movement components in the four countries continued to cooperate and offer each other support. The Singapore Red Cross Society and the ICRC pursued efforts to explore possibilities for private-sector fundraising. With help from their partners, the National Societies in the region strengthened their ability to respond to emergencies, particularly with regard to restoring family links, and reinforced their organizational capacities.

A number of constraints forced the ICRC to postpone, cancel or adjust some activities.

CIVILIANS

Schoolchildren and residents in Sabah learn more about good health and hygiene practices

People in remote rural areas of Sabah, some of whom were migrants or stateless, continued to face difficulties in obtaining good-quality health care. To help make health care more accessible in these communities, around 250 residents and Malaysian Red Crescent Society volunteers learnt to administer first aid at training sessions conducted by the National Society and the ICRC; with the local government's support, training sessions were held in parts of eastern Sabah for the first time. Over 1,500 elementary-school students also learnt good hygiene practices at information sessions held in coordination with Sabah state's education department. Schoolteachers and National Society instructors were better placed to organize such training and information sessions themselves after the ICRC had instructed them in the basics.

During various meetings, representatives of Sabah health agencies, the National Society and the ICRC discussed public-health needs and areas of cooperation in addressing them, but no concrete joint projects – such as outreach services and initiatives to improve the water supply in communities with health issues – could be developed during the period. The National Society branch in Sabah continued to receive guidance and support from the ICRC for improving and expanding its health-related activities.

Members of families dispersed by migration or detention restore or maintain contact

People throughout Malaysia used the Movement's family-links services to keep in touch with relatives separated from them. For instance, the families of two detainees held at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba exchanged news with their relatives through RCMs and video calls, and through oral messages relayed by an ICRC delegate who had visited the internees.

Movement components across the region discussed measures for improving the provision of family-links services and for incorporating such services in regional disaster preparedness and response programmes. During an event in Malaysia, people providing family-links services, from 21 National Societies and Movement offices in Asia, shared experiences and best practices in implementing the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement, as well as their views on the next strategy. They also discussed the Movement's new code of conduct for data protection. On other occasions, the Malaysian Red Crescent, National Societies in countries adjacent to the Andaman Sea (where major incidents involving migrants had occurred in 2015), and the ICRC discussed their roles in enhancing the provision of family-links services along migratory routes (see below).

Plans to assess family-links and other protection needs of particularly vulnerable migrant communities in Malaysia, and to follow up the situation of victims of human trafficking in government-run shelters, were cancelled. This was because of various constraints in this regard, and the National Society's and the ICRC's shift in focus towards enhancing family-links services for detained migrants (see below).

Government agencies and Movement partners strive to improve humanitarian response to migration

At a round-table discussion, Malaysian armed and security forces officers and immigration and national security staff – drawing on their experiences in past emergencies, such as the Andaman Sea operations – exchanged views with the ICRC on the humanitarian consequences of migration. With a view to improving their response mechanisms, the participants at the round-table shared their current methods of response and reflected on the task of balancing the specific vulnerabilities of migrants with the requirements of their own security framework. ICRC sponsorship enabled forensic professionals from the Malaysian police and maritime enforcement agencies to familiarize themselves with developments in their field at a conference in Indonesia.

During a meeting in Malaysia, organized with the support of the Asia Pacific Migration Network, the leaders and focal points for migration of 18 National Societies in the Asia-Pacific region, and representatives from the International Federation and the ICRC, shared their respective approaches to addressing humanitarian issues arising from migration. They identified complementarities

in their responses, with a view to adopting a coherent regional approach to these issues. A formal network of National Society focal points for migration was established, thereby giving National Societies another channel for regular communication. The ICRC contributed to the debate on migration-related issues during events organized by multilateral platforms and think-tanks in the region.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in Malaysia, including people held in immigration centres in Sabah, receive visits

In Malaysia, some 23,000 detainees at five immigration detention centres and eight prisons (including facilities for women, juveniles and inmates nearing their release) received visits from ICRC delegates; these visits were conducted in accordance with the organization's standard procedures. The ICRC's dialogue with the authorities bore fruit, with the latter allowing the ICRC to visit people at a sixth immigration centre, located in Sabah, where another 1,200 detainees were being held. It continued to seek regular access to security detainees.

Delegates monitored detainees' treatment and living conditions, and afterwards, discussed the findings confidentially with the authorities concerned, focusing on identifying and addressing the needs of detainees with specific vulnerabilities, such as migrants, minors, women and the sick. A visit to juveniles in one facility that the ICRC had visited and provided recommendations for in the past revealed improvements in living conditions, such as the availability of additional activities and extended time out of holding blocks.

At the detainees' request, and with the approval of the detaining authorities, certain cases involving minors and other vulnerable detainees were referred to the IOM, UNHCR, or consular offices for specific assistance. Because of the increased availability of National Society/ICRC family-links services at immigration centres (see below), there were four times as many referrals as in 2015.

Prison and immigration officials and the ICRC maintained their dialogue on the welfare of detainees, particularly in connection with: the provision of health care (see below), sufficient water supply and adequate living quarters; the management of facilities; and ICRC support. Officers and senior civilian staff from the headquarters of the Malaysian prison department headquarters and from two prisons developed projects for addressing humanitarian issues in those two facilities, using what they had learnt at an ICRC-organized project management course. At a regional conference for correctional managers (see *Sri Lanka*), the director-general and two other officials from the prison department exchanged views with their regional counterparts on meeting humanitarian needs in prisons. The Malaysian prime minister's office, the Malaysian Bar Council and the ICRC discussed judicial guarantees for detained foreigners and minors. Immigration detention centre staff and junior prison officers learnt more about internationally recognized standards for detention at ICRC-facilitated information sessions.

Immigration detention centres are better placed to provide health care because of donated equipment

Six immigration detention centres became more capable of treating sick detainees following the ICRC's donation of basic medical equipment and medicines. The health ministry, the immigration department and the ICRC continued to shape plans for providing on-site health services at immigration detention centres. In Sabah, 30 local health officers, detention staff, doctors and nurses added to their knowledge of disease-prevention measures during a seminar

on health issues in places of detention; the seminar was jointly organized by the Kota Kinabalu district health office and the ICRC.

Soap donated by the ICRC helped some 1,170 detained migrants maintain their hygiene; 16 individuals received kits for infant care, which included recreational items.

Detainees in prisons also protected their health with soap and treatment cream distributed by the ICRC to aid efforts to mitigate scabies infections. Plans for a joint assessment of health-care provision in prisons were postponed because prison authorities were not available for it.

Detained migrants exchange more messages with their families through expanded Movement services

Detainees stayed in touch with their relatives through the Movement's family-links services. Those held in immigration detention centres, in particular, benefited from the increased availability of means to contact their families, as a result of Malaysian Red Crescent efforts to provide, with the ICRC's support, more frequent and expanded family-links services there. Mobile phone services were offered at some centres for the first time; more RCMs, oral messages and phone calls were exchanged between detainees and their families during the year than in 2015.

With assistance from the ICRC, several people, including minors, returned home, or were reunited with their families, after their release from detention. The ICRC provided them with travel documents, transport assistance and/or essential items for their journey.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The governments of Malaysia and Singapore continued to receive technical guidance from the ICRC for ratifying or implementing the Arms Trade Treaty, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and other IHL-related treaties, and for developing legal frameworks to facilitate the National Society's or the ICRC's work. Japan, Malaysia and Singapore expressed their views on the Strengthening IHL process at an experts' meeting held in Switzerland (see *International law and policy*). Policy-makers were also aided in their work by materials developed by Movement components, such as a handbook for Malaysian parliamentarians.

The ICRC's efforts to mobilize support for the humanitarian agenda among Japanese parliamentarians and to engage the Japanese and Malaysian national IHL committees were unsuccessful. The Malaysian Red Crescent, through its IHL committee, and the ICRC followed up the outcomes of the 32nd International Conference.

At a seminar in Japan, some 60 representatives from Japan, Malaysia and 13 other Asia-Pacific countries discussed such humanitarian issues as the protection of cultural property and the use of nuclear weapons. Other initiatives to promote understanding of and respect for humanitarian principles and IHL among key actors included: seminars organized with the Japanese government and the Japanese Red Cross on such topics as sexual violence in armed conflict and social inclusion of persons with disabilities; forums held with Malaysian and Singaporean think-tanks and universities, on humanitarian action and the obstacles to it; and sponsorships for people to participate in local/overseas events, such as a regional IHL seminar (see *Beijing*) and a regional conference on humanitarian aid in Indonesia, at which two Islamic NGOs from Malaysia shared their experiences.

Meetings and information sessions with key actors – high-level audiences met by the ICRC president in Japan; regional bodies/forums such as ASEANAPOL, the ASEAN departments of governments in the region, the Asia-Pacific Roundtable, the Shangri-La Dialogue, the Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers, and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) which established an office in Singapore to support regional law enforcement operations; government training institutions; and in Malaysia, agencies working in Sabah – helped to foster understanding of the ICRC's work and to open areas of cooperation. In Singapore, the ICRC obtained government approval to establish a part-time presence in the country; it continued to consult the National Society on the matter.

Military lawyers in the Asia-Pacific region develop expertise in IHL

A course in Australia and a round-table in Malaysia on the laws governing military operations – the first ICRC-organized events of their kind held in the region – helped senior military legal advisers from the countries covered and from others present in the region develop their expertise in IHL and foster relations with their peers and with the ICRC. During a round-table (see *Civilians*), Malaysian armed and security forces officers and immigration and national security staff engaged in discussions with the ICRC on responding to the humanitarian consequences of migration.

The Malaysian armed forces sought the ICRC's input for revising its doctrine on the use of force, and for finalizing its plans to establish a regional IHL knowledge centre. Discussions took place between other armed and police forces in the region and the ICRC on the prospects of ICRC support for incorporating IHL in the doctrine and training programmes of these forces.

Instructors and officers attending command and staff colleges, peacekeeping or warfare training centres, police command courses, or national or multilateral exercises learnt more about IHL and other international norms – on detention, for example – and the Movement's work. They did so during ICRC training sessions/presentations, such as the annual seminar organized jointly with the National Institute for Defense Studies in Japan and a regional workshop on IHL applicable to armed conflicts at sea (see *Jakarta*). The first-time participation of National Societies in the Asia-Pacific region, the International Federation and the ICRC in a large-scale USPACOM biennial naval exercise helped to incorporate humanitarian perspectives more fully in the exercise.

Students and teachers, and other academics, strengthened their grasp of the ICRC's work and of contemporary IHL-related issues during lectures or presentations, local/regional moot court and other IHL-related competitions, and various events, including two in Singapore to mark the release of the latest commentary on the First Geneva Convention. Academics, instructors and National Society staff from seven countries, including Brunei Darussalam, discussed approaches to instructing secondary-school students in humanitarian principles at a regional meeting held in Hong Kong (see *Beijing*). The National Societies in Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Singapore developed IHL-related materials and activities, including camps and workshops, for their youth programmes.

A broad range of people familiarized themselves with IHL and the Movement at exhibitions, including one in Japan featuring a *manga* comic on the life of an African child soldier, held to coincide with the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African

Development, which took place in Kenya (see *Nairobi*). They also learnt more from traditional or web-based materials, and reports produced by journalists using ICRC-provided reference materials and knowledge gained from field trips and IHL-related training.

The Singaporean Red Cross and the ICRC continued to refine – sometimes in consultation with Singapore-based businesses and aid organizations – their joint strategy for raising funds from the private sector.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

With support from Movement partners, the region's National Societies developed their ability to respond to humanitarian needs. The Malaysian Red Crescent expanded its family-links services, and in Sabah, its health-related activities (see above). National Society staff in Japan and Singapore attended courses on health emergencies. The Japanese Red Cross contributed to the goals of the Health Care in Danger project through its membership in the Movement's reference group.

The Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society worked with the International Federation and the ICRC to draft an organizational development plan. The Malaysian Red Crescent completed an assessment of branch and organizational capacities and set up policy workshops for strengthening its legal base.

Movement components in the region coordinated their emergency response and their approach to civil-military relations in the Asia-Pacific region, and promoted the Safer Access Framework, for example during National Society workshops on disaster response.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		60			
RCMs distributed		101			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		3,157			
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families		3			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		23	5		3
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		6			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		16			
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		3			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		62	15	9	12
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		8			
Documents					
People to whom travel documents were issued		5			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		24,314	2,734	1,537	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		866	72	20	99
Detainees newly registered		843	69	20	97
Number of visits carried out		50			
Number of places of detention visited		14			
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		272			
RCMs distributed		35			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		635			

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	1,178	205	19
Cash	Beneficiaries	6		1