

# BRASILIA (REGIONAL)

**COVERING: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay**

Established in 1975 in Buenos Aires, the delegation moved to Brasilia in 2009. The ICRC visits security detainees and responds to situations of violence and social unrest, often with the region's National Societies, which it supports in developing their capacities to act in such situations. It helps authorities identify human remains so as to provide families with information on their missing relatives. The ICRC promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation and the doctrine, training and operations of armed forces, and works with police forces to integrate international human rights law applicable to the use of force into theirs.

## BUDGET IN KCHF

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Protection                          | 1,730        |
| Assistance                          | 1,296        |
| Prevention                          | 2,894        |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,244        |
| General                             | 365          |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>7,528</b> |
| <i>Of which: Overheads</i>          | 459          |

## PERSONNEL

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Mobile staff                                | 8  |
| Resident staff (daily workers not included) | 39 |



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ICRC regional delegation    ICRC office    ICRC regional communication support centre

## MAIN TARGETS FOR 2014

- ▶ authorities and communities in Brazil take steps to replicate the ICRC's multidisciplinary project covering 6 *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro to help residents reduce their vulnerability to violence
- ▶ Mapuche community members provide psychological and social support to vulnerable violence-affected peers, particularly women and children
- ▶ detainees in Chile and Paraguay see improvements in their treatment and living conditions following ICRC visits and recommendations made to the authorities
- ▶ the region's armed forces integrate IHL and international human rights norms into their training, operations and sanctions systems, including through the adoption of related manuals
- ▶ forensic practitioners in the region have the professional capacity to clarify the fate of people unaccounted for, notably after participating in national and international training initiatives
- ▶ the region's National Societies deliver first aid, as necessary, and other assistance effectively, using the Safer Access approach and newly developed operational guidelines

| ASSISTANCE  |               | Targets (up to) |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| <b>CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPs, RETURNEES, ETC.)</b>   |               |                 |
| <b>Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</b> |               |                 |
| Productive inputs   | Beneficiaries | 3,500           |



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## CONTEXT

In Chile, tensions between security forces and indigenous Mapuche communities in the south over land tenure issues persist, exacerbated by mass protests over educational reforms and social inequities. Attacks by the Paraguayan People's Army and clashes between landless peasants and police forces are reported in Paraguay, where instability fuelled by the failure of agrarian reform prevails. Following its suspension in 2012, Paraguay is seeking to re-establish its links with the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR).

Amidst Brazil's growing international influence, violence still troubles its cities. The Rio de Janeiro state government

is pursuing its "pacification" programme, with large-scale law enforcement operations involving both military and police forces taking place in a number of the city's slum neighbourhoods or *favelas*, particularly as the city prepares to host a number of international sporting events. Street demonstrations against alleged corruption and the lack of basic services sometimes turn violent.

The countries covered are members of regional organizations and bodies, such as MERCOSUR, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2014, the ICRC regional delegation in Brasilia, in partnership with the National Societies concerned, will pursue efforts to address some of the humanitarian consequences of the violence affecting parts of Chile and Paraguay. It will do so, in particular, through dialogue with the authorities and multidisciplinary activities aimed at bolstering the resilience of affected communities. It will further endeavour to make the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent stance widely known so as to gain acceptance of and support for its work and that of the National Societies. In carrying out their own activities, as well as those done jointly with the ICRC, the National Societies will benefit from ICRC support, aimed particularly at strengthening their management and emergency-response capacities.

The ICRC will highlight the rules applicable to the use of force in law and order operations during dialogue with and capacity-building efforts for the armed and police forces, focusing on Brazil, Chile and Paraguay. To further this end, it will foster contacts with regional organizations on the need for their member States to regulate the use of force.

In Chile and Paraguay, the ICRC will explore ways of assisting violence-affected people, including in the form of first aid, psychological support, and primary and preventive health care, with an emphasis on helping them strengthen their resilience. It will also continue to visit detainees held in relation to situations of violence in these two countries. On the basis of such visits, it will make confidential reports and recommendations to the authorities, including on the conditions of arrest. It will subsidize the Paraguayan Red Cross's family-visits programme and help detainees and former detainees start income-generating activities.

In Brazil, following the conclusion at end-2013 of a multidisciplinary pilot project in six (formerly seven) Rio de Janeiro *favelas* (known as the Rio project), the ICRC will

support the authorities and local partners in continuing and replicating the activities in other violence-prone areas. Support will include technical advice in the training of school staff and medical personnel in reducing communities' vulnerability to the effects of violence and in improving access to health care, respectively, and the sharing of lessons learnt with the authorities and civil society.

To help clarify the fate of persons unaccounted for in connection with past conflicts or current violence, the ICRC will provide training and material support to the authorities in strengthening their forensic capacities and human remains and data management. Working with local partners, it will assess the needs of families of missing persons, with a view to advising the authorities on measures to take to address those needs. It will also work with the National Societies in improving their family-links services.

Mainly through the respective national IHL committee, the ICRC will promote ratification of IHL treaties and the incorporation of treaties already ratified into domestic legislation. It will back up these efforts by promoting IHL-related initiatives in multilateral fora and within regional bodies.

The ICRC will endeavour to draw on Brazil's global influence to gain its support in promoting IHL and addressing humanitarian issues in international fora.

The Buenos Aires communication support centre will continue to back ICRC operations in the region through the production of written and audiovisual materials and the regular updating of the Spanish and Portuguese-language websites.

The ICRC will continue to coordinate its activities with those of Movement partners, UN agencies and other actors in fields of common interest in order to maximize impact, identify unmet needs and avoid duplication of efforts.