

ASSISTING BHUTANESE REFUGEES

The ICRC, in association with the NRCS, creates an enabling environment for Bhutanese refugees living in Nepal to remain in touch with and visit their relatives detained in Bhutan.

ASSISTING PEOPLE IN NEED OF PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

The ICRC supports the disabled people, including victims of armed conflict, victims of earthquakes, victims of political violence and those who're vulnerable by helping them get access to quality physical rehabilitation services. These services include customized assistive devices from Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara or the Army Rehabilitation Centre in Kathmandu.

The ICRC also organizes training and post-graduation coaching sessions for prosthetists, orthotists and physiotherapists of the Army Rehabilitation Centre. We support inclusion activities like wheelchair basketball tournaments and art exhibitions by disabled people.

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR IHL

The ICRC promotes knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. The ICRC supports:

- The Government of Nepal in its efforts to accede to IHL treaties and to adapt the national legislation accordingly.
- The National Judicial Academy to train judges and attorneys on IHL.
- The Nepalese Army to develop IHL instructors.
- The Armed Police Force and Nepal Police to train their officers on specific aspects of International Human Rights Law (IHRL) pertaining to public order management.
- Selected universities in the teaching and integration of IHL into their curricula.



We help people around the world affected by armed conflict and other situation of violence, doing everything we can to protect their dignity and relieve their suffering, with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. We also seek to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

People know they can count on us to carry out a range of life-saving activities in conflict and post-conflict contexts and to work closely with the communities there to understand and meet their needs. Our experience and expertise enable us to respond quickly, effectively and without taking sides.



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THE ICRC IN NEPAL

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IN BRIEF



ICRC



INTRODUCTION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was present in Kathmandu from 1961 to 1963 to assist Tibetan refugees during the crisis period. We resumed our humanitarian activities in Nepal in 1998 in response to the armed conflict. Since then, we have worked for the welfare of those affected by the conflict.

During the 10-year internal armed conflict (1996–2006), the ICRC’s activities included visiting people detained by both parties to the conflict, improving water and sanitation in detention facilities, villages and hospitals, supporting health structures with medical training and supplies and providing assistance to displaced people and communities affected by the conflict. We also promote respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) and Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement of impartiality, neutrality and independence.

Today, the ICRC continues to address the residual humanitarian needs from the conflict, support the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and promote humanitarian law.

ASSISTING VICTIMS OF CONFLICT

The ICRC supports and works towards alleviating the suffering of victims of the past conflict, especially the missing persons and their families. More than 1,300 people remain unaccounted for since the end of the armed conflict. Their families do not know whether these missing persons are dead or alive, and live with the anguish of uncertainty.

The ICRC promotes a humanitarian mechanism for the conflict victims as part of the transitional justice process. The ICRC reinforces the capacity of the government by engaging in a constructive dialogue with the transitional justice commissions and providing technical support, while acting within its mandate and respecting its operational working rules.

PREPARING FOR AND RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

Supporting the NRCS

The ICRC supports the NRCS in strengthening its organizational and operational capacities as a first responder to the needs of people affected by violence or disasters. This involves:

- Improving NRCS skills in operating in tense situations to ensure safe and unhindered access to those in need of humanitarian assistance.

- Developing the capacity of the NRCS to trace persons separated from their relatives to restore family contact.

Supporting forensic and related institutions

The ICRC complements efforts of the national institutions to develop their emergency preparedness and response capacity. This involves:

- Recognition of the dead in disasters as victims and working with authorities in applying standard procedures and guidelines for dignified management of the dead and forensic human identification, and by so, helping affected families and communities achieve closure.
- Working with the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP) and facilitating a forensic coordination mechanism involving local forensic practitioners, institutions and other stakeholders towards clarifying the fate of the missing persons.
- Collaborating with Kathmandu University Dhulikhel Hospital to organize Emergency Room Trauma Course (ERTC) for the doctors and specialists. The ICRC also supports ERTC instructors in Nepal for enhancing their capacity in trauma management through trainings.