

BEIJING (regional)

COVERING: China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Republic of Korea



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KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ The ICRC discussed health care in prisons with China's justice and public security ministries, and made preparations to implement a TB-control project with the justice ministry.
- ▶ The ICRC reinforced its dialogue with the region's authorities, legal experts and other influential figures. It emphasized the need to strengthen respect for IHL and to include IHL-related considerations in their contingency plans.
- ▶ A photo exhibit in Beijing on the human cost of war drew over 10,000 visitors. Journalists in China and the Republic of Korea (hereafter ROK) reported on humanitarian issues, making use of local-language platforms.
- ▶ Officers from across the region participated in workshops on IHL and other norms applicable to their work. The ICRC shared its insights on new means and methods of warfare during an international conference hosted by the ROK.
- ▶ The region's National Societies improved their capacities, particularly in the fields of promoting IHL and implementing selected assistance activities; they received various forms of support from the ICRC for these.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	776
Assistance	6,748
Prevention	4,957
Cooperation with National Societies	1,227
General	83
Total	13,791
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>811</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	102%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	23
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	55

Present in the region since 1987, the ICRC moved its regional delegation for East Asia to Beijing in 2005. The delegation fosters support for humanitarian principles, IHL and ICRC activities in the region and worldwide, among governments, experts and National Societies. It promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, military training and academic curricula. It supports the region's National Societies in developing their IHL promotion and tracing activities. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in partnership with the National Society, it supports hospital care and contributes to meeting the need for assistive and mobility devices.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

HIGH

ASSISTANCE	2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved	
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)			
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	1,200	
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)			
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	7,000	8,000
WOUNDED AND SICK			
Hospitals			
Hospitals supported	Structures	4	4
Water and habitat			
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds		2,572
Physical rehabilitation			
Projects supported	Projects	2	4
Patients receiving services	Patients		1,367

CONTEXT

China figured prominently in international affairs – for example, through the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, and its permanent seat in the UN Security Council. It was also involved in territorial and maritime disputes with some of its neighbours and in the corresponding tribunal proceedings and rulings. Economic growth slowed in 2016.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (hereafter DPRK) claimed to have developed its nuclear capacity and tested several missiles, further straining its relations with the Republic of Korea (hereafter ROK) and the wider international community.

The ROK's president was impeached in December, and an interim president appointed.

In Mongolia, parliamentary elections took place in June; the country maintained ties with China, the DPRK, the ROK and other countries in Asia and beyond.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The Beijing regional delegation sought greater dialogue with influential figures on humanitarian issues in the four countries covered – China, the DPRK, Mongolia and the ROK – and on securing support for its efforts beyond the region. It also continued to strive to engage with the authorities, military and police forces, academics, the media and other decision-makers, to promote IHL and humanitarian principles.

The ICRC partnered the authorities, National Societies and other local actors to help, largely through its assistance projects, improve conditions for some vulnerable people. In the DPRK, the public health ministry worked to better the quality of surgical care and other medical services at three hospitals, with some help from an ICRC surgical team. The ICRC also provided the Rakrang and Songrim physical rehabilitation centres, as well as the surgical annex of the Rakrang centre, with similar support. The ICRC's work with the Songrim centre followed the finalization of a new partnership agreement with the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other relevant actors. Thousands of people in one peri-urban community had better access to drinking water after the local authorities, the National Society and the ICRC jointly repaired or improved infrastructure.

The ICRC provided the Red Cross Society of China with technical assistance to run a physical rehabilitation centre and repair workshop in Yunnan province; vulnerable people in the same province, some of them with disabilities, also drew on the livelihood assistance provided by the National Society. The ICRC and the management of one hospital in Sichuan province began preliminary efforts for the latter to receive support for improving the capacities of its physical rehabilitation department.

The ICRC continued to discuss health care in detention with China's justice and public security ministries. The ICRC and the justice ministry visited several places of detention to assess the response to TB there; subsequently, the ministry and the ICRC made preparations for supporting a local hospital for detainees in implementing a TB-control project.

The ICRC took pains to expand its network of contacts in China, Mongolia and the ROK. Its discussions with influential actors

– from the government, the military, the academe and various other sections of civil society – focused on its role in addressing the humanitarian consequences of conflicts in the region and beyond, and on the importance of including IHL-related considerations in national contingency plans and emergency response measures.

Throughout the region, the ICRC worked with military and police forces to help officers develop their understanding of IHL and other international norms. Police officers and trainees in China and Mongolia attended workshops on international standards and rules for policing. The ICRC discussed IHL in the context of peacekeeping operations during predeployment briefings for Mongolian officers bound for South Sudan and at an event hosted by a Chinese training centre for officers from Africa.

The ICRC helped universities, think-tanks, National Societies and other local organizations to make information on IHL available to the academic community. It also assisted the Hong Kong Red Cross, Branch of the Red Cross Society of China, in hosting an international moot-court competition for over 100 students.

The delegation boosted its public engagement in the region, particularly by stepping up its broadcast, print and online media presence. Journalists in China and the ROK also covered the ICRC's operations; many of them made use of local-language media platforms, which enabled them to reach a wider audience.

A photo exhibit in Beijing on the human cost of war drew over 10,000 visitors. With support from the ICRC, the Hong Kong Red Cross, Branch of the Chinese Red Cross, opened a centre for humanitarian education, creating another avenue for a wider audience to learn about humanitarian principles.

The ICRC coordinated its work with other Movement components in the region; it partnered the National Societies in broadening support for the Movement, and helped them strengthen their communication capacities. Such interaction helped it to emphasize the importance of a coherent approach, in line with the Movement's Fundamental Principles, to humanitarian work.

CIVILIANS

Over 400 economically vulnerable households in China – 166 in Yunnan and 240 in Xinjiang – received cash for starting income-generating activities. Several of these households counted disabled members among them (see *Wounded and sick*). The assistance was delivered within the framework of a livelihood project by the Red Cross Society of China, for which the ICRC provided some funding and training.

DPRK engineers and maintenance personnel repair public infrastructure in a peri-urban area

Over 8,000 people in a section of Kaesong City in the DPRK had better access to clean water, following work done by the local authorities, the DPRK Red Cross and the ICRC to repair or construct public infrastructure, such as toilets and a septic tank; these people also benefited from other infrastructural improvements in 2015. The local engineers and maintenance personnel in charge of these initiatives continued to add to their expertise during ICRC-supported courses.

Owing to tensions in the region, the ICRC was unable to engage the DPRK and ROK governments in substantial discussions on the concerns of families separated since the 1950–1953 Korean War. It

was also unable to pursue plans to work with the DPRK Red Cross to identify vulnerable people who could benefit from assistance.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Chinese officials and the ICRC prepare to implement a pilot TB-control project

The Chinese justice and public security ministries and the ICRC sustained their dialogue, which focused mainly on health care in prisons; the ministries each co-organized a seminar with the ICRC, allowing for an in-depth and structured exchange of ideas on the work to be done to address health in detention. The justice ministry and the ICRC visited several places of detention to observe conditions there; following which, they commenced preparations to support a prison hospital in implementing a TB-control project.

Justice ministry officials attended an ICRC regional workshop on prison management (see *Sri Lanka*), and observed the TB-control and management programme in places of detention in Kyrgyzstan. At the invitation of the ministry, the ICRC made a presentation on infection control and other health-related issues, at a regional seminar in China on prison administration. These events enabled the officials who took part to meet their counterparts from other countries and learn from their best practices.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Hospital staff in the DPRK add to their expertise

The public health ministry, the DPRK Red Cross and the ICRC continued to cooperate in enhancing the surgical standards and treatment methods, emergency care, orthopaedic surgery and other services at the Hamhung and Pyongsong provincial hospitals and the Kaesong City hospital. The hospitals' management and the ICRC also improved infrastructure, particularly waste-management systems and sanitation facilities.

Pyongsong hospital staff continued to add to their expertise and improve the quality of their services, with the help of on-site workshops and other capacity-building opportunities offered jointly by the health ministry and the ICRC. Doctors and other medical personnel – including some from hospitals not receiving ICRC support – also attended courses in emergency-room management.

The DPRK Red Cross, local authorities and the ICRC finalize partnership to support an additional physical rehabilitation centre

Approximately 1,400 people received treatment and/or other services at the Rakrang and Songrim physical rehabilitation centres in the DPRK. The Rakrang centre, and its surgical annex, received medical supplies; staff there strengthened their capacities, with the help of regular in-house workshops. Two staff members, having completed advanced studies abroad, had rejoined the team by year's end. Beginning in May – after the local authorities, the DPRK Red Cross and the ICRC finalized their partnership agreement – the Songrim centre received technical support, which helped staff improve conditions there.

Disabled people in Yunnan receive treatment and other services at a National Society centre

The Yunnan branch of the Chinese Red Cross Society continued to manage a physical rehabilitation centre in Kunming, and a repair workshop in Malipo, with the ICRC's help. Over 400 people obtained rehabilitation services and assistive devices at these facilities. Several disabled people within reach of the centre benefited from a National Society livelihood-improvement project (see *Civilians*).

The ICRC and the management team of a hospital in Sichuan discussed the signing of a partnership agreement, under which the hospital would receive support for strengthening its physical rehabilitation department, particularly the production of assistive devices.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The ICRC expanded its interaction with actors of influence throughout the region. The ICRC sought – through high-level meetings, experts' workshops and other forums for dialogue – to foster support among government officials, military officers and others for IHL, humanitarian principles, and neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action.

In China and the ROK, the ICRC discussed IHL and humanitarian principles with the government and other influential figures. Senior members of the Chinese People's Liberation Army visited the ICRC's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, furthering the dialogue on including IHL in military education and increasing the possibility of jointly hosting international events. While awaiting clarification of its legal status in the ROK, the ICRC held several briefing sessions on its identity and mandate for senior naval officers; it also maintained its dialogue with the military forces of the United States of America in the ROK. During a meeting with the ICRC's president, Mongolian military personnel and defence ministry officials agreed to expand cooperation with the ICRC.

ICRC discusses the applicability of IHL to peacekeeping operations

The ICRC discussed IHL in the context of peacekeeping operations on several occasions, such as: predeployment briefings for Mongolian officers bound for South Sudan; in China, a round-table for representatives of local government and military institutions, think-tanks, and universities; and, also in China, a workshop for senior officers from Africa hosted by a local peacekeeping training centre.

Military personnel from China, the DPRK, Mongolia and the ROK attended advanced international workshops on IHL, including one on the applicability of IHL to armed conflict at sea (see *Jakarta*). In China and Mongolia, police officers and trainees also attended courses on international rules and standards for policing; in Mongolia, these included discussions on contingency planning.

The ICRC offered its insights into humanitarian assistance during armed conflict at a workshop organized by the ROK armed forces, and on new means and methods of warfare and IHL at an international conference hosted by the defence ministry in Seoul.

Students, lecturers and legal experts discuss contemporary challenges in ensuring respect for IHL

At a workshop organized in cooperation with the Mongolian Bar Association, prosecutors, judges and other legal professionals and experts discussed international rules and standards for the use of force in the context of law enforcement and crowd management; they also considered the preparatory and preventive measures to be taken by law enforcement and judicial institutions to deal with violent situations.

University students and lecturers from China, Mongolia and the ROK developed their understanding of IHL and humanitarian action – and of the obstacles to them – through lectures, short courses and moot-court competitions. These events were organized by universities, think-tanks, National Societies and other local

organizations in partnership with the ICRC. Over 100 students and lecturers from the Asia-Pacific region participated in an international moot-court competition organized, with ICRC support, by the Hong Kong Red Cross branch of the Red Cross Society of China.

Local-language coverage of humanitarian issues reaches wider audience

The ICRC boosted its public engagement in the region, in particular by stepping up its broadcast, print and online media presence in local languages. Through a partnership with China's main news agency, journalists observed ICRC activities in Yunnan, and in Afghanistan and Ukraine, and reported on these; two journalists attended a regional conference abroad (see *Bangladesh*). Journalists in the ROK also reported on similar subjects.

Many ICRC publications on IHL and humanitarian work were translated into Chinese and made available on China's largest academic reference website.

Hong Kong Red Cross branch opens a centre for humanitarian education

In April, the Hong Kong branch of the Chinese National Society opened a centre for humanitarian education that featured interactive and virtual-reality exhibits on conflict-affected environments and the challenges of humanitarian work; the ICRC provided particular support for an exhibit on the impact of war on children. Over 10,000 people visited a photo exhibit, at a major museum in Beijing, which depicted the toll conflict takes on those affected.

The Hong Kong branch of the Chinese National Society and the ICRC maintained their dialogue on the means of increasing support for the Movement. The ROK National Red Cross and the ICRC began to explore possibilities for similar dialogue.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The ICRC pursued working partnerships with the National Societies in the region and other Movement components present, focusing on shoring up emergency response capacities. For example, the National Society branch in Xinjiang in China set up three emergency response teams; 60 members participated in a workshop organized by the ICRC and the National Society. Mongolian Red Cross members participated in similar training. ROK National Society staff members also attended a session on the Safer Access Framework, and began discussions on staff training on first-aid during conflict. Following floods in the DPRK, the National Society received kits with medical material for treating the wounded; the ICRC also supported the International Federation's work in the DPRK.

The National Societies received assistance for strengthening their capacities in promoting IHL and humanitarian principles. For instance, the Chinese Red Cross facilitated a training session on IHL and the Movement for participants from 12 Chinese provinces. The National Society branch in Hong Kong and the ICRC jointly organized a regional workshop on humanitarian education for the youth, drawing participants from National Societies from across the region and from the International Federation.

The Mongolian Red Cross Society strengthened its legal status, following the Mongolian parliament's approval of a law recognizing the National Society as a government auxiliary.

The ICRC maintained regular contact with Movement components in the region, and capitalized on opportunities to cooperate in broadening support for humanitarian work in line with the Fundamental Principles.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	8,000	3,760	1,920
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	4		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	Structures	1	
Admissions	Patients	141	13	
	<i>of whom surgical cases</i>		13	
Operations performed		141		
Water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	2,572		
Physical rehabilitation				
Projects supported	Projects	4		
Patients receiving services	Patients	1,367	214	36
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	447	59	8
Prostheses delivered	Units	1,108	167	30
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>		1	
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	46	5	3
Orthoses delivered	Units	71	9	11
Patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	650	84	16
Walking aids delivered	Units	630	64	6
Wheelchairs or tricycles delivered	Units	24		