



# pakistan

The ICRC began working in Pakistan in 1981 to assist victims of the conflict in Afghanistan. Its operations now focus on the situation in Pakistan and include: visiting some groups of security detainees and seeking access to others; assisting victims of conflict and natural disaster; improving care of the war-wounded and the disabled; promoting compliance with IHL among officials and military forces; fostering dialogue with Islamic scholars and the media on IHL-related issues, the conduct of hostilities and neutral and independent humanitarian action; and supporting the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in enhancing its response capacity, particularly in areas near the Line of Control and the Afghan border.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	<b>2,696</b>
Assistance	<b>46,656</b>
Prevention	<b>1,812</b>
Cooperation with National Societies	<b>1,381</b>
General	-

► **52,545**

of which: Overheads **3,206**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	<b>54%</b>
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## PERSONNEL

<b>88</b> expatriates
<b>476</b> national staff (daily workers not included)

## KEY POINTS

### In 2006, the ICRC:

- ▶ continued to support the medical care of people wounded in military operations and to provide rehabilitation services to the disabled living in conflict- or earthquake-affected areas;
- ▶ followed up detainees repatriated from Afghanistan and the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba and helped them reintegrate into society following their release; pursued efforts to gain access to detainees held in connection with military and security operations;
- ▶ maintained emergency assistance to earthquake victims through the winter, closing its field hospital in Muzaffarabad in February and ending large-scale relief distributions in March;
- ▶ from spring onwards, carried out programmes to help the earthquake-affected population gradually return to normal life, including supporting and rebuilding selected health structures, rehabilitating rural water systems and aiding agricultural production through seed distributions and livestock programmes;
- ▶ cooperated with and provided support to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in responding to needs arising from the earthquake, in close coordination with the International Federation.

## CONTEXT

In January, a missile fired by the United States killed 15 civilians in Bajaur agency in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), sparking waves of protest in Pakistani cities. Anti-Western violence erupted again in March when US President Bush visited the region. A suicide attack near the US consulate in Karachi killed a US diplomat while President Bush was in New Delhi. In October, some 80 people were killed in an air strike carried out by Pakistani forces on a *madrasa* in Bajaur agency. The attack was followed by a suicide bombing of a military base in the town of Dargai, which killed more than 40 soldiers. Violence between Sunni and Shia extremist groups persisted countrywide.

The government stepped up military operations in North Waziristan in response to an increase in violence early in the year. In September, the government signed a peace agreement with militants in the region. South Waziristan, meanwhile, remained calm.

Violence flared up again in Baluchistan, with rocket attacks and bombings becoming daily occurrences and security forces deployed in most of Dera Bugti and Kohlu districts. The Baluch nationalist leader Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti was killed in a military operation in the Dera Bugti district in August. Following his death, there were fewer alleged attacks by the banned Baluchistan Liberation Army.

Relations between Pakistan and India continued to improve as trade and “people-to-people” contacts increased. Resolving the Kashmir question remained a priority for both countries, but no significant

progress in achieving this end was made in 2006. Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan deteriorated towards the end of the year, with Pakistan threatening to fence and mine sections of its border with Afghanistan.

The government worked with many national and international organizations to provide shelter, food and other vital assistance to earthquake survivors in Pakistan-administered Kashmir and North-West Frontier Province (NWFP). Mild winter weather helped avert the worst consequences of the disaster, and most food deliveries stopped in March when the earthquake response shifted from the emergency to the recovery phase. The many IDPs who had settled in Muzaffarabad and other areas began returning to their villages when spring came. Efforts to rebuild houses were hampered by logistical difficulties due to the rough and isolated terrain, but most families had shelter for the winter. Property issues continued to affect many who returned home. Larger infrastructure projects, including new towns in Muzaffarabad and Balakot districts, made slow progress.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)		CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM		
Detainees visited	49	<i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	12	Food	Beneficiaries	198,852
Number of visits carried out	9	Essential household items	Beneficiaries	251,804
Number of places of detention visited	4	Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	211,722
<b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>		Water supply schemes and sanitation systems (completed projects)		
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>		Habitat structures	Beneficiaries	21,884
RCMs collected	1,079	<i>Health</i>		
RCMs distributed	1,235	Health centres supported	Structures	6
People reunited with their families	5	Consultations	Patients	92,685
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>		Immunizations	Activities	42,726
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	160	<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)	191	Hospitals supported	Structures	14
Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2006	200	Admissions	Patients	1,159
<i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i>		Operations	Operations performed	3,137
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC	16	<i>Physical rehabilitation</i>		
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC	60	Patients receiving services	Patients	2,701
UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2006	2	Prostheses delivered	Pieces	723
<b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>		Orthoses delivered	Pieces	678
People to whom travel documents were issued	8			

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued its activities for victims of armed confrontations in Pakistan. It followed the cases of detainees repatriated from Afghanistan and the US detention facility at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba, helped families in Pakistan maintain contact with relatives detained abroad, supported hospitals treating the wounded and improved access to physical rehabilitation services for disabled people living in isolated areas affected by security operations. During the year, the ICRC intensified its dialogue with the authorities to obtain access to security detainees throughout the country.

In parallel to these activities, the delegation devoted significant resources to assisting earthquake survivors in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. In consultation with the authorities and the many international organizations and bodies involved in the relief effort and with the support of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, it distributed shelter material, food and other relief to civilians living in high-altitude and remote areas that were reached by few other humanitarian organizations. In addition to launching its largest-ever helicopter operation to distribute aid in these areas, the ICRC made deliveries by truck to places that were accessible by road. Milder than usual weather contributed to the operation's success.

The Federal Relief Commission, which led relief efforts until spring, facilitated the work of the many organizations involved. While retaining its independence in needs assessment, relief distributions and logistics, the ICRC coordinated its work with that of other humanitarian agencies, including those participating in the pilot "cluster system", in order to avoid duplication or gaps in the delivery of aid to those most in need.

The International Federation and the ICRC divided their earthquake response by geographical area, the ICRC covering Pakistan-administered Kashmir and the International Federation covering areas in NWFP. Within the area it covered, the ICRC focused on the Neelum and Jhelum valleys, areas that before the ceasefire at the end of 2003 had long been affected by crossfire at the Line of Control between India and Pakistan and had been hardest hit by the earthquake.

The ICRC ran a 100-bed field hospital provided by the Finnish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies and four basic health care units provided by the German, Finnish, Japanese and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, one in Muzaffarabad town, two in Jhelum valley (Chinari and Chham), and one in Neelum valley (Pattika). Demand for hospital services had dropped by February, and the ICRC closed the field hospital and donated the packed-up facility to the Ministry of Health, after training 67 of the ministry's staff in its use. Throughout the

country, the ICRC worked in partnership with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society to restore contact between family members separated as a result of the earthquake. It gave priority to registering unaccompanied minors and where appropriate, reuniting them with their families.

When spring came, the ICRC ended the helicopter operation and focused its attention on aiding recovery, providing farmers with seeds, fertilizer and tools to resume agricultural production and carrying out a livestock programme with the German Red Cross. The ICRC also began to help the authorities restore public services, including by training Ministry of Health staff. Emphasis was also placed on rehabilitating rural water systems and beginning the construction of a physical rehabilitation centre in Muzaffarabad. Patients from earthquake-affected areas received treatment and physiotherapy services in centres supported by the ICRC.

## CIVILIANS

**Assisting residents and the displaced**

To assess the impact of armed confrontations on the civilian population, the ICRC conducted a four-day mission in Baluchistan at the end of December 2005. It covered areas around Dera Bugti and Kohlu districts where IDPs were likely to gather and found no immediate need for assistance. In mid-February, the ICRC made a visit to Dera Ghazi Khan in Southern Punjab to assess

the needs of Baluch IDPs living there. The government later transferred the IDPs back to Dera Bugti. The ICRC planned to continue such monitoring, but by the end of the year had been unable to visit the districts most directly affected by armed violence.

In 2005, the ICRC had begun to improve access to water for people displaced at the Line of Control and still living in camps in Skardu because they were, as yet, unable to return to their villages. The work continued in 2006. The laying of the pipeline to Brolmo II IDP camp was completed by early December.

Also in the Skardu district, but closer to the Line of Control, torrential rainstorms in July caused landslides, which destroyed 36 houses and damaged another 8. A total of 418 people were directly affected and displaced. To help them cope with extreme winter weather, the survivors were given shelter materials, blankets and food by the ICRC.

Earthquake victims in Pakistan-administered Kashmir also received assistance. From January to mid-February, people living in 13 Union Councils of Pakistan-administered Kashmir were provided with food and essential household items. Those areas that were still without an adequate food supply received a second round of rations between mid-February and the end of March, after which distributions ceased.

As most homes had been destroyed, the biggest threat to survival was the cold. Earthquake survivors received blankets, kitchen sets, jerrycans, winter clothing, towels, shoes, children's clothing and emergency shelter materials from the ICRC. Families living in high-altitude rural areas that could not be reached by road built structures from corrugated metal sheeting delivered by ICRC helicopter, to protect themselves from the elements. In many places, the relief distributions were carried out by National Society volunteers.

- 198,852 people received food
- 251,804 people received essential household items
- 42,784 people provided with corrugated iron sheeting to build basic temporary shelters

The water board of Muzaffarabad district used chemicals and storage facilities provided by the ICRC to improve the population's basic water supply in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake.

Residents of two smaller towns in the Jhelum valley had water delivered by ICRC tanker. Subsequently, rural residents of six Union Councils of Muzaffarabad district built gravity-fed water schemes for irrigation and home consumption with materials and technical support from the ICRC, provided in consultation with village water committees. The villagers were skilled and motivated, so the projects progressed well: 10 were completed by the end of the year and 27 more were in progress.

- 70,142, people throughout Pakistan benefited from improvements to their water supply and sanitation through completed (21,884 people) and ongoing (48,258 people) projects

The destruction of fields and the loss of plough animals in the earthquake set back agricultural production. Starting in the spring, farmers in the eight poorest or least accessible Union Councils of Muzaffarabad district were able to cultivate their land once again using tools, seeds and fertilizer provided by the ICRC and distributed with the help of the National Society. In the Neelum valley, through a project run jointly with the German Red Cross, households that had lost their livestock received one cow and one calf each from which to obtain milk and improve their nutrition. In 14 high-altitude villages in the Jhelum valley, some 10,500 grafted walnut saplings, able to produce higher-quality nuts than the indigenous trees, were distributed in order to boost the long-term cash income of the beneficiaries.

- 211,722 people (30,246 households) received seeds, tools and fertilizer, of whom 12,698 people (1,814 households) received walnut saplings
- 9,268 people (1,324 households) received a milking cow with its calf

#### **Helping restore medical services destroyed by the earthquake**

The German, Finnish, Japanese and Norwegian Red Cross Societies each provided and/or staffed one basic health care unit in Muzaffarabad, Pattika (Neelum valley), Chinari and Chham (Jhelum valley). Another health centre was given ad hoc support in January. With the return of IDPs to their homes in spring, the demand for medical services in Muzaffarabad fell, and the ICRC closed its basic health care unit there in May. The others stayed open, and at the government's request, the ICRC took over support for the rural health

centre in Dhanni (Neelum valley) at the end of March. The ICRC continued to provide staff support, consumables and training and to strengthen outreach activities, while the government gradually took over responsibility for running the services. One of the centres, Chham, was handed over in its entirety to the Ministry of Health, supported by the Aga Khan Foundation, in October. The geographical isolation and level of destruction of the other two towns, Pattika and Dhanni, slowed the resumption of duties of Ministry of Health personnel. While continuing support for these services, the ICRC began reconstructing three health care centres in the earthquake-affected area.

Training programmes were closely coordinated with other actors involved, such as Merlin, the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund and WHO. Women and children had better access to health services with the help of the ICRC's female medical staff, who assisted them in overcoming long-standing cultural barriers with respect to medical care.

In the 6 ICRC-supported health centres (catchment population: 1,328,000):

- 92,685 consultations (10,420 ante/postnatal, 82,265 curative) were given;
- 42,726 vaccine doses were administered (33,895 to children aged five or under and 8,831 to women of childbearing age);
- health staff working in basic health units attended 12 refresher sessions.

#### **Tracing the missing and helping maintain family links**

Families dispersed following armed confrontations, arrests or the earthquake used RCMs to locate and keep in contact with one another. When people who suspected that their relatives had been detained in neighbouring countries approached the ICRC for verification, the ICRC cross-checked its records of detainees visited and informed the families of the results.

In partnership with the National Society, the ICRC sought to determine the whereabouts or fate of persons reported missing after the earthquake. This involved checking official records, interviewing potential witnesses, keeping in close contact with families searching for relatives and conducting various media and awareness campaigns. As a result of these efforts, 5 children and several other people were reunited with their families. Efforts to build the capacity of the National Society's tracing service continued.

- ▶ 1,065 RCMs collected and 1,222 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 27 from and 9 to unaccompanied/separated children
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 160 people (49 females, 71 minors at the time of disappearance); 789 names published on the ICRC website [www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org); 191 people located; 200 people (47 females, 75 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 16 unaccompanied/separated children registered; 5 reunited with their families; 2 cases of such children still being handled
- ▶ 8 people issued with ICRC travel documents

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Since 2002, detainees repatriated from Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay had been visited by the ICRC while in Pakistani detention facilities pending their release. By 2006, most had been released, and the ICRC conducted follow-up visits to them at home and assisted those who needed help in getting medical care or returning to work. During the year, home follow-up was extended to persons released from Indian detention facilities.

- ▶ 49 detainees visited, 12 of them monitored individually during 9 visits to 4 places of detention
- ▶ 14 RCMs collected from and 13 distributed to detainees
- ▶ 81 families notified of a relative's detention
- ▶ 79 release checks of ex-detainees repatriated from Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay and India performed

Discussions continued with the relevant authorities with a view to starting visits to all detainees falling within the ICRC's mandate.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Care for people wounded in conflict

While the ICRC had no access to areas of North and South Waziristan affected by fighting, it maintained its support to hospitals treating the weapon-wounded who had been transferred out of those areas, and covered the costs of their surgical and medical treatment. Six referral hospitals in Miranshah, Bannu, Tank, Peshawar and Quetta received medicines and medical materials.

In the 14 ICRC-supported hospitals:

- ▶ 1,159 patients (142 women and 198 children) admitted: 844 weapon-wounded (77 women, 90 children, 71 people injured by mines or explosive remnants of war); 98 other surgical cases; 101 medical, 18 gynaecological/obstetric, and 98 paediatric patients;
- ▶ 3,137 surgical operations performed;
- ▶ 650 outpatient consultations given.

In order to enhance their skills, health professionals received training from the ICRC:

- ▶ administrative health staff in the FATA attended an ICRC-conducted seminar aimed at improving coordination with health authorities;
- ▶ surgeons from referral hospitals in the FATA attended courses and a seminar on war surgery;
- ▶ local staff from the same hospitals received ICRC training aimed at improving the quality of medical care.

### Care for earthquake victims

People in earthquake-affected areas of Pakistan-administered Kashmir received hospital care in a 100-bed field hospital set up by the ICRC in Muzaffarabad and first aid or other primary care services in four basic health care units (see *Civilians*). The basic health care units evacuated serious cases by road or helicopter to hospitals in Muzaffarabad or elsewhere. The field hospital was provided by the Finnish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies. By the end of February, demand for hospital care was dropping, and the government was better able to cope with remaining cases. The field hospital facility was packed up and given to the Ministry of Health, after staff were trained in how to use it.

- ▶ some 1,000 patients evacuated during the emergency phase

### Physical rehabilitation

Amputees and other disabled people were provided with artificial limbs and other mobility devices through the ICRC's comprehensive referral system for patients from earthquake-affected and isolated conflict-affected areas. The National Society worked with the ICRC to identify patients, particularly in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Fauji Foundation in Rawalpindi, the Pakistan Institute for Prosthetic and Orthotic Sciences in Peshawar and the Christian Hospital in Quetta fitted appliances for patients referred to them by the ICRC, which reimbursed them for their services. To improve the

quality and sustainability of the services, the centres began to introduce polypropylene technology and provide staff with further training, with support from the ICRC.

An additional 342 disabled Afghan refugees living in Pakistan received orthopaedic appliances over the border at the ICRC physical rehabilitation centre in Jalalabad, with the delegation providing transport.

- ▶ 2,701 patients (638 women and 474 children) received services at 3 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- ▶ 611 new patients (106 women and 43 children) fitted with prostheses and 467 (63 women and 238 children) with orthoses
- ▶ 723 prostheses (122 for women and 47 for children; 370 for mine victims), 678 orthoses (86 for women and 375 for children; 32 for mine victims), 685 crutches and 29 wheelchairs delivered

In November, construction began on the new ICRC physical rehabilitation centre in Muzaffarabad.

## AUTHORITIES

Discussions continued between the authorities and the ICRC on IHL implementation.

The authorities showed interest in incorporating IHL into national legislation after the Research Society of International Law presented an ICRC-sponsored study on the subject at the Federal Judicial Academy in Islamabad. Representatives of the government also attended other ICRC-sponsored IHL events, including workshops and presentations.

At the invitation of the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the ICRC gave a presentation at the Golden Jubilee of the Supreme Court of Pakistan on the implementation and application of IHL in Pakistan, noting where legislation was currently lacking and where progress had been made.

Military personnel, civil servants, lawyers and politicians took part in one of four certificate courses on IHL for working professionals, sponsored by the ICRC.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The army continued to develop its IHL training, including it in the curricula of two key establishments: the Command and Staff College and the Pakistan Military Academy. By providing materials and instructor training, the ICRC also supported the army in introducing IHL courses in the basic infantry training establishments, schools for non-commissioned officers and five branch schools. Additional instructor courses and IHL workshops were organized in different training institutions. Members of the air force and navy attended IHL dissemination sessions.

Dialogue with the Frontier Corps, paramilitary troops policing western frontier regions (Baluchistan and NWFP), also improved. In particular, the NWFP Frontier Corps began to work with the ICRC to incorporate IHL into its training.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The media focused on the ICRC's earthquake-related activities. Their work was supported by ICRC public communication tools and scheduled press briefings. In conjunction with the National Society and the International Federation, the ICRC also sponsored an award for journalists. The ICRC prepared media materials to mark the one-year anniversary of the earthquake.

Members of the media attended four workshops on reporting on conflicts and disasters held in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Muzaffarabad. A Pakistani journalist participated in a media workshop held in Bali, Indonesia, on "terrorism", international law and the media. Later in the year, members of the media attended a ceremony to mark the start of construction on the ICRC physical rehabilitation centre in Muzaffarabad.

Regular contact was maintained with influential religious leaders across the country. Selected lecturers from the Higher Education Commission were trained in IHL by the ICRC, and the International Islamic University began planning the introduction of IHL in its curricula for religious scholars.

- a one-day seminar on IHL organized by the Department of International Relations of Peshawar University and the ICRC

- additional universities/colleges in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad contacted by the ICRC to promote the introduction of IHL as a credit course within their curricula
- a 3-member team selected from 15 law institutions to participate in the Jean Pictet international IHL moot court competition in Belgrade, Serbia (see *Belgrade*)
- 3 Pakistani lecturers attended the 8th South Asian Teaching Session on IHL and Refugee Law in Bangalore, India, an event sponsored by the ICRC and UNHCR (see *New Delhi*)
- 2 professors of international law sponsored by the ICRC to go to the Asian Academic Symposium on IHL in Malaysia (see *Kuala Lumpur*)
- a law professor from Quetta represented Pakistan in the IHL training course for university professors held in Geneva, Switzerland

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society was heavily involved in the response to the earthquake, both independently and in cooperation with the ICRC and other Movement partners.

In Pakistan-administered Kashmir, the ICRC worked closely with the local branch, which was supported by staff and volunteers from the Punjab branch. Many family-links activities and over half of the ICRC's relief distributions were conducted with the National Society.

The National Society, the International Federation, various partner National Societies working in Pakistan and the ICRC coordinated activities, exchanged information and in some cases conducted activities jointly. The ICRC undertook a livestock programme with the support and expertise of the German Red Cross. It also coordinated its activities with those of the Qatari and Turkish Red Crescent Societies, both of which were running hospitals, health facilities and shelter programmes in the earthquake-affected area.

In addition to cooperation in emergency response, the ICRC continued providing support to and working closely with the National Society in the fields of first aid, restoring family links and IHL dissemination.