ICRC mission

The ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent organisation whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.
Protecting the vulnerable

Monitoring conditions of detention

The ICRC visits correctional institutions and police lock-ups to monitor living conditions, treatment of detainees and respect for judicial guarantees. Our observations and recommendations are shared confidentially with authorities. The ICRC:

- conducted 36 visits to 18 places of detention housing 2,681 detainees in Papua New Guinea.

Protecting people affected by armed violence

The ICRC seeks to reduce the humanitarian consequences of armed violence by promoting basic principles of humanity with local communities, stakeholders and weapons bearers.

Restoring and maintaining family links

Armed violence and natural disasters separate families. The ICRC helps families who are separated to re-establish and maintain contact. In partnership with the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, the ICRC:

- conducted 1 family visit to Kerevat Correctional Institution in East New Britain, enabling 39 family members to meet detained loved ones in person;
- collected 21 Red Cross Messages from detainees for delivery to family members.

Missing persons from the Bougainville Crisis

Families have the right under international humanitarian law to know the fate and whereabouts of family members who went missing during the Bougainville conflict. The ICRC:

- supported families in North Bougainville in setting up an association of families of missing persons, in addition to a similar group established in Central Bougainville in 2013;
- supported families of missing persons in organising 3 remembrance ceremonies for their loved ones;
- advised the authorities on drafting a national policy on missing persons from the Bougainville conflict.

Giving assistance to the needy

Providing relief

The ICRC recognises the special vulnerability and needs of people displaced by fighting. In the Highlands region it provides relief items to people affected by armed violence. The ICRC:

- distributed basic household items and tools to families in Southern Highlands and Hela provinces.

Supporting access to health care

The ICRC seeks to ensure respect for health care services during armed conflict and other situations of violence. In the Highlands region, it works to improve access to health care for people affected by tribal fights. The ICRC:

- funded the construction of a community health centre in Kalolo, Southern Highlands Province (SHP);
- donated medical equipment to Mendi Family Support Centre and 2 health facilities in Kagua District in SHP;
- conducted 10 First Aid training sessions with communities in Hela and Southern Highlands provinces.

Working with PNG Red Cross

ICRC and PNG Red Cross Society

The ICRC works with the PNG Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) to help victims of tribal violence and natural disasters. It supports the PNGRCS in fulfilling its mandate to alleviate suffering in PNG. The ICRC:

- donated 3 vehicles to PNGRCS branches of Western Highlands, Eastern Highlands and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville;
- worked with PNGRCS branches in Bougainville and East New Britain Province to organise the family visit to Kerevat Correctional Institution.

The ICRC also supported the PNGRCS in:

- providing assistance to more than 200 households in the Highlands affected by violence or natural disasters;
- providing relief to communities affected by El Nino-related drought and frost in Tambul Nebilyer District, Western Highlands Province;
- airlifting relief items to West New Britain, Bougainville and Mount Hagen for distribution to communities affected by Cyclone Pam;
- holding its General Assembly, National Council Meeting and Partners Meeting.