



pakistan

The ICRC began working in Pakistan in 1981 to assist victims of conflict in Afghanistan. Now focusing on the situation within Pakistan, its activities include: visiting detainees transferred from Afghanistan or the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, and seeking access to other security detainees; improving care of the war-wounded and the disabled; promoting compliance with IHL among military forces; fostering a dialogue with the authorities, Islamic scholars and the media on issues related to IHL; and helping the Pakistan Red Crescent Society improve its capacity to respond to conflict. The ICRC also assists earthquake victims in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

EXPENDITURE (IN CHF ,000)

Protection	2,420
Assistance	55,192
Prevention	1,254
Cooperation with National Societies	836
General	35

► **59,737**

of which: *Overheads* 3,137

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	96.3%
---------------------------	--------------

PERSONNEL

51 expatriates
179 national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

In 2005, the ICRC:

- launched a major operation to deliver over 6,000 tonnes of relief, distributing essential goods to over 371,000 people in Pakistan-administered Kashmir and corrugated sheeting for shelter to 35,000; also provided hospital and primary-health-care services to thousands of people affected by the disaster;
- continued to visit detainees transferred to Pakistan from Afghanistan and the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station and discussed the ICRC's detention-related activities in Pakistan with the country's highest authorities;
- helped families living in isolated areas of Pakistan learn the fate of relatives who had died in Afghanistan in 2001;
- facilitated access to rehabilitation services for disabled people living in isolated areas of North-West Frontier Province, Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Baluchistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir;
- engaged in dialogue with academic and Islamic circles, gave lectures on IHL to students of leading religious institutes (*madaris*) and worked towards an agreement with the International Islamic University in Islamabad on introducing IHL in its curriculum.

CONTEXT

Relations between Pakistan and India evolved during the year as a “composite dialogue” developed at different levels in a variety of domains. Both governments agreed on confidence-building measures to facilitate economic exchange and other forms of “people-to-people” contact between Indians and Pakistanis, reopening long-closed roads, railways and sea routes and revising banking policies. A hotline was set up to enable the two nuclear neighbours to notify each other of missile tests, and both India and Pakistan pledged to take measures facilitating prisoner release. The ceasefire declared at the end of 2003 held all year, leaving areas near the Line of Control (LoC) free of the crossfire that had long compromised security and trade there.

In efforts to combat acts of terrorism, Pakistan conducted military and security operations to hunt out militant outfits around the country. In the wake of the London suicide bombings in July, 700 people were arrested. Military operations targeting foreign fighters, initiated in 2004, continued in South Waziristan, but were scaled back after February when the government signed the Sararogha peace pact with tribal leaders. In the second half of the year, government forces conducted similar operations against foreign elements in North Waziristan, sometimes facing stiff local resistance.

In Baluchistan, government forces clashed with groups demanding autonomy and redistribution of revenues from the exploitation of the province's natural resources. Clashes were most intense around Dera Bugti, the site of Pakistan's largest gas reserves.

In several areas, sectarian tensions triggered attacks on mosques and shrines.

On 8 October, the most severe earthquake ever to hit Pakistan devastated large areas in the north, killing tens of thousands of people and leaving nearly 3.5 million homeless. Entire villages were flattened, and water and electricity networks, roads, schools and health facilities suffered massive damage. After the earthquake, Pakistan and India permitted small-scale cross-border movements and the transport of humanitarian aid through check posts along the LoC.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)		CIVILIANS		
Detainees visited	319	<i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	272	Food	Beneficiaries	218,949
Number of visits carried out	15	Essential household items	Beneficiaries	371,065
Number of places of detention visited	4	Water-supply schemes and sanitation systems (completed projects)	Beneficiaries	13,400
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS		Habitat structures	Beneficiaries	35,784
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>		<i>Health</i>		
RCMs collected	914	Health centres supported	Structures	5
RCMs distributed	1,032	Consultations	Patients	16,143
People reunited with their families	4	Immunizations	Activities	5,206
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>		WOUNDED AND SICK		
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	374	Hospitals supported	Structures	13
Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)	29	Admissions	Patients	952
Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2005	365	Operations	Operations performed	700
<i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i>		<i>Physical rehabilitation</i>		
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC	150	Patients receiving services	Patients	1,897
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC	4	Prostheses delivered	Pieces	301
UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2005	84	Orthoses delivered	Pieces	437
DOCUMENTS ISSUED				
People to whom travel documents were issued	10			

ICRC ACTION

Throughout the year, the ICRC continued its activities for people affected by conflict. It visited detainees who had been transferred to Pakistan from Afghanistan or the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, where they had been held in connection with the 2001 conflict in Afghanistan. After their release, the delegation checked on their well-being at home. Through a dialogue with the authorities, which included a meeting in October between its president and President Musharraf, the ICRC sought access to other categories of security detainees.

Although it had no direct access to the areas in Waziristan where military operations were under way, the ICRC helped cover the medical costs of people injured there in fighting and transferred elsewhere for medical care. In other areas along the Afghan border, it improved refugees' access to physical rehabilitation services, delivered RCMs and helped families confirm the fate of relatives who had been killed in Afghanistan in 2001.

The ICRC monitored the conditions of people who had been affected by pre-ceasefire crossfire at the LoC, maintaining small-scale assistance to displaced persons, returnees and amputees. It closely followed developments in Baluchistan.

From its logistic base in Peshawar, the delegation also supported ICRC operations in Afghanistan. Aircraft based there kept up

regular flights transporting Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and other humanitarian workers to and from major cities in Afghanistan.

With a delegation in Islamabad, an office in Muzaffarabad and a logistic centre in Peshawar already in place, the ICRC was able to react quickly when the earthquake struck in northern Pakistan in October. In less than a week, it had begun distributing relief, evacuating the wounded and helping survivors contact their families. On 21 October, it opened a 100-bed field hospital in Muzaffarabad. It also set up basic health units in areas cut off by road damage. The ICRC and the International Federation established a joint logistic hub in Islamabad and Mansehra and agreed on the division of responsibilities: the ICRC coordinated operations in affected areas of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, while the International Federation covered those in the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP). Mobilizing experienced staff, materials and vehicles from delegations in the region and beyond, as well as from a number of internationally active National Societies, the ICRC rapidly built up relief deliveries and medical care in the Neelum and Jhelum valleys. Under the harsh weather conditions, it took as many as 10 helicopters and some 200 vehicles to cover this large and rugged area. The ICRC worked with the Pakistani Red Crescent to distribute the relief, and coordinated with other agencies involved both at ground level and in Islamabad. The ICRC was designated by the Pakistani authorities as lead agency among

the organizations registering unaccompanied children.

CIVILIANS

Assisting the displaced

To escape the sporadic crossfire at the LoC, several thousand people had sought shelter in valleys in the Northern Areas (Skardu) and Pakistan-administered Kashmir (Muzaffarabad) between 1999 and 2003. Many returned to their villages in 2004 after the ceasefire improved security there, but some could not go home because their villages had been destroyed, contaminated by mines or cordoned off as military zones. The ICRC improved the water supply for some 400 IDPs still in camps and helped them approach the authorities about other needs.

Tracing the missing and helping maintain family links

The ICRC continued to help Afghan refugees maintain contacts with family members via the tracing and RCM network and issued travel documents for refugees travelling to countries that had granted them asylum. Most of the RCMs relayed were between detainees held in Guantanamo Bay, Pakistan or Afghanistan and their families. Refugees living in camps near the border had already found other ways of communicating with family members in Afghanistan, so few used the RCM network for that purpose. In 2005, the ICRC informed 38 families in Pakistan of the fate of their relatives who died in fighting in Afghanistan in 2001.

The ICRC and the Pakistani Red Crescent also worked together to help earthquake survivors contact relatives. To begin with, field teams provided a phone service in remote villages when carrying out needs assessments; they soon began relaying messages and helping locate relatives of people who had been evacuated or had migrated to urban areas. A website was set up to record the names of people seeking or being sought by their relatives.

The Pakistani Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education designated the ICRC as the lead agency for registering unaccompanied children in order to find and reunite them with their families.

- ▶ 898 RCMs collected from civilians and 980 distributed to them
- ▶ 374 new cases opened of people sought by their relatives, of whom 99 were women and 113 were minors
- ▶ 29 people sought by their families were located; 365 cases were still pending at the end of 2005
- ▶ 150 unaccompanied children registered; 65 reunited with their relatives and 84 cases still pending at the end of the year
- ▶ 1,884 phone calls were made by earthquake survivors to relatives
- ▶ 722 names recorded on the ICRC family-links website to re-establish family links after earthquake

Assisting earthquake survivors

In coordination with the authorities and humanitarian organizations present, the ICRC initially planned to assist 150,000 earthquake survivors. When the extent of the disaster became clear, it extended its assistance programme, which focused on areas around the Neelum and Jhelum valleys in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Half of the people who received ICRC relief lived in places that could only be reached by helicopter. Because they took up less room in helicopters and could be used with materials salvaged from destroyed houses to create better winter shelter, the ICRC chose to provide tarpaulins rather than tents, delivering them along with blankets as a first priority. It then distributed half-rations of rice, pulses, ghee, sugar, salt and tea, as well as clothing, jerrycans and kitchen sets. When it became clear that more materials were needed to provide sufficient shelter in winter, the ICRC airlifted corrugated iron sheeting, ropes, nails and tools for people living at altitudes above 1,200 metres, and hired carpenters to build shelters for people such as widows, the elderly, or the disabled who could not do the

work themselves. The ICRC also repaired water systems in urban centres and in towns or villages where it had set up basic health care units.

- ▶ distributed over 6,000 tonnes of assistance, providing essential goods to over 317,000 people, food to nearly 219,000 and corrugated sheeting to over 35,000
- ▶ 13,400 people had their water supply improved by projects completed, and projects were ongoing for 6,000 more

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

At the end of 2004, 500 people previously held in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay were repatriated and put in preventive detention in Pakistan for security screening. The ICRC had free access to them and was able to carry out visits in accordance with its standard procedures. Following the release of more than 200 of the detainees, ICRC field staff checked on their well-being at home and provided them when necessary with assistance or help in getting medical care. It also visited those kept in custody in jails in the Punjab and NWFP, distributing some assistance. The ICRC pursued its dialogue with the detaining authorities in order to gain access to other categories of security detainees.

- ▶ 319 people visited (272 monitored individually, none newly registered) during 15 visits to 4 places of detention
- ▶ 16 RCMs collected from detainees and 52 distributed to them
- ▶ 229 released detainees checked on at home; 112 of them assisted

WOUNDED AND SICK

Medical services for the war-wounded

The ICRC continued to reimburse the costs of medical care and transport for people injured in fighting, assisting 288 patients treated in surgical facilities in Peshawar or Quetta. It also reimbursed the costs of medical treatment of Afghan refugees in the camps it visited and of the detainees who had been released (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

As it was unable to assess medical facilities in areas of Waziristan where military operations were under way, the ICRC made plans to assist two hospitals in Bannu and Tank that served as first relay stations for patients injured in clashes in North and South Waziristan.

Medical services for earthquake survivors

With the support of the Norwegian, Finnish, German and Japanese Red Cross Societies, the ICRC started evacuating the wounded within days of the earthquake and deployed first-aid/triage teams in areas where there were many injured people. On 21 October, it opened a general referral field hospital in Muzaffarabad, and soon increased the hospital's capacity from 100 to 130 beds to accommodate an influx of patients, mostly women and children. It also set up basic health care units in Muzaffarabad, Pattika and Chinari to supply services no longer available because health facilities had been destroyed. Initially, the units mostly treated earthquake injuries but soon shifted to providing standard primary health care, such as immunization, maternity care and hygiene promotion, and organizing outreach activities in nearby villages. The ICRC also set up a mother and child health unit in Cham (Jhelum valley).

- ▶ 700 people given urgent care via medical evacuations
- ▶ 1,245 people treated by temporary first-aid/triage teams
- ▶ over 750 patients admitted to the ICRC field hospital and 700 operations performed
- ▶ 15,547 curative (about half to women) and 596 maternal consultations, and 5,206 immunizations given in basic health units

Rehabilitation for the disabled

In isolated areas bordering Afghanistan and India, the ICRC helped improve access to rehabilitation services for disabled people who could neither reach centres that were located in cities nor pay for their services. In Baluchistan, it helped one hospital reorganize and upgrade its rehabilitation services. Owing to security constraints, it had to postpone plans to set up mobile units to serve Afghan refugees living in camps near the border, but it did fit 12 disabled people in one camp with orthopaedic appliances during a trial visit. In NWFP, the ICRC transported 384 people to the ICRC-run rehabilitation centre in Jalalabad (Afghanistan). Those who could not cross the border were referred to the rehabilitation centre of the Peshawar Institute of Prosthetic and Orthotic Services (PIPOS), which the ICRC reimbursed for the services provided. Late in the year, the ICRC also began providing PIPOS with materials, components and the basic equipment needed to adopt polypropylene technology. In Pakistan-administered Kashmir, the ICRC began making referrals to the Fauji Foundation Artificial Limb

Centre in Rawalpindi just before the earthquake hit. It restarted the activity in December and began training staff there in polypropylene technology.

The authorities estimated that over 1,000 survivors had been disabled as a result of the earthquake. The ICRC included earthquake victims in the referral criteria of the above-mentioned programmes and began plans to set up a new rehabilitation facility in Muzaffarabad.

- 3 physical rehabilitation facilities supported
- 1,897 patients (399 amputees) treated at ICRC-supported facilities
- 211 new patients fitted with prostheses, 374 fitted with orthoses
- 301 prostheses (216 for mine/ERW victims) and 437 orthoses (24 for mine victims) delivered
- 235 crutches and 41 wheelchairs delivered

AUTHORITIES

To serve as a basis for prioritizing measures for implementing IHL, the ICRC commissioned the Pakistan Research Society of International Law (RSIL) to conduct a study comparing national legislation with the requirements of IHL treaties. The study was completed in 2005. While the official launch was postponed because of the earthquake, the RSIL, with ICRC support, organized a workshop to present its findings to officials of key ministries and departments, who showed a keen interest in drafting a Geneva Conventions Act. The ICRC also enabled representatives of key government bodies to attend IHL events abroad such as the regional launch of the ICRC study on customary international humanitarian law (see *New Delhi*).

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Pakistani armed forces progressed in their programme to integrate IHL into the doctrine, teaching and training of all three branches. The ICRC trained IHL instructors and gave technical support to the three forces for drawing up a plan of action for 2005. The delegation also gave presentations on IHL for Frontier Corps troops deployed in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. The relationship developed with the armed forces through these activities facilitated the close coordination with the military that helped ensure smooth functioning of the earthquake relief effort.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In order to foster exchange on the relationship between IHL and Islamic law, the delegation gave lectures on IHL-related topics in five religious schools. It also briefed journalists on its activities and issues related to IHL, and organized a presentation on IHL for the national Human Rights Commission.

The ICRC worked to enhance IHL study in universities. It held a training course at the Higher Education Commission to qualify more lecturers to teach IHL, and selected and trained another team for the Jean Pictet international moot-court competition. Karachi University began offering a course on IHL, and the ICRC supplied it with reference materials for its library.

The delegation maintained regular contact with representatives of the national and international media, giving interviews and issuing press releases. Following the earthquake, it highlighted the Movement's activities in Pakistan-administered Kashmir through extensive networking with journalists and community leaders.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Earthquake relief

After the earthquake, the Pakistani Red Crescent concentrated on assisting survivors. The ICRC supported its earthquake relief activities in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, and the International Federation supported them in NWFP. The National Society sent professional staff from the Punjab and recruited many volunteers, including some who had earlier been trained through ICRC-supported first-aid programmes. Red Crescent staff and volunteers participated in the distribution of more than half of the ICRC's earthquake relief, and the ICRC provided logistical facilities for Pakistani Red Crescent distributions.

The Movement response to the earthquake helped over a million survivors. ICRC and International Federation operations in affected areas were conducted with emergency response units and staff from over 10 National Societies; in addition, many other National Societies operated relief activities independently. In December, the Pakistani Red Crescent organized a meeting for all Movement components active in the country.

First aid and ambulance services

The Pakistani Red Crescent often deployed ambulances and first-aid workers at events around the country, and its ambulances responded to several bombings and riots. The ICRC, which had previously donated several ambulances, helped fund 55 first-aid training courses for over 1,500 participants around the country. It also agreed to support the National Society in a branch-development programme in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

Restoring family links and promoting IHL

The ICRC helped fund National Society publications and programmes promoting the Fundamental Principles. It worked closely with the National Society to maintain the RCM network and helped fund its tracing department. After the earthquake, joint ICRC/Pakistani Red Crescent teams visited hospitals, camps for those displaced by the earthquake and villages in affected regions, helping survivors contact or trace relatives (see also *Civilians*).