

KYRGYZSTAN



Active in the country since 1992, the ICRC opened a delegation in Kyrgyzstan in 2011. It works to protect and assist people affected by tensions or violence and people detained for security reasons, while providing support regarding health-related issues, particularly TB, in places of detention. The ICRC promotes norms relevant to the use of force among security forces and the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, academic curricula and the armed forces' doctrine, training and sanctions. The ICRC works in partnership with the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan and helps it strengthen its capacities.

YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

MEDIUM

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

In 2014:

- ▶ the authorities made progress in streamlining TB treatment in the penitentiary sector, notably by transferring all TB-affected detainees to newly constructed/renovated facilities at Penal Institution 31
- ▶ detainees at 5 places of temporary detention had access to health services following ICRC-supported repair work and provision of supplies, in line with a memorandum of understanding with the authorities
- ▶ people in violence-prone areas had better access to emergency treatment at ICRC-renovated health facilities and from health professionals trained by ICRC-supported doctors
- ▶ the authorities included emergency-room trauma courses in the training curriculum for post-graduate medical students
- ▶ following efforts by the national IHL committee and others, the parliament considered proposals for penalizing war crimes and protecting missing persons and their families, and approved accession to an IHL treaty
- ▶ the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan strengthened its emergency response capacity and helped build regional preparedness, for example, via a simulation exercise with other Central Asian National Societies

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)

Protection	1,008
Assistance	5,282
Prevention	561
Cooperation with National Societies	409
General	-

7,259

of which: Overheads **443**

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	90%
---------------------------	------------

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	14
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	77

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	6
RCMs distributed	4
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	17
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	9,263
Detainees visited and monitored individually	258
Number of visits carried out	117
Number of places of detention visited	46

ASSISTANCE	2014 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	3,923
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	15,000
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures	7
Water and habitat		
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	200

CONTEXT

The security situation in Kyrgyzstan remained relatively calm, but tensions owing to demarcation issues in the south, competition for access to water and land/pasture, and socio-economic discontent among the population persisted. Sporadic clashes along the country's borders with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan led to injuries and, in some cases, deaths among civilians and weapon bearers, and to the destruction of property.

Strategic discussions with the Russian Federation on economic, security and military issues continued. In December, Kyrgyzstan signed an agreement to join the Eurasian Economic Union, which expanded on and replaced the Customs Union of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. It took part in military exercises with other Central Asian countries and the Russian Federation within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). A comprehensive reform of the country's armed forces got under way.

Kyrgyzstan also pursued dialogue with China through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and continued to forge ties with Turkey and the member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The US-run military air base at Manas airport was closed down; some infrastructure was handed over to Kyrgyzstan.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In view of the lingering tensions and the sporadic incidents of violence in Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC helped strengthen local emergency preparedness and response capacities. It monitored the situation of people in tension-prone areas, and worked with the authorities to address the humanitarian needs of detainees and the families of missing persons. It also promoted the domestic implementation of IHL and built awareness of humanitarian principles.

To ensure access to health care during emergencies, the ICRC helped emergency-service providers, particularly those working in the south, to reinforce their capacities, and drew attention to the goals of the Health Care in Danger project. It provided the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan with technical, financial and material support for enhancing its capacity to respond to emergencies, particularly in terms of providing first aid, restoring family links and distributing relief items to vulnerable households in violence-prone areas.

Hospital staff, military medical personnel and medical professors honed their trauma-management skills during courses led by ICRC-trained government doctors; the authorities included such courses in the training curriculum of post-graduate medical students. Hospitals and health-care centres in the south were renovated and/or provided with medical supplies.

The ICRC visited detainees, including those held in relation to the events of 2010, at places of detention run by the Ministry of the Interior, the State Committee for National Security (GKNB), the State Drug Control Service and the State Service for the Execution of Punishments (GSIN). It continued to seek access to all detainees within its purview. The ICRC shared its findings and recommendations – concerning the detainees' treatment and living conditions – confidentially to the authorities; it paid particular attention to the situation of detainees serving life sentences and stressed the importance of ensuring that detainees could contact their relatives. It helped the authorities improve prison facilities and provided family-links services to detainees.

Within the framework of a 2013 memorandum of understanding with the authorities, on providing health care in places of temporary detention, the ICRC supported the renovation of five police stations under the Interior Ministry. Work on training their medical staff was in progress. The ICRC also continued to provide the GSIN and the Health Ministry with extensive support for managing TB in the penitentiary sector. It supported the establishment of a centralized TB treatment facility at Penal Institution 31, where all TB-affected detainees from other facilities had been transferred at year's end; construction of a hospital for patients with multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB was completed.

The ICRC helped the families of 19 persons still missing in relation to the events of June 2010 to seek news of their relatives, mainly by urging the authorities to provide the families with updates on pertinent developments. To promote the rights of the missing and their families, the ICRC provided support for a study – conducted by a government research institute – on the compatibility of domestic legislation and international norms on the subject; the findings/recommendations were submitted to the authorities and included in a draft document being reviewed by the parliament.

To foster an environment conducive to humanitarian action, the ICRC promoted the implementation of IHL, helped IHL specialists further their knowledge, and engaged in dialogue with the authorities, weapon bearers and members of civil society. The national IHL committee drew on ICRC expertise to advance the country's accession to IHL treaties, particularly the Environmental Modification Convention, and the incorporation of IHL/humanitarian norms in the penal code. Dissemination sessions helped military/police personnel learn more about IHL and other norms applicable to their duties, and about the ICRC's mandate/activities. Similar sessions, as well as public events, helped build awareness of IHL-related issues among civil society and the wider public.

CIVILIANS

The situation of people in the south and other tension-prone areas was monitored by the ICRC – for example, through dialogue with the authorities. Discussions with the authorities also served to encourage them to develop emergency preparedness/response measures and protocols, and to train/equip first responders and other specialists in first aid and restoring family links. After an ICRC assessment, government offices involved in managing human remains during emergencies received material assistance and technical advice on best practices in this area, with the aim of helping them mitigate the risk of disappearances. Ad hoc distributions, by the National Society, of ICRC-donated essential supplies helped ease the conditions of vulnerable households in violence-prone areas.

With the approval of the authorities, 34 individuals without valid identification papers received ICRC travel documents, facilitating their resettlement within the framework of IOM and UNHCR programmes.

Families of missing persons stand to benefit from review of domestic legislation

The families of 19 persons still missing in relation to the events of June 2010 remained without news of their relatives. Representations were made to the authorities, urging them to update the families on the status of the search for their missing relatives. Although direct support for the families was reduced, in favour of activities with longer-term objectives (see below), some families received,

at their request, assistance in obtaining legal or administrative support; they attended a commemorative event organized by the ICRC in Osh.

The Kyrgyz government's National Institute for Strategic Studies conducted, with ICRC support, a study comparing the country's existing laws and internationally recognized standards on the rights of missing persons and their families. Findings and recommendations were conveyed to working groups overseeing legal reforms, with a view to encouraging the authorities to improve domestic legislation in this regard.

Rural communities gain better access to water

Some 35,580 people living in the towns of Kochor-Ata and Massy in the Jalal-Abad province had more regular access to clean water for household and livelihood use, after local water boards upgraded and maintained their water supply networks with material/technical support from the ICRC.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees' treatment and living conditions monitored

Over 9,260 people held in 46 places of detention run by the Interior Ministry, the GKNB, the G SIN and the State Drug Control Service received ICRC visits, conducted according to the organization's standard procedures. Of these, 258 potentially vulnerable inmates – security detainees, those serving life sentences, women, minors and foreigners – were followed up individually. Discussions with the authorities, on an agreement seeking access to all detainees within the ICRC's purview, continued.

After these visits, findings and recommendations were communicated confidentially to the authorities, with a view to helping them ensure that detainees' treatment and living conditions were in line with internationally recognized standards. The authorities also received a comprehensive report on the humanitarian situation of detainees serving life sentences and, in lieu of a study tour, benefited from technical advice from a prison management specialist.

Discussions with the authorities also stressed the importance of ensuring that detainees could contact their relatives. The G SIN requested ICRC support for implementing the recommendations of a report submitted to them in 2013. Although RCMs were not used owing to the availability of mobile communication channels, detainees still benefited from other ICRC family-links services; 206 detainees were visited by their relatives, including children. After his release from prison, a minor returned home to Tajikistan under ICRC auspices.

Inmates see improvements in their living conditions

Particularly vulnerable detainees received blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits and other essential supplies; books and recreational items helped ease their confinement.

Detaining authorities continued to draw on ICRC support to ensure that detainees' living conditions were in line with internationally recognized standards. For example, 158 detainees saw tangible improvements in their living conditions because of ICRC-backed renovations of prison barracks and rooms for family visits. At a workshop, 20 maintenance personnel improved their ability to ensure the facilities' upkeep.

Construction of a pre-trial detention facility in Jalal-Abad got under way within the framework of an agreement between the

authorities, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the ICRC.

Detainees at five police stations begin to receive health services

Cooperation continued between the authorities and the ICRC in the provision of health services to detainees at places of temporary detention, as per an agreement signed with the Health and Interior Ministries in 2013. On the basis of assessments conducted jointly with members of an inter-ministerial committee, five police stations were renovated (benefiting some 180 detainees) and provided with medical supplies/equipment. Doctors and nurses were appointed by the authorities, enabling detainees to receive health services; the committee began to draft related guidelines and protocols. Preparations were under way for training sessions for medical staff assigned to the facilities.

TB-affected detainees obtain treatment at central facility

The G SIN and the Ministry of Health continued to tackle the serious threat posed by TB, particularly MDR TB – with ICRC support, which included sending specimen samples abroad for testing. The handover of the caseload from Médecins Sans Frontières-Switzerland (MSF-CH) to the ICRC was completed in April, on the basis of a plan agreed by the G SIN, MSF-CH and the ICRC. By year's end, 129 detainees had completed their treatment, while that of 218 others – including 107 with MDR TB – continued. Efforts to promote a holistic model of care, one that included psychosocial support, continued.

Penal Institution 31 underwent further infrastructural/maintenance work supported by the ICRC, with a view to establishing a central treatment facility for up to 340 detainees with various forms of TB. Construction of a hospital (64 beds) for detainees with MDR TB was completed. Other projects included the implementation of infection-control measures, the renovation of prison barracks, and the construction of a building for patients at risk of MDR TB and another for socially vulnerable patients. Although some infrastructural work was still ongoing at Penal Institution 31, all TB-affected detainees from Penal Institution 27 and other places of detention had been transferred to it by the end of December.

The staff at Penal Institutions 27 and 31 continued to receive daily on-site support for managing TB. They ensured that conditions were conducive to the well-being of detainees and to the work of the medical staff, mainly by overseeing the functioning of infrastructure/services.

Authorities pursue efforts to streamline TB management

The penitentiary authorities maintained, with ICRC material/technical support, an electronic database for keeping track of and periodically evaluating the performance of the country's prison TB-management programme.

Working groups – for developing national TB infection-control guidelines, training medical and non-medical penitentiary staff in various matters related to TB, strengthening the TB surveillance system and optimizing the local TB laboratory network – received technical support. The national TB reference laboratory in Bishkek and the inter-provincial reference laboratory in Osh – both providers of diagnostic services to the prison sector – bolstered their capacities with ICRC material/technical assistance. Laboratory technicians participated in ICRC-supported study tours of the prison TB-control programme in Baku, Azerbaijan (see *Azerbaijan*).

WOUNDED AND SICK

Health workers add to their skills with the help of Health Ministry doctors

Medical personnel from throughout Kyrgyzstan bolstered their capacities to manage potential influxes of wounded patients, helping strengthen emergency preparedness/response throughout the country. In all, 37 surgeons/anaesthetists from hospitals in the south, 20 military medical staff and 20 medical professors from Bishkek and Osh honed their trauma-management skills at courses led by Health Ministry doctors equipped with ICRC training and technical/financial support. Following discussions with the ICRC, the authorities included these courses in the training curriculum for post-graduate medical studies.

Participants in these courses also furthered their understanding of the protection and respect due to patients and medical workers, among the primary concerns of the Health Care in Danger project. These issues were also highlighted in ICRC dissemination sessions and other events for the authorities, weapon bearers and members of civil society. At a Ministry of Health conference on legal protection for medical staff, attendees learnt more about the project's goals through an ICRC presentation.

To help strengthen their ability to address health needs during emergencies, two primary health care centres (performing a total 3,600 consultations/month; total: 200 beds) in the Batken and Jalal-Abad provinces were renovated and equipped with medical supplies. In Batken, patients at another centre, and at a hospital, benefited from donations of medical supplies by the ICRC. Ad hoc distribution of medical supplies helped three other health facilities treat wounded patients.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

With ICRC support, the authorities worked towards incorporating IHL in domestic legislation; military personnel, police officers and members of civil society broadened their understanding of IHL, the ICRC and humanitarian issues, including those covered by the Health Care in Danger project. Contact with traditional leaders was being developed.

Kyrgyzstan approves law on acceding to IHL treaty

The national IHL committee drew on ICRC support and advice during its meetings and for developing initiatives to promote domestic implementation of IHL. It finalized a draft law on acceding to the Environmental Modification Convention, which was adopted by the parliament and signed by the president at year's end. The working group overseeing the revision of Kyrgyzstan's penal code took into account recommendations made by the Defence Ministry/ICRC on behalf of the national IHL committee. It proposed to the parliament that war crimes be included in the draft penal code, which also incorporated recommendations from a compatibility study on domestic laws and internationally recognized standards on the rights of the missing and their families (see *Civilians*).

The Defence Ministry, on behalf of the General Staff, expressed interest in drawing on ICRC expertise for including IHL in the country's military doctrine – for example, by sharing draft documents with it.

Academic circles help build IHL expertise countrywide

Members of the national IHL committee furthered their understanding of IHL at an ICRC-organized training session, at which two local professors lent their expertise. To build on such expertise

and facilitate support for the committee, contact with academics was pursued; discussions with them focused on the state of IHL instruction at universities. After these discussions, the national IHL committee expressed willingness to consider the inclusion of IHL in the national curriculum. Twelve universities periodically received IHL reference materials; some 280 students learnt about humanitarian issues and the ICRC during dissemination sessions.

Weapon bearers learn more about IHL and law enforcement standards

By taking part in seminars and other events organized/attended by the ICRC, military and police officers added to their knowledge of IHL, international norms applicable to their duties and the ICRC's mandate and activities.

At a workshop, eight military commanders and two from the Border Service discussed IHL and its application in their operations. Some 145 military personnel, police officers and border troops attended dissemination sessions on detention and other issues. Pre-deployment briefings about the ICRC, organized for the first time in Kyrgyzstan, helped 40 peacekeepers bound for UN missions to familiarize themselves with the organization's mandate and activities. Participants in a military exercise for CSTO forces – hosted by the authorities and attended by the ICRC as an observer – learnt more about IHL and the ICRC's mandate through briefings.

Public awareness of humanitarian principles and the ICRC develops

Various events, and media reports based on ICRC materials, helped spread awareness of the Movement and humanitarian issues to a wider audience. More than 1,000 people in Bishkek and Osh familiarized themselves with humanitarian issues at a photo exhibition organized jointly by the Swiss embassy in Bishkek and the ICRC. Journalists from print, broadcast and social media outlets attended ICRC briefings and events, helping them enhance their coverage of humanitarian issues. At a seminar, 17 journalists from Batken, Jalal-Abad and Osh learnt more about conflict reporting and the protection due to them under IHL.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Society hosts regional course in emergency preparedness

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent reinforced its emergency preparedness and response capacities, particularly in first aid. Twenty-five emergency responders honed their skills and received supplies. Thirteen instructors completed a train-the-trainer workshop, enabling them to conduct first-aid courses for National Society volunteers, community leaders and others in violence-prone areas.

The National Society hosted, jointly with the ICRC, a three-day simulation exercise at which Central Asian National Societies strengthened their capacities to address humanitarian needs during emergencies and practised applying the Safer Access Framework. With ICRC support, the National Society equipped its branches in tension-prone areas, replenished emergency stocks and provided uniforms for its disaster response teams. Technical advice and training helped it develop its family-links services, in line with the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement.

The National Society participated in meetings of the national IHL committee, international Movement meetings and other pertinent events, with a view to organizational development. It continued to work on securing approval for a law formally recognizing its status.

It carried out dissemination sessions and events to raise its visibility, promote the Movement and its Fundamental Principles, and attract volunteers.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*		
RCMs collected		6			
RCMs distributed		4			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		32	7	8	5
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		17			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		113	20	17	11
Documents					
People to whom travel documents were issued		34			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		9,263	634	96	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		258	12		10
Detainees newly registered		112	3		10
Number of visits carried out		117			
Number of places of detention visited		46			
Restoring family links					
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		206			
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC		1			

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	3,923	19%	
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	35,582	30%	30%
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	2		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	13,695		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,021		
Health				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		98		
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		15		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	7		
Water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	200		