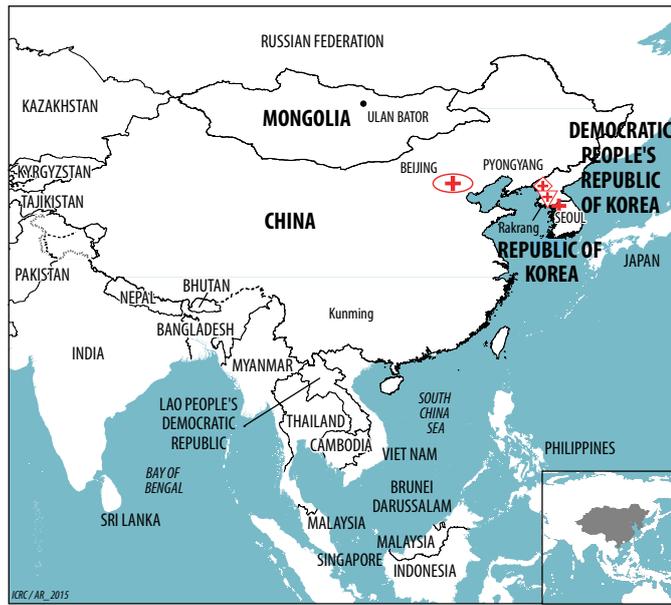


BEIJING (regional)

COVERING: China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Republic of Korea



ICRC regional delegation (red cross), ICRC mission (red diamond), ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic project (red triangle), ICRC presence (red plus sign)

The boundaries, names and designations used in this report do not imply official endorsement, nor express a political opinion on the part of the ICRC, and are without prejudice to claims of sovereignty over the territories mentioned.

Present in the region since 1987, the ICRC moved its regional delegation for East Asia to Beijing in 2005. The delegation fosters support for humanitarian principles, IHL and ICRC activities in the region and worldwide, among governments, experts and National Societies. It promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, military training and academic curricula. It supports the region's National Societies in developing their IHL promotion and tracing activities. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in partnership with the National Society, it supports hospital care and contributes to meeting the need for assistive/mobility devices.

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2015

- ▶ The ICRC intensified its contact with the region's authorities and military/police forces, for instance, through its president's visit to China and its increased presence in the Republic of Korea.
- ▶ During meetings and workshops, government officials and armed/security officers deliberated on IHL and its application at sea, among other topics, with the ICRC and with their counterparts from throughout Asia.
- ▶ China's justice and public security ministries and the ICRC discussed health issues in prisons. Government officials observed best practices for health care in detention during ICRC-hosted study tours abroad.
- ▶ Civil society paid close attention to IHL and humanitarian issues in the region; the ICRC and China's main news agency formalized their partnership, so as to boost media coverage of humanitarian affairs.
- ▶ Patients in 4 hospitals and 1 physical rehabilitation centre in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea benefited from services/facilities improved jointly by hospital authorities and Movement partners.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Protection | 747 |
| Assistance | 5,066 |
| Prevention | 4,818 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,266 |
| General | 87 |
| Total | 11,984 |
| <i>Of which: Overheads</i> | 731 |

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 99% |
|---------------------------|-----|

PERSONNEL

| | |
|---|----|
| Mobile staff | 22 |
| Resident staff (daily workers not included) | 49 |

YEARLY RESULTS

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action | HIGH |
|--|-------------|

| ASSISTANCE | 2015 Targets (up to) | Achieved | |
|---|----------------------|----------|-------|
| CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.) | | | |
| Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme) | | | |
| Productive inputs | Beneficiaries | 600 | |
| Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme) | | | |
| Water and habitat activities | Beneficiaries | 7,000 | 8,000 |
| WOUNDED AND SICK | | | |
| Hospitals | | | |
| Hospitals supported | Structures | 5 | 5 |
| Water and habitat | | | |
| Water and habitat activities | Number of beds | 2,959 | 500 |
| Physical rehabilitation | | | |
| Projects supported | Structures | 3 | 3 |
| Patients receiving services | Patients | 1,100 | 945 |

CONTEXT

The Chinese government continued to seek opportunities to expand its prominence in the international community. In April, it led the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank; however, its economy experienced several shocks, especially in the latter half of the year.

The situation in the region remained volatile, with political and security-related issues keeping relations among the countries erratic. For instance, there were several exchanges of fire between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (hereafter DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (hereafter ROK); in October 2015, however, the two countries organized a temporary reunification meeting, enabling around 200 families to reconnect. The six-party talks on the DPRK's nuclear programme had yet to resume.

Mongolia declared its intention of pursuing a neutral status in its relations within the region and beyond.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In 2015, the Beijing regional delegation focused on promoting humanitarian principles and IHL and on securing support for ICRC operations in the region and beyond. In the four countries covered, the ICRC sought to consolidate its interaction with decision-makers, through bilateral meetings, briefings, national/regional workshops, and other events; for instance, the visit of the ICRC president to China allowed for several high-level exchanges on expanding the scope of the ICRC's cooperation with various actors in China.

Building on partnerships forged in previous years, the ICRC maintained and, in some cases, expanded several assistance projects in China and the DPRK, particularly in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of China and the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In the DPRK, the ICRC partnered with the ministry of public health and the National Society to help improve the quality of surgical/medical services at four referral hospitals and one physical rehabilitation centre through on-site learning initiatives for staff and infrastructural upgrades to the facilities. During the year, the ICRC renewed its partnership agreements with the authorities, maintaining its support for three of the hospitals and for the physical rehabilitation centre; it pursued efforts to establish a similar form of cooperation with and support for another physical rehabilitation centre. The ICRC also worked with local authorities and the National Society to help improve the availability of drinking water for thousands of people in one urban community.

The ICRC provided the Chinese Red Cross with technical assistance to help it run a physical rehabilitation centre and component-manufacturing workshop in Yunnan province; vulnerable people within reach of the centre, many of them with disabilities, also availed themselves of livelihood assistance provided by the National Society.

The ICRC continued to discuss detention-related issues, particularly detainees' access to health care, with China's justice and public security ministries. The dialogue focused on encouraging further cooperation in this field between the two ministries and other local actors, as well as with the ICRC. During study tours abroad, officials from these ministries gained greater insight into other countries' best practices for improving their prison health-care systems.

The ICRC's increased presence in the ROK enabled it to expand its interaction with the country's government officials, officers of the armed/police forces, members of the Republic of Korea National Red Cross and other influential figures. In particular, its talks centred on the residual humanitarian consequences of past conflict, the importance of deliberately crafting national contingency plans to be in respect of IHL and other humanitarian considerations, and the role the ICRC could play in addressing existing and future humanitarian concerns.

Throughout the region, the ICRC worked with the leadership of military and police forces to help officers build their awareness of IHL and other international norms. For instance, senior officers from the four countries covered attended an international workshop on the application of IHL at sea. The authorities in Mongolia and the ROK indicated their interest in the prospect of ICRC training initiatives on internationally recognized standards for law enforcement operations, following initial ICRC sessions on that subject in both countries.

In China, Mongolia and the ROK, the ICRC built partnerships with think-tanks, education authorities/institutions and the National Societies to persuade academics, civil-society leaders and the wider public to pay heed to humanitarian principles. It helped universities and other local institutions design IHL-themed courses and other events, to inspire interest and expertise in the law among future decision-makers. The ICRC launched a joint research project, on humanitarian action, with a Chinese think-tank.

Whenever necessary and possible, the ICRC coordinated its work with other Movement components present in the region; such contact helped promote the sharing of best practices and reiterated the importance of a coherent approach, in line with the Movement's Fundamental Principles, to humanitarian work.

CIVILIANS

Some disabled people in China benefit from a long-term increase in their incomes

Within the framework of a joint project of the Chinese Red Cross and the ICRC, disabled people and other vulnerable persons within reach of the National Society-run physical rehabilitation centre in Kunming, Yunnan province, (see *Wounded and sick*) began to restore/secure their livelihoods. A total of 152 households – identified in 2014 by National Society/ICRC teams – used cash grants to start income-earning activities based on business plans they designed themselves. Most households that participated in the initiative confirmed that they were still reaping the benefits of the assistance.

With a view to reaching more people, the Chinese Red Cross and the ICRC drafted an agreement to extend the project to other districts in Yunnan in 2016.

Thousands of people gain greater access to clean drinking water

Some 8,000 people in a peri-urban area of Kaesong City in the DPRK had better access to clean water after the ICRC partnered with local authorities and the DPRK Red Cross to rehabilitate/construct a reservoir, pump-house and water-distribution facilities. At year's end, the sanitation systems serving these communities were being upgraded. The local engineers and maintenance personnel responsible for these projects added to their skills during ICRC-supported training courses, which included sessions led by National Society staff.

The ICRC keeps watch on the concerns of vulnerable people

The ICRC continued to monitor the needs of people with specific needs. Whenever possible, their concerns were brought to the attention of the authorities, National Societies, and other relevant parties, with a view to exploring potential responses to these needs and the space for joint responses. For example, the concerns of families dispersed since the 1950–53 Korean War remained on the agenda of the ICRC's meetings with DPRK and ROK officials and the two countries' National Societies. The ICRC provided the DPRK National Society with some support for organizing a family meeting for several hundred splintered families (see *Context*).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Chinese authorities and the ICRC pursue dialogue on detention-related issues

The ICRC maintained its dialogue with the justice and public security ministries, focusing on detainees' health conditions; this aimed at improving mutual understanding of each other's work and building momentum for joint action between the two ministries, as well as with the ICRC. The ICRC president's meeting with the Chinese justice minister served as a springboard for further deliberations on a pilot project on TB control and prevention.

During an ICRC workshop, justice ministry officials and other actors concerned discussed the gaps in hepatitis-control measures in prisons. The justice ministry organized a workshop on broad health issues in detention. Ministry officials also went on study tours to Azerbaijan, where they observed the implementation of a TB management programme in prisons, and to Scotland, where they learnt about the steps the authorities took to transfer provision of health care in detention to the purview of their public-health system.

The ICRC began to discuss the issue of prison management with the justice ministry, in a bid to identify further areas of cooperation, particularly with regard to training.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Patients in the DPRK receive treatment at ICRC-supported hospitals

The public health ministry, the DPRK Red Cross and the ICRC continued their cooperation in enhancing the surgical standards/treatment methods, emergency care, orthopaedic surgery and other services at three provincial hospitals – in Hamhung, Pyongsong and Sariwon – and at the city hospital in Kaesong. In mid-2015, they renewed their partnership, extending the work done in Hamhung, Kaesong and Pyongsong, and discontinuing the support for the Sariwon hospital.

The surgical and medical teams at the hospitals in Hamhung and Pyongsong kept up their efforts to improve the quality of treatment and increase the accessibility of these services. They used ICRC-provided supplies/equipment; staff at these facilities added to their competencies with the help of on-site training and some technical advice from the ICRC. Hospital staff continued to demonstrate an increased understanding of physiotherapy. The ICRC provided the Kaesong City hospital with some medical supplies, and prepared to make learning opportunities available to staff there in 2016.

Patients and staff at the four aforementioned hospitals benefited from ongoing improvements to key facilities, such as the operating theatre at the Kaesong City hospital.

Physically disabled people access enhanced services at a DPRK centre

Around 600 people received treatment and services at the Rakrang Physical Rehabilitation Centre; the centre's surgical annex carried out 102 amputations and stump revision procedures for military and civilian amputees, using ICRC-donated materials and with advice from an ICRC surgical team.

With DPRK Red Cross/ICRC support, staff at the rehabilitation centre continued to improve their treatment and technical procedures. Staff at the centre honed their skills and took an increasingly interdisciplinary approach to their work, with the aid of regular in-house training sessions. Two staff members furthered their expertise by pursuing advanced studies abroad.

At year's end, the ICRC was working with the authorities, the DPRK National Society and a local foundation so that they could extend their partnership to cover another physical rehabilitation centre.

Disabled people in China obtain treatment/services at a National Society-run centre

In all, 362 people availed themselves of physiotherapy and other services at a physical rehabilitation centre in Kunming and a component-manufacturing workshop in Malipo (both in Yunnan province), managed by the Chinese Red Cross branch there with technical support from the ICRC. Some disabled people within reach of the centre were among the beneficiaries of a National Society/ICRC livelihood-improvement project (see *Civilians*).

While the ICRC focused its interaction with the health sector in China on health issues in detention (see *People deprived of their freedom*), it initiated discussions with the national health authorities on issues covered by the Health Care in Danger project.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The ICRC sought regular contact with the region's government officials, military representatives and other influential actors, to foster understanding of IHL and humanitarian issues and to expand the space for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian within the region. Notably, the ICRC president's high-level exchanges with several Chinese officials during his visit to the country confirmed the increased opportunities for cooperation with China in matters with humanitarian implications. Likewise, the ICRC's consolidated presence in the ROK helped it boost its dialogue, with a spate of key figures, on the humanitarian consequences of conflict.

Armed/security forces advance their knowledge of IHL

During an international workshop in Algeria, several high-ranking army officers from China, the DPRK, Mongolia and the ROK deliberated on the rules governing military operations (see *International law and policy*). Military and security personnel from China, the DPRK, Mongolia and the ROK learnt more about IHL and internationally recognized standards applicable to their duties, at other local and international meetings and events. Several of these sessions were customized for officers – armed police officers from China and military personnel from the ROK – bound for peacekeeping missions. The ICRC had talks with the Chinese military on the possibility of conducting similar sessions for its officers leaving for peacekeeping missions.

Naval officers from China and the ROK discussed the application of IHL at sea during an Asia-Pacific workshop (see *Bangkok*). During bilateral meetings, ROK navy/army officials and the ICRC

also went over this topic, as well as the importance of deliberately crafting national contingency plans to be in respect of IHL and other humanitarian principles. The Chinese navy and the ICRC reached an agreement to conduct briefings on IHL at sea for students at a navy command college; even amid the Navy's reform process, the ICRC regularly touched base with them and explored possibilities for future cooperation.

The Mongolian and ROK police forces expressed their interest in further cooperation with the ICRC regarding training courses for police officers on the applicability of international norms to their work, following an ICRC course in each country. In China, the ICRC had limited dialogue with the actors concerned on courses on the standards applicable to law enforcement.

China and Mongolia work on red cross laws

Government officials learnt more about the applicability of IHL in various contexts and its integration into domestic law, throughout the region and elsewhere, at several local and international conferences. These events focused on such subjects as sexual violence, access to health care during armed conflict, and different weapon-related issues, including the Arms Trade Treaty, and other topics within the framework of the Strengthening IHL process (see *Kuala Lumpur*).

In China and Mongolia, the authorities and the National Societies pursued efforts to streamline domestic legal frameworks on the protection of the red cross emblem, for which the ICRC offered some advice.

Academics stoke debate on humanitarian norms

University students and lecturers in China, Mongolia and the ROK built on their understanding of humanitarian issues and IHL through courses, briefings and competitions conducted by their institutions, the country's National Society or other local actors. For example, teams from throughout Asia participated in a moot court competition co-organized by the Hong Kong Red Cross, Branch of the Red Cross Society of China; lecturers from different institutions, including training academies for the police/military, hashed out topics such as the classification of conflict and domestic and international justice systems.

Experts from NGOs and think-tanks conferred with the ICRC on humanitarian issues and cooperation; in China, a workshop with a think-tank kick-started the launch of a joint research project on humanitarian action. General and specialist audiences accessed materials on IHL and ICRC activities, particularly in Africa and in the Middle East, in their own languages through traditional and social media platforms. The ICRC formalized a partnership agreement with China's main news agency, with a view to fostering broader media coverage of the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict. The ICRC continued to back the efforts of the Hong Kong Red Cross, Branch of the Chinese Red Cross, to set up an IHL resource centre.

The ICRC also worked to build linkages with China's private sector to exchange ideas – particularly with companies with an overseas presence – on operating in complex, violence-affected areas. The National Society branch in Hong Kong and the ICRC continued to study the steps needed to develop a joint fund-raising strategy for the private sector.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The ICRC and other Movement components active in the region maintained regular consultations on shared priorities and promoted a coherent approach to humanitarian work, in line with the Fundamental Principles. For instance, the ICRC provided some support for a regional workshop, on the Safer Access Framework, for National Societies. The ICRC worked to reinforce its partnership with the Chinese Red Cross, looking to scale up their joint work in China and potentially in other areas high on the country's agenda.

The Chinese and Mongolian Red Cross Societies endeavoured to improve their delivery of family-links services during urban violence, making use of best practices shared by the ICRC; Mongolian Red Cross volunteers attended a workshop on carrying out these activities in line with the Safer Access Framework. The DPRK National Society received some assistance for its family-links services (see *Civilians*).

The region's National Societies also sought to promote IHL, particularly among the youth (see *Actors of influence*).

| MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE | | Total | Women | Children |
|--|---|------------|-------|----------|
| CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.) | | | | |
| Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme) | | | | |
| Water and habitat activities | Beneficiaries | 8,000 | 47% | 24% |
| WOUNDED AND SICK | | | | |
| Hospitals | | | | |
| Hospitals supported | Structures | 5 | | |
| | <i>of which provided data</i> | Structures | 1 | |
| Admissions | Patients | 102 | 11 | 1 |
| | <i>of whom other surgical cases</i> | Patients | 102 | |
| Water and habitat | | | | |
| Water and habitat activities | Number of beds | 500 | | |
| Physical rehabilitation | | | | |
| Projects supported | Structures | 3 | | |
| Patients receiving services | Patients | 945 | 132 | 40 |
| New patients fitted with prostheses | Patients | 381 | 43 | 8 |
| Prostheses delivered | Units | 761 | 101 | 24 |
| | <i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i> | Units | 5 | |
| New patients fitted with orthoses | Patients | 20 | | 8 |
| Orthoses delivered | Units | 28 | 1 | 14 |
| Patients receiving physiotherapy | Patients | 714 | 93 | 33 |
| Crutches delivered | Units | 493 | | |
| Wheelchairs delivered | Units | 26 | | |