

JAKARTA (regional)

COVERING: Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Association of Southeast Asian Nations



ICRC regional delegation ICRC mission

The ICRC established a presence in Indonesia in 1979 and in Timor-Leste following its independence in 2002. It supports the National Societies in boosting their emergency response capacities. The ICRC promotes the importance of improving penitentiary standards, while seeking to visit detainees and monitor conditions. It works with the armed forces (and the police in Indonesia) to encourage the inclusion of IHL and other applicable norms in their training. It maintains dialogue with ASEAN and other regional bodies and conducts activities with universities to further IHL instruction. In Timor-Leste, it encourages efforts to clarify the fate of missing persons.

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

In 2014:

- ▶ in Timor-Leste, the ICRC focused on providing technical support for the authorities in the proper exhumation of the remains of people linked to the past situation in East Timor
- ▶ the Indonesian and Timorese armed forces/police drew on the ICRC's expertise/assistance for training their personnel in IHL and for drafting/updating their policies/doctrines
- ▶ in Indonesia, students in more Islamic schools learnt about humanitarian principles from modules developed by teachers and the Indonesian Red Cross Society/ICRC, and adopted by school authorities
- ▶ while discussions with the Indonesian and Timorese authorities on the scope of ICRC activities continued, visits to detainees and cooperation with detaining authorities in both countries were on hold

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)	
Protection	1,161
Assistance	-
Prevention	2,256
Cooperation with National Societies	729
General	-
	4,147

of which: Overheads 253

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	96%

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	9
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	47

YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

LOW

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	20
RCMs distributed	36
Phone calls facilitated between family members	2
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	12

CONTEXT

In Indonesia, legislative and presidential elections took place peacefully, though not without incident. Social, economic, ethnic and religious tensions persisted, causing sporadic outbreaks of violence in parts of the country, such as Aceh and Papua. The country coped with numerous natural disasters of varying scale. Migrants and asylum seekers continued to arrive in Indonesia or pass through it, the flow exacerbated by stricter immigration policies in Australia and by developing situations in neighbouring countries like Myanmar.

Timor-Leste remained stable, though some tensions occurred after the government banned certain political groups.

Thousands of families were still seeking information on relatives missing in connection with the past situation and conflict in East Timor, but the Indonesia/Timor-Leste Joint Ministerial Commission for Bilateral Cooperation took no steps to adopt measures to address the issue, and the passing of related legislation in the Timor-Leste parliament remained stalled. Timor-Leste's Veterans' Commission held data on persons unaccounted for; together with the families of those confirmed dead, the Commission drove up the number of exhumations of human remains. The Ministry of Social Solidarity provided funds for burials and for the construction of memorials.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), based in Jakarta, continued to promote cooperation in regional affairs such as mine action and disaster management. Territorial disputes tested relations between States in the South and East China Seas; however, Indonesia and the Philippines settled a maritime border dispute after 20 years of negotiations.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The delegation maintained efforts to enhance understanding of humanitarian principles/issues, IHL and the ICRC's work among the authorities, armed forces/police, key civil society organizations, academics, the media, National Societies and other parties concerned in the region. To this end, it kept up dialogue and carried out various activities, many of which were organized with local institutions.

As a result, key actors consulted the ICRC on humanitarian issues and IHL-related concerns. The Indonesian and the Timorese military cooperated with the ICRC in holding training sessions on IHL for their troops. At various workshops, the ICRC worked with the armed forces and security units to help them ensure that their senior officers, legal advisers and trainers were equipped to instruct their personnel in IHL and other international norms applicable to law enforcement operations. Indonesian authorities welcomed the ICRC's input in translating/using a UN/ICRC handbook on overcrowding in prisons, and on updating/drafting defence/security-related policies/doctrine, such as guidelines for military detention. The Indonesian Red Cross Society sought the ICRC's advice for developing activities to benefit migrants.

The ICRC's work in behalf of detainees was on hold in both countries, while the authorities reviewed their agreements with the organization on the conduct of such activities.

In light of progress in some areas – and a lack of it in others – with regard to persons who went missing during the past conflict in

East Timor, the ICRC halted its efforts to check/verify such cases and assist families in burying their relatives or constructing memorials. It focused instead on strengthening its contacts, particularly with the Timorese Ministry of Social Solidarity and the Veterans' Commission, with a view to contributing to the proper exhumation of human remains throughout the country: it offered its support/expertise for improving identification processes, for instance. To help prevent people from becoming unaccounted for, the ICRC continued to provide the authorities, forensic/security agencies and the National Societies in both Indonesia and Timor-Leste with technical support/training for managing human remains properly after emergencies.

The Indonesian Red Cross and the Timor-Leste Red Cross resumed services that enabled families separated at the border between the two countries to re-establish contact; many other families split up by detention or migration also restored contact through Movement services. With ICRC assistance, both National Societies strengthened their capacities in restoring family links, emergency preparedness and promoting humanitarian principles/IHL, for instance through the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. In Indonesia, ICRC events and communication efforts to promote the programme and the ICRC's work among educational authorities and Islamic leaders/scholars resulted in more Islamic schools adopting the programme, which introduced schoolchildren to humanitarian principles.

The ICRC maintained regular dialogue with ASEAN on issues of common interest, including mine action and disaster management.

CIVILIANS

Timorese authorities receive advice from the ICRC on exhuming human remains

Thousands of families continued to seek news of relatives missing in connection with the past situation in East Timor, but neither the Indonesian nor the Timorese side took steps to adopt measures to address the issue. No progress was made on matters previously forwarded by the ICRC to the authorities, namely the repatriation of remains of members of armed forces and the cases of 90 missing minors.

In light of an upsurge in exhumations (see *Context*), the ICRC decided to stop checking/verifying information on missing persons. It focused instead on initiating/developing a dialogue with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the Veterans' Commission, the Timor-Leste police and other parties concerned on the proper exhumation of human remains and on providing/offering support/expertise in such matters as improving identification processes. The ICRC also encouraged the authorities to include, in their initiatives, the concerns of families of all categories of missing persons.

As the Timorese government confirmed that it was providing assistance to the families in burying their relatives or constructing memorials, the ICRC handed over its activities in this regard to the authorities, to avoid duplication.

Before the ICRC decided to stop verifying information on missing persons, 10 families informed Timorese Red Cross/ICRC tracing teams that they had sufficient information on their relatives' whereabouts and/or had recovered their remains, and agreed to close their cases; cooperation among the Timor-Leste police, the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine and the ICRC enabled 8 of the 10 families to recover the remains of their relatives.

In Indonesia, the police and National Society conduct joint activities to boost forensic capacities

The forensic arms of the Indonesian/Timorese police forces, and the Indonesian Red Cross exchanged views with the ICRC on issues related to the resolution of cases of missing persons; measures to prevent such cases in the future, such as proper human remains management after disasters and the collection of ante-mortem data; and progress in adopting previous ICRC recommendations. With ICRC encouragement and technical input, the Indonesian police and the Indonesian Red Cross embarked on a formal partnership in this regard, with the Ministry of Health in a support role. At one ICRC-supported workshop held under the auspices of this partnership, representatives of various ministries and other government agencies, security/emergency response units, universities and the National Society drafted recommendations to refine national policies and emergency mechanisms for managing human remains. A similar training workshop was also held for Timorese agencies/organizations, at which 18 participants engaged in practical exercises and received ICRC reference materials on forensics and human remains management. Six forensic experts from both countries learnt more during their ICRC-sponsored attendance at international training/conferences.

Protective equipment/other materials from the ICRC strengthened the Timorese Red Cross's capacity to properly handle bodies during emergencies.

Members of dispersed families maintain contact through Movement family-links services

Families dispersed by detention or migration sought/contacted their relatives through Movement services: an unaccompanied minor refugee in Indonesia contacted her family in Myanmar, and families of Indonesians detained abroad got in touch with or visited relatives with National Society/ICRC help. One family in Indonesia sent RCMs and parcels to and received pre-recorded video messages from a relative at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba. Families of migrants filed 12 new tracing requests for their relatives, some of whom were reported to have gone missing at sea while passing through Indonesia.

The Indonesian and Timorese National Societies resumed – after a six-year suspension – family-links services at the border between the two countries, enabling families to re-establish contact. Both National Societies strengthened their capacities in restoring family links, at the border and throughout their countries, through volunteer/staff training initiatives and ICRC coaching.

People relocated to Atauro Island, Timor-Leste between 1981 and 1984 as a consequence of the past situation received 11 attestations to support their claims for government compensation. This service was then discontinued after the government informed the ICRC that it had decided to stop accepting new claims.

Communities in remote areas benefit from Indonesian Red Cross health outreach projects

Through joint initiatives of the Dian Harapan hospital, the Indonesian Red Cross and the ICRC in remote areas of Papua, 354 people, including women and children, had eye examinations; 170 received glasses and 54 underwent ICRC-sponsored eye surgery.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in Indonesia did not receive ICRC visits: activities for detainees remained on hold while the Indonesian authorities continued to review the ICRC's offer to help them address humanitarian needs. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights and the ICRC completed the translation into Bahasa Indonesia, and the printing, of a handbook produced by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime/ICRC on strategies to reduce overcrowding in prisons; the handbook was for distribution to the departments/staff concerned. The ministry also welcomed the ICRC's suggestions for reinforcing the training of its corrections officers, which included incorporating the handbook's contents in the training curriculum.

Detainees in Timor-Leste also did not receive ICRC visits, which were suspended while the Ministry of Justice reviewed its agreement with the organization on conducting such activities in the country.

Timorese ex-detainees/internees or their families received nine attestations, which facilitated their registration as war veterans and the determination of their eligibility for pensions and compensation.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Government representatives, armed/police force officials, civil society organizations, academics, the National Societies and the ICRC exchanged views on humanitarian principles/issues, IHL and other international norms, and the Movement's work during meetings/ICRC-organized events. Senior/mid-level Indonesian diplomats learnt more about IHL at sessions organized with the Foreign Affairs Ministry. In its contacts with Indonesian and Timorese authorities, the ICRC sought their support/consent for its activities (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

CIVILIANS	INDONESIA	TIMOR-LESTE
Red Cross messages (RCMs)		
RCMs collected	19	1
RCMs distributed	35	1
Phone calls facilitated between family members	2	
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons		
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	12	
<i>of whom women</i>	2	
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - girls</i>	5	
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - boys</i>	2	
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	2	10
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	46	
<i>of whom women</i>	5	
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - girls</i>	11	
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - boys</i>	2	
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	23	

Indonesian and Timorese authorities receive and share information on IHL implementation

At experts' workshops, including one in Switzerland held as part of the "Strengthening IHL" process, and at an international conference on legal frameworks governing issues raised by the Health Care in Danger project (see *Brussels*), the authorities, notably the Indonesian national IHL committee, learnt more about the domestic implementation of IHL. Timorese government officials updated their knowledge of IHL implementation at Justice Ministry/ICRC-organized workshops, at one of which an Indonesian Law Ministry official described Indonesia's experiences in implementing IHL.

Military/police instructors/officers enhance their teaching of IHL

During ICRC-supported courses/presentations, over 1,120 of the region's military/police personnel, some 2,200 peacekeepers, 120 officers (including police commanders assigned to sensitive areas in Indonesia), 180 Indonesian police personnel bound for UN missions, and a group of Timorese military observers being coached by the Australian Defence Force furthered their understanding of humanitarian norms governing their duties, as well as other IHL-related topics such as sexual violence in armed conflict. Some of them attended a workshop abroad on incorporating IHL in military operational planning (see *International law and policy*) and a decentralized version of the IHL course offered in San Remo, Italy, held in Indonesia; a number of South-East Asian participants attended the latter. At a seminar in Singapore (see *Kuala Lumpur*), Indonesian and Timorese naval officers learnt more about IHL at sea.

The Indonesian navy's learnings/experience at the Singapore seminar were incorporated in their ICRC-supported training initiatives. The Indonesian police's Criminal Investigation Division and the Timorese military also organized training sessions on IHL and other applicable norms with the ICRC. At a Timorese military/ICRC workshop, 16 officers gathered information on incorporating IHL in operational orders. Some 35 Indonesian special police force instructors incorporated lessons from their ICRC training into their teaching syllabus. Over 200 Indonesian military officials/legal experts/trainers and 20 people from the Timorese police notably strengthened their ability to teach IHL, or provide guidance on it, to their troops through ICRC training sessions.

The Indonesian armed forces, notably their IHL working group and Legal Development Agency, and other defence/security-related agencies/institutions drew on ICRC advice to update/draft their policies/doctrine, on the recruitment of civilians into reserve defence forces, for instance. An Indonesian military working group formed in 2013 to draft guidelines for military detention welcomed ICRC suggestions/recommendations during a focus group discussion to examine current policies.

More Indonesian schoolchildren learn about humanitarian principles

Following the successful testing of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme at 11 Islamic schools in Indonesia in 2013, 10 more schools implemented the programme, which aims to acquaint schoolchildren with humanitarian principles. This was a result of ICRC-facilitated meetings/events at which school administrators/teachers and Islamic leaders/scholars were introduced to the programme and the ICRC's work. Teachers involved in the pilot phase of implementing the programme discussed ways to adapt/improve it for use in schools: incorporating elements of Islamic law related to armed conflict, for instance.

Both National Societies took steps – conducting tests/workshops, refining teaching methodologies and training teachers/facilitators – to facilitate the programme's inclusion in the Indonesian Youth Red Cross extracurricular syllabus and the Timorese national high school curriculum.

University students refined their understanding of IHL under the tutelage of ICRC-trained lecturers, at ICRC presentations, and at events organized by the ICRC's university partners, such as a national debate and moot court competitions.

Representatives of over 25 faith-based/humanitarian NGOs based in Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand expressed interest in developing a code of conduct for humanitarian work, following a seminar organized jointly by the ICRC and Dompot Dhuafa, an Indonesian NGO. A book containing Indonesian/South-East Asian scholars' perspectives on Islam and humanitarian action – which they shared/discussed at a 2013 ICRC-organized conference – was set for launch in early 2015.

Indonesians throughout the archipelago obtained information, including in Bahasa Indonesia, on humanitarian concerns and ICRC activities, via Web-based/traditional media articles/stories based on ICRC updates/materials. Three Indonesian journalists learnt the finer points of reporting on humanitarian issues at a senior editors' conference abroad (see *Kuala Lumpur*); 27 others learnt first aid at a National Society/ICRC training session. Fifty journalists from Indonesian faith-based/mainstream media outlets and 23 from Timor-Leste discussed working in conflict-affected areas at seminars organized with a leading press institute.

ASEAN/ICRC cooperate in drawing attention to weapon contamination and other regional humanitarian concerns

At their annual summit, ASEAN leaders endorsed the establishment of a regional Mine Action Centre, as proposed by the Cambodian government with ICRC advice. Senior officials discussed the issue of unexploded ordnance and ways to address it, at a workshop organized by ASEAN and the ICRC. The two organizations intensified their dialogue on other issues of common interest, such as IDPs, disaster management and migration.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Indonesian Red Cross finalizes operational procedures for working in situations of violence

With ICRC support, the Indonesian and Timorese National Societies continued to strengthen their capacities to respond to humanitarian needs (see *Civilians*) – training their volunteers in first aid, restoring family links, and conducting water projects. They also promoted IHL: the Timor-Leste Red Cross helped organize information sessions for the military/police for instance.

For the first time, the Indonesian Red Cross assigned medical staff to ICRC emergency operations abroad, deploying one staff member to assist in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan (see *Philippines*). With ICRC guidance, it finalized its operational procedures – incorporating the Safer Access Framework – for enhancing volunteer/staff security during situations of violence, and continued to support the Health Ministry in matters concerning the protection of medical services. It consulted Movement partners on designing activities to address migrants' needs.

The National Societies pursued organizational development initiatives. The Indonesian Red Cross, in particular, adopted the revised

version of its statutes and a new strategy, developed with advice/suggestions from the International Federation/ICRC.

Movement partners in the region exchanged views at various events, including a conference on protecting health workers/services.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*		
RCMs collected		20			
RCMs distributed		36			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		2			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		12	2	5	2
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		12			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		46	5	11	2
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	23			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
Restoring family links¹					
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		9			

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Timor-Leste