

# THE ICRC BANGKOK REGIONAL DELEGATION

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES IN 2023

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been working in Thailand for more than 45 years. Our first office in Bangkok was set up in 1975 with the main aim of helping those who were severely affected by the Indo-China War. During 1993-2000, we expanded into a regional delegation responding to the humanitarian needs in Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam also in partnership with National Red Cross Societies. We also promote international humanitarian law (IHL) and other international laws and standards applicable in local contexts. Today, the ICRC in Thailand has evolved into a regional hub working across the Asia-Pacific region to share our expertise in both preventing humanitarian crises and in responding to the needs of those affected by conflict and violence.



## LIFE-SAVING CARE AND PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

### In Thailand

- **473** patients wounded in Myanmar received financial support for treatment in government hospitals through our Weapon Wounded Assistance Programme. **72** patients received physiotherapy after hospital discharge.
- In Mae Hong Son Province, **3** outpatient shelters operated by local community-based foundations received improved access to water and sanitation facilities, as well as disability-inclusive environment. Additionally, **80** patients residing in the shelters received essential household and hygiene items, kitchen utensils and dried food. In Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai provinces, **2** similar shelters received financial and technical support to improve the patients' food consumption through vegetable production and poultry farming.
- **60** health-care professionals joined first-aid and trauma care training sessions in Tak Province.
- **115** disabled children benefited from improved mobility with the installation of access ramps in three schools in Kampong Speu Province.
- **140** community leaders attended **7** awareness sessions on physical rehabilitation services conducted by Kampong Speu and Battambang physical rehabilitation centres. **35** future teachers attended an awareness session on inclusion of children with disabilities.
- **40** physiotherapists from **19** medical facilities, introduced to national physiotherapy standards by the ICRC, applied their learnings to their work. **21** physiotherapy students received scholarships from the ICRC, in partnership with Mine-Ex foundation, to pursue their studies in Thailand. **723** high school students from six provinces joined awareness sessions on physiotherapy as a career held in partnership with Technical University of Health Science in Phnom Penh.

### In Cambodia

- **11,724** people with disabilities received rehabilitation services at ICRC-supported centres in Battambang and Kampong Speu provinces.
- **115** people with disabilities and **177** households could improve or start small businesses with cash

## In Viet Nam

- **491** people with disabilities received rehabilitation services at ICRC-supported centres in Danang, Ho Chi Minh and Can Tho provinces.
- **12** people with disabilities from Danang and Can Tho provinces received training in mental peer support while **22** acquired skills for future career development.



## IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS OF DETAINEES

- **38** visits were made to **19** detention facilities in Cambodia with over **32,000** detainees to assess their living conditions and treatment. **2,423** detainees in **3** prisons had access to better living conditions through an improved solid waste management. **2,885** detainees, including **1,145** women and children, in **2** prisons received individual hygiene kits.
- **55** students of Royal Academy for Justice in Cambodia, training to become future judges, learnt about humanitarian principles and international rules related to detention as well as the current situation of prisons in Cambodia.
- **29** prison directors in Cambodia received a briefing on nutrition in detention and **70** prison health staff were trained on health care in detention.
- The 4th Health Care in Detention workshop in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province brought together **50** prison health staff, prison officers and staff from Thailand's Ministry of Public Health.



## RESTORING FAMILY LINKS AND BOLSTERING FORENSIC CAPACITIES

- **8,720** Red Cross messages (containing brief personal news) from detainees in detention facilities across Cambodia were delivered to their loved ones.
- **100** body bags and **100** body tags were provided to the Office of Police Forensic Science in Thailand to support Royal Thai Government's rescue operation in Turkey and Syria after the earthquake.
- **60** body handlers at Poh Teck Tung Foundation, Thailand, were trained in management of the dead in emergency situations.
- **35** forensic officials and academics in Thailand were trained in forensic anthropology in partnership with Central Institute of Forensic Science. **57** forensic doctors in Viet Nam attended forensic anthropology workshops organized in partnership with the National Institute of Forensic Medicine and the University of Western Australia.
- **50** forensic professionals from Asia-Pacific region attended the annual conference of the Asia-Pacific Medico Legal Agencies' Association (APMLA), organized in partnership with APMLA in Hanoi, Viet Nam.



## RESPONDING TO EMERGENCY AND LONG-TERM NEEDS

- **425** people, including **225** women, from **85** households in Songkhla and Narathiwat provinces benefited through the ICRC's Community-Based Livelihood Support Programme in partnership with Prince Songkhla University and Yala Rajabhat University.
- **30** humanitarian workers from **8** community-based organizations in Tak Province joined a training session for solar installation system and water filtration, organized in collaboration with Mae Tao Clinic and Imagine Thailand Foundation. **10** sets of mobile toilets, **12** water tanks and **126** portable water filters were provided to International Rescue Committee to support its response to displaced people.



## RESPECT FOR IHL AND OTHER PERTINENT NORMS

- **359** security officers in Cambodia and Viet Nam were briefed before being deployed to peacekeeping missions in South Sudan and Sudan. **20** senior police officers in Viet Nam were briefed for their future peacekeeping missions in South Sudan.
- **89** military officers in Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam were briefed on IHL and other international rules governing military operations. **15** military and police officers in Thailand were briefed on the relevance of international rules governing military security operations in law enforcement.
- **333** police cadets in Thailand learnt the basics of international rules and standards in policing. **235** military officers at Army War College, Joint War College and Judge Advocate General's School in Thailand learnt about IHL and other international rules in military operations.
- **14** military and police officers from Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam were sponsored to attend regional and global events – the Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations (SWIRMO) in Kenya, Regional Workshop on Law of Armed Conflict at Sea in Malaysia, Asia-Pacific Police Colloquium in China, Asia-Pacific Maritime Law Enforcement Symposium and Workshop in the Philippines, and three events at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Italy – Law of Armed Conflict Competition for Military Academies, Peace Support Operations Course and International Military Course on Law of Armed Conflict.
- **12** police officers and **5** civilian volunteers from Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces attended the first interagency workshop on first aid for serious injuries organized in Yala Province, Thailand, in partnership with Provincial Police Region 9 and National Institute for Emergency Medicine.
- **6** government officials from Thailand, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Laos were sponsored to attend the Northeast, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference on International Humanitarian Law in South Korea.
- **1** memorandum of understanding was signed with the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia to raise awareness of IHL in Cambodia.
- **30** senior officials from Cambodia's Ministry of Defence were briefed on the main rules of the Arms Trade Treaty and their implementation.
- **20** officials from Thai government agencies attended a seminar on the relevance of IHL across various domains, with a focus on cyber operations, outer space, autonomous weapon systems and arms transfers.
- **51** participants joined an online course on armed conflict, other situations of violence, and negotiation in humanitarian action organized in partnership with King Prajadhipok's Institute, Thailand.
- **20** lecturers, think tank representatives and students attended a panel discussion on the relevance of IHL in contemporary armed conflicts, organised in partnership with Chulalongkorn University.
- **50** lecturers and students participated in a panel discussion, organized in partnership with Thammasat University, Thailand, on IHL and its evolving protection of people based on the movie *All Quiet on the Western Front*.
- **60** law students from Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos joined IHL moot court competitions in their respective countries, with support from local universities and other partners. The winning teams will advance to the 22nd Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition for the Asia-Pacific region in Hong Kong in 2024.



## RAISING AWARENESS OF HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

- **43** representatives from the Royal Thai Government and diplomatic missions in Bangkok attended a closed-door briefing on humanitarian situation in Myanmar.



## WORKING WITH AND SUPPORTING RED CROSS PARTNERS IN THE REGION

- **185** staff of Thai Red Cross Society, including **150** staff with disabilities, received orientation of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. **71** staff of Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) were trained in social media and mobile journalism and Restoring Family Links services. **25** Lao Red Cross (LRC) staff and executives were trained in Restoring Family Links services.
- **30** volunteer leaders of VNRC received training about the Movement and disaster management. **72,000** people in Viet Nam participated in VNRC's online contest about the Movement and the emblems. **109** provincial staff of VNRC were trained in first-aid techniques to carry out further training sessions.
- **75** staff from LRC and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Laos discussed on partnership with international organizations. **200** representatives from Ministry of Education and Ministry of Public Health were briefed by LRC about the Movement. **6** awareness sessions on hygiene, first-aid and nutrition were conducted in Savannakhet Province. **172** relief kits were provided by LRC to people affected by natural disasters in Laos.



### ICRC Bangkok Regional Delegation