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SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Relief

In 1983, the ICRC provided 41 countries with relief estimated at 27,771 tonnes and worth 84.3 million Swiss francs (54.6 million in donations in kind and some 30 million in purchases made with financial contributions). The ICRC's relief action is illustrated by the tables on pages 73, 74, 75 and may be summarized as follows:

- for *pecially financed actions*, undertaken by the ICRC with the support of governments, National Societies or various organizations, the value of relief supplies of all kinds (18,746 tonnes), delivered to the scene of the action either by the ICRC or directly by the donors under ICRC supervision, amounted to 63.4 million Swiss francs;
- thanks to agreements with the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Swiss Confederation, the ICRC supplied to thirteen countries *food aid* (8,856.7 tonnes) worth 19.5 million Swiss francs;
- the ICRC spent 1.4 million Swiss francs on actions financed by the '*relief action fund*', which represented 168 tonnes of assistance of all kinds for the special programmes of various National Societies in aid of the civilian population, and for the most destitute detainees and their families.

Total ICRC assistance provided in 1983 was divided out geographically as follows:

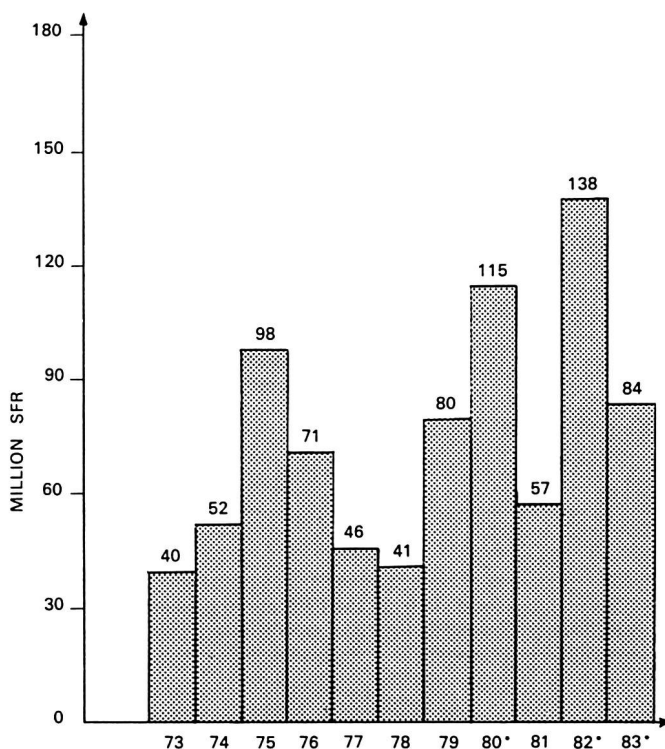
Africa	24,881,840	29.51%
Latin America	11,751,350	13.94%
Asia	10,596,270	12.57%
Europe	18,962,820	22.49%
Middle East	18,120,730	21.49%
	84,313,010	100.00%

Specific assistance for detainees and their families, the amount of which is included in the items above, came to 2,959,810 Swiss francs, representing 614 tonnes of relief of all kinds, as follows:

	Tonnes	Sw. fr.
Relief action fund	96	1,133,410
Special financing	280	1,357,000
Food aid	238	469,400

Increase in activities

During the last few years, the ICRC has dispatched increasingly large quantities of relief to the various regions of the world affected by armed conflicts or civil disturbances. The volume of assistance provided by the ICRC is shown in the diagram below covering the last decade:



* including 50% of joint operations in Thailand (1980) and Poland (1982/1983)

The ICRC Relief Division's task being to carry out these aid programmes successfully, it had to adapt continually to this increase. In 1983, there were fifteen permanent staff members at headquarters, in Geneva, and about twenty relief co-ordinators and administrators in various delegations in the field. The main tasks of all these staff members are:

- to obtain for the ICRC, either through donations or purchases, the goods it needs for its aid programmes (with the exception of medicaments and medical equipment, dealt with by the Medical Division);
- to organize the transport of this aid to its country of destination, through chartering boats and aeroplanes, and providing delegations with the necessary vehicles for their relief actions in the field;
- to keep in contact with donor National Societies, the UN specialized agencies, voluntary organizations, the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Swiss Confederation, with whom the ICRC has concluded food aid agreements;
- to manage the ICRC's emergency stocks in Geneva and Cyprus;
- to carry out surveys in the field, both for assessing needs and for studying local possibilities of buying, stocking and transporting goods;
- to take part in the training of relief delegates, appointed to direct aid programmes in the field;
- to process the statistical data relating to relief operations, to follow the progress of these operations and supervise their management.

DONORS' HANDBOOK

In addition to its operational activities, the Relief Division carried out an in-depth study of the practical experience acquired in the course of putting its large-scale programmes into operation. This study mainly concerned donors' methods of support when providing active contributions through putting relief equipment and means of transport at the disposal of the ICRC.

The *Donors' Handbook* is the outcome of this study. Its aim is to help donors become familiar with the ICRC's work methods and thus overcome the practical difficulties encountered in the past. The first edition, published at the end of 1983, was widely distributed to all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the League and other interested relief organizations.

SPECIALLY FINANCED ACTIONS

Assistance provided or forwarded
by the ICRC in 1983*

Sw.fr. 63,397,800

	Tonnes**	Sw.fr.
Africa		19,788,640
Angola	63.1	1,422,450
Benin	—	1,010
Cape Verde	—	180
Chad	10.5	497,650
Ethiopia	3,811.7	7,852,430
Gambia	—	1,750
Ghana	—	3,600
Guinea-Bissau	—	100
Kenya	—	53,780
Mozambique	—	159,100
Namibia	8.9	59,750
Rwanda	5	55,350
Somalia	3.1	23,380
South Africa	251.4	702,350
Sudan (conflict in Eritrea and Tigre)	4,401	6,490,300
Uganda	1,796	2,120,150
Zaire	3.2	106,690
Zimbabwe	50.3	238,620
Latin America		4,859,320
El Salvador	3,231.4	4,859,320
Asia		5,545,690
East Timor	557.7	510,500
Kampuchea	11.6	374,460
Pakistan	—	1,821,630
Sri Lanka	0.5	119,950
Thailand	289.3	2,719,150
Europe		18,962,820
Poland	1,051	18,962,820
Middle East		14,241,330
Lebanon	3,199	14,139,790
Iran	0.2	18,090
Iraq	1.8	83,450
Total	18,746.7	63,397,800

* This table does not include food relief from the EEC and the Swiss Confederation or the figures for aid financed by funds for relief operations.

** These figures do not include medical assistance or aid to National Societies not assessed in terms of weight.

Beneficiaries	Total Sw.fr.	Swiss Confederation		European Economic Community	
		Commodities	Sw.fr.	Commodities	Sw.fr.
Africa.	5,093,200		1,089,300		4,003,900
Ethiopia	5,083,900	1,400 t wheat flour	1,080,000	280 t skim-milk powder 240 t butteroil 31 t rice 1,100 t wheat flour	946,300 2,278,300 39,000 740,300
Chad	9,300	2.7 t edible fats	9,300		
Latin America . .	6,345,100		288,800		6,056,300
Chile	380,900	10 t cheese	77,400	100 t skim-milk powder 750 t rice 220 t butteroil 450 t skim-milk powder 90 t rolled oats 50 t skim-milk powder 150 t rice	303,500 862,300 2,159,000 1,556,100 108,600 153,000 215,100
El Salvador . . .	4,577,400				
Nicaragua	476,700				
Paraguay	95,400	10 t whole-milk powder	95,400		
Peru	137,000			40 t skim-milk powder	137,000
Uruguay	677,700	15 t cheese	116,000	100 t skim-milk powder 25 t butteroil	343,600 218,100
Asia.	4,845,400		920,400		3,925,000
Philippines	3,727,900	20 t edible fats 80 t whole-milk powder	72,100 752,200	500 t skim-milk powder 1,150 t rice 10 t butteroil 290 t rolled oats 110 t butteroil	1,169,300 1,364,000 87,300 282,500 1,021,400
Timor	1,117,500	10 t whole-milk powder	96,100		
Middle East . . .	3,223,400		814,000		2,409,400
Israel (occupied ter- ritories)	2,409,400			220 t rice 200 t skim-milk powder 100 t butteroil 1,000 t flour	252,200 619,600 851,900 685,700
Lebanon	438,900	20 t whole-milk powder 43 t cheese	194,900 244,000		
Syria	375,100	40 t whole-milk powder	375,100		
Total	19,507,100	1,650.7 t	3,112,500	7,206 t	16,394,600
* Amounts include cost of transportation.					

**ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY FUNDS
FOR RELIEF OPERATIONS**

Assistance provided and forwarded
by the ICRC in 1983*

Sw.fr. 1,408,110

Latin America	546,930
Argentina	33,370
Colombia	470
Chile	33,400
Nicaragua	455,650
Peru	9,040
Uruguay	15,000
Asia	205,180
Indonesia	21,370
Philippines	183,810
Middle East	656,000
Israel and occupied territories	616,980
Jordan	21,460
Syria	8,520
Yemen Arab Republic	9,040
Total	1,408,110

* These amounts do not include food aid from the EEC and the Swiss Confederation or the figures for specially financed actions.

Given the variety of the assistance provided (medical assistance/aid to National Societies/relief supplies provided and forwarded by the ICRC), no weights are given.

TRANSPORT

The cost of transport directly organized by the ICRC amounted to over 5 million Swiss francs in 1983.

1. Consignments by regular carriers	Sw.fr.
— Sea and land	599,431
— Air	330,292
2. Chartered aircraft	
— Split charter	276,533
— Full charter	748,781
— Angola operation (1,090 flying hours in Angola and 6 flights Botswana/N'Giva).	2,175,412
— Kampuchea operation (52 flights Bangkok/Phnom Penh)	747,604
— Chad operation (197 flying hours).	168,970
— Timor operation (180 flying hours)	233,500
3. Customs import charges	36,539
4. Insurance premiums for transport and storage	177,727
Total	<u>5,494,789</u>

Medical activities

In 1983, the ICRC had to increase its medical activities considerably in order to meet the growing needs of the victims of armed conflicts: 366 members of the medical and paramedical corps (doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, orthopaedic technicians, nutrition experts and sanitary technicians) took part in operations world-wide. Of these, 184 were members of the National Societies of 14 countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden).

The ICRC supplied 12.1 million Swiss francs worth of relief in medicaments and medical material, in addition to the aid provided as part of the Poland programme (11.5 million Swiss francs).

Four surgical hospitals, set up by the ICRC in Khao-I-Dang, Kab Cherg, Peshawar and Quetta, were working throughout the year and treated wounded from the Thai-Khmer border and from within Afghanistan. Nearly 14,300 surgical operations were performed in these hospitals.

Medical relief was provided to civilians who were victims of conflicts in El Salvador, Uganda, Ethiopia and Angola.

Programmes to help persons disabled as a result of armed conflicts were continued in six countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Lebanon and Syria). Most of these programmes were mainly for persons with amputated lower limbs. The paraplegic programme in Pakistan proved encouraging and could serve as a model for similar operations in other countries.

As part of protection activities, ICRC doctors, sometimes accompanied by nurses and public hygiene specialists, visited prisoners of war and security detainees. In addition, the Medical Division organized, in Iraq and Iran, Joint Medical Commissions to select the wounded to be repatriated; it also took part in the repatriation of persons wounded in the Iraq/Iran conflict and the Grenada conflict.

In order to be able to provide appropriate medical assistance, the Medical Division improved its training system and started a programme of complementary training with the aim of developing its operational capacity. Reference material that has been compiled on the basis of recent experience is already available to doctors and paramedical staff to help them prepare for the increasingly complex medical problems they will have to face in the field. Priority was given to war surgery, nutrition, tropical pathology, hygiene and public health, which are subjects studied by the Medical Division. It is intended at a later stage to extend this programme to staff put at the disposal of ICRC by National Societies.

As far as medical supplies for emergency operations are concerned, the ICRC and the League have adopted, and outlined in a circular to National Societies, a common policy designed to prevent shortages in the provision of medicaments and medical material, which would not only be wasteful, but could endanger the population to be treated and impede medical activities.

We would also point out that in 1983, the ICRC set up a special fund for those disabled as a result of armed conflicts. This fund will be used mainly to support projects for the aid of paraplegics and persons who have lost limbs and which are suited to the conditions of the country where they are carried out. Certain similar projects drawn up by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies may also receive support from this fund.

Activities on behalf of detainees

The ICRC carries on its protective activity for detainees by virtue of the Geneva Conventions on the one hand (prisoners of war and civilian internees) and its universally recognized humanitarian right of initiative on the other, as confirmed by several resolutions adopted at International Red Cross Conferences as well as by the Statutes of the International Red Cross.

As a specifically humanitarian institution that is neutral, impartial and independent, the ICRC offers its services not only to parties involved in armed conflict (international or internal), but also in countries beset by internal disorder or tension. But unlike states involved in international conflicts, a State to which the ICRC offers its services in the event of civil war or internal disorder is not obliged to accept them. It is therefore a matter of discretion and on the basis of trust that the ICRC is authorized to act; occasionally, moreover, it is at the actual invitation of the government that the ICRC undertakes protective activity in a country.

The visits paid by ICRC delegates—usually accompanied by a doctor—to detainees in cases of internal disorder or tension, like those to prisoners of war, have an exclusively humanitarian purpose, namely to examine the material and psychological conditions of detention, to assist the detainees if necessary (drugs, clothing, sanitary articles) and suggest to the authorities, where necessary, that measures be taken to improve conditions. The delegates converse at their leisure, and without witnesses, with detainees of their choice.

The visits are preceded and followed by discussions with those in charge of the detention centres and they are concluded by confidential reports sent solely to the detaining authorities (whereas reports on visits to prisoners of war are submitted both to the detaining authorities and to the prisoners' own government). These reports are not intended for publication. The ICRC, for its part, merely publishes the number and names of the places visited, the dates of the visits, the number of persons seen, and it mentions the fact that its delegates were able to converse with the detainees without witnesses. It does not express opinions on the reasons for detention and does not publicly comment on the material or psychological conditions observed. If a government partly or inaccurately publishes a report, the ICRC reserves the right to distribute the full version.

The ICRC visits places of detention provided its delegates are allowed to:

VISITS BY THE ICRC IN 1983 TO PLACES OF DETENTION

Countries	Number of places of detention	Number of prisoners*
Africa		
South Africa	9	375
Cape Verde	1	1
Ethiopia	2	~ 200
Namibia	2	154
Rwanda	12	71
Somalia	3	~ 210
Chad	18	~ 450
Zaire	15	149
Venda	1	1
South America		
Argentina	3	533
Chile	25	183
Colombia	14	52
El Salvador	291	1 253
Grenada	3	990
Nicaragua	9	~ 3 700
Paraguay	5	55
Peru	20	~ 690
Suriname	3	17
Uruguay	10	903
Asia		
Indonesia	22	226
Malaysia	1	160
Philippines	54	~ 530
Europe		
Northern Ireland	4	2 223
Switzerland	1	8**
Middle East		
Iraq	6	~ 7 600
Iran	7	~ 5 000
Israel and occupied territories	30	~ 3 300***
Jordan	29	660
Lebanon	10	~ 700
Occupied South Lebanon	2	~ 5 000****
Syria	1	6*****
Yemen Arab Republic	1	111

* The figures given have often been rounded off. In the case of countries where several series of visits have taken place, the number is approximate.

** Soviet military personnel captured in Afghanistan and interned in Switzerland.

*** Including 293 Syrian prisoners of war and persons arrested in the Lebanon conflict.

**** In Lebanon, the ICRC visited prisoners detained by Israeli forces at Insar (South Lebanon) and 6 Israeli prisoners of war held by the PLO, as well as persons detained by the Lebanese authorities as a result of events.

***** Including 3 Israeli prisoners of war and an American pilot held in Syria, as well as two Israeli prisoners of war detained by a Palestinian organization.

— see all the detainees and freely converse with them without witnesses;

— have access to all the places of detention;

— pay repeat visits.

In addition the ICRC generally asks for the list of persons to be visited or for authorization to draw up the list during the visit and, if need be, distribute material assistance to the detainees and to detainees' families in straitened circumstances.

In 1983, ICRC delegates paid some 4,000 visits* to 614 places of detention in thirty countries where there were situations of internal conflict, disorder or tension. They saw about 35,500 persons deprived of liberty, nearly half of whom were prisoners of war.

Telecommunications

In 1983, six new radio stations providing links with Geneva were set up: in Lomé (Togo), on 17 March; in Abeche and Faya (Chad), on 16 and 25 July respectively; in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), on 22 August; in Cinnamon Bay (Island of Grenada), on 2 November, and in Bardai (Chad), on 16 November. The radio stations in Faya and Abeche were closed down on 30 July and 4 August; in Grenada, the station was closed down on 18 November after the termination of ICRC activities on the island.

The number of radio messages exchanged between ICRC headquarters and the field in 1983 was 8,339. Radio traffic between delegations amounted to 19,375 messages. The ICRC Telecommunication Service dealt with a total of 43,235 incoming and outgoing messages, including telex messages.

The ICRC was represented at the Fourth International Telecommunications Exhibition («Telecom 83»), which took place at Geneva from 26 October to 1 November under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). A stand with direct links to ICRC delegation radio stations throughout the world, set up by the ICRC Telecommunication Service, was visited by some 10,000 persons. On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the founding of Red Cross radio the ICRC invited representatives of international organizations and public service administrations (ITU, and the Swiss PTT and Customs Departments) to visit the ICRC transmitter at Versoix, a dozen kilometres to the north of Geneva.

On 31 December 1983, the ICRC telecommunication network was as shown on page 78.

* Including registration visits, interim visits, medical visits, special visits and visits that could not be successfully concluded for various reasons.

