

BRASILIA (regional)

COVERING: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay



ICRC regional delegation
 ICRC mission
 ICRC office
 * ICRC regional communication support centre

The ICRC has been present in the region since 1975. It 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.

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2015

- ▶ Brazilian authorities, with ICRC help, continued an ICRC project to train health workers and teachers to help *favela* residents in Rio de Janeiro cope with violence, and expanded it to other municipalities.
- ▶ In northern Paraguay, some communities built their resilience to violence by earning money/obtaining clean water with ICRC help. Some families of detained Mapuches in Chile also received livelihood support.
- ▶ State weapon bearers – the military police of Rio de Janeiro state, Chile's *Carabineros* and Paraguay's joint police/military unit – further incorporated pertinent international norms and IHL in their training.
- ▶ The region's authorities drew on the ICRC's input to improve treatment/living conditions for detainees. In Paraguay, female detainees benefited from infrastructural upgrades, and produced/sold handicrafts.
- ▶ The region's authorities were helped to implement IHL and regional treaties covering the use of/trade in certain weapons. Chile's IHL committee finalized a draft bill that prohibited the use of certain weapons.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	2,223
Assistance	551
Prevention	2,693
Cooperation with National Societies	1,283
General	72
Total	6,823
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	416

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	91%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	8
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	56

YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

HIGH

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
Phone calls facilitated between family members	1,525
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	12,422
Detainees visited and monitored individually	99
Number of visits carried out	39
Number of places of detention visited	21

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 ¹	Beneficiaries	1,100
712		
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	950

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table and in the narrative part of this report may not reflect the extent of the activities carried out during the reporting period.

CONTEXT

In Brazil, economic issues continued to give rise to mass demonstrations, and the incidence of violence in urban areas throughout the country remained high. Authorities in Rio de Janeiro kept up their “pacification” programme, deploying police/military units in large-scale law enforcement operations in several slums, known as *favelas*. Mapuche communities in southern Chile clashed with other groups over issues related to the ownership of land, in which the national police force – the *Carabineros* – sometimes intervened; in several cities, protests for educational reform led to violence. In northern Paraguay, fighting between joint police/security units and armed elements led to deaths and arrests.

Arrests, after the events mentioned above, contributed to the growth of the prison population. Some ex-detainees from the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba resettled in Uruguay.

Natural disasters – flash floods and storms in several countries – caused deaths, displaced people and dispersed families.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC’s delegation in Brasilia worked to address the various needs of violence-affected people throughout the region and of detainees, and to foster support for IHL/other international norms and ICRC activities.

In Brazil, the ICRC focused on helping the authorities concerned continue the “Rio project”, an initiative that aimed to help people mitigate the effects of armed violence in selected *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro and that had concluded in 2013. Hundreds of health workers were trained to operate in violence-prone areas safely and to provide psychosocial support to vulnerable people. Teachers were given support for promoting safe practices, and for setting up Creating Humanitarian Spaces (CHS) projects, to help students in their schools cope with violence. The authorities replicated these activities in other municipalities/cities; the findings/results of the project were presented to federal/state authorities, and at the 32nd International Conference.

Military/security forces throughout the region had ICRC help for furthering the incorporation of pertinent international norms in their training and doctrine. ICRC expertise helped Brazilian, Chilean and Paraguayan police forces to update their training curricula; Argentinian and Brazilian troops – student officers and peacekeepers – were briefed on IHL; training and other events abroad helped senior officers strengthen their grasp of IHL and other pertinent norms. Authorities in the region were given support for advancing IHL and treaties governing the use of and trade in weapons, through technical advice and training for some officials. Efforts were also pursued to raise support among all actors of influence for Movement/ICRC activities.

The ICRC visited detainees throughout the region and reported its findings, and its recommendations for improving conditions for detainees, to the detaining authorities. The ICRC and the authorities concerned upgraded facilities for cooking/storing food at two prisons in Paraguay. Together with the Paraguayan Red Cross, the ICRC continued to back a livelihood project for female detainees, including women who had already been released, with a view to helping them reintegrate into society. Families of detained Mapuches were given help to boost their incomes.

In northern Paraguay, communities built their resilience to violence with ICRC assistance. Some varied their sources of food/income, and had better access to clean water, following ICRC livelihood support and improvements to water systems. These and other violence-affected communities could obtain care from National Society volunteers trained in first aid and psychosocial care. In Brazil, to increase the likelihood of families receiving news of relatives missing since the period of military rule, the pertinent services developed their skills in forensics and made themselves more adept in easing the distress of the families concerned.

National Societies throughout the region, particularly the Brazilian Red Cross, the Chilean Red Cross, and the Paraguayan Red Cross, responded to natural disasters and worked to benefit violence-affected communities. They expanded their capacity to administer first aid and reach and work in violence-prone areas, and to help members of families separated by natural disasters, migration and other circumstances to reconnect. National Societies were given support for internal restructuring and for coordinating their activities between themselves.

CIVILIANS

Through confidential dialogue with the ICRC, the region’s authorities, military/security forces, community leaders and other key figures were informed of allegations of abuse, with a view to helping them implement measures for preventing recurrence, and for mitigating the effects of violence.

Violence-affected *favela* residents obtain health and psychosocial care

The authorities in Rio de Janeiro maintained the “Rio project” with ICRC support. Some 400 health staff – serving a catchment population of 1 million people – were trained to apply the Safer Access Framework for lowering the risk to their safety in violence-affected areas. Around 700 health professionals learnt more about caring for violence-affected people suffering from mental distress; a module on the link between mental-health issues and violence was included in the curriculum of a school specializing in mental-health care. Initiatives for providing adolescent mothers and their children with medical and psychosocial care were extended: five of the six associations of mental-health workers in the city participated in the project; and some 140 health workers were trained to teach others to deliver such services.

To help students cope with violence, educational authorities in Rio de Janeiro held workshops at which 254 teachers were trained to promote safe practices among students. The state authorities also took steps to set up CHS projects in 25 schools in the city, notably by training 75 educational professionals.

The project was extended to other municipalities of Rio de Janeiro state and elsewhere. Training was held for: 55 health staff of five municipalities and of Florianopolis city, Santa Catarina state, in the Safer Access Framework; and teachers from eight schools in Mesquita municipality, in promoting safe practices. The findings/results of the project were presented to federal/state authorities, to encourage them to replicate the project; they were also shared with other States (see *Actors of influence*).

Violence-affected communities in Chile and Paraguay benefit from aid/psychosocial care

Communities in northern Paraguay strengthened their resilience to violence with livelihood support. For example, 223 households

(1,115 people) varied/supplemented their sources of food and income with produce from vegetable gardens; they were supported by the ICRC/State agencies with seed, tools and training. A total of 318 households (1,590 people) had easier access to clean water, and were safer from waterborne illnesses, following upgrades to their water systems.

Wounded people and those suffering mental distress were more likely to receive adequate care after health/medical services had strengthened their corresponding capacities (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). Storm-affected communities in the department of Concepcion in Paraguay were counselled by Paraguayan Red Cross volunteers; in Horqueta, 40 students were trained to be first-aiders. In Chile, about 50 Chilean Red Cross staff/volunteers had training in providing psychosocial care, and another 20 in teaching first aid and good hygiene practices. By late-2015, Mapuche communities had already begun to benefit: 12 families had psychosocial support and 22 people attended basic first-aid courses.

In line with the Health Care in Danger project, the difficulties faced by violence-affected communities, and by health workers in Brazil and elsewhere, were highlighted in dialogue with key actors, to encourage their support (see *Actors of influence*). In Chile, the health ministry formed a working group for dealing with the obstacles faced by health workers; the group was helped by the ICRC to create a monitoring tool/mechanism for documenting these problems.

Brazilian authorities draw on ICRC expertise to ascertain the fate of missing people

Brazilian authorities, associations of the families of people who went missing during the country's period of military rule and the ICRC continued to discuss the updating of State procedures. The ICRC began a study of Brazilian law's compatibility with international norms covering the needs of missing people and their families. State personnel developed their skills in exhuming/identifying people buried in unmarked graves: 33 forensic workers were trained in the proper management of human remains, 35 in the collection of ante/post-mortem data, and 18 in the provision of psychosocial care to relatives. Some families commemorated their missing relatives at an event organized on the International Day of the Disappeared, which helped raise awareness of the issue among a wider audience.

In Paraguay, 25 first responders, including firefighters and National Society volunteers, were trained in the management of human remains.

People affected by flash floods in Chile reconnect with relatives

Particularly in Brazil, Chile and Paraguay, families separated by natural disasters, migration and other circumstances reconnected using Movement family-links services; the respective National Societies were supported with funding and training, and urged to form a regional network. The Chilean and Paraguayan National Societies assessed the needs in their countries and their ability to meet them. In Chile, following flash floods in March, around 1,500 people called relatives using the Chilean National Society's services.

In Uruguay, six former detainees of the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay naval base in Cuba had their situation monitored by the ICRC. One of these people spent time with his family thanks to an ICRC-organized family visit.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Over 12,400 detainees in Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, and a few in Argentina, were visited by ICRC delegates in accordance with the organization's standard procedures. Some detainees were followed up individually: in Chile, Mapuches on hunger strike; in Paraguay and in Argentina, alleged members of Paraguayan armed groups; and in Uruguay, people serving sentences for crimes against humanity. Following these visits, the ICRC shared its findings, and where necessary, its recommendations to the authorities. In Paraguay, authorities benefited from the ICRC's expertise while revising their protocols for dealing with such matters as hunger strikes and deaths in custody. Three Paraguayan and two Chilean prison officials attended an advanced course in prison management, abroad.

In Paraguay, 28 detainees were visited by their families, who also gave them some material support.

Female inmates in Paraguay make and sell handicrafts/textiles

Over 4,000 detainees in two prisons, including Buen Pastor women's prison, accessed food prepared with and stored in ICRC-installed cooking equipment and upgraded infrastructure, respectively.

At the Buen Pastor prison, 50 detainees earned money by selling handicrafts and textiles that they had produced; they were assisted by the Paraguayan National Society and the ICRC. Former detainees continued to be part of this project through a cooperative created in 2014; though the cooperative was not yet fully functioning, some participants obtained financial/legal/technical aid from it. In addition, former inmates used ICRC cash assistance to rent premises for making handicrafts, which helped to improve their prospects and ease their reintegration into society.

In Chile, 4 families of Mapuche detainees (17 people) supplemented their income with the sale of produce from agricultural projects they had undertaken with ICRC support. Some families in northern Paraguay did so as well (see *Civilians*).

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Weapon bearers reinforce training in international norms governing the use of force, and IHL

Discussions with the region's military and security authorities/commands focused on furthering the integration of applicable international norms into their respective training programmes and doctrines, and the ICRC's readiness to support them. In Argentina, the security ministry and the ICRC discussed training for law enforcement agencies.

Paraguay's joint police/military unit and Chile's *Carabineros* coordinated training in international human rights law with the ICRC. In Brazil, security authorities/military police in Rio de Janeiro began to assess their training curricula with ICRC help. Brazilian, Chilean and Paraguayan police officers attended a regional meeting on the proper use of force (see *Lima*).

Student officers in Brazilian military academies supplemented their courses in IHL with simulation exercises at workshops. Argentinian and Brazilian soldiers bound for peacekeeping missions in Haiti were given refresher sessions in IHL applicable to peacekeeping operations, and urged to support ICRC activities there; Uruguay's defence ministry continued to draw

on ICRC expertise for briefing Uruguayan peacekeepers. Senior Argentinian, Brazilian and Paraguayan military officers attended an advanced course abroad (see *International law and policy*).

Brazil's defence ministry, aided by ICRC expertise, drafted a directive for the military on applying IHL to its operations.

Chile's national IHL committee finalizes a draft bill on weapons control

The Brazilian, Paraguayan and Uruguayan national IHL committees resumed their duties and consulted the ICRC on various IHL matters. All five committees in the region were represented at a conference abroad (see *Colombia*).

The region's authorities were encouraged/helped by national IHL committees and the ICRC in implementing IHL and regional treaties, notably those governing weapons. In Chile, the national IHL committee drafted a bill on prohibiting certain weapons and prosecuting those who engaged in their trade/use, for approval by national authorities. The foreign ministry was advised by the ICRC in promoting respect for Movement emblems and legislation for protecting cultural property.

At meetings in Switzerland, Argentinian, Brazilian and Chilean officials participated in the Strengthening IHL process. At the 32nd International Conference, government officials reported the progress made by their governments in fulfilling past pledges, and made new ones; Brazilian authorities and the ICRC presented the results of the "Rio project" to other participants.

The wider public learns about humanitarian issues in the region

The ICRC engaged authorities in the region and other influential actors in dialogue on IHL/international human rights law, the plight of migrants and violence-affected communities, and other humanitarian issues, with a view to gaining their support for Movement activities in response. Public communication efforts, including social media campaigns and initiatives with National Societies, helped raise awareness of the issues mentioned above among a wider audience, including potential donors in the private sector.

Two photo exhibits, organized with local partners and the Swiss embassy, highlighted the goals of the Health Care in Danger project and significant events in ICRC history. Shared Movement communication platforms and coverage by the media, which was provided with interviews and updates, helped to promote the ICRC's work, particularly in Brazil, Chile and Paraguay.

Students and lecturers in the region learnt more about IHL by attending seminars at universities and consulting reference materials provided to university libraries. Law students in Argentina and Brazil tested their grasp of IHL at moot court competitions abroad, notably the Jean-Pictet competition (see *International law and policy*). Participants in a course in international law, organized by the Organization of American States, were briefed on IHL.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Society volunteers develop their ability to assist victims of violence

The National Societies in the region responded to emergencies, offered family-links services and assisted violence-affected people (see *Civilians*). The ICRC and the International Federation helped them develop their capacities: the Argentinian and Paraguayan National Societies each signed tripartite agreements for responding to natural disasters with the two organizations.

Brazilian, Chilean and Paraguayan National Society volunteers drew on ICRC advice, training, and equipment/supplies to administer first aid; in Chile, the National Society treated over 100 people wounded during protests in Santiago and in Bio Bio region. Twenty-five first-aiders of Central and South American National Societies exchanged best practices in working in violent situations, at a conference in Brazil.

At workshops, over 100 staff/volunteers of the Argentine, Brazilian, Chilean and Paraguayan National Societies were helped/encouraged to apply the Safer Access Framework, and manage safety risks and improve acceptance in violence-prone areas. The Brazilian, Chilean and Paraguayan National Societies were supported in their communication efforts.

The Brazilian and Paraguayan National Societies continued organizational/financial restructuring, and the Chilean National Society was advised in raising funds. The Brazilian and Chilean National Societies, and the Uruguayan Red Cross updated their statutes, and over 200 staff/volunteers practiced applying the Fundamental Principles at workshops. Movement components coordinate their activities at regular meetings, including statutory events in Switzerland.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)					
Phone calls facilitated between family members		1,525			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits					
			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		12,422	739	98	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		99	8	1	1
Detainees newly registered		19		1	1
Number of visits carried out		39			
Number of places of detention visited		21			
Restoring family links					
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		36			

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Productive inputs ¹	Beneficiaries	712	25%	50%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i> Beneficiaries	712		

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