

BRASILIA (regional)

COVERING: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay



ICRC / AR, 2010

⊕ ICRC regional delegation + ICRC office * ICRC regional communication support centre

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	1,016
Assistance	2,150
Prevention	2,591
Cooperation with National Societies	853
General	-

▶ **6,610**

of which: Overheads 403

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	100%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	7
National staff (daily workers not included)	42

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- ▶ developed dialogue with the region's military and police commanders on their obligations regarding the use of force in law enforcement operations and regarding respect for civilians and medical services
- ▶ with the Rio de Janeiro authorities and the Brazilian Red Cross progressed in the implementation of a multidisciplinary project in 7 *favelas* to help civilians particularly affected by armed violence
- ▶ helped provide training in first aid and the Safer Access approach to trainers and volunteers of the region's National Societies, as well as to communities and other first responders
- ▶ backed the Chilean Red Cross in restoring family links following the earthquake
- ▶ supported efforts to improve health care and tuberculosis control in Paraguayan prisons

Established in 1975 in Buenos Aires, the delegation moved to Brasilia in late 2009. The ICRC visits security detainees and responds to situations of internal strife and social unrest, often with the region's National Societies, which it supports in developing their capacity to act in such situations. It also runs a project to address urban violence in Rio de Janeiro. The ICRC promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation and into the doctrine, training and operations of the armed forces. It also works with police forces to integrate international human rights law applicable to the use of force into theirs.

CONTEXT

Brazil's international influence and economic performance on the global market contrasted with the economic disparities at home and the drug-related violence blighting many of its cities. The Rio de Janeiro state government stepped up its "pacification" programme by launching large-scale law enforcement operations in a number of the city's slum neighbourhoods or *favelas*, resorting to the use of the military alongside police units. While public agencies returned to some areas, many *favela* dwellers continued to be affected by violence. Thus, in December, after regaining control of the Complexo do Alemão *favela*, considered a drug traffickers' stronghold, a joint force under military command remained in charge of law enforcement.

In Chile, an earthquake in February reportedly left more than 800 dead or wounded and devastated mainly the coastal regions

of Maule and Bio Bio, home to the indigenous Mapuche community. Members of this community continued to be arrested and charged under anti-terrorism legislation in relation to disputes over land-tenure issues, in some cases leading to expulsions. A number of the people arrested went on hunger strike to protest against alleged violations of judicial guarantees. In December, after police on Easter Island ejected Rapa Nui indigenous people from properties they had occupied, several wounded people had to be evacuated from the island.

In Paraguay, the authorities declared a state of emergency and deployed several thousand troops and police in five northern provinces to curb the activity of an armed group known as the Paraguayan People's Army. Arrests, deaths and abuses were reported. Land distribution issues also led to the expulsion back to Brazil of around 500 families of Brazilian origin settled in Paraguay.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	2		
Phone calls facilitated between family members	402		
Names published on the ICRC family-links website	599		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) ¹			
ICRC visits	Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited and monitored individually	100	10	2
Detainees newly registered	38	7	1
Number of visits carried out	40		
Number of places of detention visited	17		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.) ²			
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women
Food	Beneficiaries	2,000	30%
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	2,180	33%
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)			
Economic security, water and habitat			
Essential household items ¹	Beneficiaries	140	
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives ³	Beneficiaries	2	

1. Chile and Paraguay
2. Brazil only
3. Chile only

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Addressing the humanitarian consequences of violence due to social, economic, indigenous and land issues plaguing various regions and communities in Brazil, Chile and Paraguay remained the ICRC's operational priority. To respond better to these challenges, it moved its regional delegation from Argentina to Brazil.

Through a multidisciplinary project in Rio de Janeiro, the ICRC developed activities in seven *favelas* to assist civilians particularly

affected by armed violence. In so doing, it reinforced cooperation with the municipal health and state education authorities, co-organizing training in the Safer Access approach for first-aiders and other medical personnel working in the *favelas*. Teams trained in psychological support led group therapy sessions for violence-affected people. First-aid training for *favela* residents continued, in cooperation with the Rio de Janeiro branch of the Brazilian Red Cross. Children at seven high schools participated in activities aimed at preventing violence. In parallel, the ICRC developed dialogue with the military and civil police forces and other weapon bearers on basic rules to respect at all times and on humanitarian

issues in the *favelas*. It pursued discussions with the authorities concerned on possible visits to people held in Rio de Janeiro's prisons, where much of the violence was rooted.

In southern Chile and central and northern Paraguay, operational cooperation with local Red Cross branches was strengthened. National Society health teams provided services to isolated Mapuche communities, where police agents were trained in first aid, as were inhabitants of rural communities in northern Paraguay. In both countries, the ICRC regularly visited people detained in connection with protests over land tenure and indigenous issues. In Chile, following the earthquake, the ICRC provided medicines and family-links services to detainees. In Paraguay, the National Society managed family visits for ICRC-registered detainees and kept up a craft project for women detained in Asunción. Across the region, the ICRC worked with authorities to address prison health issues.

In coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC supported the National Societies in responding to natural disasters. Following the earthquake in Chile, it assisted the Chilean Red Cross in restoring family links. After floods struck Rio de Janeiro in April, it coordinated the Red Cross relief distribution for *favela* residents.

The ICRC continued to cooperate with the national IHL committees on integrating IHL into domestic legislation, including that relating to missing persons, and encouraged them to mobilize support for these and similar issues raised in regional fora, such as the Organization of American States (OAS). It worked with national forensic institutes in the region to improve skills in human remains management.

The ICRC kept up its dialogue with the region's police forces on their obligation to observe applicable laws and standards governing the use of force in law enforcement operations. It developed a similar dialogue with military forces increasingly being deployed alongside police in such operations throughout the region. With the region's armed forces, the ICRC also continued to work on integrating IHL into their doctrine, training and operations. UN peacekeepers were briefed on humanitarian principles and the ICRC prior to being sent to Haiti.

Universities in Brazil and Paraguay continued to integrate IHL into their curricula, with ICRC expertise and training.

CIVILIANS

In Rio de Janeiro, *favela* residents get community health care, first aid and safer schools

As confirmed by an ICRC assessment, residents of the worst-affected neighbourhoods in seven violence-ridden *favelas*, including Complexo do Alemão, lacked access to adequate health care, particularly teenage mothers and their children and people traumatized by violence. This situation was set to improve with the further implementation of the ICRC's multidisciplinary project,

carried out in partnership with the Rio de Janeiro municipality, the local branch of the Brazilian Red Cross, Brazilian universities and research centres, and other bodies, aiming to: secure safer access of primary health care professionals to violent neighbourhoods, thereby facilitating inhabitants' access to health services; provide back-up to teams dispensing specialized mental health care to violence-affected patients; and set up a comprehensive support system for teenage mothers and their babies by means of weekly home visits.

First-aiders and other medical personnel working in the *favelas*, in particular 14 teams of the state-run family health programme (84 health professionals in all), received training in the Safer Access approach to enable them to assist people in need while ensuring their own safety. These teams also benefited from professional support in their daily practice. As a result, 112 people in three *favelas* were referred to and attended group therapy sessions provided by teams coached by an ICRC psychologist. Guided by an ICRC women's health specialist and a social worker, health staff, university students and community focal points received training in conducting home visits and discussion groups with a view to launching activities to provide teenage mothers with psychological and other support starting in 2011. To further improve communities' capacities to deal with medical emergencies, 208 residents were trained in first aid, while 45 others became instructors.

During the police operation in Complexo do Alemão, National Red Cross volunteers, mobilized to support state and municipal emergency medical facilities, received ICRC operational and logistical support. At the request of the authorities, 88 health professionals working there and in another neighbourhood attended emergency workshops on basic security and stress management issues.

In a bid to reduce and prevent violence and improve security in schools, pupils at seven high schools in dangerous neighbourhoods learnt about safe behaviour, respect for life, solidarity and basic first aid in courses and activities run as part of the "Opening Humanitarian Spaces" project. Prior to the launch of the project, which was coordinated by the Rio de Janeiro education authorities and the ICRC, 40 teachers studied course modules adapted from the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme.

The effects of violence in the *favelas* were exacerbated in April by torrential floods that forced people from their homes. To ease their plight, some 150 temporarily displaced people in two of the *favelas* received hygiene items and cleaning materials distributed by the local Red Cross branch, with ICRC logistical support.

In parallel, dialogue continued with all security forces operating in and around the *favelas* (see *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*).

Elsewhere in Brazil, 500 Paraguayan families of Brazilian origin (2,000 people) expelled from Paraguay owing to land disputes received ICRC emergency food rations and basic supplies to help them cope with their displacement.

Concerns of violence-affected communities in Chile and Paraguay taken up by the ICRC

Mapuche leaders and Rapa Nui representatives on Chile's Easter Island and members of rural communities in central and northern Paraguay reported abuses to and shared their grievances with ICRC delegates. In both countries, meetings with central and local authorities, including police and other security forces, NGOs and community representatives, enabled the ICRC to voice its concerns, highlighting the need to respect civilians, to ensure medical access to the wounded and sick at all times, and to observe rules governing the use of force in maintaining law and order.

In Chile, members of remote Mapuche communities accessed medical services, including primary health care and hospital referrals, provided by the Chilean Red Cross/ICRC. Police agents received first-aid training, as they were likely to be among the first on the scene in an emergency. In Paraguay, residents of 20 violence-affected communities learnt basic first aid through an ICRC-financed project implemented by the Paraguayan Red Cross.

People trace missing family members

Following February's earthquake in Chile, people searching for relatives or those who had no other means of getting in touch used the family-links website set up by the ICRC in cooperation with the Chilean Red Cross. Red Cross staff received coaching and training from ICRC tracing specialists drawn from a pool of experts created as part of the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement. During the emergency phase, 402 families in remote coastal areas of the Bio Bio region used a satellite telephone service provided by three mobile Red Cross/ICRC teams. The national forensic institute also drew on ICRC expertise to improve the handling and identification of human remains and received basic materials. Once the needs diminished, the National Society designed a plan of action for the next few years to strengthen its capacities in this field with ICRC support.

Similarly, as part of efforts to build family-links capacities across Latin America, a Paraguayan Red Cross volunteer and ICRC staff took part in a regional training course in Panama.

Regionwide, many people continued to seek information about relatives who had disappeared during the years of military rule. To optimize the use of forensic science for the recovery and identification of human remains and to provide missing persons' families with support, eight forensic specialists from Argentina, Brazil and Chile shared best practices with counterparts from other countries at the Second World Congress on Psychosocial

Work in Exhumation Processes, Forced Disappearance, Justice and Truth, held in Bogotá (see *Colombia*). Disaster management, forensics and human rights were also discussed by representatives of most forensic institutes in Latin America at the fourth annual meeting of Ibero-American Medico-Legal Institutes in Santiago, co-organized and sponsored by the ICRC. To broaden the transfer of skills, a member of Argentina's national forensic team qualified as a teacher trainer for instructors working with the ICRC-developed ante/post-mortem software. Two officers from the Training Centre for Peacekeeping Operations in Rio de Janeiro attended a one-week course in Geneva, Switzerland, on the management of human remains, with the aim of enhancing the centre's curriculum.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People in Chile, mainly from the indigenous Mapuche community, and in Paraguay, arrested in connection with land grievances or political issues, had their treatment and living conditions monitored in the course of ICRC visits conducted according to the organization's standard procedures. The authorities were informed confidentially of the ICRC's findings and recommendations. In Chile, they were to receive the conclusions of a study completed during the year regarding respect for judicial guarantees under anti-terrorism legislation. A group of Mapuche hunger-strikers were regularly visited by an ICRC medical delegate, including for recording their will in case they lost consciousness, and authorities were reminded of the World Medical Association's position on force-feeding.

During visits, detainees in Chile contacted their families through the RCM service, as necessary, following the earthquake, using telephones made available by Chilean Red Cross/ICRC mobile teams (see *Civilians*). In Paraguay, they also enjoyed family visits organized by the National Society, enabling them to receive medication and other assistance. Two women detained in Asunción's Buen Pastor prison learnt crafts as part of a joint project with the National Handcraft Institute, providing them with job skills and income.

Brazilian provincial authorities continued to examine the possibility of the ICRC visiting Rio de Janeiro's prisons and of engaging in joint humanitarian projects. As an initial step, the health coordinator in charge of young offenders imprisoned in Rio state took part in the fourth Latin American seminar on penitentiary health (see overleaf).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	CHILE	PARAGUAY
ICRC visits		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	55	45
	<i>of whom women</i>	9
	<i>of whom minors</i>	2
Detainees newly registered	17	21
	<i>of whom women</i>	7
	<i>of whom minors</i>	1
Number of visits carried out	27	13
Number of places of detention visited	11	6

Detainees' health concerns addressed

As a way of improving health in prisons generally, all detainees visited received hygiene kits. After the earthquake, medical staff in Chilean detention facilities treated sick and wounded detainees, in part with ICRC supplies.

Health officials and medical personnel working in prisons in the region examined prevention, detection and treatment programmes and ways of tackling tuberculosis (TB) and sexually transmitted diseases at two regional events: the fourth Latin American seminar on health in prisons, co-organized with Peru's National Penitentiary Institute (see *Lima*), and a technical workshop on TB and HIV/AIDS in detention centres, co-organized with the Paraguayan Ministry of Health. The latter was attended by 25 representatives from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru.

Drawing on ICRC recommendations and experiences shared during regional events on prison health, the Paraguayan Ministry of Health prepared a TB and HIV/AIDS control programme for prisons supported financially by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. As a first step towards its implementation, the ministry organized a national workshop during which participants took stock of the results of the extensive assessment of Paraguay's prison health system conducted in 2007 and benefited from ICRC expertise and technical support. Following the workshop, the Ministry of Health and the ICRC conducted a new series of assessments of the state of health in the country's six main prisons. On the basis of these updated results, the authorities were encouraged to start reforming the prison health system, including through setting up an information system to track and manage prison health.

AUTHORITIES

Governments in the region pursued dialogue with the ICRC on the need to strengthen respect for IHL and international rules governing the use of force in situations of violence. They were encouraged to address humanitarian concerns, including on IHL promotion, displacement, enforced disappearance and detention issues, in national and regional fora, such as the Latin American Parliament and the OAS. They supported the adoption of the amended Rome Statute at the Review Conference of the International Criminal Court held in Uganda. Based on discussions on the Convention on Enforced Disappearance, they were offered ICRC expertise in addressing the issue of persons gone missing during past regimes or conflicts. Argentina and Chile completed studies to assess whether their national legislation on missing persons and their families was in line with ICRC recommendations.

With ICRC input, the region's national IHL committees continued to work to advance the ratification of IHL treaties and their national implementation. They shared best practices with their counterparts from other Latin American and Caribbean countries at a conference hosted by Mexico, as well as at the third Universal Meeting of National IHL Committees held in Geneva, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*).

Chile ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Paraguay established a national information bureau by presidential decree. ICRC support for the training of magistrates in measures to repress war crimes was not required.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed and security forces learn the need to observe norms and standards in law enforcement operations

In Brazil, including Rio de Janeiro, and in Paraguay, authorities and the ICRC developed their dialogue on law enforcement operations and the obligations of armed and security personnel to observe applicable laws and standards governing the use of force in such operations and relating to respect for civilians and medical services.

Brazilian police officers countrywide started to benefit from a new e-learning module on human rights norms introduced by the National Secretariat of Public Security with ICRC support. An evaluation by external consultants in four states confirmed the need to follow up the integration of human rights norms into training in all states where work had been initiated, while concentrating efforts on the military police and security forces in a few states (Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and possibly Pará) with the aim of fully integrating human rights norms into doctrine, training, operations and sanctions. In São Paulo, based on an agreement, the state military police and the ICRC began to assess the force's current curriculum to prepare for the integration of human rights norms.

In Rio de Janeiro, military and civil police forces operating in the *favelas*, including newly created community police units, and the ICRC strengthened dialogue on security and humanitarian issues. This was facilitated by a designated liaison officer for the ICRC within the military police and included meetings with commanders and dissemination sessions. As the law enforcement operations got under way in the *favelas* of Complexo do Alemão and Vila Cruzeiro, regular dialogue also started with the federal- and state-level military bodies involved.

In Paraguay, the interior minister and the national police director started to work with the ICRC to revise the national police training curriculum, while 30 human rights instructors attended training courses. In Chile, in addition to first-aid training provided to the police by the National Society, discussions with various branches of the police, including the *Carabineros*, on joint dissemination and prevention activities were ongoing.

Armed forces continue integrating IHL

The region's armed forces continued to work on integrating IHL into their doctrine, training and operations. Argentina and Brazil finalized a new IHL manual for soldiers, while Chile incorporated IHL into more than 200 manuals used by the different services. Military instructors in Argentina were trained in IHL. In Paraguay, military decision-makers issued a directive on IHL integration and began drafting rules of conduct for operations

carried out alongside police forces. In all their meetings, the armed forces' upper echelons in Brazil and Paraguay and the ICRC discussed the use of force in situations of violence, and high-ranking officers from both countries attended the fourth Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations in Lucerne, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*).

Peacekeeping contingents from Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay were briefed by the ICRC on core humanitarian issues prior to their deployment to Haiti.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The general public kept informed of humanitarian issues and ICRC activities through the ICRC's Spanish and Portuguese websites, publications, the photo exhibition "Humanity in War", and media coverage of the response to the Haiti and Chile earthquakes. Residents of the Rio de Janeiro *favelas* became aware of and engaged in ICRC work thanks to a partnership with local media and community relations.

Journalists and communication students studied the ICRC's humanitarian concerns and safer reporting at a course on journalism in armed conflict and other situations of violence. The leading universities of the region continued to enhance knowledge of IHL thanks to ICRC presentations and donations of IHL literature to libraries. To complement these efforts, three lecturers participated in an advanced IHL course in Geneva, Switzerland.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies continued to strengthen their legal bases and good governance mechanisms with support from the International Federation and the ICRC: the Argentine Red Cross provided members of its steering committee with further training; the Brazilian Red Cross initiated a financial audit; and the Uruguayan Red Cross progressed with statutory reforms.

With ICRC support, the National Societies also worked on building their operational capacities, including in restoring family links; this helped them assist populations enduring violence or natural disaster (see *Civilians*). They improved their Safer Access and first-aid skills and learnt basic security and stress management. The Paraguayan Red Cross expanded its range of action after receiving a 4x4 vehicle from the ICRC.