

blood units to the hospitals on the border. Blood collection programmes took place regularly in the camps. In May 1990, a blood donation centre opened at the Khao-I-Dang hospital. On average, 470 blood units were collected each month.

The ambulance service continued to operate all year, carrying out evacuations from anywhere along the 800-km border to the Khao-I-Dang hospital.

### ***Kab Cherng first-aid station***

This station remained an important link in the evacuation chain from remote but accessible camps in the north (Otrao, Site B) to the ICRC hospital in Khao-I-Dang. Up to 50 per cent of the war-wounded transferred to the hospital transited through it.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

The ICRC continued to cooperate with the Thai Red Cross in spreading knowledge of fundamental Red Cross principles and international humanitarian law, emphasizing the importance of respect for human dignity to various military and civilian audiences, both Khmer and Thai.

Owing to the shift of fighting further into Cambodia, the situation of Thai villages located close to the border improved considerably in 1990. The ICRC continued assisting the Thai Red Cross in its activities for these villagers.

## **PHILIPPINES**

The need for direct overall ICRC involvement in the Philippines was found to have lessened, as training and development acquired through the operation increasingly allowed the Philippine National Red

Cross (PNRC) to act independently and raise its efficiency.

In 1990, an ICRC expatriate and a PNRC worker were murdered by gunmen in Buldon (Mindanao). This tragic event underscored the importance of dissemination activities and the need to spread knowledge about the Red Cross and its work and purpose as widely as possible in order to increase the safety of humanitarian missions.

### **Activities for detainees**

The delegates concentrated on protection work for detainees and civilians in the field, continuing to monitor cases of alleged violations of international humanitarian law, checking allegations of ill-treatment with both the government's armed forces and the New People's Army (NPA), and pressing for stricter observance of basic principles applicable to armed conflicts.

ICRC delegates kept on providing protection for security detainees in Manila and the provinces, including those held in connection with the coup attempt in December 1989, by making frequent visits. Between September 1989 and December 1990, they visited 1,651 detainees, of whom 1,189 were newly registered, whose cases they followed up in visits to 155 places of detention. Regional Disaster Action Team nurses assisted ICRC delegates in carrying out medical follow-up visits to places of detention. The delegates also visited persons held by the NPA, and these visits were held in accordance with ICRC standard criteria for such activities.

### **Tracing Agency**

The Tracing Agency in Manila went on collecting, processing and filing information concerning detainees and people allegedly detained.

Together with the National Society, the ICRC financed and organized family visits to relatives in detention. In 1990, this programme enabled 106 beneficiaries to receive family visits.

### **Assistance for displaced persons**

In 1990 more responsibility and the major share of the workload connected with the Philippine National Red Cross/ICRC Joint Relief Operation was handed over to 12 Regional Disaster Action Teams. By the end of the year, this had proved to be a step towards increasing National Society self-sufficiency.

In addition to their relief work, the regional teams, along with the administrators of National Society branches, played an important part as an information network throughout the Philippines. They pointed out to the delegation cases of families displaced because of insurgency-related incidents wherever they encountered them in their field work. By the end of 1990, 79 such cases had been reported. The ICRC donated nine radio-equipped pick-up trucks and provided three it had previously given with radios, so that all regional teams had radio-equipped cars, which made for easier communication in emergencies.

### **Field distributions**

In 1990, distributions took place mostly in Mindanao and Luzon/Visayas. About 53,400 people, including detainees and persons displaced by fighting between government troops and the NPA and other disturbances, received 308 tonnes of rice, oil (or sardines) and soap. Altogether 1,100 blankets were provided during occasional distributions throughout the year.

### **Medical assistance**

The ICRC medical team intervened in cases of displaced persons, and whenever necessary assisted the war-wounded and the hospitals where they were treated.

### **Dissemination**

Throughout the year, increasing emphasis was laid on dissemination activities carried out not by expatriates, but by Filipinos. Local employees in the field received basic training, and a PNRC worker took over from the expatriate coordinator of the delegation's dissemination unit.

The armed forces began to introduce international humanitarian law in their instruction courses for high-ranking officers. The delegation held lectures and seminars on the subject for police, army, navy and air force services, and in the case of high-ranking commanders also explained how it should be taught to the troops.

ICRC and National Red Cross representatives, along with 80 journalists, took part in a round table discussion in Manila at the end of June. The topic was "journalists and international humanitarian law", and the event was part of the World Campaign for the Protection of Victims of War.

### **Cooperation with the National Society**

Following several major natural disasters, the ICRC, in agreement with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which was not represented in the Philippines, provided some immediate logistic and relief support to the National Red Cross in its efforts to help the many people affected.