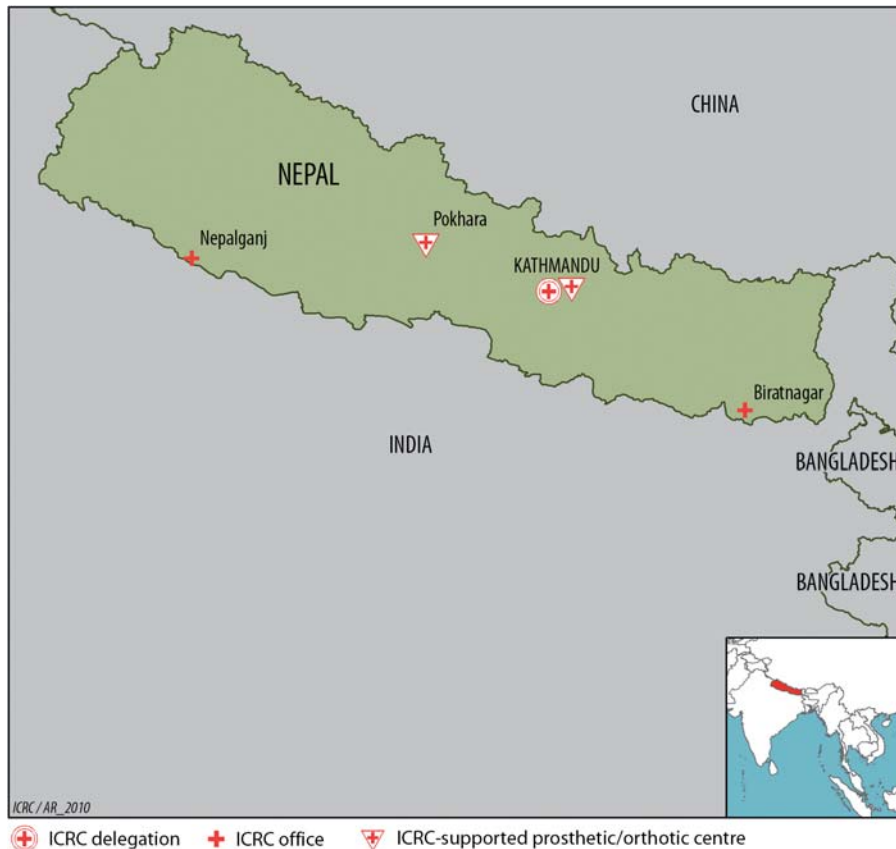


NEPAL



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	1,629
Assistance	943
Prevention	1,351
Cooperation with National Societies	934
General	-

► **4,857**

of which: Overheads 296

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	98%
---------------------------	-----

PERSONNEL

Expatriates	12
National staff (daily workers not included)	75

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- provided psychological, social, economic and legal support to families of missing persons, in partnership with local and international NGOs
- helped the Nepal Red Cross Society's first-aid and ambulance services to assist more than 6,100 people wounded in unrest
- with the National Society, supported the treatment of patients at 2 physical rehabilitation centres
- organized, for the first time in Nepal, the South Asia Teaching Session on IHL, attended by 45 officials from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Islamic Republic of Iran

The ICRC initially worked in Nepal out of its regional delegation in New Delhi, opening a delegation in Kathmandu in 2001. Since the May 2006 agreement between the government and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, the ICRC has focused on: clarifying the fate of missing persons and supporting their families; taking action on behalf of people deprived of their freedom; promoting full compliance with IHL; and improving medical care for the wounded. It works closely with the Nepal Red Cross Society.

CONTEXT

Little progress was made in Nepal's peace process in 2010. Power struggles between political parties persisted, hampering the government's efforts to fulfil its basic obligations. Major initiatives foreseen in the peace agreement and interim constitution, including the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission and a commission on missing persons, did not materialize. The integration of members of the Maoist People's Liberation Army (PLA) into the Nepalese Army and other security forces did not happen, and the drafting of a new constitution remained stalled owing to major differences on some of its core elements. Dissatisfaction led to confrontations between youth groups and student unions

affiliated to the various political parties and nationwide strikes. A week-long strike at the beginning of May caused serious disruption to public life.

On 28 May, the expiry date of the interim constitution and of the Constituent Assembly's tenure, the parties agreed to extend both by one year on the condition that a new government of national unity be formed. The UN Security Council extended the mandate of the UN Mission in Nepal for the final time, until 15 January 2011.

In the Terai region, a number of political and sometimes armed groups continued to demand more rights, and violent clashes erupted periodically.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS			
PROTECTION			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	71		
RCMs distributed	111		
Names published on the ICRC family-links website	1,369		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons	Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	31	2	8
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	13		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)	1,376	90	156
Documents			
People to whom travel documents were issued	12		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)			
ICRC visits	Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited	38		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	1		1
Detainees newly registered	1		1
Number of visits carried out	28		
Number of places of detention visited	20		
Restoring family links	Total		
RCMs collected	19		
RCMs distributed	6		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	3		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

ASSISTANCE				
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	2,021	38%	36%
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	1,775	34%	39%
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	600		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	17		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	Structures		
Admissions	Patients	98	14	21
	<i>of whom weapon-wounded</i>	Patients	14	21
	<i>(including by mines or explosive remnants of war)</i>	Patients		
	<i>of whom other surgical cases</i>	Patients		
First aid				
First-aid posts supported	Structures	37		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	Structures		
Wounded patients treated	Patients	6,139		

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

ASSISTANCE

Physical rehabilitation		Total	Women	Children
Centres supported	Structures	2		
Patients receiving services	Patients	1,629	415	102
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	194	50	10
Prostheses delivered	Units	204	54	10
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	15	
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	105	25	37
Orthoses delivered	Units	124	25	50
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	2	
Crutches delivered	Units	206		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	173		

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Given the uncertainty about the peace process and the frequent internal disturbances, the ICRC maintained a flexible approach in Nepal, continuing to deal with the residual effects of the past armed conflict while responding to the needs of people affected by ongoing unrest. Most activities were conducted with the Nepal Red Cross Society, whose capacities were boosted by ICRC financial, technical and material support and training.

The ICRC kept up comprehensive efforts to help more than 1,300 families clarify the fate or whereabouts of relatives still unaccounted for in connection with the past conflict. Delegates made representations in this regard to the former conflict parties and submitted proposals to the government for further amendments to draft legislation to ensure that the primary needs of the families were addressed, including their right to know the fate of their relatives and, if they had died, to take possession of their remains. An ICRC study identified the psychological, social, economic and legal needs of the families of the missing, enabling it to respond better to these needs, in partnership with local and international actors. Trained National Society staff and volunteers began to take over responsibility for interaction with the families, helping the latter benefit from the education and financial relief packages they were entitled to. To increase the likelihood of bodies being identified, efforts continued to build the capacities of several institutions involved in exhumation and forensic work.

Meanwhile, to ensure that victims of the current violence received the necessary medical attention, the ICRC supported National Society first-aid activities and ambulance services and provided hospitals with supplies. A series of discussions involving a range of stakeholders at district level sought to prevent the obstruction and vandalism of ambulances during civil unrest. Those arrested in relation to various disturbances were visited by ICRC delegates, who checked on their treatment and living conditions.

Support to the Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre and the new Aerahiti National Rehabilitation Centre was maintained through the training of prosthetic/orthotic technicians and physiotherapists and the provision of materials. Amputees and

other disabled people from across the country were referred to these centres for treatment and fitting and, in a bid to reduce the risk of future mine accidents, the National Society continued to educate people on the dangers of mines, with ICRC support.

The ratification and implementation of IHL gained some momentum, with the national IHL committee conducting a study on the state of implementation of treaties to which Nepal was already party. As a result, a sub-committee proposed a draft bill incorporating the 1949 Geneva Conventions into domestic law and recommended Nepal's accession to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property and its Second Protocol, as well as the adoption of a stand-alone Red Cross Act aimed at strengthening the National Society's legal base. Furthermore, Nepal hosted the South Asia Teaching Session on IHL for the first time, at which 45 officials from the region shared their experiences of IHL implementation.

The armed and security forces received support in raising awareness of IHL and/or international human rights law among their troops, while influential members of civil society, including journalists and university students and lecturers, attended ICRC events aimed at improving their knowledge of and respect for humanitarian principles.

The ICRC continued to coordinate its activities with Movement partners, other humanitarian agencies operating in the country and local human rights organizations, thereby maximizing impact, identifying unmet needs and avoiding duplication.

CIVILIANS

While the conflict ended in 2006, civil unrest and violent disturbances during the year prompted the ICRC to remind the authorities, security forces and prominent members of society, whenever possible, of their obligations to respect civilians and international human rights law, including the right of access to medical care and the importance of respecting ambulances and medical structures and staff (see *Wounded and sick*). Over 2,000 people affected by unrest received essential household items from National Society/ICRC teams.

Families of missing persons supported in their search for answers

More than 1,300 families were still seeking missing relatives as a result of the past conflict. On the basis of information collected from the families by the National Society or the ICRC, cases of missing persons were submitted to the former parties (the Nepalese Army, the Armed Police Force, the Police and the PLA) with the aim of clarifying their fate. In all, 31 new cases were registered and the fate of 13 people was ascertained. An updated list was also published on the website www.familylinks.icrc.org.

Given the slow rate of progress on this issue, the ICRC encouraged the government to create an independent body tasked with supervising activities to clarify the fate of missing persons, adopting relevant legal provisions and reparation policies, and ensuring that families had access to appropriate assistance (see *Authorities*). The government's decision to consider families of missing persons as conflict victims – something the ICRC had advocated – meant that the majority of families had access to support mechanisms and interim relief. During 2010, the ICRC asked 1,083 families if they had received such payments. Any that had not applied were advised on how to do so, and any rejected applications were referred to the government for follow-up. Some 388 families of the missing were able to access advice quickly when 87 prior-trained National Society staff and volunteers were appointed as their focal contacts. The ICRC also recommended that the wives of missing persons receive the same financial assistance granted to the widows of people killed during the conflict. Following the authorities' decision in 2009 to provide scholarships to the children of the missing, it suggested that official instructions be disseminated to ensure that all eligible families could benefit.

Meanwhile, an ICRC study into the needs of mothers and wives of missing persons led to the launch of a pilot project to provide more than 260 women in one district with psychological support and financial advice via group meetings and social activities carried out by ICRC-trained National Society staff and a local NGO partner. Some 21 community members, most of whom had missing relatives themselves, were also trained to provide peer support. In parallel, the ICRC partnered with the NGO Heifer International to provide particularly vulnerable women (e.g. those rejected by their families) with the necessary training and input to start income-generating activities. With training on animal management, fodder management and vegetable production provided by the NGO and livestock provided by the ICRC, 260 women and their families started becoming self-sufficient (1,775 beneficiaries).

At a second meeting of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction and the national network of families of the missing, which was formed after a first regional meeting between families and the ministry in 2009, participants nationwide shared their concerns and suggestions. To mobilize more widespread support for these families, the community learnt about their plight through events such as street theatre and school art productions, organized by the National Society and family associations with ICRC support.

Knowledge of human remains management and identification boosted

An ICRC forensic training course in 2009 led to the creation in 2010 of two task forces, chaired by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC): the first was to mobilize and coordinate various experts for the drafting of a legal framework for exhumations related to the past conflict in Nepal, and the second was to merge the lists of missing persons registered by the government, the NHRC and the ICRC. Both task forces drew on ICRC technical expertise and resources, including in the adoption of a standard form for the collection of ante-mortem data – information that was then used during the exhumation of remains believed to be of missing persons.

Some 16 national experts and professionals likely to be involved in exhumations and identification of human remains completed advanced technical training in forensic anthropology. Relevant government and medical staff, as well as members of the NHRC, also gained knowledge of human remains management at seminars and conferences, for example the Second World Congress on Psychosocial Work in Exhumation Processes, Forced Disappearance, Justice and Truth, held in Colombia with ICRC support.

Relatives stay in touch

Bhutanese refugees in Nepal maintained contact with relatives detained in Bhutan by means of RCMs; some made the journey to see 18 of them in person (see *New Delhi*). To help improve services, National Society staff received training in all aspects of restoring family links, including dealing with tracing requests and the issue of missing persons.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

While all those held in relation to the past conflict had been released, the authorities made new arrests during situations of violence and unrest, particularly of alleged armed group members from the Terai and eastern regions. Detainees held in district police offices, police stations and prisons, including those considered vulnerable, such as foreigners and minors, received visits from the ICRC according to its standard procedures. Delegates assessed detainees' treatment and living conditions and shared their findings and recommendations in confidential reports to the relevant authorities. Given a lack of donor backing for an International Centre for Prison Studies project to improve the training of prison staff, there was no need for ICRC input.

Some detainees used RCMs to keep in touch with family members. Books donated by the ICRC helped relieve the monotony of detention. Female detainees received hygiene kits and one detained amputee received a pair of crutches, improving his mobility. Meanwhile, environmentally friendly biogas plants, installed by the ICRC in 2008 and 2009, continued to improve the general living conditions of detainees, providing a solution to human excreta disposal while also improving cooking facilities, reducing firewood consumption and lowering fuel costs. ICRC engineers

visited two prisons to check that the plants were functioning and made recommendations to the Prison Management Department regarding any necessary maintenance or minor modifications.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Victims of violence and unrest required urgent medical attention. National Society first-aid instructors underwent training to upgrade their skills and went on to train more than 500 police officers, journalists and National Society action teams. During the week-long strike in May, 60 such volunteer teams were mobilized in 29 districts, treating in 37 first-aid posts more than 6,100 wounded people. With ICRC technical support, the National Society revised its first-aid training curriculum to incorporate psychological support – for both victims and volunteers – and major trauma treatment.

Ambulances continued to encounter obstruction and suffer damage during strikes and demonstrations. The ICRC took care of their maintenance and repair. At an ICRC-organized round-table, the authorities, representatives of political parties and ethnic groups, the traffic police, ambulance providers and National Society volunteers discussed the use and misuse of ambulances. Bilateral contact with individuals and relevant groups helped increase awareness of the obligation to allow free movement of ambulances, and jingles aired in three languages on seven local and national radio stations reinforced the message. The Ministry of Health and Population also drew on National Society/ICRC expertise when drafting its new ambulance policy.

While 17 hospitals received medical supplies to help them cope with an influx of patients following unrest, following ICRC intercession, 98 people were treated free of charge or with ICRC financial support. Some 40 trauma-room specialists working at 29 hospitals were better able to treat such cases having honed their skills during two ICRC-run courses.

Disabled people improve their mobility

For amputees (including mine victims) at the Nepalese Army's Aerahiti National Rehabilitation Centre, artificial limbs produced using ICRC-donated materials and fitted by technicians coached full-time by an ICRC expatriate led to increased mobility. In accordance with the 2009 agreement signed by the army and the ICRC, all Nepalese people, irrespective of their class, community or political affiliation, had equal access to physical rehabilitation there.

Disabled patients at the Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre in Pokhara also benefited from the skills of technicians trained by ICRC specialists during a series of stints at the hospital. People disabled as a result of the conflict were treated free of charge. Patients enjoyed an improved referral system between district and ICRC-supported centres after the National Society received an ICRC procedure manual. Both centres received advice on publicizing their services and developing follow-up services, and amputees' travel and accommodation costs were covered by the ICRC.

AUTHORITIES

Ongoing changes in government made IHL implementation difficult. However, the national IHL committee took up the ICRC's suggestion of conducting a study on the extent to which IHL had been incorporated into domestic law. It formed a sub-committee for that purpose and submitted a draft bill to implement the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Conventions. It also recommended Nepal's accession to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property and its Second Protocol and the passing of a stand-alone Red Cross Act to strengthen the Nepalese Red Cross's legal status, as advocated by the National Society/ICRC.

In 2009, the cabinet had considered a draft bill on establishing a commission for the investigation of disappearances that had included a first round of ICRC proposals. In 2010, after meetings with representatives of the government, the Constituent Assembly and the main political parties, the ICRC submitted a proposal for more detailed amendments to the bill to some 70 members of the parliament's legislative committee, aimed at enlisting their support. The amendments included a definition of "the missing", provision for the systematic exhumation, identification and hand-over of human remains to families, and the future commission's obligation to share investigation results with the families.

To stimulate further support for IHL implementation, key officials were sponsored to attend seminars and courses within the country and abroad. Furthermore, Nepal hosted the 17th South Asia Teaching Session on IHL, at which 45 participants from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, including government officials, NGO representatives and military officers, increased their IHL understanding. The Judicial Service Training Centre included IHL in the training of government legal officers, with ICRC support, signalling a more systematic approach to teaching the application of fundamental rules during armed conflict.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Nepalese Army's IHL Core Group, co-chaired by the adjutant general and the ICRC, continued to oversee IHL integration into the force's doctrine, training and operations. Senior army instructors learnt advanced IHL training techniques during ICRC-run seminars, including at the first International Course for Senior Law Enforcement Officers, held in Geneva, Switzerland. The knowledge and techniques they acquired were then used in their own instruction sessions. Other officers brushed up on their IHL knowledge at ICRC-run seminars or benefited from ICRC participation in courses at the Nepalese Army Command and Staff College, backed up with a commanders' handbook on IHL, published by the Nepalese Army with ICRC support.

Following an ICRC assessment of its training capabilities, the Armed Police Force drew up plans to improve the integration of IHL and international human rights law into its doctrine and training system, with ICRC support.

Army and police troops in the field and other weapon bearers in the Terai attended presentations on IHL, international human rights law and the Movement, as did senior PLA commanders from seven quartering areas. Troops departing on peacekeeping missions received similar briefings prior to deployment.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Given the potential for unrest, it remained vital that influential citizens were aware of the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent nature and of humanitarian issues in general. Human rights organizations, politically affiliated youth groups and indigenous communities enhanced their understanding of such topics during National Society/ICRC presentations, backed up with written materials. On the basis of ICRC briefings and press releases, journalists produced articles on humanitarian themes.

Law lecturers, including those at Kathmandu Law School and Tribhuvan University, continued teaching IHL with ICRC support. To keep up to date, three lecturers participated in a three-day advanced IHL course in Goa, India (see *New Delhi*), and two teachers attended the South Asia Teaching Session on IHL. Students from a number of universities, including the College of Journalism and Mass Communication, attended ICRC seminars and used ICRC-donated IHL reference books. They also tested their skills in a national moot court competition.

The National Society drew on ICRC resources in its efforts to promote humanitarian values, which included increasing its radio coverage in the Terai. An ICRC-produced documentary film on missing persons and the repercussions for their families fostered greater understanding of the issue among the wider community.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Nepalese Red Cross remained the ICRC's key operational partner in providing first-aid services, supporting the families of missing persons and promoting IHL (see above). It drew on ICRC technical, training and material support to strengthen its legal base and capacities in the fields of mine-risk education and emergency preparedness. A workshop held in August, for example, saw 30 of the 36 district chapters review their progress in implementing the Safer Access approach.

Movement components in Nepal exchanged information and gave activity updates at regular coordination meetings. The National Society, with ICRC funding, was able to exchange best practices with other National Societies at regional events, such as the 8th Asia Pacific Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies held in Jordan (see *Jordan*).