



ICRC

PROGRAMME BRIEF

ICRC IN PAKISTAN

JANUARY 2021

WHO WE ARE

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), established in 1863, is the world's largest and oldest humanitarian organization. The three-time Nobel Prize Laureate, the ICRC works to help people affected by armed conflicts and violence. The ICRC has been working in more than 80 countries.

The ICRC has been active in Pakistan since 1947, when it helped the government establish refugee camps for the millions of people displaced by Partition. During the Indo-Pakistan wars of 1948, 1965 and 1971, the ICRC delegates visited prisoners of war and facilitated the repatriation of detainees and civilians at the end of the hostilities in accordance with the organization's mandate. In the 1980s, the ICRC remained in Pakistan, providing relief and medical assistance to the victims of the Afghan War.

HOW WE ARE FUNDED

The ICRC is funded by voluntary contributions from the states parties to the Geneva Conventions, National Societies (Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), supranational organizations (such as the European Commission) as well as public and private sources. States are our main donors – on average contributing more than 84% of the budget during the past five years. Pakistan also donates to ICRC annually. The overall budget of the ICRC for 2021 stands at around CHF 2 billion while the ICRC budget for Pakistan is approximately CHF 14 million.

The ICRC only accepts funds from those who respect the ICRC's independence and impartiality of action. We do not accept donations that are very tightly earmarked and that breach the principles of independence and impartiality.

WHAT WE DO IN PAKISTAN

JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

- 1947** Facilitation in repatriations and visits of refugee camps in both Pakistan and India.
- 1949** The ICRC supervises a general exchange of Prisoners of War between India and Pakistan captured during the war in Kashmir.
- 1965** During and after the 1965 war, the ICRC provided medical aid to military hospitals. ICRC received and transmitted lists of prisoners of war (POW) to both Pakistani and Indian authorities and facilitated the exchange of thousands of messages and parcels between POW's and their families.
- 1972** After the 1971 war the ICRC visited and registered thousands of Pakistani POW's held in Indian camps. The ICRC also transmitted more than 1 million family messages and 180,000 family parcels between POW's and their families with the help of PRCS. It also facilitated the final repatriation of POW's in 1974.
- 1986** The ICRC established its delegation office in Peshawar catering mostly to the logistic needs of the ICRC operations in Afghanistan.
- 1993–94** The delegation office is shifted to Islamabad. A Headquarters agreement is signed with the Government of Pakistan.
- 1999** The ICRC acted as neutral intermediary for the return of POWs and mortal remains of soldiers during and after the Kargil conflict.

- 2005** In partnership with the PRCS, the ICRC responded to the urgent needs of earthquake victims. Providing food and shelter, evacuating the injured, reuniting the separated families, restoring water and health facilities, rehabilitating the disabled, and reviving the local agriculture and livestock are some of the services provided in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.
- 2007** For Pakistanis detained in Guantanamo and Bagram, ICRC started telephone call facility, enabling them to talk to the dear ones directly. This facility was later enhanced to videophone calls arranged at the ICRC offices.
- 2009** In collaboration with PRCS, ICRC assisted over 1.7 million affected population in KP and FATA.
- 2010** In the aftermath of super floods, the ICRC and PRCS provided food, water and medical services for over 1.4 million people in 2010.

WORKING METHODOLOGY

Since last few years, the ICRC has drastically changed its working approach in Pakistan and shifted from direct implementation to forging meaningful partnerships. In a country of 220 million people with a number of overwhelming humanitarian issues, the recipe is to tailor local solutions, work as a force multiplier, create communities of concern and share best practices.

Currently, in partnerships with credible national organizations, the ICRC is working in the fields of health, physical rehabilitation, community risk education, restoring family links, promotion of international humanitarian law, and humanitarian forensics. This strategy is working out well whereby we are transferring the know-how to government and private organizations. For example, our strategy of 'Build, Operate and Transfer' in the field of physical rehabilitation allowed us to successfully handover Muzaffarabad Physical Rehabilitation Centre to Government of AJK and three rehab centres to the Indus Hospital Network.

CURRENT PROGRAMMES

Currently, the ICRC has been working in the following fields:

A. Support to Pakistan Red Crescent Society

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) is ICRC's primary partner in Pakistan. The ICRC provides financial and technical support to the PRCS in the field of Restoration of Family Links, First Aid and prehospital care, Community Based Risk Awareness, Disaster Management and National Society Development aimed at PRCS' organizational systems development. Details are as follows:

National Society Development: The ICRC supports PRCS in its capacity building initiatives; Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER); training of staff and volunteers according to PRCS curriculum/standards; systems transformation.

Disaster Management: The ICRC supports PRCS in areas affected from emergencies to enhance organizational capacities for effective response, also supporting community resilience by developing local capacities of disaster preparedness and response through trainings.

B. Restoring Family Links

Providing Restoring Family Links (RFL) services and strengthening the capacity of the PRCS and other partners in times of disasters are one of the main work of the ICRC in Pakistan. Currently, families of persons detained in Guantánamo and Prisoners Detention Facility in Parwan – PDF-P, Afghanistan are able to communicate through ICRC-facilitated video/phone calls and exchange of oral and written messages containing family news that are often delivered/collected with the support of PRCS.

In general, Pakistanis detained in other countries and visited by the ICRC (e.g. Iraq, Syria, Malaysia etc.) benefit from RFL services. All Pakistani nationals detained abroad are notified to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and relevant Embassy before availing RFL services. Whenever possible, the ICRC, in agreement and close coordination with the MFA and other concerned authorities, may facilitate the repatriation of vulnerable/stranded Pakistanis and reunify them with relatives in Pakistan (example, repatriation from Yemen and Somalia in 2017).

To reinforce RFL services of the PRCS and enable it to function as an effective member of the Movement's global Family Links Network, the ICRC provides financial and technical support to the PRCS in following programme areas:

- RFL services to people separated from or without news of their loved ones as a result of natural or man-made disaster, migration or other situations requiring a humanitarian response via telephone services, oral and written messages, and online tools (e.g. Trace the Face website).
- Awareness sessions on preventing loss of contact and dispersal of families while travelling and availability of RFL services along the migratory routes.
- RFL services to migrants detained under Foreigner Act in detention places in Sindh and one prison in Punjab. Support PRCS when requested by authorities to coordinate and facilitate voluntary return of releasable detained migrants to their country of origin (e.g. repatriation of Bangladeshi detainees in Dec 2020).
- RFL services to unaccompanied and separated children including organizing their family

reunification in coordination with child protection actors such as the Child Protection Commission and the Social Welfare Department.

C. Health Program

The Health Unit in Pakistan is aligned with the ICRC's global Health Strategy. In a nutshell, the ICRC health programme provides capacity building support to PRCS, government health departments via the support to tertiary and secondary health facilities as well as primary health care structures when addressing the non-communicable diseases, medical universities and renowned health organizations in the field of mass casualty response, specialized weapon wounded surgeries and non-communicable diseases.

Important activities with partners include:

- First Aid (FA) and prehospital care program across Pakistan in more than 40 districts, covering training and response
- Diabetes program in collaboration with Health Department of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, The Diabetes Centre and Muzaffarabad Physical Rehabilitation Centre, with a focus on community approach and continuum of care.
- Structural and functional support to the accident and emergency departments of Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar and three secondary-level hospitals in the merged districts
- Emergency Room Trauma Course and Clinical Management of Weapon Wounded Patients in partnership with Lady Reading Hospital, three hospitals in the merged districts and Khyber Teaching Hospital, Peshawar; The Indus Hospital, Karachi; Khyber Medical University, Peshawar; Isra University, Islamabad Campus; and Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi.

D. COMMUNITY BASED RISK EDUCATION (CBRE)

ICRC's CBRE programme aims at reducing human casualties due to explosive remnants in certain areas of Pakistan with the help of PRCS and other important actors by partnering through capacity building in Mine Action. In this regard, ICRC provided financial and technical support to the PRCS to establish Community Based Risk Education and Victim Assistance Programme through which interested community members and teachers are trained in community liaison, to ensure safer villages in remote areas with potential threats of landmines, unexploded ordnance and explosive ordnance. This program is well integrated with Disaster Management and First Aid program of Pakistan Red Crescent and plays an important role in reducing human casualties. To establish a national capacity, ICRC is supporting PRCS in extending its network with all Provincial Disaster Management Authorities, Civil Defence, Social Welfare departments and other relevant stakeholders. ICRC also signed a MoU with KP Police School of Explosive Handling, Nowshera, for capacity building in First Aid

Course in Blast Injury, risk education and explosive ordnance disposal.

E. Physical rehabilitation of people with disabilities

From the first project in 1984, the ICRC Physical Rehabilitation Programme has endeavoured to provide comprehensive physical rehabilitation services that include artificial limbs, cerebral palsy management, clubfoot treatment and other mobility support to people with disabilities (PwDs) in Pakistan. Currently for greater sustainability of services, ICRC works with partners to build, equip and run physical rehabilitation centres.

Currently, on annual basis, the ICRC is supporting around 34,000 PwDs through physical rehabilitation centres across Pakistan run by its partners that include The Indus Hospital Network, Pakistan Institute of Prosthetics and Orthotics (PIPOS), The Chal Foundation, Akbare Kare Institute, Muzaffarabad Physical Rehabilitation Centre, Comprehensive Health and Education Forum (CHEF), Children Amputees Rehabilitation Programme (CARP), Lady Reading Hospital and Director General Health Services Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The ICRC also consistently provides technical and training support to the centres and its staff.

To ensure sustainability and social integration, the ICRC sponsors undergraduate students, works with all four universities in Pakistan offering prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) programmes to build capacity and facilitate the establishment of a National Curriculum for P&O and collaborates with partners to provide better access for PwDs to schooling, sports and social inclusion activities. Lastly, the ICRC has facilitated an initiative of its partners in establishing an organisation **Rehab Initiative** that supports the supply of materials, advocacy, capacity building and awareness on a national level.

F. PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAW (IHL AND IHRL)

Being the guardian of the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC is tasked by international community to promote the respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) globally. Since late 90s, the ICRC has been actively promoting and dissemination IHL/IHRL in Pakistan among the following sectors:

i. Armed Forces

The ICRC's relationship with the Armed Forces of Pakistan is as old as the country itself and can be distinctly divided into two phases: interventions as a neutral intermediary during military conflicts between India and Pakistan and beginning its program on the dissemination of IHL in 1998 following signing of HQA (1994).

The ICRC conducted its first mission in Pakistan in 1948 by assisting interned combatants and civilians in both India and Pakistan-administered Kashmir and mediated negotiations between India and Pakistan for the exchange of the wounded, political detainees,

prisoners of war (PoWs) and civilians resulting from Partition and Kashmir War of 1948. During the wars in 1965 and 1971, the ICRC provided plasma and transfusion material to military hospitals through PRCS, exchanged messages and parcels between PoWs and their families, located missing persons, and facilitated the transport, release and exchange of captives and civilians. The ICRC also acted as a neutral intermediary for the return of PoW and mortal remains of soldiers during the 1999 Kargil Conflict. Thereafter, the organization has worked with Fauji Foundation to support orthopaedic centres across Pakistan, assisted IDPs during Malakand Crisis 2008–11, and worked alongside the army during natural disasters, including the 2005 earthquake and 2010 super floods.

Over the past years, the ICRC offered a wide range of dissemination activities to the Army, Navy and Air Force encompassing one-day seminars to certificate courses on IHL to various training establishments of the three services, including war colleges. Panel discussions and round table discussions were organised with the Armed Forces of Pakistan on contemporary issues related to IHL and MoUs were signed with the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) at National University of Science & Technology (NUST) to work on the applicability of IHL to UN peacekeeping operations.

ii. Law Enforcement Authorities (PGE):

Maintaining a dialogue with the police force is an integral part of the ICRC operations around the world. The ICRC's dialogue with law enforcement officials (LEA) in Pakistan focuses on discussions of legal concepts relevant to law enforcement and their practical implementation, particularly about measures to avoid and limit humanitarian consequences. The PGE program in Pakistan engages LEAs across the country through different training and dissemination sessions on IHL and IHRL, intended to build their capacity and increase their understanding on the use of force under humanitarian and human rights laws. In 2017–18, the ICRC provided technical advice and support to Cursor for Development and Education (CODE) for NACTA's project on addressing prison overcrowding by reducing pre-conviction detention in Pakistan.

iii. Advancing law and policy debates

The ICRC has been engaging with policy makers on two major fronts, Policy Makers Workshops and Systematic Research, conducted under diverse Centres of Excellence, creating an evidence base for potential interventions. The workshops are designed specifically for an advanced audience, following a methodological order as found in our policy makers course packs. The ICRC piloted a partnership with the Research Society of International Law (RSIL) in 2015, to further the goal of promoting and integrating IHL in our domestic laws and policies. The RSIL acted as our local partner in educating key policy makers towards understanding the paradigms of the laws

applicable during times of peace (IHRL) and those applicable during times of conflict (IHL). In 2016, a centre of excellence was established at the RSIL, called the Conflict Law Centre, which reinforced our efforts by developing in consultation useful solutions or working tools called 'Context Specific Manuals.'

In March 2019, the ICRC signed an MoU with the Federal Judicial Academy, powering two research cycles, with the research studies conducted by judges from different provinces with an aim to build their capacity in conducting research, especially under the purview of IHL and similar themes. The ICRC has also partnered with the Legal Aid Society, Karachi establishing a Centre of Excellence where the ICRC supervised a training needs assessment of the Sindh Police to identify and prioritize training needs to formulate a strategic training plan. Last year, the ICRC also produced reports on "Children in Conflict with the Law" that examined the social, economic, and political characteristics of children in detention in Karachi, and "Effectiveness of Public-Private Policing: A review of the Citizens Police Liaison Committee" that examined the efficacy and value of the Citizens Police Liaison Committee in Sindh. In 2020, the ICRC partnered with the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies at Quaid-e-Azam University, establishing a multi-disciplinary research hub which houses research studies under the interplay between IHL and themes of International Politics.

iv. Academic circles and civil society

The ICRC has been closely working with leading public and private sector universities of Pakistan for the promotion and integration of IHL in curricula, aimed at ensuring that the future generation of decision makers would know the fundamentals of IHL, and leading academics can influence the policy debate on IHL-related issues and humanitarian problems in the country. We work mainly with the faculties of law and humanities. Similarly, the ICRC also promotes IHL among members of the civil society including media, lawyers, NGOs and Islamic scholars. It is also running an advanced programme on promoting dialogue on Islam and IHL in Pakistan. Our programmes include, academic workshops following a well-designed course pack for students and faculty members, law clinics which give law students the opportunity to conduct research on themes on IHL, and lastly, we conduct and facilitate the Henry Dunant Moot Court Competition annually. In addition to hosting the HDMCC, we also support students in attending the Concours Jean Pictet Moot Court Competition.

In total, we interact with more than 30 universities and colleges across Pakistan. Our notable partner universities include Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, International Islamic University Islamabad, Bahria University Islamabad, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) Lahore, Islamia College University Peshawar, University of Peshawar, Institute of Business Administration Karachi and SZABIST Karachi.

G. ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTH CARE (HEALTH CARE IN DANGER INITIATIVE)

Health Care in Danger (HCiD) is a global initiative of the ICRC, which is aimed at prevention of violence against health care, including patients, health-care workers, health-care facilities and transport, for a safe and efficient delivery of health-care services.

The main pillars of HCiD program in Pakistan comprise enhancing the understanding of the problem through research, using the evidence base for designing relevant interventions, promoting legal and policy changes through advocacy and effecting behavioural changes through awareness campaign.

Following are the major activities undertaken within the ambit of HCiD initiative:

- Collaboration with academic institutes to understand the dynamics of the issue
- Training of health-care workers regarding communication skills, de-escalation of violence and management of stress to enhance the quality of patient-healthcare provider interaction
- Development of manuals for building the capacities of students of medical education regarding communication skills, managing situations of aggression and managing stress associated with working in health care
- Low-cost interventions to reduce violence in health-care settings and to increase respect for health care in the general community
- Analysis of legal framework of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from the perspective of protection of health-care workers and facilitation of ambulances in traffic
- Advocacy for bringing about necessary policy and legal changes
- Media campaigns at local and national levels for increasing awareness amongst the general community regarding respect and right of way for ambulances and respect for health-care workers
- The involvement of ICRC in activities of the project is limited to Peshawar, Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi/Islamabad. Over the years the ICRC has developed partnerships and working relations with the following institutions for the initiative: Peshawar (Khyber Medical University, Provincial Health Services Academy, Lady Reading Hospital, Health Department KP) Punjab (University of Lahore, Rescue 1122, University of Health Sciences) Karachi: (APPNA Institute of Public Health (Jinnah Sindh Medical

University), Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Center (JPMC), Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST), The Indus Hospital, I AM KARACHI, Aman Foundation, Health Department Sindh) Rawalpindi/Islamabad (Isra University, Shifa Foundation).

H. MANAGEMENT OF THE DEAD IN EMERGENCIES (FORENSIC PROGRAMME)

The ICRC's Forensic Programme promotes dignity for the dead throughout the medicolegal chain, and in particular, when the dead result from emergencies such as conflict, disaster and migration, or as seen recently, pandemics. The Dignified Management of the Dead promotes best practices in care for the dead in the medicolegal and emergency response system to ensure dignified treatment of the dead, restoration of identities of unknown victims and to provide answers to family members who seek their lost relatives because of mass casualty events. It involves organizing national and international training courses for first responders and forensic specialists, aiding in the development of disaster planning and protocols that prioritize the health and safety of death care workers and the provision of material and structural resources such as the refurbishment of morgues. Such trainings provide not only updated skills, but equally, an opportunity to Pakistani stakeholders who play a role in managing the dead through shared experiences and discussions on how to improve cooperation and communication in future emergency events. Pakistan also hosts the International Course on the Management of the Dead in Emergencies course, which invites experts from more than 10 countries, together with ICRC forensic experts to learn the key principles of recovery, identification and return of the dead in disasters – using Pakistani expertise in genetics, disaster response and law.

For this programme, we regularly interact with the following bodies across Pakistan: NDMA, PDMA, SDMA, NADRA/NHEPRN/Commissioner's Offices/ National Forensic Agency/Punjab Forensic Science Agency/ Sindh Forensic DNA and Serology Laboratory/ Khyber Medical College Forensic Department / University of Health Sciences /Rescue 1122 / Edhi Foundation / Law enforcement Agencies / Pakistan Red Crescent Society / Pakistan International Airlines / Hospitals across Pakistan (i.e. Polyclinic Hospital, King Edward Medical College, Jinnah Post-Graduate Medical Institute, AAPNA, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Rawalpindi Medical College, Ayub Medical College, Bolan Medical Complex, various CMHs).

 facebook.com/ICRCpk

International Committee of the Red Cross

Plot 31, Shabbir Sharif Road,

G- 11 Markaz, Islamabad.

T 051 8314789, F 051 8314788

E- mail: islamabad@icrc.org

www.icrc.org

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Peshawar Sub- Delegation

40, Jamaluddin Afghani Road,

University Town, Peshawar

T 091 5841916, 091 5840146