

Right
Philippines, 2013. Eastern Samar province, Guiuan district. ICRC staff assess the most pressing needs of the affected population.



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Left
Chittagong, 1972. A school transformed by the ICRC intoa welcome centre for Pakistani and Bihari civilians.
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Right
Murapar Camp, 1971. Many families live without shelter in the camp.



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Sholoshahar, 1950. Refugee camp near Chittagong: women's section and ICRC hospital.

A VISUAL JOURNEY THROUGH 150



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Bangladesh, 1972. Portrait of women in a camp.

SAURAV DEY

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been serving worldwide since its inception in 1863. Recently the largest network of humanitarian movements touched the milestone of 150 years of service. Marking the occasion, the ICRC Bangladesh Unit organised a five-day photo exhibition at Drik Gallery in the city to visually articulate its involvement in humanitarian actions in the last 150 years.

The exhibition, "150 Years of Humanitarian Action in 71 Photos," hosted a collection of 71 emblematic photographs, with a predominant focus on its role in rebuilding war-ravaged Bangladesh. According to the organisers, the title correlated with the country's war of independence in 1971.

The collection included 10 photos describing the history of ICRC, first photos of its first operation in post-partition Bangladesh in 1950, and 20 contemporary photographs illustrating the organisation's works worldwide. The most significant part of the exhibition was the display of 36 photos depicting the ICRC's extensive operation in war-torn Bangladesh from 1971 to 1975.

The ICRC photographers captured some rare moments in the history of Bangladesh. Photos showing refugees coming back from India, people receiving relief goods, getting medical care, and searching their missing family members at ICRC camps evoke sympathy for millions of unknowns who had fallen victim to the war. When thousands were being killed and millions were being forced to leave their home to seek shelter in conflict-free zones in the border areas, the ICRC came forward and stood beside