

**Zeitschrift:** Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross  
**Herausgeber:** International Committee of the Red Cross  
**Band:** - (2001)  
  
**Rubrik:** Asia and the Pacific

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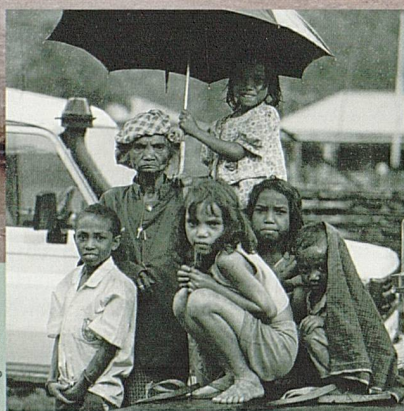
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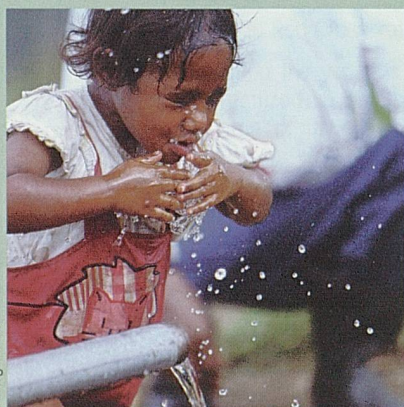
W. Smith/ICRC

The ICRC in an area affected by conflict (Afghanistan).



B. Heger/ICRC

A widow and her dependants at a distribution of assistance (East Timor).



B. Heger/ICRC

At an ICRC water fountain (East Timor).



# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

## Delegations

- Afghan conflict (Afghanistan)
- Afghan conflict (Pakistan)
- East Timor
- Indonesia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Tajikistan

## Regional delegations

- Bangkok
- Kuala Lumpur
- New Delhi
- Suva
- Tashkent

## Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	24,943,607
Assistance	75,517,358
Preventive Action	13,956,601
Cooperation with National Societies	12,338,507
General	3,123,285
Overheads	7,635,583

**137,514,939**



⊕ ICRC regional delegation ⊕ ICRC delegation

The international response to the attacks of 11 September had far-reaching effects in Asia. These were most dramatic in Afghanistan, after the US-led military operations intensified the conflict already underway between the Taliban and the United Front. By late December the Taliban had collapsed and a new interim authority, based on the Bonn accord and led by Hamid Karzai, had been charged with laying the groundwork for a broad-based government. The new developments sparked hopes that Afghanistan could, after decades of war, recover the stability needed to begin reconstruction. At the end of the year, however, neither the interna-

tional nor the internal conflicts in Afghanistan were over: the Geneva Conventions still applied as US-led operations flushed Taliban and al-Qaeda forces from isolated areas. Many local leaders were not fully integrated into the interim authority, and fighting still flared as they competed for power.



At the end of the year, most of the country was calm but still grappling with the effects of the international strikes and the ensuing United Front offensive. While the military operations and the slowdown of external aid did not make the situation as desperate as some had predicted, the loss of life, damage to property and infrastructure, breakdown of law and order, and disruption of the economy and public services added to the losses accumulated over two decades of war and three years of drought. Leaving Afghans even more vulnerable, they added to the already enormous challenges faced by those working to rebuild the country.

At the request of the Kabul authorities, in mid-September the ICRC withdrew all of its expatriate staff from Taliban territory. When international operations began, the ICRC followed its standard practice by submitting a memorandum to parties preparing to engage in the conflict. These memoranda outlined each party's obligations under the Geneva Conventions, particularly with regard to the protection of civilians, civilian property, and prisoners.

The staff withdrawal that occurred in September marked the first time the ICRC's expatriate presence had been interrupted since the organization established permanent operations in Afghanistan in 1987.<sup>1</sup> The transfer of expatriate staff did not halt all of its activities, since some 1,000 Afghan ICRC staff continued to work in Kabul and seven other locations around the country. They kept all six ICRC rehabilitation centres open, and, when security conditions allowed, maintained medical assistance and distributed food to internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups, and kept up repairs to city utilities and rural irrigation systems. The absence of expatriate staff forced the ICRC to suspend its visits to detainees and large-scale distributions to drought- and war-affected residents outside urban cen-

tres in Ghor province. It redeployed core expatriate staff members to its offices in neighbouring countries, and opened new offices to develop alternative supply routes. Staff were ready and logistics networks in place when United Front forces began to take the major cities. Expatriate staff made a rapid return and, thanks to the continuity provided by Afghan staff, were able to re-establish suspended activities almost immediately. They were already working in most areas in late November when, during the siege of Kunduz, ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger visited Kabul. He met with the highest authorities then in power, discussing measures to protect civilians, the wounded, and those captured in fighting, and obtaining a renewal of official authorizations for the ICRC to visit persons captured by the United Front. He thanked the Afghan staff for the key role they had played in sustaining ICRC operations. By the end of the year, the ICRC had resumed large-scale food distributions in Ghor and other priority areas, and visited more than 4,000 prisoners and detainees.

Developments in Afghanistan had repercussions throughout the region. In Pakistan, opposition to the military strikes in Afghanistan unleashed serious disturbances, but the government retained control and aid deliveries out of Pakistan were not impeded. The massive influx of Afghan refugees anticipated by the international community never materialized. In a visit to Islamabad in late November, President Kellenberger outlined the ICRC's priorities in Afghanistan and reiterated the organization's offer to visit security detainees in Pakistan, particularly those held in relation to the Afghan conflict.

The new rapport between India and Pakistan leading up to the Agra summit began to erode after 11 September, and was swept away by the December attack on the Indian Parliament. The ICRC continued its detention visits in Jammu and Kashmir, although its delegates' movements were restricted in some areas after rising tensions led to security concerns at the end of the year. The ICRC and high-level Indian officials tried to settle a number of questions regarding ICRC access to detainees. In the troubled north-eastern states of India, the ICRC maintained that the civilian population would benefit from an expansion of ICRC/Indian Red Cross activities, but was given no real opportunity to provide new services.

The countries of Central Asia strengthened their cooperation in efforts to contain fundamentalism and trafficking. After Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding granting the ICRC access to security detainees, the organization began its first visits there early in 2001. Difficulties in implementing the agreement led to a suspension of visits, however. The Central Asian countries and other neighbouring countries were at the centre of international efforts to develop logistics to supply activities within Afghanistan. These were scaled down at the end of the year when most organizations had resumed operations inside that country.

As Tajikistan moved forward along the path of post-war consolidation, the ICRC reduced its Dushanbe-based operations. The decision was taken to reclassify its independent delegation in Dushanbe as a mission under the responsibility of the Tashkent regional delegation.

Sri Lanka spent much of the year mired in a political crisis, but elections in December brought in a new government, and precipitated a breakthrough in the dialogue between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as the Norwegian-led peace process picked up again.

<sup>1</sup> ICRC expatriate staff remained in Faizabad but could cover only areas controlled by the United Front, which at the time amounted to only one tenth of the country's territory.



Nepal was shocked by the murder of its king and destabilized by the escalation and spread of the Maoist insurgency. The situation quieted and peace negotiations began in the third quarter, but talks made little progress. The resumption of Maoist attacks in late November was met by a government offensive; by December, the conflict had reached an unprecedented level of intensity. The ICRC was able to conduct visits to detainees and field activities until December, when official restrictions were imposed on its activities. The organization ended the year working to renegotiate the terms of access to detainees.

East Asia and the Pacific States remained fairly stable through 2001 despite an economic downturn affecting most of the region. Political obstacles set back progress made restoring family links on the Korean peninsula, which dampened hopes raised by the previous year's rapprochement between North and South Korea. The ICRC was unable to play a meaningful role in the exchanges between separated family members organized by the governments and National Societies. It urged both sides to adopt a comprehensive approach to the problem, and base priorities on humanitarian criteria only.

China's economy fared better in 2001 than those of most other countries in the region. Its entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) and selection as host for the 2008 Olympic games reflected its increasingly important role in the international community. The People's Liberation Army improved its training in international humanitarian law, and the Red Cross Society of China's three-year "Dissemination China 2001" campaign successfully laid the foundation for the countrywide promotion of IHL and the Red Cross's Fundamental Principles.

In Myanmar, dialogue between the government and the opposition was reinforced by the release of opposition figures held in custody, but by the end of the year the lack of further tangible progress threatened to undermine the international community's confidence in the process. The ICRC consolidated its detention-related activities and began to visit more labour camps.

In the Philippines, the fighting in Mindanao subsided and most internally displaced persons were able to return to their homes. The government resumed negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and, separately, the National Democratic Front. International efforts to combat global terror after 11 September had an impact on the government's all-out struggle against the Abu Sayyaf group, as some US special forces arrived to advise the Armed Forces of the Philippines and conduct joint field training exercises in areas where Abu Sayyaf is active. Security risks prevented the ICRC from entering these areas.

Fiji and the Solomon Islands were spared new violence as a tentative calm was maintained throughout the Pacific region. The situation in Indonesia remained volatile throughout 2001, but upheavals were localized and the events of 11 September had no major repercussions. The ICRC was able to step up its activities in the country. In particular, it carried out relief programmes in northern Maluku and Kalimantan, re-opened an office in Jayapura, and monitored the situation in Aceh.

East Timor remained on course towards independence. The ICRC handed over the Dili hospital to local authorities and drew up plans for the future.

The 11 September attacks and the international response were clearly the most dramatic events of the year. The after-effects centred on Afghanistan, changing the character and scope of the conflict there and overturning political, military and economic balances to such an extent that repercussions were felt throughout the region. At the end of the year it was not clear where these developments would lead, but it was certain that the changing dynamics of many conflicts in the region – and governments' new ways of responding to opposition movements – would continue to have an impact on the needs of people affected by armed conflict all over the continent.



# AFGHAN CONFLICT: AFGHANISTAN

Personnel:

62 expatriates

878 locally hired staff

As Afghanistan struggles to regain stability after the defeat of the Taliban regime, ICRC programmes focus on protecting persons captured in connection with the recent international and internal conflicts, providing residents and internally displaced people affected by conflict or drought with emergency food and other vital aid, and supporting Afghan health services providing care for the war-wounded. The ICRC works to prevent injuries from mines and unexploded ordnance, and provides countrywide rehabilitation services for amputees and other disabled persons. It helps maintain ties among separated family members, and ensures that communities affected by conflict – urban populations in particular – are provided with water and sanitation services. It also lends its active support to the reconstruction of the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

## Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	4,037,865
Assistance	51,509,551
Preventive Action	2,902,156
Cooperation with National Societies	5,220,931
General	1,357,993
Overheads	3,327,846

**68,356,343**

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AFGHAN CONFLICT (AFGHANISTAN)



- ICRC regional delegation
- ICRC delegation
- ICRC sub-delegation
- ICRC presence
- ICRC mission
- Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

## CONTEXT

US-led military operations, launched in response to the 11 September attacks in Washington and New York, drastically changed the character of the conflict in Afghanistan. Aiming to dismantle Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda bases and topple the Taliban regime, the international intervention overturned the country's military and political balances as the United Front overran Taliban forces. The fighting, and the disruption it caused, overlaid the destruction of over two decades of war and three years of drought, and broadened and deepened the impact, in humanitarian terms, of the country's conflicts.

As the year began, the drought was entering its third year and was still forcing families from their villages in northern and central regions. As in previous years, they settled in areas around Herat or Mazar-i-Sharif where food relief was available, or moved on to Iran or Pakistan. Fighting between Taliban and United Front forces remained fierce at front lines in the north and around pockets in central regions. Bamiyan and Yakawlang changed hands several times early in the year. The large majority of the country's population lived in areas firmly under Taliban control far removed from the fighting, but they suffered the indirect effects of a war that



# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AFGHAN CONFLICT (AFGHANISTAN)

drained most of the resources needed to rebuild the country and recover from the damage and disruption of long years of conflict. Essential services, where they existed, were largely maintained by international organizations, and millions of people received external assistance.

Pushed deeper into isolation as UN sanctions tightened, Taliban authorities hardened their stance. They sparked international outrage with the destruction of the Buddhas in Bamiyan. Working conditions for international agencies deteriorated as harassment, official restrictions, and security incidents increased. In anticipation of a US response to the events of 11 September, a Taliban decree obliged all foreigners to leave the country; once the bombing started residents fled major cities for the countryside, and domestic transport nearly halted.

US-led military operations, launched in October, enabled United Front forces to sweep through the country. In some areas, including Mazar-i-Sharif and Kunduz, fighting was brutal and intense. By mid-November Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat, and Kabul had fallen; the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar surrendered a month later. Residents who had fled the cities came back, and international organizations began their return. In December, following the Bonn accord, an interim authority led by Hamid Karzai was set up for six months; it was charged with laying the groundwork for a broad-based national government, establishing an assembly of leaders (*loya jirga*) in 2002. Coalition operations continued through the end of the year, flushing out pockets of Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters in the east and in areas around Kandahar. Other areas remained volatile as local commanders jockeyed for power, or law and order broke down with the collapse of former structures of authority.

Up to mid-September, ICRC programmes benefited well over a million Afghans. The withdrawal of its expatriate staff on 16 September was the first interruption of the ICRC expatriate presence in Afghanistan since the Kabul delegation opened in 1987.<sup>1</sup> Detention visits and large-scale food assistance for drought victims in remote areas were suspended, but over 1,000 Afghan employees remained at work in ICRC offices around the country. They kept many of the organization's other activities running: all rehabilitation centres stayed open and in most areas medical assistance continued. Food aid for vulnerable groups in urban centres, water and sanitation activities, and rehabilitation of irrigation systems were also maintained as permitted by the security situation. When stocks were destroyed in the aerial bombing of three of its warehouses in Kabul, the ICRC distributed what remained and continued its work keeping essential services like hospitals and city water systems running. Expatriate staff, redeployed in neighbouring countries, reinforced existing supply routes through Pakistan and Tajikistan and set up new ones through Iran and Turkmenistan, and a second route through Pakistan. They maintained contact with Afghan staff and stood by for a rapid return. Beginning in mid-November, expatriate staff were back in most of Afghanistan's major cities within a few days of their takeover by the United Front.

The continuity provided by Afghan staff, and the trust of local and national leaders gained through years of working with all sides to the conflict, allowed the ICRC rapidly to resume suspended activities. Visiting Kabul on 23 and 24 November, while Kunduz was still under siege, the President of the ICRC thanked Afghan staff for keeping ICRC operations running. Meeting with the highest authorities then in power, he discussed concerns about the conduct of hostilities, urged respect for humanitarian law and outlined ICRC operational priorities. By the end of November, detention visits and large-scale distributions of food to drought victims in Ghor had been resumed. By the end of the year, the ICRC had opened new offices in Chaghcharan, Taloqan, and Bamiyan to oversee operations in those areas, and its staff of over 85 expatriates and 1,000 Afghans were working throughout the country to protect and assist hundreds of thousands of people whose very survival was threatened. In November and December, ICRC food distributions reached over 220,000 beneficiaries.

<sup>1</sup> Expatriate staff remained in areas controlled by the United Front, where they maintained a full range of activities.



## ICRC ACTION

### CIVILIANS

#### Internally displaced people and conflict-affected communities

Prior to October, fighting was concentrated in limited areas of the north and in pockets of the central region. When vital supply lines were cut by fighting in Dar-i-Suf, a drought-affected area under opposition control, the ICRC provided over 20,000 residents with food aid in a successful crossline operation. The ICRC also distributed food and essential shelter, hygiene and household items to internally displaced people (IDPs) who had fled the fighting in the north for safer areas, and were living in camps, public buildings, or makeshift settlements near Mazar-i-Sharif, Gulbahar, Samangan, and Baghlan. In areas where the displaced had congregated it helped families and communities build latrines and wells, and in municipalities it helped the authorities expand water-supply and sanitation systems.

People in areas that had changed hands several times faced the risk of reprisals, and massacres were reported in Yakawlang early in the year. Official restrictions or security problems limited the ICRC's access to some populations at risk, particularly in Yakawlang and Bamiyan. In most areas it maintained a ground-level presence, often through assistance programmes, in areas affected by fighting. It collected information and maintained a dialogue with authorities on both sides.

International military operations and the related advances of the United Front, while targeting Taliban and al-Qaeda installations, extended the conflict to major population centres. Civilians were wounded or killed, homes and infrastructure damaged or destroyed, economic activities disrupted, services shut down, and in some areas the vacuum created by the fall of the Taliban led to fighting between local groups or a collapse in law and order.

ICRC Afghan staff worked with the Afghan Red Crescent to collect mortal remains. After taking steps to facilitate later identification, the remains were then buried. In Kabul, ICRC staff distributed plastic sheeting, blankets, and other items to over 2,400 families whose homes had been damaged by bombing, and they provided certain vulnerable groups with food assistance (see *Destitute people in Kabul*).

After expatriate staff returned they resumed their assistance to IDP and resident communities affected by the conflict, and undertook to meet new needs. Between their return in November and the end of the year, ICRC food, blankets, and other essential items reached over 127,000 IDPs and residents around Mazar-i-Sharif and in Bamiyan.

#### Drought victims

Early in the year, many residents of Ghor province had already been forced from their homes and were settled around Herat in camps for the drought-displaced. The ICRC promptly began distributing rations to targeted groups of the resident population in Ghor with the aim of preventing further displacement from this conflict-affected and extremely isolated region, which was among those hardest hit by the drought. While making the first distributions, ICRC teams found that most families had exhausted their coping mechanisms: they had already sold their livestock and depleted their food and seed stocks, and did not have the resources to survive until the next planting season. To prevent a further exodus, the ICRC enlarged its target group to cover all of the residents in most districts of the province, but a second, expanded round of distributions was delayed by fighting. It began in July and had reached some 40% of the intended beneficiaries when it was suspended after security problems were encountered in August; the distributions resumed in November and by the end of 2001 had reached over 240,000 people.

#### Urban populations

City dwellers' dependence on large-scale utility networks and their high population density leave them vulnerable to a dramatic deterioration in health conditions when war disrupts or destroys their water and sanitation networks. After a 1996 health survey showed a high level of communicable disease in Kabul's most crowded districts, the ICRC launched a programme to improve water supply and sanitation conditions for their residents. By helping families and neighbourhoods build or improve 45,000 latrines and 257 wells, working with district authorities to reactivate or improve latrine emptying and waste disposal systems, and teaching good health and sanitation practices, the ICRC managed to improve the health conditions for over 500,000 people. The programme in Kabul was nearly completed in 2001, and a similar programme, delegated to the Swiss and Swedish National Societies, was launched in Mazar-i-Sharif. Latrine construction began there early in the year but was suspended with the withdrawal of expatriate staff.

When Kabul's large-scale water-supply networks were damaged in bombing at the end of the year, ICRC staff made emergency repairs to restore the water supply to 350,000 people, and continued other work that restored the supply to another 200,000. After expatriate staff returned in November the ICRC also repaired 170 damaged hand-pumps to improve water supply around the capital, and helped maintain urban water-supply systems in Herat, Mazar and Jalalabad.



## Destitute people in Kabul

Widows, orphans, the disabled, destitute displaced persons and others unable to earn a living have, over the years, congregated in Kabul, where sources of assistance were concentrated. In 2001 the ICRC ended its "Kabul Vulnerable" programme; designed to meet needs arising from the emergency situation that prevailed during and after the destruction of Kabul in the mid-nineties' civil war, the programme was not suited to the situation in Kabul when fighting ceased and the food supply stabilized. When it became clear that the rations were encouraging beneficiary dependency, the ICRC developed an exit strategy; in 2000 it announced that the programme would end, and in early 2001 made the last distribution to 20,000 families, freeing resources for new emergencies. At the same time, it developed new strategies to enhance beneficiary self-sufficiency, such as its programme of distributing seeds and tools to vulnerable families with access to garden plots. When the ration programme was brought to an end, this "Kitchen Garden" programme, which had been benefiting 3,000 families, was expanded to reach over 8,500 Kabul families. The delegation maintained ration distributions for institutions caring for 2,300 orphans, and support for Afghan Red Crescent programmes helping the destitute.

During the international attacks, the ICRC continued to assist orphanages and gave one-time food rations to 7,837 especially vulnerable families, most of which were headed by disabled persons. In the more damaged southern districts where many of the city's poorest residents live, it began providing fuel, blankets, heaters, and plastic sheeting to help 10,000 families survive the winter.

## Rural communities

Once planting has been disrupted by fighting or displacement, residents or returnees face many difficulties when they try to resume production: damaged or poorly maintained irrigation systems no longer work; seeds, livestock, and tools have been sold, left behind, or looted; and the immediate needs of survival divert resources which could otherwise be invested to recover economic security. In 2001, the drought made recovery even harder. ICRC agricultural programmes focused on areas disrupted by conflict, distributing seeds, tools and fruit trees to over 13,000 farmers. They ran food-for-work projects rehabilitating some 200 irrigation systems to increase land available for planting and provide temporary income for communities' poorest workers. To improve the survival rate of the livestock on which farmers and herders depended, the ICRC rehabilitated the Ministry of Agriculture's Animal Vaccination Production Laboratory. In 2001, with the project nearly completed and the quality of vaccine production confirmed by an independent evaluation, the laboratory produced nearly one million vaccine doses. It was closed when expatriate staff withdrew.

## Dispersed family members

Until September the ICRC and the Afghan Red Crescent Society maintained a Red Cross message (RCM) network to help Afghan civilians keep in contact with relatives in Pakistan, in other countries, or in prison. Since then deaths, population movements, and the capture of many more persons severed even more family links. The exchange of RCMs was curtailed in September, and the disruption and the change of authority meant that the network had to be rebuilt when expatriates returned in November. Some Afghan Red Crescent branches around Kabul were handling RCMs by the end of the year, and ICRC delegates exchanged some messages between prisoners and their families as the organization stepped up sup-

port to the National Society to help it restore its branches' capacity to collect and deliver messages (see *National Society*). In spite of constraints, over 2,200 messages were distributed in November and December. Over the year, the ICRC distributed 6,950 RCMs to Afghan civilians.

## Preventing injuries from mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO)

Mines and UXO, which remain behind long after front lines have shifted, threatened civilians around the country. Children were especially endangered, accounting for over half of all mine/UXO injuries in Afghanistan in 2001. The ICRC supported Afghan Red Crescent mine-awareness activities and collected data from over 1,000 mine/UXO-injured patients being treated in 300 health facilities around the country. New information on contaminated sites was shared immediately with rapid action teams so that they could mark the sites and alert nearby populations, then data on the location and circumstances of accidents were entered into a database and shared with the UN Mine Action programme in Afghanistan. In this way, the ICRC provided the UN programme with over 80% of the data it compiled on new injuries. Findings from the ICRC's analysis of the data, which were shared with other mine action organizations, helped to improve target planning and adapt strategies for mine-clearance operations and mine-awareness programmes.



International air strikes left behind new areas of UXO contamination, often near populated areas. When front lines disappeared, heavily mined areas again became accessible to civilians, who faced a high risk of injury as they attempted to resume their normal activities. While data collection activities were slowed by disruptions starting in September, they were reactivated in November; at the end of the year, expatriates worked to adapt the Afghan Red Crescent mine-awareness programmes to new threats, particularly unexploded cluster bomblets.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### **Detainees on both sides: before 11 September**

Before 11 September, the ICRC visited over 4,000 detainees held by the Taliban, and some 500 held by the United Front. The withdrawal of expatriate staff curtailed visits to detainees in areas under Taliban control, most of whom were released or escaped as their captors lost power. The ICRC offered financial assistance for their transport home, and by the end of the year had accounted for over 40% of these detainees.

### **New captures**

United Front forces captured large numbers of new detainees, both Taliban and foreign, in rapid advances in November and December. In areas with intense fighting and a history of cycles of massacre and retaliation, those captured faced a high risk of reprisal. Before expatriate staff could return to the country, the ICRC worked from abroad to urge all parties to the conflict to ensure prisoners' survival (see *Authorities*). In most areas, returning delegates were able to restart visits to detainees quickly, and to follow ICRC standard procedures as they conducted the visits.

In the early stages of the period after the return of ICRC expatriate staff, the priority was detainee survival. Hundreds of detainees died in violence that erupted in Qala-i-Jangi while ICRC delegates were trying to negotiate access to them. Held in containers, hangars, or other facilities without water, sanitation facilities, or heating, detainees had precarious living conditions: their food supply was uncertain and winter cold was life-threatening. In addition, many were badly wounded. The ICRC worked to register as many detainees as possible and entered into a dialogue with the authorities on their responsibility to ensure that the treatment and living conditions of detainees were acceptable. When necessary, it also provided food, water, sanitation facilities, hygiene materials and medicines to help the authorities ensure detainees' survival. In Shibergan, where the number of detainees far exceeded the capacity of the prison, the ICRC gave water tanks and trucks in water, and supplied over 10 tonnes of food and other aid to tide detainees over until authorities could arrange for the delivery of basic provisions. For wounded detainees it facilitated a transfer to hospitals so they would receive adequate treatment, and in the Shibergan Military Hospital it rehabilitated a ward for the treatment of detainees.

In the absence of a central authority controlling areas beyond Kabul, delegates had difficulty finding where detainees were held, following their transfers, or knowing who was responsible for handling problems. In the last six weeks of the year, the ICRC visited nearly 4,500 persons held in 34 places of detention; 80% were registered for the first time. They included over 290 prisoners of war held in two US facilities in Afghanistan.

Over the year the ICRC visited a total of 9,112 detainees in 80 places of detention, 5,765 of whom it registered for the first time. On their visits, delegates delivered 5,624 RCMs sent to detainees by their families. The delegation also helped over 2,500 released detainees cover the cost of transport home.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### **War-wounded and other surgical patients**

Throughout the year the ICRC maintained its support for the surgical departments in seven key referral hospitals located in Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Ghazni and Gulbahar; through its regular provision of medicines, worker incentives, repairs, fuel, and other items, the ICRC supplied nearly all of the resources needed to keep these facilities functioning. It also provided technical support to improve the quality of their management and services. The ICRC extended similar ad hoc support to 18 other hospitals, most of which were near front-line areas. Together, these ICRC-supported surgical facilities treated an average of 4,000 admissions and 20,000 outpatients per month. In addition, the organization supplied dressings and other first-aid materials to 12 first-aid posts which treated over 3,500 wounded persons on both sides of the front lines. Except in northern areas where security did not permit it, this assistance continued throughout the period of expatriate absence. In the last quarter, when chaos and the collapse of government left some essential health services without supplies or resources, the ICRC helped keep other vital services running by extending its assistance to a wider range of facilities. In Kabul, this one-time assistance included a three-month supply of medicines for four hospitals with a total of some 1,000 beds, food distributions for 3,000 patients and 5,500 health-care staff who had been working without pay, and fuel, stoves, repairs, and shelter materials for 10 hospitals. In Bamian, the ICRC began a programme to rehabilitate and re-equip the hospital, which had been closed and completely looted, and provide surgical staff to reopen the only inpatient services available to a population of over 100,000. Similar programmes were begun in Taloqan and Kunduz.



## Amputees and other disabled persons

Over the past two decades, tens of thousands of Afghans have lost limbs from mine/UXO injuries. Since artificial limbs need to be replaced regularly, those using them will need prosthetic services for the rest of their lives. By the end of 2001, ICRC rehabilitation centres had, since opening in 1988, helped over 26,000 Afghan amputees. In 1995 they extended services to other motor-disabled persons. The centres provided physiotherapy, and produced prostheses, orthoses and other orthopaedic appliances. In addition, they offered microcredits, vocational training, education, and job placement services. In Kabul, Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif ICRC teams made home visits to paraplegics, giving medical care and offering psychosocial support. In August, the ICRC's sixth rehabilitation centre opened in Faizabad to serve the disabled in Takhar and Badakhshan provinces.

In 2001 the six rehabilitation centres together registered over 6,000 new patients, bringing the total number of disabled Afghans treated by the ICRC to over 47,000. They produced more than 10,000 prostheses and orthoses and some 700 wheelchairs, and made regular home visits to over 275 paraplegics. Over 1,000 patients benefited from their programmes to support social and economic reintegration.

## AUTHORITIES

When the Taliban were in power, the ICRC endeavoured to familiarize the authorities with ICRC activities and the basic tenets of international humanitarian law (IHL), making presentations to some 300 government officials. A first round of sessions begun with senior representatives of the ministries in Kabul was interrupted by the events in September.

After its withdrawal in September, the ICRC was unable to monitor the conduct of hostilities or to maintain a dialogue with authorities within Afghanistan, but as the conflict became internationalized the organization redoubled efforts abroad. It submitted memoranda to all parties to both the international and internal conflicts outlining their obligations under IHL. Through press statements and meetings with high-level authorities from Afghanistan, the US, Great Britain, and Pakistan and other neighbouring countries, the ICRC worked to heighten awareness of the conflict's implications in humanitarian terms, and to urge in the strongest terms the governments concerned to take all possible measures to protect civilians, persons deprived of their freedom, and the wounded and sick. Following the bombing of its warehouses in Kabul, it made oral representations to the US authorities.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

By early September, the ICRC had given presentations on the basic rules of armed conflict to over 2,000 combatants in both Taliban- and United Front-controlled areas. It had also conveyed its message to fighters through a radio programme entitled "In the fold of humanity", broadcast in local languages by Taliban-controlled Radio Shari'at out of both Mazar-i-Sharif and Kabul. The programme continued through the first part of the US-led military campaign.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC maintained contacts with local and international press, and contributed story lines about its activities to the BBC radio drama "New home, new life", which was broadcast in local languages. Before September, the ICRC made presentations in Koranic schools (*madrassas*) to introduce students to the basic principles of humanitarian law. After the withdrawal of its international staff, it continued to pro-

vide interviews and information in local languages featuring reports on ICRC activities and warnings of mine risks.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

Through mid-September, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked together to strengthen the capacity of the Afghan Red Crescent Society. The ICRC supported Afghan Red Crescent programmes of food-for-work rehabilitation of irrigation systems, vocational training, assistance to the vulnerable, mine awareness, and tracing and dissemination. In a project delegated to the Netherlands Red Cross, the ICRC supported *marastons*, Afghan Red Crescent centres providing lodging and vocational training for the destitute. During the period of the international military campaigns, some of these activities were maintained and some National Society branches also transported the wounded. The ICRC provided logistical support for the delivery of medicines and supplies to 48 Afghan Red Crescent clinics supported by the International Federation; the deliveries allowed many of them to stay open after mid-September.

After the fall of the Taliban, the Afghan Red Crescent underwent major institutional changes. The ICRC and the International Federation worked jointly to support the re-establishment of the National Society, and to ensure that it was based on the statutes and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. As lead agency for the Movement in Afghanistan, the ICRC began to outline plans for the participation of National Societies willing to be partners in a unified and coordinated Movement response to the need for humanitarian aid in Afghanistan.



## AFGHAN CONFLICT: PAKISTAN

### Personnel:

12 expatriates  
167 locally hired staff

The ICRC delegation in Pakistan works to protect and assist resident and displaced populations in areas affected by fighting along the Line of Control. Through military, civilian and religious institutions it promotes international humanitarian law (IHL) and humanitarian principles, and supports the health, tracing and dissemination activities of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society. It also provides logistical support for ICRC operations in Afghanistan.

Expenditure: see *Afghan Conflict*  
(Afghanistan)

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AFGHAN CONFLICT (PAKISTAN)

### CONTEXT

Sectarian violence, tension with India over Kashmir, and the repercussions of conflict and drought in Afghanistan continued to trouble Pakistan in 2001. Although it kept its border closed to new arrivals, Afghans fleeing drought and fighting continued to flow into Pakistan to join the large population of refugees already settled there, largely in the Northwest Frontier Province around Peshawar.

Early in the year General Musharraf introduced tough measures to curb the activities of extremist religious organizations. In June, he declared himself president and announced that elections would be held in October 2002. In July he met with Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee at the historic Agra summit, the first time for over a decade that a Pakistani head of state had travelled to India for talks.

The traditional summer upsurge of fighting at the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir was averted in 2001 as India's unilateral cease-fire, extended through the end of May, was met by an order of maximal restraint from Pakistan. While the Agra summit yielded no agreement on Kashmir, it ended with a mutual commitment to pursue the dialogue.

Following the 11 September attacks in New York and Washington, Pakistan announced that it would support the US-led campaign against terrorism. The US then waived sanctions imposed on Pakistan and India after 1998 nuclear tests. Popular opposition to Pakistan's support for international military operations in Afghanistan sparked demonstrations and riots in major Pakistani cities, and the government took tough measures to contain them.

In September, when international organizations evacuated areas of Afghanistan controlled by the Taliban, Pakistan became the centre of preparations to face the repercussions, in humanitarian terms, of new international military operations in the region. With logistics for its Afghanistan operation based in Peshawar, the ICRC reinforced stocks there and opened a new office in Quetta. Core staff withdrawn from Afghanistan were redeployed in Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta. They monitored the situation in Afghanistan and on the border, supported ongoing operations in Afghanistan, and prepared for a return. Two ICRC airplanes based in Pakistan to provide transport into Afghanistan for humanitarian supplies and personnel, but without permission to land there, were used to develop alternative ICRC supply routes through neighbouring countries.

Friction between India and Pakistan was renewed by repercussions of the military intervention in Afghanistan and the US declaration of a "global war on terrorism". It reached a new pitch in December when India accused Pakistan of playing a role in suicide attacks on its Parliament. The year ended with a heavy deployment of troops along both sides of the border, a resumption of crossfire along some parts of the LoC, and increased restrictions on movements and communications between the two countries.



## ICRC ACTION

### CIVILIANS

#### Populations affected by fighting at the Line of Control (LoC)

For most of the year, the relative calm at the LoC reduced the risks and disruptions faced by some 150,000 civilians who live in the area. On the Pakistani side, the increase in crossfire at the end of the year was largely confined to depopulated areas. In July, ICRC delegates were able to travel for the first time to areas along the LoC in Neelum Valley to monitor the situation of residents who in recent years had been trapped by shelling. They also visited camps and settlements of internally displaced people (IDPs) who had moved from these areas out of the range of fire, and helped to improve their living conditions by distributing shelter materials and items for hygiene and other basic household needs. In one camp, they also improved the water supply. This assistance benefited over 1,000 IDPs in the area.

#### Afghan refugees

Up to two million Afghan refugees already settled in Pakistan were joined in 2001 by new arrivals who continued to flee the effects of conflict and drought. Pakistan's refusal to accept any but the most vulnerable groups of refugees, and refugees' fears of expulsion, made it difficult to identify or count new arrivals. The dramatic changes in the Afghan conflict in the last quarter of the year led many to anticipate large-scale refugee influxes into Pakistan, but these did not occur.

The ICRC and the Pakistan Red Crescent Society continued to run the Red Cross message network allowing Afghan refugees to establish and maintain contact with family members still in Afghanistan, particularly those in prison or cut off by front lines. The ICRC facilitated the resettlement process, mostly for Afghan refugees, by providing those who lacked passports with documents for travel to the countries that had accepted them. After mid-September, the ICRC actively supported Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement efforts to prepare for further refugee influxes by increasing its presence near the border and reinforcing the conflict-preparedness capacity of border-area Red Crescent branches (see *National Society*).

Red Cross/Red Crescent family links programmes distributed 1,138 Red Cross messages and issued 1,743 travel documents in 2001.

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

When international military operations were launched in Afghanistan, Pakistani authorities arrested and detained persons in connection with that conflict. This new development prompted the ICRC to meet with senior government officials and provincial authorities and offer to visit this category of detainees. In late November the President of the ICRC met with President Musharraf and the Minister of the Interior, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Northern Areas and States and Frontier Regions, and reiterated the ICRC's offer.

### AUTHORITIES

The ICRC focused on encouraging the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties, in particular the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the Ottawa landmine treaty and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It commissioned the Pakistan Research Society on International Law to carry out studies and issue comments on the proposed Pakistani ratification of the treaties. Unfortunately, this project fell behind schedule.





## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC made presentations on IHL to the major training units of all three branches of the Pakistan Armed Forces (PAF), reaching 1,896 officers. Encouraged by dialogue with the ICRC, high-level officials in the military training establishment showed a willingness to integrate IHL instruction into their own training programmes. The PAF took the initiative of translating and publishing Urdu versions of ICRC IHL materials for distribution to its troops, and developed its staff's expertise in IHL by sending two officers to the ICRC-sponsored IHL course in San Remo.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Academic circles

Facing teams from the world's leading universities, a Pakistani team of students in international law, chosen as a finalist in the Pictet moot court competition in IHL, performed well in the competition finals held in Geneva. Their success heightened interest in the subject within Pakistani academic circles. The ICRC's efforts to promote university-level study of IHL were rewarded when the National Curriculum Review Committee incorporated IHL instruction into undergraduate-level curricula of international public law. To support this development the ICRC began compiling a reference book for training, and organizing IHL training for professors who will teach the subject in law schools around the country. It also provided technical support and lectures for university programmes in international relations.

### Religious groups

The delegation broadened its contacts with important religious parties, *jihadi* groups, and leaders of Koranic schools (*madrassas*), and developed a dialogue with them on the principles behind humanitarian law and their relationship to Islamic principles. During the year it also met for the first time with representatives of a number of other important religious groups and parties. Crack-downs on fundamentalist activities limited contacts with groups affected by the measures. Nevertheless, dialogue remained productive throughout the year.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC and the Pakistan Red Crescent Society maintained their long history of cooperation in joint efforts such as running the Red Cross message network and other tracing activities (see *Civilians: Afghan refugees*), providing selected health services for persons affected by violence or fighting, and promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. The ICRC gave financial and material assistance to Red Crescent branch ambulance services in Lahore and Karachi. This aid included two ambulances for the Karachi branch to help it respond to new violence linked to developments in Afghanistan. In addition, ICRC financial and material support enabled Pakistan Red Crescent mobile eye clinics to provide some 15,000 consultations to people who lived in isolated areas near the LoC and had no other access to eye care. The ICRC also helped the National Society develop its tracing and dissemination activities by sponsoring training and events, financing publications, and providing materials and technical support.

The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies continued their joint financial support for the Pakistan Red Crescent Development and Coordination Unit, which handled headquarters' coordination both with branches and with other International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners. As provided for in the Seville Agreement, the ICRC and the National Society worked under the lead of the Federation in mounting preparations for a unified Movement response to possible refugee influxes from Afghanistan. The ICRC provided logistic support for the prepositioning of stocks, and consulted with Red Crescent branches in border areas as they developed conflict-preparedness plans.



## EAST TIMOR

Personnel :  
19 expatriates  
75 locally hired staff

In East Timor, where society is being rebuilt and a nation is being formed after the upheaval of 1999, the ICRC focuses on restoring family links and protecting detainees and civilians who may be at risk. It also works to maintain essential rural water-supply systems and supports the establishment of a National Red Cross Society.

### Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	666,255
Assistance	5,610,256
Preventive Action	52,406
Cooperation with National Societies	46,042
General	116,789
Overheads	385,821

**6,877,568**



⊕ ICRC delegation    ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation    + ICRC office

## CONTEXT

The year under review was an important one for the region and for the East Timorese people, after more than 25 years of struggle which in 2002 will lead to the establishment of the world's newest nation. Early in 2001 the United Nations Security Council officially prolonged the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) through January 2002. The National Council was dissolved in July, then in August over 90% of the East Timorese people voted in a national election, creating a Constituent Assembly charged with the drafting of a State Constitution.

In January the Commission set up to investigate serious breaches of humanitarian law began preliminary processing of cases related to the events of September 1999. This "Reception, Truth and Reconciliation" Commission, officially established in July, was scheduled to operate for a period of two years. Its purpose was to foster the reconciliation process in East Timor by shedding light on the human rights violations that occurred between 1974 and 1999 and making recommendations to the government on ways of safeguarding human rights and promoting reconciliation.



Several meetings took place during the year between the government of Indonesia, UNTAET, the UN peace-keeping force and the international police force to discuss the issue of the boundary between East and West Timor and security matters as well as the return of refugees. And in an effort to find a lasting solution for East Timorese refugees still living in West Timor, the Indonesian government conducted a census in the province.

In East Timor the ICRC concentrated its efforts on tracing the many people who had gone missing since 1975, establishing contacts with military personnel for the dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL), and visiting detainees held by UN transitional authorities. Rural water and sanitation projects, the handover of East Timor's main medical facility and the safe resettlement of returnees in their places of origin also required the full resources of the ICRC delegation during 2001.

## ICRC ACTION

### CIVILIANS

The ICRC continued to pursue its efforts to restore family links and forwarded 114 Red Cross messages (RCMs) during the year, mostly to and from families in Indonesia. As the ICRC presence in West Timor was suspended in September 2000, it was not possible to follow up the cases of unaccompanied East Timorese children in the Indonesian province. The ICRC continued to gather details to facilitate tracing of missing individuals, and in 2001 a total of 1,249 allegations concerning missing persons were collected. Discussions were held on the problem with leaders of districts, communities, churches and isolated villages.

ICRC delegates also continued to monitor the situation of returnees and raise the awareness of local community leaders about protection-related problems arising in the reintegration process. The ICRC maintained contact with the international police force, UNHCR and the UNTAET Human Rights Unit in order to coordinate action.

The ICRC conducted evaluations of water and sanitation projects previously completed in Dili, Manatuto, Baucau, Visique and Ainaro districts, and distributed supplies to 19 villages to maintain ongoing projects that benefited 2,653 families. The Australian Red Cross continued to provide support in the areas of water and sanitation through various projects, and joint ICRC/Australian Red Cross water and habitat teams made significant progress in the rehabilitation of several rural water systems. In Luquia district the ICRC protected two springs and built various filtration and distribution systems, benefiting a total of 539 families. In Ailee Ermera, Ainaro and Baucau districts 463 families benefited from water projects.

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The three prisons in East Timor – Becora, Geno and Baucau – were all visited regularly by ICRC staff during 2001. The delegation also maintained a constant and constructive dialogue with the UNTAET authorities with a view to pre-empting any potential problems in the future, special attention being paid to the medical aspects of the training given to prison staff. The recommendations submitted following ICRC visits, along with the UNTAET Human Rights Unit's involvement in training prison staff, had a positive effect upon the material, psychological and treatment conditions in detention centres. In 2001 the ICRC submitted a summary report to the authorities on its findings during visits to detention centres the previous year.

In anticipation of the transfer of authority to East Timorese management in 2002, discussions were held with the current prison administration to ensure continued commitment to respect for international standards.

For an estimated total of 300 detainees in East Timor, ICRC staff were able to conduct 14 visits, individually interviewing 88 detainees arrested in connection with the violence that occurred in 1999. Delegates registered 20 new detainees and arranged for the exchange of 644 RCMs between detainees and their relatives.



## WOUNDED AND SICK

In September 1999 the ICRC took over the management of Dili General Hospital. Between that date and mid-2001, 144,630 patients were treated in the hospital and 3,882 surgical operations were performed. During the same period the ICRC trained East Timorese hospital staff in medical and administrative management methods. Efforts to complete the process of handover to the Division of Health Services of the East Timor Transitional Administration came to fruition in June 2001. The ICRC left the facility supplied with large stocks of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment worth some 900,000 Swiss francs.

Subsequently this major referral hospital continued to operate with a high rate of occupancy, delivering full surgical, internal medicine/infectious disease, emergency, anaesthesia, gynaecological-obstetric, maternity, paediatric, general medical, ancillary and 24-hour outpatient services free of charge. The transfer of its management was one of the ICRC's most significant accomplishments in East Timor during the year.

## AUTHORITIES

A round-table discussion on IHL treaties and the role of the ICRC was held between the ICRC's Bangkok-based legal adviser and high-level East Timorese officials, including the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Vice-Minister of Justice and the Secretary of State. Delegates also made initial contact with some members of the new Council of Ministers to discuss IHL treaties and future dissemination programmes for government agencies.

A headquarters agreement was signed by UNTAET and the ICRC. This was the first time that the United Nations explicitly acknowledged the ICRC as an international legal entity with all the attendant diplomatic privileges and immunities.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Armed forces

The ICRC held its first meeting with the Commander of the UN peace-keeping force attached to the military academy of the East Timor Defence Force (ETDF), to explain the role of the ICRC in spreading knowledge of IHL among all parties. ICRC delegates also met Australian and British officers attached to the ETDF military academy to discuss IHL and human rights.

A dissemination session on IHL and the role of the ICRC was organized jointly by the ICRC and the UNTAET Office of Defence Force Development. The session was attended by the ETDF Brigadier General and 15 officers.

### Police

During the year the ICRC gave two presentations on the ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to 49 recruits from the East Timor Police Academy.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Owing to personnel constraints the ICRC was unable to satisfactorily address the objective of increasing awareness of IHL and promoting ratification and implementation of the humanitarian treaties.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

In spring 2001, a representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies arrived in East Timor to assist the emerging East Timor Red Cross Society in establishing its legal basis and planning its programmes. An agreement was concluded between the ICRC and the Federation in order to avoid duplication of effort, maximize efficiency and maintain a common approach. Two first-aid courses were jointly conducted and funded, with technical support from the neighbouring Indonesian National Society.

The ICRC organized an event to present the Preparatory Committee of the new East Timor Red Cross to diplomats, UN representatives and local authorities. It also provided logistic support for several activities carried out by the emerging National Society, such as cleaning seashores and giving assistance to a local school.

The ICRC and the Australian Red Cross discussed the possibility of the latter's extending its backing for the new National Society's development, with particular reference to the water and sanitation programme which had been receiving ICRC support for many years.

Pending East Timor's accession to full independence, the National Society was housed in a building rehabilitated by the International Federation and rented by the ICRC.



# INDONESIA

Personnel:  
17 expatriates  
72 locally hired staff

In Indonesia's trouble spots of the Moluccas, Aceh and Irian Jaya, the ICRC works closely with the Indonesian Red Cross Society, Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), to protect and assist victims of violence, especially displaced and resident populations whose livelihood or family contacts have been disrupted by fighting. Throughout the country, the ICRC works to broaden the acceptance of international humanitarian law (IHL) by promoting its implementation, supporting its inclusion in training programmes for armed forces and police personnel, and developing activities with universities to foster its study.

## Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	779,663
Assistance	2,527,820
Preventive Action	1,238,285
Cooperation with National Societies	1,630,748
General	143,437
Overheads	422,521

**6,742,474**

# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC INDONESIA



⊕ ICRC delegation + ICRC office

## CONTEXT

2001 was a tumultuous year in Indonesia, as the parliament dismissed President Wahid and swore in Vice-President Megawati Sukarnoputri to replace him. The political tension resulted in massive demonstrations and deadly bombings, which came in addition to the intercommunal and separatist violence that continued to ravage the country, affecting the population, economy and international relations.

The new government gave priority to preventing the country from disintegrating and to promoting its economic recovery. However, as President Sukarnoputri expressed support for the fight against terrorism in the aftermath of 11 September, various internal events followed that damaged the country's image and had further impact on its recovery.



In trouble spots such as Aceh, Irian Jaya (Papua) and the Moluccas, oil and natural gas production was reduced owing to violence, thousands of people were reported killed, and hundreds of thousands were displaced. Greater autonomy was granted to Aceh and Irian Jaya in a bid to end the separatist struggles in those provinces, but renewed violence broke out in Central Kalimantan and South Maluku; there was also sporadic violence in Central Sulawesi. Beginning in February, more than 100,000 people fled from Central Kalimantan towards Madura and other places in Java. As a result, the problems relating to the relief of displaced people fleeing violence became more acute, and magnified existing issues of humanitarian concern. In West Timor, humanitarian agencies were severely restricted in their work in refugee camps owing to a lack of security.

In view of these developments, the ICRC took action to address water and sanitation problems in Aceh affecting both displaced people and host communities. The ICRC and the PMI jointly provided 12,000 families in Central Kalimantan with health care and safe drinking water, prior to their evacuation to Madura, where they were assisted with non-food items; they also sent aid to over 80,000 victims of violence in North Maluku. An intensive dissemination programme for the security forces reached tens of thousands of participants and led to a better understanding of the ICRC's role and activities, while a draft law to protect the red cross emblem continued to move towards official acceptance. In March, delegates opened a new ICRC office in Irian Jaya, which set the stage for increased cooperation and effectiveness in the area. ICRC staff members visited detainees, provided them with the necessities they lacked and assessed their conditions throughout the year.

## ICRC ACTION

### CIVILIANS

Given the substantial number of internally displaced people (IDPs), the ICRC and the PMI focused efforts on emergency-phase assistance during the first few weeks of displacement. The ICRC distributed hygiene kits, made improvements in water and sanitation facilities and alerted authorities to the pressing need for measles vaccinations, prompting the Ministry of Health to vaccinate children in several IDP centres.

In the Moluccas, the ICRC supported the tracing and messaging services of the PMI (the only humanitarian organization operating in all districts affected by fighting) and conducted an assessment of IDPs in the south-western region of North Maluku. The ICRC chartered a boat to distribute medical and dispensary kits to health facilities in the region and thus improve services for up to 180,000 people. A programme to distribute non-food items in the same area was completed after 17,423 family kits had been handed out since May 2000.

In the Central Kalimantan river town of Sampit the ICRC and the PMI operated a health centre, carried out a communicable diseases prevention programme and provided drinking water for evacuees. In Madura they provided 17,961 families with various forms of aid including food and hygiene and family kits. Throughout the entire country a total of 165 Red Cross messages were delivered during the year.

Continuing violence in Aceh displaced even more families. The government reiterated its commitment to a united Indonesia, but a dialogue with the Free Aceh Movement, also known as the Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM), remained on its agenda. Despite the volatile security situation, the ICRC resumed field operations in the region seven months after having suspended them for security reasons. Its first action was an assessment of 15 Aceh communities carried out jointly with the PMI. In October the delegation submitted to the authorities a report outlining its view of the region's situation in humanitarian terms.

Owing to security concerns that have persisted since the slaying of three UNHCR staff members in September 2000, all protection-related activities by the ICRC in West Timor remained on hold.

In 2001 the ICRC assisted 200,000 displaced people by providing non-food items and by various other means, such as making improvements in water and sanitation benefiting 45,000 IDPs.



## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Following a period of political uncertainty, the ICRC resumed dialogue with high-ranking Indonesian government officials with a view to obtaining broader access to places of detention. Gaining access to people arrested and detained in connection with the violence and unrest in Aceh and Irian Jaya remained the organization's priority.

A particularly noteworthy development in the ICRC's detainee-welfare activities occurred when the organization was granted access to police stations in Irian Jaya for the very first time. As a result, during the last two months of the year staff members visited 38 security detainees held in seven places of detention within the province.

In all, ICRC delegates carried out 14 visits to 10 different places of detention during the year under review, personally visiting and registering 51 security detainees previously unseen. During these visits the ICRC team had the opportunity to assess conditions of detention and treatment, and judicial guarantees.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

A first-aid post set up in Ambon was operated by PMI staff who benefited from ICRC sponsorship in the form of staff training courses and medical assistance. This facility was upgraded to a primary health-services post treating the wounded and other patients from conflict areas.

In North Maluku, ICRC staff monitored health conditions and drew the authorities' attention to larger issues concerning displaced persons. Enough medical and dispensary kits to treat 25,000 IDPs were distributed in the region. On Morotai island the ICRC delivered kits sufficient to care for up to 17,000 IDPs, and in West Aceh it supplied dressing and hospital sets to the district public hospital.

## AUTHORITIES

Early in the year an ICRC-sponsored research report on the "Urgency of the red cross emblem in Indonesia" was submitted to the PMI and the Ministry of Justice. Later, a workshop on the "emblem law" was organized and a draft law was finalized and officially submitted to the Ministry's Director of Legislation.

Together with the ICRC, the national committee for the implementation of IHL, also known as PANTAP, promoted ratification and implementation of IHL in Indonesia by organizing workshops, drafting the red cross emblem law, carrying out research on national IHL implementation, and completing translations of Additional Protocols I and II. In addition, 1,000 copies of a translation into Bahasa Indonesian of the Geneva Conventions were printed.

In cooperation with the ICRC, PANTAP organized a seminar in Jakarta for academics and military and government authorities, at which the keynote address was delivered by an ICRC staff member. Two dissemination sessions conducted in Kupang and Kendari were attended by 119 participants from local government, the Indonesian armed forces (Tentara Nasional Indonesia, or TNI), police, members of district, state, high and supreme courts, universities, and the PMI.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Armed forces

In 2001 the ICRC expanded its relations with the TNI by promoting IHL, discussing elements of humanitarian law with operational commanders, producing an IHL film for the TNI and translating a training manual into Bahasa Indonesian. Dissemination sessions were organized with the military command in South Sulawesi for nearly all commanders and senior officers, while presentations organized for military units in North Sumatra were attended by 214 TNI officers. In all, dissemination activities reached over 1,500 officers of the Indonesian armed forces through a series of information workshops.

The ICRC developed contacts with the navy during this reporting period, and discussed the possibility of ICRC participation in multinational exercises. Contacts with both army and navy were maintained throughout the year to support IHL training activities and further encourage the incorporation of IHL into the military's standard training and operational procedures.



## Police

Contacts with new high-ranking personnel within the Indonesian police force (POLRI) by ICRC staff fostered a positive relationship during the year, which led to a request from the POLRI to the ICRC to draw up formal proposals for joint POLRI/ICRC training activities. Senior police officers attended a presentation on IHL and human rights law and the ICRC met with the Head of Police's Staff of Advisers to give a presentation on the implementation and enforcement of IHL and human rights law.

A 14-session dissemination programme on IHL and human rights law was carried out for mobile-brigade (BRIMOB) personnel in the provinces, and a five-day seminar was held for BRIMOB commanders to familiarize them with the basic operational implications of IHL and human rights legislation. Three other seminars on humanitarian law were conducted in Sulawesi for a further 804 members of the BRIMOB. The ICRC delegation was given the opportunity to comment on the draft law on the police force adopted at year's end.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Cooperation between the ICRC and the Unsrat (the University of Sam Ratulangi in North Sulawesi) law faculty was facilitated by textbooks and equipment provided by the ICRC to improve instruction and research on IHL and human rights law. Similar support for four other humanitarian law centres in Indonesian universities continued. The ICRC also donated IHL literature which it had received from the Australian Red Cross to the University of Aceh, held evaluation and follow-up workshops on IHL for law lecturers in Surabaya, and sponsored an Indonesian law lecturer's attendance at an Australian Red Cross IHL course in Melbourne.

In cooperation with the PMI, the ICRC organized a seminar on the role of the media in conflict with the aim of increasing journalists' awareness of Red Cross/Red Crescent conflict-related activities. The PMI and ICRC also made a joint presentation to 14 Indonesian diplomats on the ICRC's role and activities, and were invited to make presentations on the applicability of IHL to civilians and women at seven seminars.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

Relations between the PMI and ICRC – especially their mutual cooperation and resource allocation in Jakarta – were good. A new agreement covering improved tracing, dissemination and operational support was discussed and adapted by the two organizations, and together they developed and submitted to the authorities standard operating procedures. This action was taken as a result of the adverse effect the deteriorating security situation had been having on PMI staff involved in the evacuation of the wounded in certain areas of conflict, especially in Aceh.

At year's end, the PMI and ICRC were developing a systemic approach to reinforce PMI's tracing-programme capacity at all levels. The ICRC supported the dissemination activities carried out by PMI chapters during the year by providing speakers and materials. It also supported the production and printing of PMI materials such as brochures and leaflets, which were essential to joint efforts involving the PMI national office and its chapters and branches.



## MYANMAR

Personnel:  
29 expatriates  
93 locally hired staff

In Myanmar, the ICRC focuses on visits to detainees, tracing and family ties, prosthetic/orthotic services, water and sanitation projects and primary health care in remote areas. In addition, it strives to improve relations and communications with civilian and governmental leaders and institutions and with minorities in order to carry out more effectively its mandate under international humanitarian law (IHL). Together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC also supports and cooperates with the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

### Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	3,503,123
Assistance	2,962,139
Preventive Action	412,042
Cooperation with National Societies	215,884
General	199,269
Overheads	497,320

**7,789,777**

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC MYANMAR



ICRC delegation 
 ICRC sub-delegation 
 ICRC office 
 Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

### CONTEXT

In 2001, Myanmar's affairs continued to be beset by border conflicts with Thailand, political stagnation, a weakening economy and inadequate health systems and medical care. The conditions of civilian life, particularly in remote areas, were still dictated by conflicts generated by the presence of military and paramilitary forces, insurgent groups, and various armed traffickers.

UN Special Envoy Ambassador Razali Ismail visited Myanmar several times and continued his dialogue in an attempt to facilitate talks between the government and the opposition. UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Prof. Paulo Sergio Pinheiro was received in Yangon for the first time and noted "positive initiatives". In his report he called the cooperation between the ICRC and the authorities "exemplary, based on fair and constructive working relations". He also underlined the positive feedback about ICRC visits in detention places he went to. Although it was encour-



aging that opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the government were engaged in talks, Ms. Suu Kyi was still under house arrest at the end of the reporting period.

In June, the International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted a resolution expelling Myanmar from the organization, but giving the authorities six months to adapt their legislation and practices regarding forced labour and prevent the measure from becoming effective. Investigative missions were carried out in September and October. Their findings, which were discussed at the ILO Governing Body meeting in November, acknowledged that Myanmar had made efforts to end the problem of forced labour and had cooperated satisfactorily with the visiting ILO experts. They emphasized, however, that still more would have to be done.

Few real economic changes took place. Although a new five-year economic plan was announced, no new policies were introduced to stimulate the agricultural and energy sectors, the government's main economic priorities. Myanmar's economy continued to be plagued by a freeze on aid, US sanctions on new investments, and tourist boycotts.

## ICRC ACTION CIVILIANS

The ICRC continued to strengthen its presence in the field with the objective of making itself better known to the authorities, insurgent groups and civilian population. Trips to the field also helped delegates to improve their understanding of the population's situation in humanitarian terms and thus to carry out protection activities specifically suited to their needs.

The Health Promotion Pilot Project in Shan state, involving sanitation, water systems, health-post construction and immunization campaigns, went forward. Discussions began on the handover of the project – its two health posts in particular – to local authorities, while the ICRC continued to monitor its activities. The project's vaccination programme achieved an almost 100% coverage rate of children under five and women of childbearing age in the seven villages selected to participate in the project. Each health post gave about 100 consultations per month.

Water and sanitation systems continued to be built, as waterborne diseases remained widespread and were the second major cause of ill-health in the Mon and Kayin states. The ICRC and other concerned parties in south-eastern Myanmar signed a letter of understanding to combat waterborne diseases through water-access projects. Piped and gravity-fed water systems were built for two villages in eastern Shan state, supplying around 300 people with safe drinking water. The villagers were encouraged to set up local water and sanitation committees to guarantee the project's sustainability.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC continued its visits to detainees in prisons, labour camps and "guest houses" in accordance with its standard procedures, which include holding private interviews with detainees of its choice. It visited on one or more occasions more than 31,000 persons held in various places of detention and followed the individual cases of around 2,100 detainees, of whom 1,178 were considered security detainees according to ICRC criteria.

The ICRC also arranged for the exchange of some 9,000 Red Cross messages between detainees and family members. The joint tracing programme of the ICRC and the Myanmar Red Cross Society facilitated this task. In addition, the ICRC financed the transportation required for more than 10,000 visits to detainees by family members (on average some 550 detainees benefited monthly from this programme), and distributed hygiene articles and leisure materials in places of detention.

The ICRC regularly provided the authorities with basic drugs for the detainees. Their distribution was monitored by ICRC medical staff during detention visits.

The ICRC also set up a joint working group with officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Health to develop ways of improving health facilities in detention centres. The group's meetings took place quarterly.

To improve understanding of the ICRC and its working procedures among prison staff, the delegation distributed a booklet in prisons.

While the ICRC delegation was active in many areas of concern, it placed particular emphasis on the protection of detained children and minors. In 2001, the ICRC registered more than 800 minors in various detention places.



## WOUNDED AND SICK

Antipersonnel mines were used extensively in border regions. Most of Myanmar's estimated 6,000 amputees live in remote areas and are too poor to journey to the prosthetic/orthotic workshops in Yangon and Mandalay. A joint programme run by the ICRC, the Ministry of Health, and the Myanmar Red Cross continued to identify, transport, accommodate, feed and fit amputees from border areas. This programme and other forms of assistance resulted in the registration of 1,511 new patients and the production of 2,151 prostheses (including 1,598 for mine victims) in 2001. The ICRC provided all five governmental prosthetic centres (three run by the Ministry of Health and two by the Ministry of Defence) with technical assistance.

The ICRC carried out regular visits to these centres and organized refresher courses on fitting procedures. In addition, the organization trained orthopaedic surgeons from Mandalay Hospital in basic prosthetics, and actively monitored the progress of students it had selected and to whom it had given financial support to attend the prosthetic and orthotic training course of Cambodia's National Rehabilitation Hospital.

In late 2001, ICRC began construction of a new prosthetic/orthotic centre in Hpa-An, the capital of Kayin state. Production of prosthetic devices was expected to start during the second quarter of 2002.

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC promoted understanding of IHL among Myanmar government officials and worked to establish a network of contacts among authorities at national, state and local levels. Its efforts in this area were given a boost when it gave a presentation to senior officials from several ministries attending a seminar on human rights and human security, which was organized by the Minister for Home Affairs. This was the first such presentation given by the ICRC in Myanmar.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC maintained its efforts to spread knowledge of IHL and to develop a relationship of trust with military authorities and other bearers of weapons. Two majors of the Myanmar army attended the 91st IHL military course in San Remo, Italy, from 5 to 16 November 2001.

Dissemination sessions on IHL were organized for the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army and the New Mon State Party.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC undertook to raise awareness of humanitarian principles and Red Cross activities by distributing basic dissemination material, and worked closely with the Myanmar Red Cross to develop press contacts. As a result, on the occasion of Red Cross Day, local media gave extensive coverage to ICRC and International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement activities. The award of a Florence Nightingale medal to a Myanmar midwife and National Society member on 12 May 2001 also boosted Red Cross activities in the country.

The ICRC presented its activities and mandate to high-school students, monks, and Myanmar Red Cross volunteers in eastern Shan state, first-aid class attendees in Mandalay and Yangon, and volunteers in 10 townships in south-eastern Mon state.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC and the International Federation supported the institutional development of the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

Cooperation between the ICRC and the National Society developed well in 2001, especially in the areas of joint tracing, dissemination, physical rehabilitation activities and the organization of training sessions. Three seminars on the Movement and ICRC activities in Myanmar were organized and 25 sessions on ICRC/Myanmar Red Cross programmes were conducted in five townships. The ICRC and the National Society together held 22 dissemination sessions in 27 townships. For the very first time, the ICRC gave a lecture on conflict preparedness and response to 50 Myanmar Red Cross leaders during the first disaster preparedness and response workshop organized by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the National Society, which took place in December. Myanmar Red Cross branches were provided with 330 office kits to improve efficiency. Finally, the Myanmar Red Cross and the ICRC worked together closely to increase the number of messages exchanged between detainees and family members.



## NEPAL

Personnel :  
17 expatriates  
29 locally hired staff


In Nepal, where government forces are fighting an armed rebel group, the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN)-Maoist, the ICRC focuses its activities on protecting civilians from the effects of the violence, visiting persons detained in connection with the clashes, and promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) among bearers of weapons.

### Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	2,303,110
Assistance	561,192
Preventive Action	442,398
Cooperation with National Societies	228,827
General	11,663
Overheads	238,408

**3,785,598**



 ICRC delegation

## CONTEXT

Nepal sustained two shocks in 2001 : the murder of King Birendra and much of the royal family in June, and a dramatic escalation of the CPN-Maoist insurgency at the end of the year. Tension mounted early in the year as CPN-Maoist attacks intensified and spread to new areas of the country, and general strikes crippled economic activity. Parliament was unable to take decisions on measures proposed to counter the insurgency; King Birendra allowed a limited deployment of the Royal Nepal Army in the worst-affected districts,

but refused to authorize troops to fire on their countrymen. After the King and his family were killed and his brother, Gyanendra, succeeded him to the throne, riots paralysed major cities.

In July the new king authorized a full deployment of the army in insurgency-affected areas, and the prime minister resigned after a first military operation ended inconclusively. In August, Parliament approved the formation of the Armed Police Force, to be specially trained and equipped for counter-insurgency operations. The new prime minister initiated negotiations with the CPN-Maoist; clashes ceased and both sides released detainees



in signs of goodwill, but talks held in August, September, and November made little progress. In late November the CPN-Maoist announced their withdrawal from the peace process and launched coordinated attacks on army and police positions around the country. The king declared a state of emergency and launched an offensive: fully mobilized against the rebels, the army took control of the civilian administration in insurgency-affected areas. Arrests increased and clashes of unprecedented intensity continued through the end of the year.

The intensification of fighting dealt a heavy blow to Nepal's tourist industry and the programmes of the many international development agencies working in the country. From late November on, the security situation and official restrictions severely limited the movements of international organizations and of journalists.

## ICRC ACTION

At the beginning of 2001 the ICRC office in Kathmandu, previously under the responsibility of the New Delhi regional delegation, was upgraded to an independent delegation. The organization further developed activities in the fields of protection, health, communication and cooperation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, extending its field presence to new areas as violence spread. Security and working conditions were generally good and it was possible to move about in insurgency-affected areas. Even so, movements and activities were constrained in periods when violence increased: in riots after the King's death, widespread misuse of the emblem limited Red Cross movements in Kathmandu; following the upsurge of fighting at the end of the year, poor security conditions and official restrictions limited the ICRC's field access. In December, apart from two short field missions, ICRC activity was confined to the Kathmandu area.

## CIVILIANS

### Resident populations

While the Maoist rebels were strongest and most active in their bases in the mid-western region around Jajarkot, Rukum, and Rolpa districts, by the end of the year they had been involved in violent incidents in nearly all of Nepal's 75 districts. The struggle between the government and rebels exposed civilians to many risks: forced disappearances, abductions, raids, destruction and looting of property, extortion, and acts of intimidation were among the offences reported. In visits to the homes of released detainees, the ICRC monitored the situation of their families and communities. As delegates expanded their field presence through detention visits and other activities, they further developed their network of contacts in insurgency-affected areas and engaged local leaders, both government and CPN-Maoist, in dialogue about measures to curb threats to

civilian lives, livelihood, and dignity. Prior to 2001 the ICRC had had only indirect, unofficial contacts with the insurgents, but over the year it developed its communication with their leaders: it addressed offers of services to the movement leadership and established direct contact with their representatives at both district and national levels. The CPN-Maoist's request that the ICRC participate in a release of policemen (see *People deprived of their freedom*) offered the first chance to develop a direct working relationship.

Reports from many sources indicated that the escalation in fighting had increased civilians' security problems at the end of the year, but official restrictions on its movements prevented the ICRC from directly monitoring the situation. The delegation transmitted memoranda to both the government and insurgency leadership outlining their responsibilities in the conduct of hostilities. When it made representations concerning issues related to the care of the wounded, both parties indicated a willingness to engage in dialogue on their responsibilities under Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions.

### Internally displaced people

The risk of violence and the collapse of services in insurgency-affected areas forced some families to flee to safer areas, and the ICRC attempted to assess their situation. Apart from one group of a few thousand people who received assistance from the government, most of the displaced moved as individual families. Because it was impossible to distinguish internally displaced people (IDPs) from the country's many economic migrants and newly liberated bonded labourers, it was likewise impossible to assess their needs or provide effective assistance. The ICRC decided that assistance to IDPs was not feasible in these circumstances, but stood ready to respond to any change in circumstances that led to large-scale displacements and acute needs.



## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Detainees held by the government

The ICRC visited detainees held by the government of Nepal in connection with the insurgency. The spread of the rebellion to new regions obliged it to broaden the area covered by these visits, and before the upsurge of fighting at the end of the year delegates were visiting places of detention in nearly all districts of the country. While continuing to make regular visits to jails, early in the year the ICRC also began to visit detainees held in police stations.

The upsurge of hostilities in late November was followed by many new arrests. The massive deployment of army units and a reshuffling of responsibilities among administration officials in areas affected by fighting obliged the ICRC to suspend its detention visits as it renegotiated issues of access and visit procedures. In December the delegation met with high-level government representatives to clarify these questions, hoping to resume visits early in 2002.

In 2001 the ICRC visited 444 persons held in 97 places of detention in Nepal. Of these, 242 were registered for the first time. Delegates visited the homes of 107 released detainees to confirm that they had returned home without being rearrested.

### Detainees held by insurgents

Throughout the year the ICRC worked to gain access to detainees held by CPN-Maoist insurgents, who were reported to have captured over 100 civilians since the beginning of the rebellion. While never granting access to persons still being held, the insurgents requested the ICRC's services when they released detainees during the period of peace negotiations; on two different occasions in October, the CNP-Maoist released a total of 25 policemen to ICRC teams. Before turning them over to the government, the teams checked the policemen's health and interviewed them in private.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Most fighting occurred in remote villages, and the wounded were treated first through a network of health centres and health posts. Those wounded severely were transferred to the few hospitals which performed surgery. In the first half of the year the ICRC delegates surveyed health facilities in insurgency-affected areas to get a better grasp of the system of care delivery, and to assess its capacity to deal with influxes of the wounded. They found that the rural medical network, while short of supplies and personnel, still worked. Surgical facilities were coping with the wounded as they arrived, but lacked experience in war surgery and risked being stretched or overwhelmed by an escalation of hostilities. To reinforce the medical system's capacity to cope with that possibility, the ICRC established an emergency stock of medicines and medical supplies for the treatment of the war-wounded, and conducted a seminar to improve surgeons' knowledge of war surgery. The seminar, held in October, was attended by 39 civilian, police, and army surgeons.

In the days following the declaration of a state of emergency, the ICRC visited hospitals in Nepalganj and Pokhara. It distributed enough medicines and medical supplies to the mid-western region's main referral facility, in Nepalganj, to treat 100

war-wounded patients. This delivery was followed up by a field trip, which confirmed that the system of evacuation and treatment was functioning for wounded army and police personnel but left some concern that restrictions on movement might prevent wounded civilians from reaching hospitals. Delegates' lack of field access left them unable to address this concern before the end of the year.

## AUTHORITIES

By the end of 2001 Nepal still had not ratified a number of the most important treaties of IHL, including the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, nor had it adequately implemented the treaties that it had ratified. The need for an emblem law, for example, was highlighted during the unrest following the King's murder. The ICRC continued its work to raise the authorities' awareness of the importance of IHL instruments. Although the year's dramatic events drew the government's attention to other priorities, the ICRC did manage to hold a seminar on IHL for Home Ministry officials, and made written and oral presentations to the National Human Rights Commission to encourage the formation of a national committee for IHL ratification and implementation. After events in June highlighted the need for stronger protection of the emblem, the ICRC and the Nepal Red Cross Society organized a seminar to alert government representatives to the urgency of the problem. The ICRC delegation also drafted emblem legislation for submission to the Ministry of Law.



## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

When the police force had sole responsibility for controlling the rebellion, the ICRC concentrated its efforts on making IHL/human rights presentations to police personnel and working to encourage the police to integrate IHL/human rights training into their standard curricula. When the new Armed Police Force was set up to take over police counter-insurgency operations, and when the Army was deployed in insurgency-affected areas, ICRC shifted its focus to these two forces.

The ICRC made IHL presentations to some 42 peace-keeping-operation instructors attending a three-week course organized in Kathmandu by the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations Training. Participants came from 25 countries worldwide.

### Royal Nepal Army

The Royal Nepal Army provides troops for UN peace-keeping missions. Through contacts made at the UN course for peace-keeping-operation instructors in Kathmandu, the ICRC encouraged the army to integrate IHL instruction into its standard training programmes. With the deployment of troops in counter-insurgency operations, the army announced its intention to develop its IHL training. The ICRC then made a presentation on IHL to 28 officers in the Royal Nepal Army battalion commanders' course, and sponsored the attendance of one officer at the IHL course in San Remo. The army confirmed its interest in improving its expertise in IHL by sending two more officers to the course; at the end of the year one of the three officers returning from the course began to plan a basic IHL course for cadets.

### Armed Police Force

The new Armed Police Force was set up and began training during the year under review. The ICRC made its first presentation to the force in June, introducing senior officers to IHL and human rights law.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC worked through the media, academic circles, and the many NGOs in Nepal to increase awareness of IHL and the Red Cross in institutions that influence public decision-making. The ICRC highlighted emblem-protection issues with media contacts and provided them with information on humanitarian activities in Afghanistan and Nepal. It exchanged information on matters of humanitarian concern, IHL and security issues with NGO representatives invited to ICRC seminars and presentations, and took part in NGO-sponsored events. To strengthen interest and expertise in IHL within academic circles, the delegation sent two Nepali participants to the South Asia teaching session in Bangalore, India (see *New Delhi regional delegation*), and organized a seminar on IHL in cooperation with Tribhuvan University.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Nepal Red Cross maintained the credibility it had earned through a wide range of peace-time activities, but its image as a neutral organization was challenged by the armed conflict. Difficulties obtaining access to insurgency-related areas, as well as problems stemming from improper use of the emblem, limited its capacity to respond to the conflict.

### Fostering neutrality and independence

The National Society worked closely with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the ICRC to improve its legal basis for independence. After participating in an ICRC/International Federation seminar on National Society statutes held in Colombo (see *Sri Lanka*), the Nepal Red Cross leadership initiated a process of constitutional reform, and before the end of the year had submitted a draft of revised statutes to its board. The ICRC provided financial and technical assistance for informing the public about the neutrality and impartiality of the Red Cross, and worked with the National Society to identify practical measures that would ensure its neutrality in the field.

### Protecting the emblem

To strengthen respect for the emblem in Nepal, the ICRC and the International Federation jointly supported a seminar to raise awareness of problems stemming from the emblem's misuse. Organized by the Nepal Red Cross, the seminar was attended by government officials, medical professionals, representatives of NGOs and members of the Movement.

### Reinforcing National Society capacity

The ICRC provided technical and financial support for National Society tracing and communication activities, including sponsorship of training seminars and publications. To strengthen the National Society's conflict preparedness, the ICRC helped fund and organize a Nepal Red Cross first-aid programme in insurgency-affected districts. By the end of the year, the programme had trained 40 first-aid trainers from four of the districts most affected by the insurgency.



## PHILIPPINES

Personnel:  
14 expatriates  
54 locally hired staff

In the Philippines, the ICRC works to assist and protect civilians displaced or otherwise affected by armed clashes between government troops and insurgent groups, primarily on the southern island of Mindanao. It acts as a neutral intermediary between opposing parties in matters of humanitarian concern, visits detainees held for security reasons and, together with the National Society, provides assistance for the displaced and promotes international humanitarian law (IHL) and humanitarian principles in all sectors of society.

### Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	1,335,988
Assistance	1,441,553
Preventive Action	398,613
Cooperation with National Societies	188,775
General	182,720
Overheads	240,819

**3,788,468**



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation

## CONTEXT

In January, President Estrada was deposed after weeks of demonstrations sparked by his alleged misuse of public funds. He was replaced by Vice-President Macapagal Arroyo; the Supreme Court confirmed the legality of the transition. Later, former President Estrada was arrested and brought to court. Serious rioting by his partisans caused several fatalities in Manila on 1 May, and political agitation persisted throughout 2001 on this issue.

President Arroyo announced her intention to start peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and soon thereafter declared a unilateral truce which resulted in the signing of a cease-fire in August. The government also restarted negotiations with the National Democratic Front (NDF) and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA), and on 6 April asked the ICRC to play its role as a neutral intermediary in the release of an army officer held by the NPA.



President Arroyo did, however, declare an all-out war against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), which was responsible for the kidnapping and murder of civilians, both Filipino and foreign. An increase in military activities on the islands of Basilan and Sulu against the ASG, and in Maguindanao during frequent clashes with the MILF, resulted in large-scale population movements and also prevented people who had previously been displaced, especially in the Cotabato area, from settling back in their places of origin. Only later in the year did this become possible.

Additional tensions arose in November when the Governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Nur Misuari, with some elements of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), resumed armed hostilities against the government in Jolo and Zamboanga. His main motive appeared to be reluctance to step down from his post and allow scheduled elections for a new governor to take place. Misuari's term in office was perceived as being dominated by nepotism and chronic mismanagement by the Philippines Government. When the armed forces repelled the attacks, Nur Misuari fled to Malaysia where he was arrested by Malaysian authorities. In January 2002 he was returned to the Philippines to stand trial.

The security situation on the island of Mindanao remained volatile owing to various military activities and the proliferation of small armed groups engaged in the abduction for ransom of Filipinos or foreigners. As a result, several areas remained or were again declared off-limits for ICRC expatriates.

## ICRC ACTION

### CIVILIANS

Prior to the continuous fighting and the flight of many civilians during 2001, tens of thousands of families had already been displaced during the government's offensive against the MILF in the previous year. To help these people in need, the ICRC, the Spanish Red Cross and the Philippine National Red Cross launched a joint assistance programme, providing essential food, household and hygiene articles. They surveyed the dense concentration of displaced people in North Cotabato, Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat, and registered families in 67 reception camps. During the six months of the programme, a total of 13,500 families (55,000 individuals) received aid. The total amount of food delivered was 1,100 tonnes.

Evaluation teams comprised of ICRC and National Society personnel identified evacuation centres in Mindanao where water and sanitation needs were inadequate. They subsequently built latrines, laid pipelines, provided building materials for 30 families, and conducted health education sessions. In total, the above-mentioned activities benefited over 7,000 displaced people. In Marawi, the ICRC began rehabilitating the city's overworked water-pumping stations, and in Jolo completed an assistance programme for a thousand more displaced families. In evacuation centres in Carmen and Marawi City, it completed water and sanitation projects and finished repairs to four urban pumping stations serving approximately 200,000 people, while in Kilala III camp it drilled a new well which provided drinking water even during the dry season.

Furthermore, in Sulu the National Society distributed food and other aid to 1,153 families affected by election violence; some relief supplies were provided by the ICRC.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Despite ongoing negotiations between the government and various armed opposition groups, the security situation deteriorated in 2001 and the number of people arrested in connection with insurgency and fighting increased. The ICRC carried out 121 visits to 82 places of detention during the year, monitoring conditions and treatment, providing follow-up, and distributing medicines, leisure materials and hygiene articles to detainees. In Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, the ICRC provided support for improvements to prison buildings which benefited the entire prison population.

During their visits, ICRC delegates were able to speak in private with 442 detainees and 188 new detainees were registered. In a cooperative effort with the National Society, the ICRC helped to cover transport costs to enable the families of 154 detainees to visit their relatives in prison.

By agreement with and at the request of both the NPA and the government, the ICRC facilitated the handover of a Philippine army major released by the NPA in April. In December, the same group also handed over a captured army non-commissioned officer to the ICRC in Mindanao.



## WOUNDED AND SICK

ICRC teams visited hospitals to monitor the treatment given to persons wounded during armed clashes. However, in the second quarter, many of the injuries observed were caused by violence related to the national and local elections of 11 May.

As some of the wounded were unable to meet the cost of their treatment, the ICRC assisted 25 people by providing subsidies or covering their medical expenses. In Mindanao, the ICRC financed surgical treatment for 33 individuals, including women and children, who had been wounded by bombings and gunfire during fighting between the MNLF and government troops.

The ICRC also placed stockpiles of tetanus vaccine in strategic locations to address the needs of populations at risk.

## AUTHORITIES

In Mindanao, the Visayas and southern Luzon, the ICRC and National Society staff cooperated in conducting sessions on the basic rules of IHL and Red Cross principles and activities for 4,348 health workers, schoolteachers, nurses, local authorities, and municipal and village leaders (the village being the basic social and political unit in the Philippines).

On the village level specifically, the ICRC held 14 dissemination seminars for 674 *barangay* leaders (elected public officials of the smallest administrative subdivisions), health workers and municipal officials in southern and northern Luzon, and for about 200 *barangay* leaders in insurgency-affected provinces in Mindanao. For the first time since 1999, a *barangay* dissemination session was conducted in Davao province before a Council of Elders, village chieftains whose power and influence surpass that of many elected leaders.

The political upheavals in the Philippines in 2001 meant that little progress was made towards the ratification of IHL treaties, such as Additional Protocol I, in spite of the efforts of the Department of Foreign Affairs, which convened a conference on 16 August to enlist the support of other ministries. The ICRC for its part helped prepare an important conference organized by the Philippine government on ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Participants from East Asian and Pacific countries attended this ICRC-funded conference, which was held in Manila in October to familiarize foreign affairs, justice and defence officials with the provisions of the ICC Statute.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Armed forces

In 2001, multiple requests were made by the Philippine Army Division Training Units for the ICRC to provide IHL training for brigades and paramilitary units. The Philippine Armed Forces Permanent Working Group on International Humanitarian Law continued teaching humanitarian law, with technical and material support from the ICRC.

The ICRC, the National Society and the Working Group together supplied instructors who conducted IHL training sessions in Mindanao, Manila, the Visayas and southern Luzon for infantry trainees and officers, Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units and army special forces personnel, involving a total of 4,424 soldiers.

Approximately 6,500 copies of ICRC publications were distributed, including *Code of Conduct/First Aid* booklets, brochures on Protocol II and the emblem, and other handouts, books and pamphlets.





## Police

The ICRC conducted three five-day courses on IHL and human rights in Manila, Davao and Cebu City. The seminars were attended by 172 police officers. During the same period, the National Society distributed various ICRC publications on IHL to policemen in four provincial police stations in the Visayas.

For the first time the ICRC and the National Society, together with the Philippine Armed Forces Permanent Working Group, held basic awareness seminars and workshops for provincial training units of the Philippine National Police in Mindanao, the Visayas and southern Luzon.

## Other bearers of weapons

For most of 2001 the MNLF was seen by many observers as durably pacified since the peace accords of 1996. However, hostilities resumed between some elements of the group led by Nur Misuari and government forces late in the year and the ICRC felt it was essential that IHL dissemination efforts be maintained. An initial dissemination session was held for 25 MNLF field commanders and political officers.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

During the year the delegation maintained contacts with the media in Manila and Mindanao and organized several seminars to promote IHL among students, lawyers, professors and legal experts. ICRC staff also conducted dissemination sessions for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), reaching 230 members, and for community advocates.

Various IHL materials were printed and distributed. In addition, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies arranged for the ICRC to give a presentation to the Red Cross/Red Crescent Regional Health in Emergencies Training Workshop in Manila, which was attended by 22 members of 12 Asian National Societies, including the Philippine Red Cross.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

Most of the ICRC's assistance and dissemination activities were carried out jointly with the Philippine National Red Cross (for details see respective headings above). The ICRC supported the development of National Society dissemination activities, paid one dissemination officer's salary, and provided audiovisual equipment and printed material.

To further expand these activities, the ICRC trained 26 National Society representatives in the Visayas and southern Luzon to spread knowledge of IHL and Red Cross principles at village level, and provided the necessary equipment and material. The ICRC then trained another 25 National Society staff members and volunteers in Mindanao and helped the National Society conduct training programmes in Tagaytay for 82 of its members. Later in the year, six additional dissemination sessions were conducted for some 300 National Society staff and volunteers in Mindanao.

In 2001, the National Society chaired three meetings of the National Committee on IHL, which were attended by representatives of the army, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the police, UNICEF and various NGOs.



## SRI LANKA

Personnel:  
56 expatriates  
345 locally hired staff

In Sri Lanka, the ICRC focuses its activities on areas affected by the conflict, particularly the Vanni, the Jaffna peninsula and the Eastern Province. It assists internally displaced civilians and resident populations whose livelihood, access to medical care or contacts with family members have been disrupted by the fighting. The ICRC also acts as a neutral humanitarian intermediary between the warring parties, works to persuade combatants to respect the rights of civilians, and visits people detained in connection with the conflict.

### Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	7,079,906
Assistance	6,909,787
Preventive Action	1,251,769
Cooperation with National Societies	699,037
General	127,166
Overheads	1,088,921

**17,156,586**

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SRI LANKA



⊕ ICRC delegation    ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation    + ICRC office

### CONTEXT

In Sri Lanka the year began quietly as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) extended the unilateral cease-fire it had declared at the end of 2000. The government, although not observing the cease-fire, limited its military operations, and a special envoy shuffled back and forth between the government and the LTTE in a peace initiative launched by the government of Norway. Within a few hours of the expiry of the LTTE's cease-fire, however, the government launched an offensive, *Agni Khela* ("Rod of Fire"), aimed at

retaking Elephant Pass. The operation ended with casualties on both sides, but no change in the control of territory: the pass, known as the gateway to the Jaffna peninsula, remained in the hands of the LTTE. The peace process, set back by the upsurge in fighting and the LTTE's refusal to participate as long as it was banned as a terrorist organization, came to a standstill in mid-year, bogged down in controversy.



In the second half of the year, growing dissension within the ruling People's Alliance (PA) coalition led to a political crisis. In July, as her supporters shifted to the opposition and the PA, President Kumaratunga suspended Parliament, forging an alliance with the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) in order to salvage a parliamentary majority. This prompted more defections, and in October the President dissolved Parliament and scheduled new elections. The campaign that followed was unusually violent, and in the elections in early December the United National Party, led by Ranil Wickramasinghe, defeated the PA.

The LTTE's suspension of operations in the south of the country ended on 24 July with an attack on the air base adjacent to Colombo's international airport. The attack, which also damaged the international airport, destroyed a number of aircraft, and both LTTE cadres and Sri Lankan security force personnel were killed. By raising import insurance rates, the attack dealt a stunning blow to tourism and foreign trade. Meanwhile, a series of remotely detonated mine explosions in the Vanni targeted leading LTTE figures. Around mid-year the LTTE increased its land and sea attacks in the east. Around Mutur, tensions rose as some segments of the Muslim population, particularly hard hit by the escalating conflict, resorted to violence to defend their interests.

At the end of December the LTTE announced another unilateral cease-fire. Within a few days the new government reciprocated, and shortly afterwards the new Prime Minister requested that Norway resume its role as mediator in the peace process and announced his intention to lift economic restrictions on LTTE-controlled areas of the Vanni.

The ICRC maintained its activities in Sri Lanka, making few changes in the overall organization of its work. In September it temporarily closed its office in Mutur for security reasons; the mobile health and dental teams that had been based there continued to work out of Trincomalee. Both the LTTE and the government recognized and respected the ICRC's role, and in its capacity as a neutral intermediary the ICRC was able to facilitate their efforts to meet the basic needs of civilians. The impact of its action was hard to quantify: mere figures relating to the number of people or trucks crossing a front line give no sense of the importance, particularly for reconstruction prospects, of helping local and national systems to meet basic needs, and of maintaining personal and economic links between communities divided by conflict.

## ICRC ACTION

### CIVILIANS

In 2001, the fighting in Sri Lanka continued to claim fewer victims among civilians than among combatants. Compared with the early years of the conflict, this demonstrated that both the government and the LTTE were showing better respect for the provisions of international humanitarian law (IHL) in the conduct of hostilities. There was relatively little fighting in 2001, and the offensive in April took place in areas already evacuated during military operations in 2000. There were no large-scale population movements, and in most areas violations of IHL diminished in frequency and severity. The exception was in the east: in a growing number of clashes, especially around Batticaloa, civilians were caught in crossfire or subjected to harassment, retaliation, extortion, and other kinds of pressure. Recruitment of minors continued to be a problem in LTTE-controlled areas of the east and in the Vanni.

The ICRC followed up allegations of violations of IHL, reporting them systematically to the leaders of the forces or groups involved. It made written and oral representations concerning over 300 problems relating to the protection of civilians. In June, the delegation submitted a report to both parties on the conduct of hostilities during the "Unceasing Waves" operations (1999-2000). While it was impossible to gauge the impact of this dialogue, the ICRC's input helped both sides to take appropriate measures to prevent IHL violations.

The ICRC worked with the National Society to help maintain contact between family members separated by the conflict. They delivered over 4,280 Red Cross messages (RCMs), mostly on behalf of families living in the Jaffna peninsula and LTTE-controlled areas of the Vanni, and reunited more than 100 families where separation was causing hardship.



## The missing

Many families remained without any news of the fate of relatives gone missing in fighting. While they did not occur on a large scale, civilian disappearances were reported, and families sometimes endured long periods of uncertainty before learning, often through RCMs, that arrested relatives were well. Families of the missing, usually headed by women, often faced serious financial, administrative, and social problems.

In 2001 the ICRC located or ascertained the fate of over 250 persons: about half had been reported missing in action, the rest were missing civilians. It passed on this information to the families or forces concerned. It encouraged the authorities to notify families of arrests, and urged fighting forces to provide identification tags for their own combatants. It also transferred the mortal remains of 281 combatants who had fallen on enemy territory, and called on armed forces and groups to keep personal effects with mortal remains so that they could be identified more easily.

## Jaffna peninsula

Now fully under government control, the population of the Jaffna peninsula had access to basic services and supplies, and few problems of protection. Most of those who were displaced during fighting in 1999-2000 had, by early in 2001, returned home or resettled elsewhere, vacating the welfare centres where they had found shelter. The government, backed up by NGOs, provided health care; the ICRC transported patients and goods to support those services (see *Wounded and sick*). The ICRC-protected ship *City of Trinco* provided 65,000 passages in the only civilian transport link between Jaffna and the rest of the island, thus enabling thousands of civilians to pursue normal activities in the rest of the country. ICRC water and sanitation teams rehabilitated 31 wells and 26 septic tanks in welfare centres which had housed the displaced, so that the buildings could be returned to their former occupants.

## The Vanni

The population in LTTE-controlled areas of the Vanni, swelled by displaced persons in 1995 and surrounded by government-controlled territory, continued to suffer from isolation and impoverishment. Most of the people concerned had been displaced several times during the conflict, but in 2001 there were no new large-scale population movements caused by fighting. While providing food and other basic necessities for residents in the Vanni, the government placed restrictions on incoming goods, including medicines and equipment for water-supply systems; it did not have sufficient access to the area to provide all the basic services needed.

The ICRC maintained a daily presence on the front lines, acting as a neutral intermediary to allow convoys of food, fuel, fertilizer and other essential items to enter the Vanni. It also enabled residents to leave the area to pursue economic and educational activities and maintain family and other links with the rest of the country. It provided assistance for some of the more

vulnerable members of the population, distributing roofing materials benefiting over 9,700 persons in families headed by widows, clothes to over 7,000 impoverished schoolchildren, and bedding, mats, and hygiene products to more than 600 families displaced by floods. The ICRC improved the water supply for upwards of 32,500 people by repairing 66 wells and training community members to maintain them; it also maintained basic medical services (see *Wounded and sick*).

## Eastern Province

The Eastern Province remained divided into "cleared" areas (controlled by the government), "uncleared" areas (government control not established), and "grey" areas (under partial government control). Security problems and restrictions on movements left residents of "uncleared" and "grey" areas suffering from problems similar to those of residents of the Vanni, although less extreme. The escalation of clashes in 2001 intensified these problems. In "uncleared" and "grey" areas ICRC programmes helped attenuate the effects of isolation by providing basic health care (see *Wounded and sick*) and improving water supplies and agricultural production. In a project delegated by the ICRC, the Austrian Red Cross finished building or repairing 400 wells in Batticaloa and Trincomalee. In January, the ICRC launched a programme to install 140 hand-pumps in Polunnuaruwa district, and by year's end had finished some 60 pumps. The ICRC also facilitated the work of the World-Bank funded North-East Irrigated Agriculture Project: by escorting personnel, transporting equipment and providing proxy monitoring for work in "uncleared" and "grey" areas, it helped to increase the arable land available to farmers in these economically depressed areas.



## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Over the year the ICRC visited more than 2,400 detainees in 141 places of detention. Of these, approximately 8% were women and 4% minors; 1,200 were registered for the first time. While these figures include detainees held by both sides, the vast majority were in government custody. The ICRC also covered the cost of family visits to over 1,100 detainees.

### Detainees held by the government

After the emergency regulations lapsed in 2001, the Sri Lankan armed forces were no longer allowed to hold persons they arrested. As a result, there were no longer any detainees to visit in military facilities, and the total population of detainees decreased. The ICRC continued its regular visits to detainees held in prisons and police stations, and by the end of the year was monitoring a detainee population of over 1,100.

### Detainees held by the LTTE

The ICRC visited 22 detainees held by the LTTE. Many of them had been held for long periods and the visits, scheduled every six weeks, were of great psychological importance for them. Five were released, and the ICRC reunited them with their families. The delegation continued to seek access to several dozen other persons reported by the press or their families to be detained by the LTTE.

### "No-mercy war"

For years there had been no breakthrough with respect to the capture of prisoners in combat, but in 2000 government forces captured small numbers of fighters. Hopes that this signalled the development of a degree of respect for fighters *hors de combat* were sustained in 2001 when 10 LTTE cadres were captured in combat by the Sri Lankan navy in the course of the aftermath of military operations in the east. In parallel, 56 LTTE members surrendered to the government either directly or in the presence of the ICRC.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Jaffna residents in need of specialized care

With needs for basic health care being met by Ministry of Health facilities on the Jaffna peninsula, the biggest shortcoming in health care was the lack of specialist services. Via its ship *Jaya Gold* and connecting ground transport, the ICRC transferred patients requiring specialized medical care from Jaffna to Colombo, where the appropriate treatment was available. The *Jaya Gold* also shuttled medicines, supplies, and personnel needed by the government health services.

### Remote areas in the Vanni and the east

Government medical services did not reach residents of many of the "uncleared" areas of the Vanni and the east. In the Vanni, government restrictions on incoming goods, while relaxed in 2001, still limited the medical supplies available to health services, most of which were run by humanitarian organizations. The ICRC, working with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, provided basic health services in remote areas with poor access to other facilities. In the Vanni, a programme delegated to the Canadian Red Cross provided funding, materials, and technical support for National Society health services: the programme's five mobile health teams gave medical care and health education in

43 villages. In 30 of these villages they also supported primary health care centres where community health workers focused on health education, preventive measures and basic care. In the east, the ICRC ran two mobile health teams and supported one run by the National Society; it also worked with the National Society to run a mobile dental clinic. In addition, it provided support for an eye clinic and a dental clinic in the east. Altogether, ICRC-supported mobile health teams, public health centres and other mobile clinics gave over 25,000 consultations a month for a population of more than 200,000 people.

### Amputees

Mine accidents continued to occur in Jaffna peninsula and the Vanni. Amputees on the Jaffna peninsula received prostheses from the Friends in Need Society workshop there. The workshop, which had previously used the Jaipur foot, began also to use polypropylene technology – a simple technology developed by the ICRC which produces good-quality prostheses at low cost. With technical assistance from the ICRC, the workshop produced over 120 polypropylene prostheses over the year.

Restrictions on materials entering the Vanni limited the possibilities for producing prostheses there, and the ICRC planned in 2001 to transfer amputees elsewhere to get their prostheses fitted. When it became clear that most amputees were unwilling to leave the LTTE-controlled area, the delegation shelved the plan and worked instead to help the two prosthetic workshops working inside the Vanni to obtain the materials they needed to work up to their full capacity. By negotiating to get the authorization to import prosthetic components into the Vanni, and then transporting them over the lines, the ICRC supplied the workshops with material sufficient to produce over 80 prostheses.



## The war-wounded

In June the ICRC, together with the Sri Lankan army medical services, organized a seminar on war surgery for over 150 doctors from around the island. It was the first such seminar in Sri Lanka.

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to encourage the Sri Lankan authorities to implement the Geneva Conventions through national legislation and to ratify Protocols I and II additional to the Geneva Conventions. It produced a draft of a Geneva Conventions Act for submission to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Other activities planned included a seminar on the Additional Protocols, but these were deferred until the government could stabilize after the year's political turbulence. At the local level, the ICRC gave presentations to over 1,600 officials in conflict areas in order to familiarize them with IHL and the role of the ICRC.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Armed forces

In 2001 the Sri Lankan army formally initiated its own IHL training programme. The ICRC supported these efforts through the ICRC/Sri Lankan army working group, set up to integrate instruction in IHL into standard army training. The programme drew on army IHL instructors whom the ICRC had trained in previous years. In a lecture series run jointly with the ICRC and given mainly by army IHL instructors, 12 army training institutions incorporated an ICRC-developed IHL module into their curriculum. The ICRC continued to train IHL instructors from the army, navy, and air force, to give presentations at navy training centres, and to hold sessions on IHL for junior officers deployed in conflict areas. These activities reached over 10,000 military personnel.

## Police and other security forces

In areas affected by conflict, the Special Task Force (an elite police unit), the home guard (an ad hoc unit of civilian recruits who guard military and police installations) and regular police forces were all involved in operations to combat the LTTE. The ICRC urged police and Special Task Force training institutions to incorporate IHL and human rights into their curricula, trained IHL and human rights instructors for the police, and gave presentations to nearly 5,000 members of these forces.

## The LTTE and other armed groups

The ICRC gave presentations on IHL to LTTE fighters, to members of the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, and to the Eelam People's Democratic Party. IHL training for the LTTE focused on the east. A training course for LTTE master teachers, held in the Vanni, involved a higher level of the hierarchy than previous training sessions. Presentations to these groups reached over 400 people.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC was well known in Sri Lanka, and its role was understood and respected. To increase public awareness of humanitarian law and related issues, the ICRC gave presentations for media contacts, representatives of NGOs and community leaders. These reached almost 3,000 people.

In addition, the ICRC conducted dissemination sessions for university students and at school level. IHL teaching at universities mainly involved students at the law and political science faculties of the University of Colombo and the Open University (Colombo). At secondary school level, dissemination sessions on the basic rules of IHL reached around 3,000 students and teachers in both government- and LTTE-controlled areas.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

### Constitution

Following the previous year's leadership crisis, in January 2001 the National Society's elected leadership was reinstated and resumed work. The crisis emphasized the need to consolidate the legal basis of the Sri Lanka Red Cross, which took the opportunity to revise its statutes. In this process it worked closely with the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and at the end of October the General Assembly approved the new constitution.

### Field operations

Most of the ICRC's relief and tracing activities were conducted with the National Society. Equipment and financial and technical support were provided to help the Sri Lanka Red Cross develop its tracing activities. The ICRC also helped improve the emergency preparedness of eight branches in the north-east, training volunteers in needs assessment and financing the establishment of buffer stocks and first-aid teams.



# TAJIKISTAN

Personnel:  
9 expatriates  
132 locally hired staff

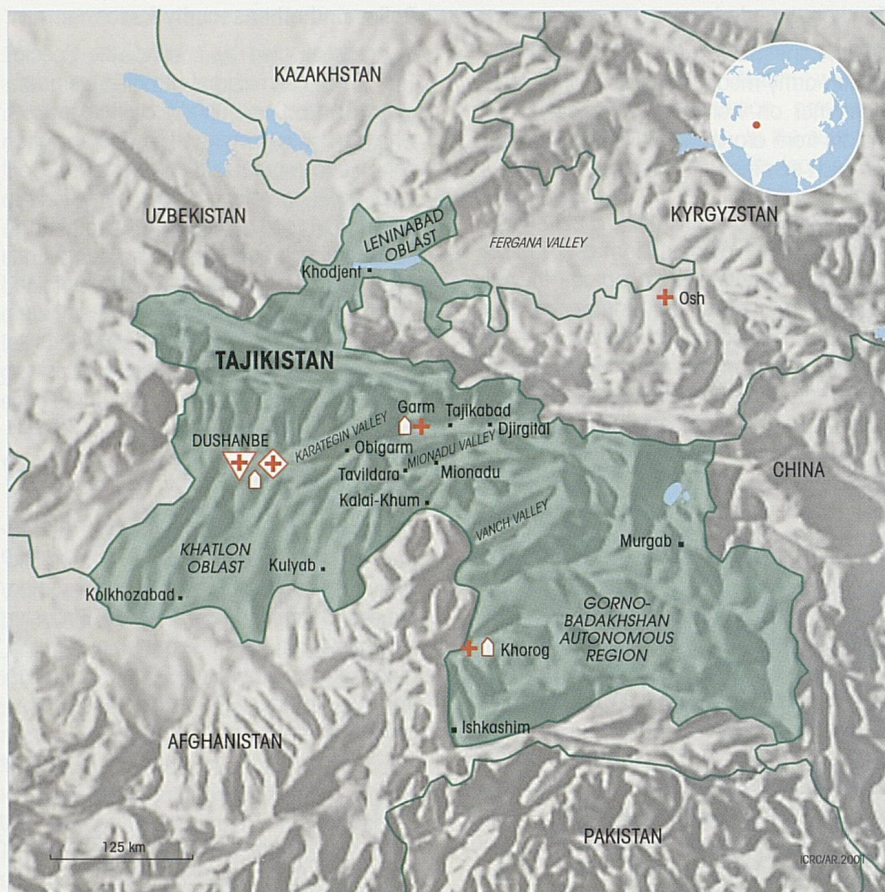
In Tajikistan, the ICRC promotes the ratification and implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL), and works with military forces, universities, secondary schools and the press to encourage adherence to its rules. It supports the development of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, provides care for amputees, gives logistic support to operations in northern Afghanistan, and monitors the situation in the areas most affected by the recent civil war.

## Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	33,046
Assistance	1,440,638
Preventive Action	1,091,403
Cooperation with National Societies	346,371
General	234,041
Overheads	210,223

**3,355,722**

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC TAJIKISTAN



ICRC mission
 ICRC office
 ICRC warehouse
 Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

## CONTEXT

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of its independence in August, Tajikistan remained relatively calm in 2001. Former United Tajik Opposition (UTO) troops continued to be incorporated into government forces as the peace process, initiated in 1997, neared completion. The distinction between political violence and organized crime was blurred in frequent assassinations, kidnappings and bombings as violent crime was fuelled by the easy availability of arms and widespread poverty. Government crackdowns on trafficking

and crime led to sporadic clashes at borders and around Dushanbe. Overall, however, the security situation improved and the government consolidated its control throughout the country. The UN Tajikistan Office of Peace-building announced at the end of May that despite the progress made in the peace process, it would remain in the country until June 2002.



Armed members of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan appeared early in the year in the Tavildara valley. Led by Juma Namangani, and aiming to establish an independent Islamic republic in the Uzbek portion of the Fergana valley, the group had links to former UTO units. For the previous two summers it had moved from Afghanistan through Tajikistan's Tavildara valley to the Fergana valley. To deter these incursions, Uzbekistan mined the border and imposed travel restrictions on Tajik citizens. Pressing Tajikistan to crack down on Namangani's men, it cut gas supplies to the country. This heightened tensions between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, which however were calmed through the efforts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, an alliance to which both States belong. The friction eased further when Namangani was killed in Afghanistan during the United Front assault on Kunduz.

Following the 11 September attacks in New York and Washington, Tajikistan offered its support to the US-led coalition and allowed the use of Tajik soil for US operations in Afghanistan. Russian border troops were reinforced at the Tajik-Afghan border, and it was announced that Tajikistan would remain closed to refugees.

As the civil war had ended over three years previously and the peace process was nearing its end, the ICRC scaled down its conflict-related activities in Tajikistan. Preparing to convert its delegation in 2002 to a mission under the responsibility of the regional delegation in Tashkent, it cut staff and worked with all parties concerned to plan its withdrawal from assistance activities in the Karategin and Tavildara valleys. National staff took over a number of dissemination activities which had previously been managed by expatriates. ICRC warehouses in Dushanbe and Khorog continued to supply materials for operations in Northern Afghanistan, but these costs were covered the budget for the Afghan conflict. Support to Afghan operations was stepped up considerably when the conflict escalated and ICRC expatriate staff were obliged to withdraw from areas controlled by the Taliban. From November onwards, when the ICRC began to resume its full range of activities within Afghanistan, logistical support in Tajikistan returned to its normal pace.

## ICRC ACTION

### CIVILIANS

The disruption of the civil war, from which Tajikistan had still not fully recovered in 2001, added to the general decline in economic activity that began when independence halted the flow of resources from the former Soviet Union. Over 80% of the population was reported to be living in poverty. The drought, continuing in its third year, added to the impoverishment of the rural population and combined with gas cuts to make it more difficult for the destitute to cope with the cold winter.

### Mine victims near border areas

Starting in August 2000, mines were laid along Tajik borders of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, mostly in the Soughd Oblast. While there was no reliable information on how many people had been hurt or killed in mine accidents during the year, the press reported some 20 civilian deaths and an even larger number of injuries after mining began. Mine victims included hunters, traders and women collecting firewood. Early in 2001 the ICRC made a survey of the newly mined areas and in September it carried out a joint evaluation with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan to serve as a basis for National Society mine-awareness activities. The Tajik Red Crescent, working with government ministries, launched a pilot project of community-based mine-awareness activities in Soughd Oblast, and the ICRC began training Red Crescent mine-awareness staff and developing materials for use in their activities.





## Residents of Tavildara and Karategin valleys

Through its office in Garm the ICRC maintained a field presence in the Tavildara and Karategin valleys, the areas most affected by the war. As the peace process neared completion, development became the main priority in the region. The ICRC maintained its institutional focus on conflict-related problems and therefore scaled down its activities over the year, but did provide some 1,650 destitute persons with food, clothing, or blankets. Some of this aid was provided in cooperation with local Red Crescent branches (see *National Society*). Assistance activities in the Tavildara and Karategin valleys were discontinued at the end of the year.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The government held an unknown number of persons in connection with the recent clashes and other internal security problems. A presidential amnesty, announced at independence day celebrations, applied to some 19,000 prisoners and resulted in a decrease in the prison population, but arrests continued. Although the President of Tajikistan gave the ICRC permission in 1997 to visit the country's places of detention, it was prevented from doing so by disagreements with the government about procedures and legal matters. In 2001 the ICRC made contacts with the Ministry of the Interior and the offices of the Chief Justice and the Director of Penitentiaries with a view to requesting that the government renew its consideration of visits to detainees. In December, it addressed a letter to the Minister of the Interior formally requesting authorization for the visits. The ICRC deferred plans to sponsor a workshop on tuberculosis in prisons until it had developed a more tangible working relationship with the detaining authorities.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Amputees

In 1999 the ICRC reopened the Dushanbe prosthetic/orthotic centre, which it had rehabilitated. The centre, which the ICRC ran jointly with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in a project delegated to the Canadian Red Cross, provided the only prosthetic/orthotic services available to the estimated 3,000 amputees in Tajikistan. In 2001 it produced and fitted over 420 lower-limb prostheses. An outreach programme run jointly by the ICRC, the Tajik Red Crescent and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection continued to help identify patients and arrange for their transportation and accommodation so that amputees living in remote areas could benefit from the centre's services.

### Casualties of armed clashes

Like other public services in Tajikistan, the health-care system had very few resources at its disposal. Facilities were dilapidated, equipment was in poor condition and medicine and materials were in short supply. Although the civil war ended in 1997, in 2001 health facilities were still treating those wounded in connection with the activities of armed groups. The ICRC provided surgical departments in areas near the clashes with medicines and supplies for the treatment of some 90 casualties.

### Residents of war-affected areas

In the Karategin and Tavildara valleys, the areas most affected by the civil war, health services were unable to meet the needs of the population. The ICRC distributed medicines and supplies to five health-care facilities treating over 25,000 patients in these areas. As supply routes became more reliable and other humanitarian agencies lent support to health facilities, the ICRC discontinued its own support at the end of 2001.

## AUTHORITIES

Tajikistan continued its process of legislative reform which was launched after independence. This process provided a unique window of opportunity for the State to introduce norms of international humanitarian law (IHL) into national legislation. By 2001 Tajikistan had already become a party to many of the major IHL treaties, but its authorities, preoccupied with more pressing problems in the struggle to maintain stability, had little time and few resources to devote to their implementation. A lack of legal and legislative expertise (see *Civil society*) further slowed the process.

### IHL committee

In 2001 the ICRC provided training, technical assistance and materials to support the work of the interministerial committee for the implementation of IHL, which had been formed at its prompting in 1999. IHL committee members attended regional events sponsored by the ICRC, including a meeting on implementation measures held in Budapest, and a conference on implementation of the Rome Statute and the seventh advanced IHL course, both held in Moscow. The ICRC also produced and published a Tajik version of the Geneva Conventions. The committee set up a national information bureau for tracing missing soldiers, and at its urging the Ministry of Defence established a graves registration bureau and began to provide means of identifying military personnel. A subcommittee was set up to work on implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which Tajikistan ratified in 2000.

### Emblem law

The year's major advance in the implementation of IHL came in June, when after two years of lobbying and drafting by the ICRC and the IHL committee, Tajikistan adopted a law on the use and protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems.



## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Military armed forces

Tajikistan's borders were patrolled by both Russian and Tajik border troops, which were the military forces most frequently engaged in operations against armed groups. Tajikistan's army and Ministry of the Interior troops were also involved in security operations.

After independence, the drastic cut in resources made it difficult for Tajikistan's military forces to maintain training programmes. While senior officers had been well trained under the Soviet system, for a number of years new officers were given only limited training. Russian border troops who trained in Tajikistan had separate facilities and were faced with fewer constraints.

By the end of 2001, Tajikistan's military forces had their own training academies for new officers, and with the ICRC's encouragement and support all of the armed forces had issued orders to integrate IHL instruction into their standard curricula. Russian border troops and the Ministry of Defence were already doing their own IHL training and needed only occasional technical support from the ICRC. Throughout the year the ICRC provided materials and technical support for IHL instruction. It trained a total of 31 IHL trainers from the different services, gave introductory IHL presentations to 216 officers and provided materials for the establishment of a national IHL centre at the Ministry of Defence academy in Dushanbe. The centre opened in September to all armed forces in the country.

### Police, customs and Ministry of Security forces

In addition to the military armed forces, police, customs and Ministry of Security forces played a role in security operations. Ministry of Security activities were the most likely to put civilians at risk. The ICRC worked to encourage all these armed forces to integrate IHL and human rights instruction into their standard training programmes. It focused its efforts on security and interior ministry officers, of whom it trained 47 to be IHL/human rights trainers.

### Other bearers of weapons

The newly formed Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence included troops from many former UTO units which had been integrated into government forces as part of the peace process. These personnel were not technically combatants, but were responsible for carrying out various humanitarian activities in the event of an outbreak of fighting. The delegation gave direct presentations to former UTO troops in units recently integrated into the ministry, and trained officers to become IHL instructors.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Secondary school pupils

Because Tajikistan's school system, weakened by a lack of resources, was ill-prepared to transmit values that could help young people cope with the intercommunal tensions threatening the country, the ICRC developed a secondary school manual drawing parallels between local traditions and the basic humanitarian principles articulated in IHL. In 1999, the ICRC trained some 85 trainers who went on to train some 10,000 eighth-grade teachers to use the manual. In 2000-01, 96,000 eighth-grade pupils used the book, and the distribution of an Uzbek version extended the programme to the large minority group speaking that language; it reached over 122,000 pupils in the 2001-02 school year. After producing and distributing over 150,000 copies of its manual, the ICRC sought to develop an exit strategy that would ensure that the basics of IHL would continue to be taught in the secondary schools of Tajikistan.



## Academic circles

International public law was not taught in Central Asian universities during the Soviet era. As a consequence, the law faculties in the newly independent Central Asian States had no experience in the field. This lack of expertise hindered efforts to incorporate IHL into national legislation.

To help establish a tradition of IHL study in Tajikistan's academic circles, the ICRC sponsored research in the subject and worked to enlarge the pool of persons qualified to teach the subject. Teams from Tajikistan took part in the ICRC-sponsored Maartens moot court competition in Tashkent, and two participants from Tajik law schools attended the 19th IHL course in Warsaw organized jointly by the ICRC and the Polish Red Cross. An ICRC-sponsored IHL quiz show for university, aired on the radio, stimulated student interest in the subject.

ICRC efforts to promote the inclusion of IHL in university curricula bore fruit in December, when the Minister of Education announced that IHL would be a required subject in law and journalism schools throughout the country.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan made good progress in establishing the legal framework which is the basis for independent action, but, like most other institutions in the country, it suffered from a lack of resources. The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked together to help the National Society develop its capacities, in particular in the areas of planning and financial management. The National Society worked closely with the Federation to respond to the needs of drought victims, and in a joint programme with the ICRC and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, it identified patients and arranged for their transportation and accommodation so that amputees from remote areas could receive care at the Dushanbe prosthetic/orthotic centre. The ICRC maintained its financial and material support for Red Crescent branch income-generating projects providing small-scale food aid in Tavildara and Karategin valleys. This support was withdrawn at the end of the year once it became clear that the projects were not improving branch financial autonomy.



## BANGKOK

### Regional delegation

#### Countries covered:

Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Laos, Mongolia, People's Republic of China, Republic Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Viet Nam

#### Personnel:

17 expatriates

43 locally hired staff

The Bangkok regional delegation works to promote the ratification and implementation of the humanitarian treaties and the integration of instruction in international humanitarian law (IHL) into national military training, and supports the region's National Societies in the fields of dissemination and tracing. In Cambodia the ICRC provides assistance for separated family members, detainees and disabled people who are victims of past conflict. In Viet Nam, the delegation supports a prosthetic/orthotic programme financed by the ICRC's Special Fund for the Disabled. At the Thai-Myanmar border the ICRC conducts dissemination activities for refugees and opposition groups from Myanmar.

### Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	805,625
Assistance	1,889,093
Preventive Action	1,110,665
Cooperation with National Societies	1,228,212
General	429,478
Overheads	375,919

**5,838,991**



⊕ ICRC regional delegation    + ICRC office    ⊕ Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

## CONTEXT

Early in 2001 there were skirmishes at the border between Thailand and Myanmar, with some casualties. Overall, however, relations between the two countries improved. The efforts of their respective governments led to bilateral agreements on border demarcation, drug issues, ethnic minorities and the economy, and there was some cooperation in addressing health problems in the border region. In Viet Nam, protests relating to ownership and access to ancestral lands, religious issues and alleged aspirations to political autonomy led to arrests and to the exodus of more than a thousand people who sought refuge in Cambodia.

Prolonged drought in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) ravaged crops and further exacerbated the economic crisis. For most of the year inter-Korean dialogue remained deadlocked, and the reopened North-South ministerial talks in November broke off in acrimony over security measures taken by the Republic of Korea (ROK) following the 11 September attacks in the US; no progress was made on issues such as family reunification and the restoration of the inter-Korean railway link. Meanwhile, formal agreements led to the membership of both China and Taiwan in the World Trade Organization.



The ICRC delegation pursued its efforts throughout the region to promote a global humanitarian approach that would allow the re-establishment of severed family links. In Cambodia and Viet Nam prosthetic/orthotic activities continued as planned, with significant steps taken to improve production techniques, the effectiveness of the rehabilitation centres' outreach and the delivery of orthopaedic appliances. The delegation also cooperated extensively with the region's National Societies in supporting dissemination seminars on the basic rules of IHL and the production of relevant material. In addition, the ICRC worked closely with the armed forces in the region, promoting the inclusion of IHL in their training programmes.

## ICRC ACTION CIVILIANS

During the year under review the DPRK National Society responded to some long-standing tracing requests, leading to the settlement of nine cases, and agreed to accept further cases submitted by National Societies in third countries. It cooperated with the ROK National Society in arranging for 100 individuals from each side to make short visits to relatives from whom they had been separated for many years, and 300 letters from each side were forwarded to separated family members.

The ICRC's tracing service in Bangkok, which centralizes all tracing files for Cambodia, maintained its cooperation with the Cambodian Red Cross Society and other National Societies concerned. The Cambodian Red Cross successfully continued to manage the tracing programme handed over by the ICRC in 2000. Throughout 2001, more than 10,000 Red Cross messages (RCMs) were exchanged between civilians.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Early in 2001, the ICRC delegation submitted its second summary report on prison visits carried out between 1999 and 2000 to the Cambodian Ministry of the Interior. Subsequently, ICRC delegates visited three places of detention in Cambodia and held private talks with 22 detainees arrested in connection with the former conflict. It also tried to gain access to two high-level Khmer Rouge detainees awaiting trial. In cooperation with the Cambodian Red Cross, more than 9,000 RCMs were exchanged between detainees and their families.



## WOUNDED AND SICK

In Cambodia, the ICRC and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation signed a year-long Cooperative Agreement covering the Phnom Penh component factory and the Battambang rehabilitation centre, which was later officially recognized as a regional centre serving five provinces. The delegation subsequently approached the Ministry asking it to cover 20% of the centre's running costs. The ICRC and the Japanese Red Cross Society signed a new agreement under which the Battambang centre continued to be run as a delegated project by the Japanese Red Cross during 2001. In this centre a regional ICRC physical rehabilitation team fitted more than 1,000 prostheses and delivered 166 wheelchairs and more than 2,000 pairs of crutches. A total of 330 new patients were fitted with prostheses and 327 with orthoses. Meanwhile the ICRC component factory in Phnom Penh continued to produce and deliver orthopaedic appliances to 16 fitting centres nationwide. During the year 5,500 prostheses, 2,700 orthoses and 4,500 pairs of walking aids were manufactured.

In Viet Nam, the regional delegation provided the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs with material and technical support so that it could help destitute amputees needing prostheses, through a project funded by the ICRC's Special Fund for the Disabled. With ICRC support, prosthetic/orthotic centres in Can Tho, Qui Nhon, Da Nang, Vinh and Than Hoa adopted the more advanced polypropylene technology. In 2001, a total of 2,400 persons were fitted with prostheses, including 866 new patients. A joint programme with the Vietnam Red Cross was initiated whereby volunteers and staff helped identify amputees and transferred them to the Ho Chi Minh centre for treatment. Furthermore, a pilot programme was launched jointly by the Da Nang centre, the local Red Cross branch and the ICRC to extend prosthetic/orthotic services to destitute amputees throughout the Da Nang area.

According to the North Korean Ministry of Public Health, there were 36,000 amputees in the country. To address their needs, the North Korean Red Cross submitted a request to the ICRC to set up a centre for the production of artificial limbs and to establish a rehabilitation programme. Evaluation of a site south of Pyongyang was carried out by the ICRC in September 2001.

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC pursued its dialogue with the authorities of the countries in the region to promote and encourage implementation of humanitarian treaties, in particular the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the 1997 Ottawa Treaty banning landmines. Cooperation projects were carried out with the authorities of different countries, including continued work on the translation into Lao of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the translation and publication in cooperation with the Thai delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union of the handbook for parliamentarians entitled *Respect for IHL*, and discussions with the Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the creation of a national interagency committee on IHL.

The ICRC also took part in several national seminars and conferences on IHL during the year, including a symposium organized in Kyoto under the joint auspices of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese Red Cross, and another in Seoul held by the South Korean Advisory Committee on IHL. Both events were attended by a large number of government experts and academics.

The end of 2001 saw the arrival at the regional delegation of a new legal adviser entrusted with developing the activities of the ICRC Advisory Service on IHL in the region.





## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC promoted the dissemination of IHL through various activities during the year. These included participating in regional joint military exercises with peace-keeping officers from 32 countries and giving a presentation to military officers from 20 Asia-Pacific countries. With the ICRC's help and support the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized and chaired its second ASEAN Regional Forum on IHL. The meeting was attended by 70 representatives from member countries, including senior government officials, high-ranking military officers and military lawyers.

The ICRC also offered its support by observing IHL field training as the Mongolian armed forces prepared a contingent of 700 peace-keepers. It conducted an introductory seminar on IHL for 35 senior brigade staff officers and sponsored a training video.

The delegation began implementing IHL training with the Royal Thai Armed Forces and extended cooperation to peace-keeping forces. Dissemination activities included a workshop for 18 military instructors, and presentations for a total of 238 members of the armed forces on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities. Of particular note was the first IHL seminar conducted in Myanmar for 26 commanding officers of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA). This seminar was significant not only because it was the first overview of IHL given to the KNLA but also because it provided an initial basis for sharing information about the ICRC's work and security issues in the border states. The ICRC also opened a new field office in Mae Sot near the Thai/Myanmar border in order to have easier access to refugees and opposition groups operating from Thai soil.

There was significant progress in dissemination activities in North Korea, where ICRC staff resumed promotion of IHL after an interruption of more than seven years, conducting training and/or briefing sessions with army IHL instructors.

In China, the ICRC partially funded an IHL training video for the People's Liberation Army (PLA), and gave an IHL course to 450 cadets and instructors at the Dalian Naval Academy. Another course was held for 52 instructors of the PLA Political Department at the Xi'an Academy of Politics. In Viet Nam, an IHL training workshop was organized for 30 senior officers of the Viet Nam People's Army, while in Japan 100 aviation academy cadets attended several presentations.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

During the year the ICRC regional delegation maintained contacts with the media and with academic circles in the region. In Cambodia, the ICRC continued to give financial support for the IHL course taught at Phnom Penh University, and in Thailand it organized a lecture on IHL for graduate students in human rights at Mahidol University.

ICRC delegates carried out consultations with several South Korean human rights NGOs to determine what was being done to promote the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. During these meetings delegates also learned how each NGO was addressing the need for human rights education in the region, and distributed documentation and information on the protection of children affected by armed conflict.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

A primary focus for the regional delegation was to support the dissemination programmes of the National Societies in the region. A number of training seminars were organized, and ICRC dissemination material was published in national languages.

The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies joined forces with regional National Societies to accomplish two important goals in 2001: to increase public support for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement throughout the region; and to help the various National Societies develop a strong and effective communication capacity.

In Cambodia, the ICRC took part in and helped fund the International Federation's regional Partnership Meeting in Phnom Penh, which aimed to promote cooperation between the various components of the Movement. An evaluation of the tracing service in the region showed that it had been operating smoothly under the management of the Cambodian Red Cross since the ICRC handed over responsibility for the service in 2000.

In Japan, the delegation explained its dissemination procedures to 250 staff and volunteers of the Japanese Red Cross. In Viet Nam, the ICRC supported the implementation of a new plan of action for the National Society's dissemination activities.

In China, the ICRC continued its financial and technical support for the final year of the Chinese National Society's "Dissemination China 2001" programme, which was launched in 1999. The delegation examined the operation of the RCM network in Yunnan province and the effectiveness of the tracing service, and discussed its findings and current procedures with 100 participants in a regional dissemination seminar.



## KUALA LUMPUR

Regional delegation

**Countries covered:**  
Malaysia, Singapore,  
Brunei Darussalam

**Personnel:**  
1 expatriates  
2 locally hired staff

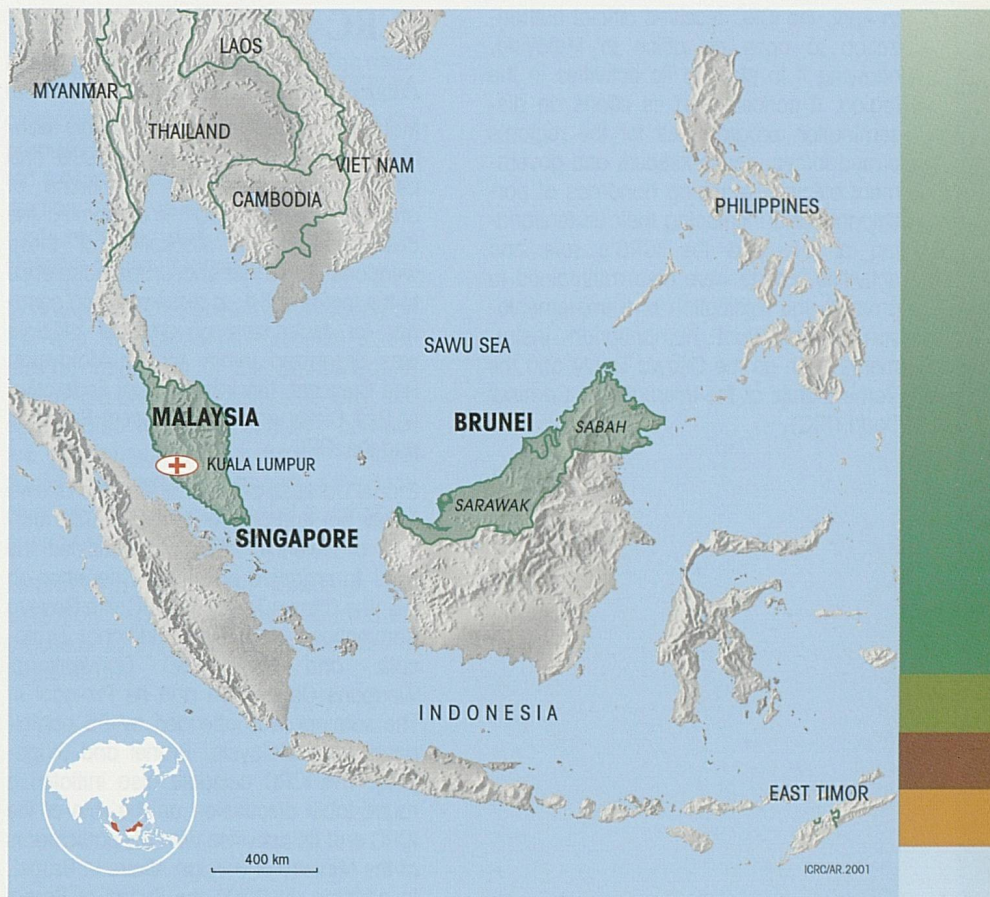
In the countries it covers, the Kuala Lumpur regional delegation works to promote ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties, to encourage incorporation of international humanitarian law (IHL) into military training programmes, and to support the development of the respective National Societies. It also raises awareness of the ICRC's work in countries of East and South-East Asia so as to gain the support of both governments and National Societies for ICRC action worldwide and to develop broader cooperation with National Societies which could take an active part in operational activities.


### Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	2,166
Assistance	0
Preventive Action	294,939
Cooperation with National Societies	176,390
General	10,832
Overheads	29,703

**514,030**

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC KUALA LUMPUR



 ICRC regional delegation

### CONTEXT

During 2001 the three countries covered by the Kuala Lumpur regional delegation suffered an economic slowdown, which was compounded by the global financial downturn resulting from the events of 11 September in the USA. Malaysia introduced a stimulus package to ward off a recession, Singapore faced rising unemployment and an increasing income gap, and Brunei Darussalam sought to address the problem with its eighth National Development Plan.

Following the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in the USA, the Malaysian government tightened its surveillance of returning Malaysians suspected of militant activities and arrested some members of Kumpulan Mujahidin Malaysia (KMM) accused of religious fundamentalism, further increasing the tensions associated with the Internal Security Act. Also in Malaysia, clashes between indigenous Malays and people of Indian origin in Kuala Lumpur left several dead and many injured. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society was the only humanitarian organization authorized to treat and evacuate the victims.



In April, the ICRC received official authorization to open an office in Malaysia, allowing it to step up its activities in the region. It concentrated its efforts on dissemination programmes for the region's armed forces, peace-keepers and government officials, reaching hundreds of participants and increasing their understanding of IHL and the ICRC's role and activities. Efforts were also maintained to promote the ratification and implementation of important humanitarian instruments such as the Ottawa Treaty and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

## ICRC ACTION

### AUTHORITIES

Malaysia ratified the Ottawa Treaty banning anti-personnel mines in 1999 and began implementing its provisions at once. In January 2001 it completed the destruction of its stockpiles of these weapons. To further encourage adherence to the tenets of IHL, a dissemination seminar for Malaysian government officials was organized jointly by the Malaysian Red Crescent, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the ICRC.

Brunei Darussalam had signed the Ottawa Treaty but had not yet ratified it. The Ministry of Defence, however, requested the ICRC to organize and lead a seminar on IHL, the Ottawa Treaty, the ICC, the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and the 1980 Conventional Weapons Convention and its Protocol II. The seminar was attended by 65 participants from Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore. The ICRC delegate also initiated a round-table discussion on the role of the ICRC and its activities with 35 participants at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brunei. In addition, in 2001 the Sultan of Brunei agreed to allocate funds for humanitarian organizations, including the ICRC.

In Singapore, meetings were held with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the Attorney-General's chambers. The matters examined during these discussions included humanitarian instruments such as the Ottawa Treaty and the Rome Statute of the ICC, the structure of the ICRC and the possibility of Singapore's making an increased contribution towards ICRC field operations.

### ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In early 2001 a Coordination Committee on IHL was set up by the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) to introduce a national training programme for all branches of the military and to monitor implementation of IHL in the field. The ICRC also supplied IHL material to the Malaysian Joint Warfare Centre and conducted train-the-trainers workshops for MAF instructors of IHL.

In November, the ICRC took part in the second meeting of the MAF Coordination Committee. Furthermore, for the first time, the regional delegation was invited to give a lecture to 138 officers at the MAF Staff College on the role of the ICRC and IHL in joint warfare.

The Kuala Lumpur regional delegate explained the ICRC position on civilian/military cooperation to 100 officers from 26 countries during a peace-keeping seminar, and gave another IHL presentation to 25 United Nations observers from India, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and elsewhere. In addition to these presentations, the ICRC helped fund the printing of material on humanitarian law, the rules of behaviour in combat, the code of conduct for soldiers and the ICRC's role and mandate.



## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC approached Suhakam, the Malaysian Human Rights Commission, as well as the Ministry of Education, to propose the inclusion of its "Exploring Humanitarian Law" project in the Malaysian school curriculum. At the end of the year a decision was still pending.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

In Malaysia, the ICRC held a training seminar for 25 Red Crescent dissemination officers, offered support in addressing the problem of the misuse of the red cross/red crescent emblem, and funded the production of IHL and Red Cross/Red Crescent material and its distribution to National Society branches.

In Brunei the ICRC gave a presentation on IHL and Red Cross/Red Crescent principles to volunteers of the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society. The ICRC delegates also facilitated contacts between the government and the Brunei National Society and worked to strengthen the Society's legal bases and to enlist government support for its activities.

Following a fundraising campaign, the Singapore Red Cross Society donated the proceeds to the ICRC for its activities in Afghanistan.



## NEW DELHI

### Regional delegation

#### Countries covered:

India, Bangladesh, Bhutan

#### Personnel:

25 expatriates

80 locally hired staff

The New Delhi regional delegation works to achieve broader implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) and to promote respect for humanitarian rules and principles through civilian and military institutions such as universities, the media, and the armed and security forces. It also supports the development of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in India and Bangladesh. The ICRC visits detainees in India held in relation with events in Jammu and Kashmir, and also visits detainees in Bhutan.

### Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	2,976,805
Assistance	312,869
Preventive Action	1,303,175
Cooperation with National Societies	919,318
General	81,694
Overheads	369,342

**5,963,203**

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC NEW DELHI



ICRC regional delegation

## CONTEXT

A massive earthquake hit the Indian state of Gujarat early in 2001, taking tens of thousands of lives and causing widespread destruction. For the first time since independence, the Indian government asked international humanitarian organizations to give direct assistance on the scene.

The Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir was quiet for most of the year as a unilateral cease-fire declared by the Indian government was extended. Pakistan responded with orders of maximum restraint, and the LoC remained calm even after the cease-fire expired in June. When the two countries' Heads of State met for talks in Agra

in July, the summit yielded no specific agreements, but both leaders expressed a commitment to dialogue. The improved relations between India and Pakistan did not reduce internal violence in Jammu and Kashmir, where hard-line groups opposed to the talks stepped up attacks.

After the events of 11 September, India declared its support for the "global war on terrorism", and the US lifted sanctions imposed in 1998 on both India and Pakistan. In October, fighting broke out again in areas along the LoC after relations between the countries were set off balance by a suicide attack on the legislative assembly in Srinagar. In December ten-



sions skyrocketed after an attack on the Indian Parliament. India accused Pakistan of involvement in the attack, and transport and communications were cut while both sides reinforced troops along the border.

Violence continued to plague the north-eastern states, as armed groups representing different ethnic or political groups clashed with each other or with government forces. India's efforts to establish truces with both the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) were unsuccessful. The Bhutanese government demanded that the ULFA close half of its camps on Bhutanese territory by the end of the year, and also pressed the NDFB to scale down its activities in the country. By the end of December it was still not clear to what extent the groups had complied with these demands.

Bhutan and Nepal agreed on a verification process for the repatriation of some 100,000 Bhutanese refugees who had lived in south-east Nepal for nearly 10 years. A joint verification team was formed and began its work in March. By the end of the year the process was completed for the first of seven camps.

In Bangladesh, opposition-led general strikes slowed the economy early in the year. The Awami League government stepped down in July, and a caretaker administration governed the country until elections in October brought into power an alliance led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. There was little progress in the implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace accord.

## ICRC ACTION

### CIVILIANS

For most of 2001, there was little shelling and crossfire along the LoC. In some areas, displaced villagers were able to return and repair damaged homes. After shelling picked up again in October, few civilian casualties were reported but thousands of residents fled their villages or were evacuated by the military. Internal violence in Jammu and Kashmir continued to displace people, and the struggle between government forces and armed militant groups left civilian communities vulnerable to reprisals, harassment, collateral damage, and military exclusion zones. There were more of these problems in the second half of the year as both militant attacks and government security operations intensified.

The ICRC extended its field presence in Jammu and Kashmir, gaining access to areas previously off-limits. In visits to the homes of released detainees delegates monitored the situation of families and communities who were at special risk. Building a network of contacts with local authorities and leaders, they worked to promote awareness of all parties' responsibility to protect civilians, and the ICRC's role in reinforcing their efforts.

To assist in the process of refugee resettlement, the ICRC issued travel documents to persons who had been given permission to settle in other countries but lacked the official papers needed to travel there. Over the year the New Delhi regional delegation issued 1,412 such documents, mostly to Afghan refugees.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### India

The government detained hundreds of people in connection with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Before being turned over to the regular jail system, some were held temporarily in places of detention run by the forces that arrested them. Some detainees were rearrested as soon as they were released. A number of detainees arrested in Jammu and Kashmir were transferred to regular jails in other states.

The ICRC continued to make regular visits to detainees held in jails. As permitted, it also visited detainees held in places of temporary detention. The ICRC submitted reports on its findings to authorities at different levels, and raised questions of access or concerns about its findings in two round-table discussions with central authorities.

In 2001, the ICRC visited 1,343 detainees in 28 places of detention, both permanent and temporary; 610 of the detainees were registered and visited for the first time. Delegates checked for re-arrests on 91 home visits to released detainees, and exchanged 205 Red Cross messages between detainees and their family members.

### Bhutan

Bhutan held people in connection with past disturbances, and the ICRC continued to visit them twice a year. In 2001 it visited 95 detainees in two places of detention; of these, one was registered and visited for the first time. It exchanged 107 Red Cross messages between detainees and their family members.



## WOUNDED AND SICK

### *Jammu and Kashmir*

Although civilian health facilities in Jammu and Kashmir were ill-prepared to cope with influxes of persons wounded, military medical facilities treated civilians wounded in major clashes, and had the resources to cope with their needs.

## AUTHORITIES

In response to the ICRC's oral and written enquiries, the Indian government reported that the ministries concerned were discussing ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Cultural Property Convention. The ICRC worked with the media, academic circles and NGOs to raise public awareness of the importance of the Ottawa treaty banning landmines and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. In a seminar on national implementation of IHL that it organized with India's Ministry of External Affairs, the ICRC encouraged the formation of an interministerial committee for IHL. To improve civil servants' appreciation of IHL, the ICRC regional delegation gave presentations at the ministry's Foreign Service Institute, and offered to give similar presentations at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Public Administration.

Bangladesh was party to most major IHL treaties, but had not implemented many of them. The ICRC encouraged the Bangladeshi authorities to adopt national legislation implementing the Geneva Conventions and protecting the red cross and red crescent emblems. It also urged them to form an interministerial committee to promote IHL ratification and implementation. Progress towards these goals was slowed by the country's political turmoil, which limited the authorities' capacity to deal with such issues.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### *Military forces*

The Indian armed forces were deployed along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir, and in the north-east. They also supplied peace-keeping troops to the UN. In 2001 the army announced its intention to further develop its staff training in IHL, and for the first time sent officers to the ICRC-sponsored IHL course in San Remo. One of the officers returning from the course began to develop an IHL manual for army training. The ICRC made presentations on IHL to senior army officers at the National Defence College, as well as to officers attending courses at the Indian Institution of Mass Communication, and continued to offer its services to support armed forces' efforts to develop their IHL training. Its presentations reached 230 officers.

The Bangladeshi armed forces had security duties in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and also provided personnel for UN peace-keeping missions. In 2001 the ICRC presented basic IHL in a series of one-day seminars reaching 1,153 persons in a variety of units of the Bangladeshi army and air force. It worked with the army, navy and air force to plan a training programme for IHL trainers.

Bhutan's army was not engaged in armed conflict in 2001, but anticipated that it might have to mount security operations against armed groups from north-east India with bases in Bhutan. In visits with the King of Bhutan, the ICRC pointed out how new developments increased the need for IHL training for military personnel; later in the year a Bhutanese army officer became the first person from his country to attend the IHL course in San Remo.

### *Police and paramilitary forces*

In India the Border Security Force, the Indo-Tibet Border Police, the Central Reserve Police Force, the Jammu and Kashmir police and the Assam Rifles were all involved in security operations, either along borders, in Jammu and Kashmir, or in the north-east. In 2001 the ICRC gave IHL and human rights training to 1,800 members of these forces. It continued to urge that these police and paramilitary forces incorporate IHL instruction into standard training at all levels, and offered to help them with the process.



## CIVIL SOCIETY

At a regional level, the ICRC cooperated with the National Law School of India and the local office of UNHCR to organize the Third South Asian Teaching Session, which was held in Bangalore and attended by 25 lecturers from around South Asia.

In India, the ICRC worked through the country's extensive system of universities, its enormous media network, and its numerous NGOs to spread knowledge of IHL and raise awareness of issues such as landmines. Many Indian universities were already teaching IHL; to encourage and spread university-level IHL study, the ICRC funded research, gave technical assistance, donated educational materials, sponsored student internships, and cooperated with universities and other agencies and societies to organize courses and events. It helped the Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) with the teaching and organization of a one-year postgraduate diploma programme in IHL; the two organizations cooperated in opening the first Henry Dunant IHL moot court competition for students of Indian universities. The ICRC and UNHCR worked together on several projects relating to IHL and refugee law, including a yearbook (published with ISIL) and a law teachers' training programme at Cochin University of Science and Technology. The regional delegation also gave financial and technical support to the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research's development of an internet-based distance-learning diploma programme in IHL, which was launched during the year under review.

To increase awareness of humanitarian law among decision-makers in India's trouble spots, the ICRC and UNHCR worked together with Guwahati University to organize two training sessions on IHL and refugee law. These gave universities in the north-east their first detailed exposure to IHL. ICRC also made presentations on IHL at the mass media school in Srinagar and the University of Kashmir's law faculty.

In Bangladesh, the regional delegation deferred promoting the study of IHL until the political situation was more stable.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Early in the year the Indian Red Cross Society was fully engaged in the response to the earthquake in Gujarat. With the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and numerous internationally active National Societies, it mounted extensive relief and rehabilitation programmes for victims of the quake.

In June, after participating in a meeting in Colombo sponsored by the International Federation and the ICRC,<sup>1</sup> the National Society began the process of reviewing its statutes.

## Tracing and dissemination

In both India and Bangladesh, the ICRC gave financial and technical support for National Society efforts to develop tracing activities. This included helping cover costs of staff-related training, salaries, and transportation. After the earthquake in India, ICRC sent tracing staff to reinforce National Society personnel and help evaluate and organize procedures. The ICRC also provided financial and technical support for National Societies' dissemination activities. With the International Federation, it organized a workshop for dissemination and information officers of five South Asian National Societies, and

helped the Indian and Bangladeshi National Societies fund publications, youth activities, and dissemination training.

## Emblem protection

Both India's and Bangladesh's National Societies worked to end misuse of the red cross and red crescent emblems. Their efforts included sponsoring workshops for medical, pharmaceutical, and government representatives to inform them about problems stemming from emblem misuse, and using the media to alert the public. In the areas most affected by violence – Jammu, Srinagar and Guwahati – the Indian Red Cross sponsored seminars on the topic, and subsequently used contacts and even door-to-door campaigns to curb improper use of the emblem. The ICRC helped plan and finance these activities.

## First aid

In nine districts in Assam with high levels of violence and poor medical facilities, the ICRC helped the Indian Red Cross fund and plan training for 42 first-aid volunteers. Similar training which had been planned for areas near Jammu was postponed until early 2002 because of mounting tensions.

<sup>1</sup> See Sri Lanka.



# SUVA

## Regional delegation

### Countries covered:

Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and autonomous States, territories and colonies of the Pacific

### Personnel:

4 expatriates

9 locally hired staff

The ICRC regional delegation in Suva encourages ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties and supports National Society development in the countries of the region. It also visits people detained in connection with disturbances, and works with the National Societies of Fiji and the Solomon Islands to assist victims of unrest.

## Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	295,557
Assistance	343,220
Preventive Action	1,199,953
Cooperation with National Societies	743,120
General	63,020
Overheads	181,467

**2,826,337**

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SUVA



⛶ ICRC regional delegation    + ICRC office

## CONTEXT

Development in Fiji was brought to a virtual standstill in 2001 as the largest donor agencies found it necessary to focus their support on humanitarian or human rights-related projects. The caretaker Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase and his newly formed party won the August election, but his decision to form a new coalition government excluding the party that received the second-highest number of votes prompted concern that the country's liberal, multiracial constitution would be amended or even scrapped, and put Fiji's economy at risk.

Sixteen months after the Solomon Island's elected government was overthrown by a *coup*, national elections once again took place. The newly elected leadership was faced with the task of rebuilding the government and the economy practically from the ground up, in a volatile political and social environment. Although the Townsville Peace Agreement, which aimed at ending the conflict between the Malaita Eagle Force (MEF) of Malaita Province and the Isatabu Freedom Movement (IFM) of Guadalcanal, continued to hold, the decommissioning of weapons was slow. The economic situation remained difficult owing to the consequences of the conflict, with the govern-



ment nearing bankruptcy as it struggled to pay civil servants and major industries failing to revive.

In Papua New Guinea, continuous political upheaval within Prime Minister Morauta's coalition led to cabinet reshuffles and changes in the civil service, as government finances reached crisis point. Political and financial stability became increasingly fragile throughout the South Pacific, as the developments in Fiji and the Solomon Islands were anxiously observed by neighbouring States. Relative poverty, political dissension, climbing crime rates, ethnic tensions and the recent reductions in aid from traditional donors were accompanied by an increase in activities by China, Taiwan and others interested in extending their influence in the region.

The ICRC's regional delegation in Suva pursued its efforts to spread knowledge and promote ratification of various international humanitarian law (IHL) instruments throughout the region. Other ICRC activities included aid to remote communities such as Bellona and Temotu and the visiting of detainees. Since late August ICRC expatriate staff have no longer been permanently based in the Solomon Islands, but delegates based in Suva did visit the country regularly. The ICRC continued to support the region's National Societies, with which it gave seminars and developed suitable teaching materials on basic IHL. In addition, the ICRC worked closely with the police and armed forces in the region to spread knowledge of IHL, and promoted its incorporation into their training programmes.

## ICRC ACTION

### CIVILIANS

In Fiji the ICRC observed as the National Society aided farmers in all regions faced with severe hardships due to the loss of their land leases. The political uncertainties also led to the loss of guaranteed government subsidies to farmers. Because of the economic downturn, the Fiji Red Cross Society was obliged to increase food distributions to the people who were most vulnerable.

In the Solomon Islands the ICRC brought aid to about 1,000 families forced to return to their home islands in Temotu and Renell provinces owing to ethnic tensions on Guadalcanal. Most of the internally displaced people previously assisted by the ICRC became self-sufficient in 2001, except in isolated areas such as the Weathercoast. The people still in need were monitored and assisted by the delegation in a variety of ways. In particular, they benefited from a small contingency stock of relief supplies sufficient to assist approximately 100 families.

Delegates reminded the Solomon Islands police of their obligations concerning civilians under IHL.

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Fiji, the ICRC resumed in March the detention monitoring and visiting activities which had been suspended in November 2000. It visited 81 detainees in five separate detention facilities in 2001. Some of these had allegedly been involved in the May 2000 *coup* led by George Speight and were visited in accordance with the ICRC's standard procedures during two follow-up visits to Nukulau Island. The ICRC reported its findings to the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) and the Prison Services. When access to military prisoners previously visited was suspended, the ICRC engaged the authorities in dialogue to resolve the situation.

In the Solomon Islands, the ICRC carried out visits to places of detention and observed ICRC procedures. On three visits carried out during the first half of the year the ICRC registered 11 people for the first time. It reported its findings to the authorities, and helped the Prison Services to provide the detainees with a more balanced diet. All detainees that the ICRC had been visiting were released before the end of the year.

### WOUNDED AND SICK

In the first half of the year, the ICRC continued to make the services of a surgeon available to the Solomon Islands National Referral Hospital. It also funded a building extension to the operating theatre in Gizo Hospital.





## AUTHORITIES

Fiji's Solicitor General's office helped arrange a round-table discussion of the ratification of major humanitarian treaties and the adoption of accompanying legislation, which was attended by representatives of governmental departments – including the RFMF, the police, and the home, foreign and health ministries – and the Fiji Red Cross and the ICRC. Later, at the Pacific Islands Law Officers Meeting, the head of the ICRC's regional delegation and the organization's legal adviser took advantage of the opportunity to raise IHL implementation and ratification issues with high-level government lawyers from the Pacific region. They distributed ICRC briefing documents and examples of ratification laws, in addition to giving a formal presentation on the ICRC.

Delegates continued to discuss the ratification of IHL treaties with the Solomon Islands government, and met with the Prime Minister to explain further the ICRC mandate and activities. In Papua New Guinea a seminar on IHL was held in March for the ministries involved in the ratification of the Additional Protocols, and work on a Cabinet paper was begun. Owing to political developments in the neighbouring Indonesian province of Irian Jaya (now called Papua) and the concern these caused the local authorities, the delegation maintained contact with the appropriate departments in readiness for any need to take action.

In 2001, the Cook Islands announced their intention to accede to the Additional Protocols and declare publicly that the Cook Islands were covered by New Zealand's ratification of the 1949 Geneva Conventions. The ICRC assisted the Cook Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration in drafting the implementation legislation for the Additional Protocols, and in taking measures to obtain legal recognition of the Cook Islands Red Cross Society.

ICRC delegates presented seminars on IHL, the ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to government officials in the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu. In New Zealand, they discussed ICRC activities and IHL with "diplomats in training" at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Representatives of the International Federation, the National Society and the ICRC met jointly with Australian government officials in Canberra to promote better understanding of the role and mandate of the ICRC and the Movement.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In the Solomon Islands the ICRC conducted two courses on IHL and human rights for police staff in Honiara and another session for special constables in training. It also carried out an IHL awareness training workshop in Gizo for an additional 21 police officers.

The ICRC welcomed the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary's agreement to begin incorporating the basic rules of IHL into training curricula for both police and security personnel. New core training materials for recruits were introduced, and the national military authorities accepted the ICRC's IHL training proposals for 2002. In a step towards further support for IHL instruments, Papua New Guinea Defence Force legal officers met with the ICRC to discuss their participation in a seminar on the Additional Protocols. During the year the ICRC held four IHL and human rights workshops attended by a total of 96 senior and junior police officers.

The delegation conducted its first IHL and HR seminar for Fijian police officers, which was attended by 25 participants from across the country, and its first IHL seminar for military officers in Fiji since 1995, which was attended by 18 RFMF officers and two Papua New Guinea defence force officers. Some 3,000 copies of the ICRC's *Code of Conduct for Combatants* were distributed.

In Vanuatu, the ICRC conducted an IHL workshop for 14 police officers, presented a five-day seminar for 20 police officers of the Vanuatu Mobile Force.

In May 2001, the ICRC was associated with the multinational peace-keeping exercise entitled "Tandem Trust" which involved approximately 30,000 military officers from Australia, Canada and the United States. The Australian Red Cross helped the ICRC develop scenarios to be enacted during the exercise. The Australian Defence Force Warfare Centre regularly invited the ICRC to explain its role and activities to 32 persons from the various military branches attending a course on operations law. The ICRC then gave a similar presentation in a course on operations law and decisive manoeuvre attended by 47 commanders from 17 countries. Regional delegates also conducted a seminar for Australian and New Zealand law enforcement officers at the police training division of the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police.

In New Zealand an ICRC delegate gave a presentation to officers attending the New Zealand Defence Force IHL level three course, and spoke with the head of international defence relations about the importance of IHL implementation.



## CIVIL SOCIETY

A public seminar on IHL was held in Vanuatu at the University of the South Pacific for 170 participants from diverse backgrounds. At this presentation the ICRC explained the scope of IHL, the work of the Red Cross, and such issues as neutrality, impartiality, independence and the red cross emblem. The University's law faculty expressed an interest in having a staff member trained in IHL. The University of Papua New Guinea Law School announced the formation of an IHL unit and also requested that one of its staff members receive formal IHL training from the ICRC.

In Australia the ICRC made presentations and gave lectures to approximately 500 students and faculty members in five universities. Students from 16 universities throughout Australia took part in the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot Court competition organized by the Australian Red Cross, the ICRC, and the Australian Law Students' Association.

Radio Fiji interviewed the head of the regional delegation on the ICRC's activities following its presentation of booklets entitled *Code of Conduct for Combatants* to the RFMF.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Throughout 2001 the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies coordinated efforts to enhance the development of the National Societies of the region. A meeting on conflict preparedness held in Australia, which was organized and conducted by the Suva delegation, was attended by 15 participants representing the National Societies of Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu, and the International Federation and the ICRC. The heads of both the ICRC's and International Federation's regional delegations for the Pacific met with representatives of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) to present the integrated Movement strategy for the Pacific region. The ICRC's *Women Facing War* study was launched jointly by the ICRC and the Australian Red Cross at the University of Melbourne.

In the Solomon Islands, a series of radio announcements promoted the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The ICRC underwrote the activities of the Solomon Islands Red Cross dissemination officer and helped finance those of an administration/finance officer. In Fiji, increased cooperation between the International Federation and the ICRC was achieved through common programmes to spread knowledge of IHL and to plan for conflict preparedness.

The ICRC worked to maintain its good relations with the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society and received further support from local government, the media and the public. The ICRC and the National Society worked together on two publication projects, one aiming at local youth and the other promoting respect for the red cross emblem.

The ICRC gave presentations at the Pacific Islands Programme Development Planning Meeting, which was hosted by the International Federation and the Cook Islands Red Cross Society with the ICRC's financial support. It gave two seminars to volunteer members of the Vanuatu Red Cross Society – among whom were traditional chieftains – and held an IHL dissemination session. Finally, some 135 people from the region attended two ICRC-organized sessions in New Zealand on IHL in situations of internal violence, in particular those involving police and security force response.



## TASHKENT

### Regional delegation

#### Countries covered:

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

#### Personnel:

14 expatriates

41 locally hired staff

In the Central Asian States, the ICRC promotes the ratification of humanitarian treaties and their incorporation into national legislation, and helps develop the teaching of international humanitarian law (IHL) and humanitarian principles in military training programmes and civilian educational institutions. It also cooperates with the National Societies of the countries covered, supporting them in strengthening their capacities. In Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC visits persons detained in connection with situations of violence and carries out field activities in the Fergana valley.

### Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	1,124,497
Assistance	9,240
Preventive Action	2,258,798
Cooperation with National Societies	694,853
General	165,181
Overheads	267,274

**4,519,843**

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC TASHKENT



⊕ ICRC regional delegation    + ICRC office    🏠 ICRC warehouse

### CONTEXT

The Central Asian States continued in 2001 to work together to contain the growth of Islamic fundamentalism in the region. The Shanghai Five,<sup>1</sup> renamed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization when Uzbekistan became a member in June, played a growing role in regional security. Turkmenistan, not a member of the organization, maintained its stance of neutrality.

Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan took new measures to prevent infiltration by the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), a movement led by Juma Namangani and aiming to establish an independent Islamic State in the Fergana valley. In the summers of 1999 and 2000, armed IMU groups moved through Tajikistan and clashed with government forces in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. Uzbekistan's efforts to prevent further incursions added to economic disputes to generate friction between the two countries.<sup>2</sup> Clashes did not recur in 2001, and it was reported that Namangani was killed in Afghanistan.

<sup>1</sup> China, Russia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

<sup>2</sup> See *Tajikistan*.



Following the 11 September attacks in New York and Washington, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan offered support to the United States-led international coalition and authorized the use of their territories for military operations in Afghanistan.

Because the tension in the Fergana valley made Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan particularly prone to conflict, the Tashkent regional delegation focused its efforts on those two countries. It also stepped up collaboration with the Dushanbe delegation as it prepared to take over the ICRC's activities in Tajikistan at the end of the year. An ICRC logistics base was opened in Turkmenabad towards the end of the year as part of an alternative supply route into Afghanistan.

## ICRC ACTION

### CIVILIANS

To be able to respond should tension in the Fergana valley break into conflict, the ICRC worked to develop its network of contacts in areas at risk in both Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. These activities were carried out from the ICRC office in Osh which opened in 2000. By supporting youth activities, conducting dissemination activities and providing border posts with first-aid assistance, and by means of meetings and information sessions with local authorities, Red Crescent branches, and other local leaders and decision-makers, ICRC delegates worked to improve Red Crescent conflict preparedness and make local officials more aware of the ICRC's role and activities.

Following clashes with armed IMU groups in August 2000, authorities in Uzbekistan relocated some 3,400 people from their mountain villages near the border with Tajikistan to new settlements in the Surkhandria region. In January 2001, the ICRC began to monitor the situation and evaluate the needs of the displaced, and in April it distributed food to some 2,000 of them. In July ICRC teams found that government assistance and a good harvest had reduced the displaced villagers' need for further aid.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan celebrated 10 years of independence in August 2001, and both announced amnesties on the occasion. A prominent opposition figure was released in Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan announced the release of some 25,000 prisoners, including some held for crimes against the constitution. Uzbekistan's President also announced plans to reform the criminal justice system.

On 17 January 2001 the ICRC received written authorization to visit all detainees in Uzbekistan. It was the first time that the ICRC had been granted such a comprehensive written authorization in Central Asia. In February the delegation began the ICRC's first round of visits in Uzbekistan, but had to interrupt them to discuss procedures with the central authorities. The ICRC resumed its visits in March and suspended them again in May. Realizing that the authorities were still unfamiliar with its standard visiting procedures, the ICRC conducted information sessions for key representatives from various ministries. The regional delegation made further contacts with governmental bodies in a bid to shore up the government's commitment to honour the agreement.

In Kyrgyzstan the ICRC visited detainees in Bishkek and Osh, and worked to secure agreements that would broaden its access to all those falling within its mandate. It made regular visits to detainees held in the one facility under the authority of the Ministry of National Security, and in February began visits to those held by the Ministry of the Interior. In March, the Supreme Court gave the ICRC written authorization to visit detainees who were still standing trial. The year ended with the regional delegation preparing a draft agreement on visits to all detainees falling within the mandate of the ICRC.



## AUTHORITIES

Since gaining independence the countries of Central Asia have been in a process of legislative reform. In 1996, to take advantage of this opportunity to introduce legislation, the ICRC adopted a regional strategy to promote national implementation of IHL. The process has been slowed by a lack of expertise in international public law (see *Civil society*), and by the national authorities' engagement with other priorities. To facilitate the adoption of measures implementing IHL treaties, the ICRC provided documentation and technical assistance for the drafting and translation of legislation, sponsored national seminars, and arranged for key authorities to attend regional and international IHL events such as the 7th International Course on IHL for Civil Servants, sponsored by the ICRC and held in Moscow.

### National international humanitarian law committees

At the end of 2000, Kazakhstan formed an interministerial committee for the implementation of IHL, which met for the first time in March 2001. In July the ICRC and the Kazakhstan Ministry of Justice organized a national seminar on IHL implementation, which served as training for the new members of the IHL committee. To promote the sharing of experiences and expertise between national committees, a representative of the Belarusian national implementation committee was invited to participate in the seminar.

The Kyrgyzstan government replaced all the members of its national IHL committee, which was formed in 1999. The ICRC was therefore obliged to start over with the process of training committee members.

## Emblem laws

In July, after over two years of encouragement and technical assistance from the ICRC, Turkmenistan adopted a law on the use and protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems. Uzbekistan completed a draft for a similar law. In Kazakhstan, following discussions that took place at the seminar on IHL implementation in July, the government submitted to parliament a draft law specifying that a single red cross emblem be used. In December, Kazakhstan adopted a law declaring the double emblem invalid and recognizing the use of the red cross.

### Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the repression of war crimes

Uzbekistan signed the Rome Statute at the very end of 2000. Both Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan sent representatives to a regional conference on the Statute.<sup>3</sup> Discussions on the Rome Statute provided the ICRC with an opportunity to promote national legislation to repress grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, particularly in Kazakhstan where they were a main topic at the seminar on IHL implementation for members of the new national committee.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Since independence, all of the military forces and law enforcement agencies in the region have had their resources reduced, which has limited their training capacities. Further, they inherited the divided and multi-layered organization of the Soviet system, which allowed for little coordination or cooperation between the different forces. The ICRC worked to promote respect for IHL in the region's military forces, border services, police forces, and civil defence forces. Its presentations reached over 1,000 members of these forces.

<sup>3</sup> See *Moscow regional delegation*.

In 2001 the ICRC trained IHL instructors from the armed forces of the four Central Asian countries covered from Tashkent, and provided them with IHL training materials. It also developed the forces' expertise in IHL by arranging for their officers to attend regional and international IHL seminars and courses, including the regional IHL/human rights course in Moscow run by the ICRC and the Russian Ministry of the Interior, and the ICRC-sponsored IHL course in San Remo.

In Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC sponsored a regional course in IHL attended by representatives of all four countries covered by the Tashkent regional delegation, and trained the first IHL instructors for Kyrgyzstan's National Security Service and Civil Defence. In Kazakhstan, it supplied teaching materials to the Academy of the Armed Forces, which opened Central Asia's first IHL documentation centre for use by all of the country's armed forces. It initiated training at the National Security Military Academy, and held a national IHL seminar in Almaty for participants from various armed forces. In Uzbekistan, the regional delegation organized its first IHL seminar at the Armed Forces Academy, and provided the Uzbek armed forces with financial and technical support for the development of an IHL manual which was introduced in December. In Turkmenistan, the ICRC trained 30 more IHL instructors, and presented the basic rules of IHL to over 700 cadets in the academy that trains officers for all branches of the country's armed forces. Preparing to take over operations in Tajikistan in 2002, the regional delegation worked jointly with the delegation in Dushanbe to organize several of these activities that included officers from Tajikistan.

To fill the training gaps until IHL instruction was fully institutionalized in the armed forces of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC also gave presentations on IHL to troops deployed in the Fergana valley, and to 360 troops from the Central Asian Peace-keeping Battalion (KAZBAT) based in Almaty.



## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Universities

In the Soviet Union, universities teaching International Public Law were not located in Central Asia, so that the new republics of the area inherited little expertise in the subject. ICRC efforts to foster teaching and research in IHL have been met with interest in the Central Asian academic community, but limited resources make it difficult for the universities to develop new fields. The ICRC has helped leading Central Asian universities introduce IHL teaching programmes, and these were broadened and improved in 2001. For some years Central Asian teams participated in the De Martens IHL moot court competition held in Moscow, and in 2000 the ICRC began to hold part of the competition in Tashkent. In 2001, 14 teams from five Central Asian States participated in the Taskent event. The regional delegation also organized the Third Coordinated Council for the Teaching and Research of IHL, which developed an IHL text for use in university-level courses. In Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC and the Ministry of Education and Culture organized a round table to encourage the inclusion of IHL in the national curriculum. Central Asian scholars developed their expertise in IHL by attending international or regional events organized by the ICRC, which included the De Martens readings in St Petersburg, the "War Reporting and Fundamentals of Humanitarian Law" seminar,<sup>4</sup> and the 19th Warsaw Summer Course on IHL.

### Schools

The new republics formed in the aftermath of the Soviet Union's break-up have sought to unite multi-ethnic populations. Education is the key to forming a national identity, but there are few resources available for producing new educational materials. The ICRC has developed textbooks for teaching the basic principles of humanitarian law that relate these principles to each country's history and traditions. The Tashkent regional delegation first set up the ICRC school programme in Uzbekistan, and by 2001 instruction based on the textbook was well established in schools run by the Ministry of Public Education. The 11th-grade students had used it for two years, and the basics of IHL were added to the national curriculum. During the year, the programme was extended to schools teaching in the Tajik language and to specialized schools (colleges and high schools) run by the Ministry of Higher Education. Special attention was given to military colleges. By the end of year the ICRC had distributed a total of 380,000 copies of the textbook in the Uzbek, Karakalpak, Russian and Tajik languages. Some 2,000 teachers' trainers, teachers and school directors were trained by the ICRC team directly, while 6,000 teachers are estimated to have been trained by the trainers since the programme began. By the end of the 2000-01 school year, over 600,000 pupils had completed the course. As its objectives had been met, the ICRC began to plan the handover of the programme to the Ministries of Public and Higher Education. In Kyrgyzstan the ICRC finalized a similar textbook for the 10th grade, and the Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Education agreed to incorporate the teaching of the basics of IHL into the curriculum of the secondary school course on civic education.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

At the end of 2001, the Kazakhstan government made the decision to renounce the use of the double emblem (see *Authorities*), paving the way for the National Society to be recognized as a full-fledged member of the Movement.

In Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC worked with Red Crescent branches in areas in and around the Fergana valley to help them develop their conflict preparedness and response capacity. Together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, it supported the opening of three Red Crescent youth centres in the Fergana valley, and helped organize and finance a seminar on conflict preparedness for Red Crescent youth leaders from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. It also helped finance Red Crescent branch first-aid training.

The ICRC supported National Society activities in tracing and dissemination. It helped finance a regional seminar on IHL and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement held in Tashkent for National Society dissemination coordinators, and provided materials for an IHL documentation centre set up at the National Society headquarters in Turkmenistan.

<sup>4</sup> See Moscow regional delegation.