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Africa

*An enduring sign of hope in Ethiopia,
where drought adds to the suffering
caused by years of conflict.*



West Africa

ICRC delegations:

Liberia, Sierra Leone

ICRC regional delegations:

Abidjan, Dakar, Lagos

Central Africa

ICRC delegations:

Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda

ICRC regional delegation:

Yaoundé

Southern Africa

ICRC delegation:

Angola

ICRC regional delegations:

Harare, Pretoria

East Africa

ICRC delegations:

Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan

ICRC regional delegation:

Nairobi

Staff

ICRC expatriates¹: 372

National Societies¹: 95

Local employees²: 3,517

Total Expenditure: Sfr 323,505,431.88

Expenditure breakdown

Protection:	40,013,054.92
Assistance:	223,635,195.10
Preventive action:	16,436,358.41
Cooperation	
with National Societies:	15,468,557.44
Overheads:	18,243,770.45
General:	9,708,495.56

¹ Average figures calculated on an annual basis.

² Under ICRC contract, as at December 2000.



ICRC regional delegation



ICRC delegation

No region of sub-Saharan Africa escaped the humanitarian impact of warfare in 2000. Despite progress in peace initiatives in a number of countries, the continent was plagued by a dozen complex armed conflicts and sporadic internal violence, and as a result witnessed no significant improvement in its overall situation. Civilians, especially women and children, were again the main victims of the ongoing wars. The sheer size of the problem and the fragmentation or internationalization of many conflicts added to the challenge faced by the ICRC and other organizations in responding to the continent's continuing crisis. The cumulative impact was daunting: hundreds of thousands of people displaced

from their homes and deprived of their livelihoods; thousands dead or wounded; health, education, trade, industry and agriculture devastated in the fighting or by the economic collapse brought on by war.

Again the African continent took up the lion's share of the ICRC's operating budget in 2000, some 45%, and required the largest deployment of staff, almost 4,000. Twenty-one of the ICRC's 66 delegations were in sub-Saharan Africa.

Peace initiatives in some countries did hold in 2000, in particular in the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea and in the conflict in the Republic of the Congo. While internal tension remained in

countries such as Guinea-Bissau and Chad, there was no return to civil war. In others, however, most notably in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and Sudan, the peace initiatives either did not take hold or collapsed.

Political and ethnic tensions led to internal disturbances in a number of countries from Chad to Zimbabwe, and separatist groups continued to resort to violence in many parts of the continent. But there were many examples of peaceful change, in Niger and Ghana for example, and even in war-torn Somalia elections were held.

Africa's wars remained primarily internal although they frequently had cross-border repercussions and sometimes international involvement. During the year the armed forces of six other African countries were involved in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe were active in government-held territory and Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda in rebel-held areas. Violent clashes in 2000 in two DRC provinces led to significant numbers of civilians seeking safety in the Republic of the Congo and Zambia. The DRC exemplified the problem of fragmentation in African conflicts which complicates both the search for peace and the operations of humanitarian organizations. Nevertheless, the DRC was an example where the ICRC maintained its position on both sides of the conflict and managed to move its operations closer to the front line during the year.

Many of the conflicts were particularly ferocious, civilians were specifically targeted and the use of child soldiers and the brutalization of women commonplace. The rights of displaced people and detainees were not always respected and the needs of the war-wounded neglected. This situation highlighted the importance of the ICRC's efforts to strengthen respect for the rules of war and provide assistance to war victims. In many instances this was undertaken in conditions of considerable instability. Progress was also made in securing access to areas controlled by armed rebel groups.

The level of insecurity remained high in many of the conflicts, but improved security measures and training ensured that incidents involving ICRC staff were reduced. Significantly the ICRC was not forced to withdraw from any African country in 2000. The ICRC also encouraged and assisted many States to adopt international agreements and welcomed Eritrea's decision to sign the Geneva Conventions.

Despite the complexity and fragmentation of many conflicts, in most cases the ICRC's role was respected and understood by government authorities and armed rebel groups. This enabled progress to be made in the treatment of war-wounded, prisoners of war and detainees, and ensured access to the large number of civilian victims of Africa's conflicts. Over 70% of the 2000 budget for Africa went on assistance.

Wars also divide people and families. The ICRC's African network again succeeded in returning many separated children to their families and channelled many hundreds of thousands of Red Cross messages to individuals and groups divided by conflict.

The ICRC's operations in Africa were complemented by the work of many national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Federation. The Societies frequently provided the volunteers and local network needed to implement ICRC assistance programmes and, in turn, the ICRC helped many Societies develop their national and regional capacities in such areas as conflict preparedness, assistance, information and tracing. In many countries the National Societies showed considerable resilience in the face of extreme difficulties and provided hope and assistance in situations, such as Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the civil authorities have been unable to maintain services.

The ICRC's structure of regional and national delegations continued to provide the flexibility needed for effective response. Below them, the network of sub-delegations, missions and offices was used to extend protection activities and assistance into conflict zones themselves, including those under rebel control. Local credibility also proved critical in responding to the changing conflicts in Angola, the DRC, Sudan and along the borders between Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

While the year ended with continuing diplomatic efforts to resolve several of these conflicts, the general level of violence across the continent had changed little over the 12 months. The conclusion for the ICRC was that, in the short term at least, Africa would remain an area requiring major protection and assistance activities.

LIBERIA

Violent incidents in Lofa County in July, clashes between government forces and rebels in Nimba County in November and the events in neighbouring Sierra Leone and Guinea meant that security remained fragile in Liberia in 2000. The situation in the capital, Monrovia, did improve when checkpoints were removed, bringing the city nearer to normality. Crime levels also declined. However, continuing uncertainty continued to prevent any real economic recovery, and security concerns limited the activities of NGOs* and United Nations (UN) agencies.

Precarious peace

The incidents in Lofa and Nimba counties served as a reminder that dissidents still threatened the relative stability achieved in Liberia since the end of the civil war. The attacks on Upper Lofa and the town of Voinjama in July came from the Guinean side of the border where there are over 60,000 Liberian refugees. In September and November the border areas were again disrupted by attacks on villages and refugee camps in Guinea by rebel groups from both Sierra Leone and Liberia. The fighting moved back into Liberia in November, this time in Nimba County, with reports of a major battle between dissident forces and government troops. The situation on the Sierra Leonean border also remained volatile, prompting the Liberian government, in July, to ask UNHCR* to move 11,000 massed in Sinje, Liberia, further away from the frontier. On the positive side, the improved security in many other parts of the country allowed more Liberian refugees and displaced people to return home. The numbers were, however, well below those planned for 2000 in the repatriation programme. Many in Guinea and in the Liberian capital Monrovia pre-

* NGOs: non-governmental organizations
* UNHCR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



⊕ ICRC delegation + ICRC office

ferred to stay where they were so as to benefit from the social infrastructure, particularly health centres and schools, which no longer existed in their villages of origin.

Political isolation

Four years after coming to power, the Liberian government still faced difficulties in its relations with other governments in the region. This was partly due to its alleged links with the rebel Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone. Potential external donors, in particular, remained highly cautious of the regime. Human rights organizations continued to criticize the actions of the army, police and paramilitary groups. The

media, too, frequently drew attention to alleged abuses of power.

The President continued to exercise a very personalized and direct form of leadership. In March he ordered the closure of two private radio stations, one supported by NGOs and the second, which subsequently reopened, by the Catholic Church. The incident caused a bitter row between the President and his local critics, and was also condemned by both the NGO and the diplomatic community in Monrovia.

The ICRC continued to assist displaced people and vulnerable returnees, and was able to visit security detainees in prisons, police stations and other places of detention.

A frail economy

International investment and business confidence failed to revive in 2000. Taiwan supported a number of government transport and power projects and a private Philippine company set up a forestry business. These had little impact on the local economy. Unemployment remained high, and many government officials went unpaid. The infrastructure of the country, which had fallen into chronic disrepair during the civil war, remained neglected. There was, however, some inflow of funds from overseas, as many Liberians living abroad, especially in the United States, continued to send money home to family members. It has been estimated that between a quarter and a third of the population regularly benefits from such overseas remittances.

Downturn in assistance

The number of NGOs working in Liberia continued to fall in 2000. By the end of the year there was no NGO or UN agency working in Lofa County. MSF,* which had been assisting the Kolahun hospital in Upper Lofa, pulled out after the incursions. In other developments not linked to the violence, UNHCR's rehousing programme for displaced people came to an end and the European Union ended its water and sanitation programme.

The Red Cross still operative

The Liberian Red Cross worked with WFP* until the end of 2000 distributing food to displaced people in Montserrado County. It also ran 10 clinics funded by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and two financed by the ICRC. The International Federation also supported the development of six local Red Cross chapters, helped build wells and latrines, and promoted fundraising activities including fishing and livestock projects.

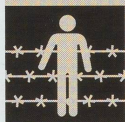
* MSF: *Médecins sans frontières*

* WFP: World Food Programme

The ICRC continued to enjoy a positive image among government circles, the media and a wider public. Football matches were used to demonstrate the importance of playing by certain rules, even in war, and travelling concerts also

put across the ICRC's message. The organization concentrated on protecting detainees and displaced people and providing them with practical help. It also carried out a number of water and sanitation projects for particularly vulnerable groups.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- visited prisons, police stations and other places of detention to monitor conditions, regularly visited 20 security

detainees, provided medical and non-food assistance when needed, carried out minor repairs on cooking facilities and water-supply and sanitation systems, and provided regular medical care through an ICRC nurse;



- handled 2,803 Red Cross messages to put separated family members back in touch with each other;



- distributed non-food assistance to 7,200 people displaced by the Lofa incidents;



- supported 2 Liberian Red Cross clinics which at the peak of their activities provided assistance to over 2,500 displaced people and returnees a month;



- drilled wells, built latrines and repaired or developed water and sanitation facilities in counties coping with vulnerable groups;



- trained Liberian Red Cross volunteers in tracing procedures, supported the Society's dissemination activities in schools, and improved its emergency response capacities;



- organized information sessions for national and local authorities on the ICRC's activities and role, and in particular pressed for enactment of a law regulating the use of the red cross emblem at a workshop organized for members of the House of Representatives;
- spread awareness of international humanitarian law and the activities and mandate of the ICRC among the armed and security forces;
- used sporting, cultural and other events to promote Red Cross principles among a wider public, including the media and young people, and raised the profile of the activities of the Liberian Red Cross.

SIERRA LEONE

PROTECTION

724,193

ASSISTANCE

16,310,440

PREVENTIVE ACTION

492,012

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

794,438

OVERHEADS

1,133,712

GENERAL

585,580

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 20,040,375



ICRC delegation



ICRC sub-delegation



ICRC office

The year began with the Lomé peace agreement, signed in July 1999, still holding, but ended with the country again facing an uncertain future. Implementation of the peace agreement started well. Several armed groups joined the government, including the main one, the RUF.* The level of mistrust between rival groups remained high, however, and the RUF stayed in control of the north and east of the country, including the Kono diamond fields. The new situation provided an opportunity to extend humanitarian action, at least in government-held areas. Contact between the ICRC and the RUF in January also

opened up the possibility of help reaching rebel-held areas.

The peace process collapses

The fragile peace was shattered in May 2000, when tension between the RUF and UNAMSIL* forces degenerated into military confrontation leading to the capture of some 500 UN peace-keepers. Fears of an attack on Freetown prompted the evacuation of members of the international community, including staff of embassies and humanitarian agencies. British paratroopers were deployed to assist in the evacuation and help stabilize the situation until the UN forces were

* RUF: Revolutionary United Front

* UNAMSIL: United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

able to redeploy. At the same time part of the AFRC* switched sides, abandoning its alliance with the RUF to join government forces. This effectively put an end to the peace process.

The arrest of Foday Sankoh in May deprived the RUF of its leader, but not of its ability to continue to play a major role in the conflict. Although the RUF released the 500 UN peace-keepers in its control at the end of May, some 200 UNAMSIL troops remained encircled in Kailahun in eastern Sierra Leone. On 16 July UNAMSIL launched an operation against the RUF which successfully released the trapped men. The UN intervention displaced several thousand civilians into the Kenema area where the ICRC, the only agency still there, provided assistance. British troops were also involved in military action to free hostages taken by another rebel group. The military intervention of the UN, and the subsequent mobilization and training of the Sierra Leone army, confirmed the demise of the Lomé agreement.

UN action

UNAMSIL, the UN's largest ongoing operation, was reviewed by the Security Council after the breakdown of the peace agreement. Its rules of engagement were reinforced and the maximum manpower limit increased to 20,500, although only half that number had been deployed by the end of the year. At the request of the Sierra Leone government, the Security Council also approved the setting-up of a special court with jurisdiction over Sierra Leonean nationals accused of criminal violations of Sierra Leonean or international humanitarian law. In July 2000 the Security Council placed an embargo on the export of Sierra Leonean diamonds until the government regained control of the trade.

New cease-fire

Despite the resumption of fighting, efforts were made to revive the peace process. The Sierra Leone government and the RUF met in the Nigerian capital Abuja and agreed to a new-cessé fire, which entered into force on 10 November. At a subsequent meeting on 8 December with representatives of UNAMSIL, the RUF agreed to the deployment of UNAMSIL forces in areas under its control and access for humanitarian organizations. By the end of the year no move had been made to implement this agreement and security concerns again became acute as problems on the border with Guinea began to generate further population movements.

The challenge for the ICRC

The cumulative effects of the internal conflict proved devastating for Sierra Leone and presented the ICRC with its greatest operational challenge in the region. The disruption severely restricted internal and external trade, hindered most forms of economic activity, and destroyed essential services such as health, education and transport. The greatest hardship was suffered by vulnerable groups, especially displaced people, refugees and families which had been split up or lost their means of livelihood. Reports from people leaving the area suggested that conditions in the RUF-controlled zone, most of which was closed to humanitarian organizations and government services, were even worse. Security remained precarious for much of the civilian population.

Changed priorities

The ICRC's main priority following the Lomé agreement was to support efforts to return the country to stability. The resumption of hostilities in May 2000, however, resulted in a shift in emphasis to meeting emergency needs. The planned programmes in the RUF areas, after access was agreed in January, had to be curtailed. The ICRC's operation in Sierra Leone, its largest in West Africa, included help for the displaced, sick and wounded, efforts to gain access to detainees, a special focus on the needs of women, and support for the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society. The ICRC also stepped up its own communication efforts to counter any misrepresentation of its neutral role.

New population movements

The resumption of fighting in May 2000 swelled the numbers of displaced people. The ICRC was one of the few agencies with the resources, local manpower and experience to cope with the new situation. Under its large-scale assistance programme, shelter materials, clothing, domestic items, seed and tools were distributed, mainly in the western region and Kenema district. In the months following the resumption of the conflict, over 130,000 people received non-food aid, and families which had access to land were given rice seed and agricultural implements.

In August 2000 a programme to assist 17 small-scale women's cooperatives was started in cooperation with the Sierra Leone Red Cross and the Ministry of Agriculture. It aimed to upgrade skills, generate income and improve food security among a very vulnerable section of the community. Training, seed and tools were given to a total of 11,720 women who were encouraged to pass on their new skills to others. During the year over 500,000 were assisted in some way under ICRC or ICRC-supported programmes.

* AFRC: Armed Forces Revolutionary Council

Health crisis among vulnerable groups

Following the May events, the Sierra Leone Red Cross, with ICRC backing, set up two clinics to provide basic health care for newly displaced people. Four clinics in Freetown offered free treatment for many destitute people. Obstetric care was already being provided in a ward of the Princess Christian maternity hospital under a project that was delegated to the Canadian Red Cross in June. The ICRC also funded the upgrading and enlargement of the Kenema hospital, and provided an expatriate medical team to give emergency surgical care. Basic assistance to three medical centres in Kailahun district, however, had to be suspended following the resumption of fighting. Water and sanitation programmes in Kailahun and Kenema were also disrupted, but resumed in Kenema in August.

During the year, the ICRC supported UN immunization programmes against poliomyelitis, diphtheria and tetanus, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Sierra Leone Red Cross. It also continued the construction of a health centre at Kroo Bay.

With the help of the International Federation and the Ministry of Health, the Sierra Leone Red Cross first-aid centres for displaced people on the move were reopened at Lunghi and Mile 91.

Reversing the breakdown of humanitarian law

Sierra Leone's civil war caused great human suffering. Extreme violence was used against the civilian population, children were enlisted to fight and mutilation was used systematically as a means of intimidation. Upon its return to Sierra Leone³ in 1999, the ICRC resumed its task of making those bearing weapons aware of the rules of humanitarian law. The British training programme for the Sierra Leone army enabled the ICRC to develop its working relationship with the newly reconstituted force. A specialized delegate ran a course on humanitarian law in Accra, Ghana, for 40 officers from Sierra Leone. A one-week course in Sierra Leone itself, for high-ranking officers and officials of the Ministry of Defence, tackled the issues of child soldiers and the harassment of civilians. Several thousand government soldiers also received instruction. With the build-up of UNAMSIL forces in 2000, an ICRC presentation was systematically included in training for new contingents of peace-keepers. Parliamentarians, traditional leaders, students, the media and others were targeted through lectures, seminars, workshops and radio programmes.

Detainees

The Lomé agreement provided for the release of security detainees, but the resumption of hostilities in May triggered new arrests. The Sierra Leone authorities agreed in August to the principle of ICRC access to detainees. They did not, however, accept the conditions laid down by the ICRC until 19 December 2000 when an agreement was finally reached.

Improved Red Cross coordination

The three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Sierra Leone, the local National Society, the International Federation and the ICRC acting as lead agency, worked together in 2000. The ICRC's relationship with the National Society was based on support and partnership. It provided the Sierra Leone Red Cross with training and material assistance for the departments responsible for tracing, dissemination, conflict preparedness and response, and communication. The National Society re-established its tracing service in eight districts in 2000 in cooperation with the ICRC and its volunteers took part in ICRC programmes, mainly relief activities and the Red Cross message service. The International Federation lent the National Society support for its institutional development and community programmes.

³ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, pp. 52-53.

WEST AFRICA SIERRA LEONE

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- reached agreement with the authorities on access to security detainees;



- urged the authorities to protect the civilian population and to respect humanitarian law;



- exchanged 59,035 Red Cross messages for Sierra Leone and other countries;



- provided some 18,000 newly displaced people, women, orphans and amputees with shelter, clothing and domestic items;
- distributed seed, non-food items and farm tools to resettled people, destitute individuals and displaced persons who had access to land;
- supported food security and income generation for 11,720 women through 17 small cooperative associations;



- supplied 4 clinics in Freetown treating over 60,000 patients with equipment and drugs and helped with staffing needs, continued assistance to the Princess Christian hospital maternity unit, and rehabilitated and extended the Kenema hospital and provided it with a surgical team;
- gave medical and other items to 2 National Society clinics for the newly displaced and helped the Society reopen first-aid posts for displaced people on the move at Lunghi and Mile 91;



- fully supported 3 departments at the National Society's headquarters and helped with the reopening of branches;

- trained and involved National Society volunteers in relief and tracing activities;
- contributed to the Society's magazine and weekly radio programme "Red Cross Na Salone";



- with the Ministry of Defence, the UN and a team of British instructors, provided training and information on

international humanitarian law for government soldiers and UN peace-keepers;

- spread knowledge of humanitarian law and the role of the Red Cross among parliamentarians, government officials, traditional leaders, students and the media through workshops, seminars, press releases and radio broadcasts.

ABIDJAN

Regional delegation

(Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Togo)

The area covered by the regional delegation witnessed important political events in 2000, including presidential elections in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, the build-up to parliamentary elections in Togo, and presidential elections in Benin scheduled for early 2001. Cross-border conflict also returned to the area covered by the regional delegation when armed groups from Sierra Leone and Liberia attacked Guinea. The elections in Ghana resulted in a defeat for the ruling National Democratic Congress and a peaceful change of president. In Côte d'Ivoire, where there was also a defeat for the incumbent and a new President, the tension which dominated the political scene following the *coup d'état* of December 1999 continued throughout 2000.

Armed groups attack Guinea

Tension on the frontier between Guinea and its two southern neighbours mounted as conflict spilled over the borders. Liberia accused Guinea of attacking the town of Voinjama in July, a claim immediately denied by Conakry. Since the eruption of violence in Liberia and Sierra Leone, Guinea had been a relatively safe place of asylum for refugees. In 2000, however, the Guinean side of the border itself became an area of conflict as armed groups launched attacks from Liberia and Sierra Leone against the local population and refugee camps. The worst incidents occurred between September and December in the Madina Oula, Kindia and Forécariah regions, to the north and east of Macenta and Guéckédou, where the ICRC has an office. The Guinean authorities estimated that around 1,000 people were killed.

Large refugee presence

The area of Guinea affected by the incursions harboured a large refugee population, estimated by the UN to be over 400,000. Three-quarters of the refugees were from Sierra Leone, and their numbers were swelled during the year by an upsurge of violence there in May.⁴ The remainder were mainly from Liberia. Repatriation by UNHCR of Liberian refugees started in May 2000, but was suspended again in July. A small group of refugees from Guinea-Bissau did, however, go home.

The attacks from Sierra Leone and Liberia caused fear in the camps. Tens of thousands of refugees fled or were moved away from the borders. A number of Guinean villages were pillaged. In the refugee camps themselves, the armed groups often pressurized people into helping them transport looted goods.

Security concerns

In September the Guinean authorities, fearful that the incursions might affect larger towns beyond the immediate border area, arrested several thousand people in Conakry. The security alert did not last long and most of these detainees were released. In the meantime an increasing number of Sierra Leoneans and Liberians attempted to return home in order to escape the uncertainty of the refugee camps. The decline in security also affected the international aid agencies, which had to scale down their activities for several weeks following the September incursions. Two aid workers were abducted and another murdered. On the political front, the year saw communal and legislative elections and the trial of an opposition leader, together with 46 other accused, before the State Security Court.

Assistance increased

During the first half of 2000 the ICRC concentrated on visiting detainees. In response to the fighting, however, the ICRC, working with the Red Cross Society of Guinea, distributed material and food aid from August onwards to civilian victims of the violence and displaced people. Assistance was also given to Sierra Leonean war-wounded in Guéckédou hospital, and food, medicines and medical equipment were provided for the war-wounded at Forécariah hospital.

⁴ See pp. 37-38.

A year of tension in Côte d'Ivoire

In July a new constitution was approved by referendum, heralding a rapid return to civilian rule following the *coup d'état* of December 1999. The same month also saw the year's second army mutiny which paralysed the capital for two days.

Although the new constitution was adopted, the issue of who could stand for election sparked bitter political debate and clashes between rival groups. The requirement that both parents of any candidate had to be of Ivorian nationality effectively barred leading opposition candidate Alassane Ouattara and most of the other aspirants from standing. Legal challenges to the new rule failed.

Meanwhile, the military ruler, General Robert Gueï, announced in August his intention to run for President in the elections called for 22 October. An attempt on his life shortly after this announcement heightened the tension. Because of the disqualifications, General Gueï's main challenger was Laurent Gbagbo of the *Front populaire ivoirien*. As results came through it became clear that General Gueï had lost by a significant margin. His reaction was to dissolve the national electoral commission supervising the elections and declare himself the winner.

General Gueï's rejection of the presidential election results led to mass demonstrations, supported by units of the armed forces. Unable to control the situation he fled, leaving Laurent Gbagbo to be sworn in as President. But the supporters of Alassane Ouattara continued to demonstrate, calling for new elections. There were violent clashes and deaths occurred in many Ivorian towns and the unrest took on religious and communal overtones. Despite a joint appeal for calm by Ouattara and Gbagbo, the situation remained uncertain. In the background, too, was the immigrant issue. In September clashes between Burkinabé immigrants and local communities in south-western Côte d'Ivoire left a number of people dead and over a thousand displaced.

Detainees and displaced people

Following the military *coup d'état*, the ICRC increased its visits to detainees and delivered medical supplies, hygiene items and food to the main prisons. Agricultural support was also provided for detainees who had access to land. In the south-west of the country the ICRC ran an assistance programme for 1,400 people displaced by intercommunal riots, providing rice, oil, blankets, clothing and soap.

End of an era in Ghana

President Rawlings stepped down from power in 2000. The presidential election on 8 December 2000 was seen by the international media as a test of the country's new democratic maturity. The ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) nominated the Vice-President as its candidate. The media generally predicted an NDC win, but in the event opposition leader John Kufuor became Ghana's new President providing a rare example of peaceful political change in the region.

The ICRC's activities in Ghana in 2000 focused mainly on the dissemination of humanitarian law, particularly among the armed forces and civil society, in cooperation with the Ghana Red Cross.

Gradual change in Togo

The move to democracy in Togo progressed slowly in 2000. The *Comité paritaire de suivi*, responsible for the change, ran into further delays because of disagreements on the setting-up of an independent national electoral commission. The legislative elections planned for March 2000 did not take place.

The government of President Eyadema came under pressure to change as a result of the democratization process, social discontent among the student population, and international disapproval prompting European Union economic sanctions and United Nations reports criticizing his support for armed opposition groups in Angola and Sierra Leone. International human rights organizations continued to criticize the country's record. In November the UN Commission on Human Rights began an inquiry into allegations of summary executions during the 1998 election campaign.

The high point in the year for the government, in international terms, was the holding of the 36th OAU* summit in Lomé. President Eyadema became Chairman of the organization for the period 2000-2001.

The ICRC concentrated its activities in Togo on promoting humanitarian law among the armed and security forces and civic leaders.

Benin: election campaigns in full swing

The internal situation in Benin remained stable in 2000, with political attention focused on the municipal elections at the end of the year and presidential elections scheduled for March 2001. President Kérékou announced he would stand for re-election. The majority group leader in the National Assembly also stated his intention of running, as did several other leading politicians.

The ICRC concentrated on the promotion of humanitarian law, but also supported the Red Cross of Benin in its work at the Kpomassé refugee camp which houses all 5,000 of Benin's refugee population. The ICRC also helped the Society with its Red Cross message service.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- stepped up visits to prisons in Côte d'Ivoire following the military *coup*, provided hygiene items, farming tools and

medicines, continued a food programme for malnourished detainees and an agricultural support programme in Man prison, and supported the water-supply projects at Aboisso prison and Abidjan's military detention centre;

- distributed hygiene items and medical aid to detainees in Conakry and Forécariah prisons in Guinea and completely repaired the roof of Conakry prison;



- distributed 8,876 Red Cross messages in Guinea;



- distributed 8.5 tonnes of rice, 220 litres of oil, 800 blankets, soap and clothing to 1,400 displaced people in

south-western Côte d'Ivoire;

- provided, in cooperation with the Guinea Red Cross, emergency material assistance and food to displaced people and civilian victims of violence, and to Sierra Leonean and Liberian refugees in Conakry;



- in cooperation with the Guinea Red Cross, assisted war-wounded from Sierra Leone who were treated at Guéckédou hospital, and provided medicines, medical material and 2 meals a day for war-wounded at Forécariah hospital;



- assisted the 5 National Red Cross Societies in the region in their tracing, emergency preparedness and dissemination

activities, including a programme for primary schools in Guinea;



- held information sessions and seminars on humanitarian law or human rights for the armed forces of Benin,

Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea and Togo, and the police and security forces in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea;

- promoted the ICRC's work and Red Cross principles through the media and held a 3-day workshop for journalists in the region.

* OAU: Organization of African Unity

DAKAR

Regional delegation

(Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal)

A number of countries in the region went through peaceful political change in 2000. Senegal and Guinea-Bissau elected Presidents, Mali had a new Prime Minister and Cape Verde held elections in which the opposition made gains. Security in the region was generally good. Senegal still faced a separatist problem in Casamance, and a dispute with Mauritania over use of the Senegal river. Niger symbolically signalled the end of the rebellion in the north and east of the country in a public ceremony in Agadez, and launched a process to integrate former rebels. The internal situation in Gambia remained tense, however, following the attempted *coup* at the beginning of the year.

The ICRC had many opportunities to promote humanitarian law and to support National Societies throughout the region. Significant numbers of detainees of concern to the ICRC were visited in four of the countries. Material assistance was given to the victims of a series of violent incidents in Casamance, but there were no major displacements of people on the scale seen in other parts of West Africa.

Peaceful change in Senegal

In March 2000 Abdoulaye Wade was elected President with 58.5 % of the popular vote and a smooth transfer of power followed. The new coalition government continued the search for a negotiated settlement to the separatist problem in Casamance. Despite the commitment to negotiate by both sides, looting incidents and violent attacks still occurred in some areas of Ziguinchor and Kolda, forcing over 8,000 people to leave their homes. Incidents involving the Senegalese army and separatist groups continued along the border with Guinea-Bissau, further raising the tension. In July and August local Senegalese blockaded the border with Guinea-Bissau in order to prevent cross-border looting. Although intervention by the two Presidents calmed the situation, the border area remained uneasy. In response to these events, the ICRC and the Senegalese Red Cross Society provided displaced people in Ziguinchor and Kolda with rice and millet throughout the year.

The dispute with Mauritania over the waters of the Senegal river resulted in several thousand Senegalese fleeing Mauritania.

Support for the National Society

Both the ICRC and the International Federation helped the Senegalese Red Cross to prepare a contingency plan to cope with any violence following the presidential election. The plan was based on the experience gained during two previous presidential polls and relied on the Society's strong regional network. The ICRC gave financial support for emergency planning at regional committee level and for the construction of a new regional headquarters at Ziguinchor, where it also provided a vehicle.

In its work in prisons, the ICRC continued its regular visits and presented a report on its recommendations to the government at the end of the year. The vegetable production projects launched to improve nutrition in three prisons were a moderate success and there were no more deaths at Kolda prison from vitamin deficiency.

In mid-September the ICRC was invited to give a presentation to 65 junior officers as part of a course organized by the United States army under the African Crisis Response Initiative. Later in the month the ICRC held two information sessions on the law of armed conflict for the Senegalese contingent preparing to join the UN mission (MONUC) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a separate session for the contingent's 90 officers to explain the ICRC's mandate and the implementation of humanitarian law.

Mali: a country at peace

The conflicts between different ethnic groups in Mali which led to intervention by the security forces in 1999 did not recur in 2000. The country remained calm and most of the problems which had sparked the disputes were resolved. In the far north of the country occasional incidents of banditry in the first few months of the year resulted in the death of three tourists and three soldiers who were escorting an ambulance. The Malian army intervened and restored calm.

Change of role for the ICRC

The ICRC had a significant presence in the north of the country for most of the 1990s. This came to an end when its post-conflict rehabilitation activities were wound up in 1999.⁵ In 2000 the ICRC concentrated on its normal peacetime activities. A trainers' course was held for 40 officers of the Malian armed forces, and a further 19 officers attended a course on humanitarian law. The ICRC also revived discussions with the government on ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties. Support for the Mali Red Cross included financial and technical help in reorganizing its secretariat and first-aid training for 36 prison officers.

New Prime Minister

In February, the Malian President appointed a new Prime Minister, whose task was to invigorate the anti-corruption drive and tackle the related problem of attracting investment to Mali. In August a number of influential people were arrested on corruption charges.

While political stability and internal security remained priorities for the government, the continuing level of poverty was the greatest challenge. Government figures published in 2000 showed that three-quarters of rural Malians and one-third of urban dwellers lived below the poverty line.

Guinea-Bissau

In January 2000 Kumba Yala was elected President of Guinea-Bissau in a peaceful transition to democratic rule. A new coalition government followed. One of the early decisions of the new government was to release nearly all detainees temporarily, pending trial. This relieved the workload of the ICRC which until that point had made regular visits to many of the detainees, providing them with basic necessities such as soap and other hygiene items.

Although a new democratic government was in power, the former co-President of the junta still maintained a high profile until he was killed in a challenge to the government in November. This led to a new wave of arrests. In the meantime, the government committed itself to significant demobilization of Guinea-Bissau's disproportionately large army to reduce it from 25,000 to 15,000 men.

Despite tensions between the civilian and military authorities, on the border with Senegal and between certain ethnic groups, internal security was generally good in 2000, allowing the ICRC to concentrate on detainees, develop relations with the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau and embark on a major dissemination programme with the armed forces. Between July and December, the ICRC distributed its *Soldier's Handbook* to 5,000 soldiers – one-fifth of the army – and was invited to participate in officer training in humanitarian law.

Internal tensions in Gambia

Following the abortive *coup* against the government in January 2000, a number of soldiers and civilians were arrested. In April, during violent clashes with student demonstrators near the capital Banjul, the security forces opened fire on the crowd, killing 11 people, including a Red Cross volunteer, and wounding over 60. The Red Cross volunteer, part of a Gambia Red Cross Society first-aid team, was shot in the chest as he stepped out of an ambulance despite the fact that he was bearing clear identification. Six hundred students were arrested after the incident and held for up to two weeks. The President of the Gambia Students Union fled to Senegal. The President of Gambia, who was out of the country at the time, declared a week of national mourning and set up a commission of enquiry.

In June clashes between the ruling party and the main opposition led to the death of a government party activist and the subsequent arrest of the opposition leader and 23 others, charged with his murder.

Impact on ICRC activities

The attempted *coup* and the student disturbances in April resulted in a slowdown in dissemination programmes for the army. However, humanitarian law sessions were held for 25 prison guards and 130 police. Government contacts were maintained, and lobbying for ratification of the Ottawa treaty was successful. In June progress was also made in improving the situation of security detainees when the authorities agreed to allow family visits.

⁵ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 62.

Burkina Faso and Niger

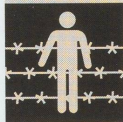
Both countries were absorbed with internal political issues in 2000 linked in each case to prominent assassinations, and governments came under pressure. In Burkina Faso, the *Collectif contre l'impunité* staged demonstrations in April to draw attention to the fact that no one had been arrested for the murder of a prominent journalist nor for the killing of the driver of the President's brother. Similarly, in Niger there were no arrests for the assassination of the President, although several people were detained and accused of abducting a former junta spokesman in June 2000. While the debate on these issues was lively, there was no serious civil unrest in either country. The leaders of the *Collectif* were briefly detained, but the government subsequently entered into dialogue with opposition groups with the aim of promoting national reconciliation. In Niger, too, there was a major act of reconciliation in November when ammunition surrendered by former Tuareg and Toubou rebels was ceremonially burned in the northern city of Agadez, and the process of reintegrating former rebels was begun.

In Niger the ICRC was allowed, in July, to visit the soldiers in Kollo prison arrested in connection with the abduction of the former junta spokesman and to provide them with medical assistance and hygiene items. In both countries ICRC contacts with the government to promote humanitarian law and the ratification of humanitarian conventions continued, and in Burkina Faso agreement was reached on the creation of a national committee for national implementation of humanitarian law and the formulation of a law regulating use of the red cross emblem.

Relations were also developed with the National Societies of the two countries. The ICRC jointly organized a workshop for information staff in Bobo-Dioulasso with the Burkinabé Red Cross, and trained newly appointed Red Cross officials in Niger. In both countries sup-

port was provided for emergency preparedness, including the installation of three high-frequency radio transmitters in Niamey, Agadez and Diffa to improve emergency response.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- made 104 visits to individual detainees in Senegal and provided medical and hygiene materials;
- made 356 visits to individual detainees in Guinea-Bissau and provided cleaning materials;
- made 98 visits to individual detainees in Gambia and provided non-food and hygiene items;
- visited 7 soldiers detained in Niger and provided them with medical and hygiene items;



- distributed 65 tonnes of rice and 38 tonnes of millet to displaced people in the Ziguinchor and Kolda districts of Senegal;



- delivered a consignment of orthopaedic materials to Mali's national prosthetic/orthotic centre;



- trained Red Cross staff and volunteers in dissemination, emergency preparedness and first aid;
- supported the institutional development of National Societies in the region and provided material support for communication and emergency response, including the production of newsletters and the installation of HF radio transmitters;



- worked with all governments in the region to encourage ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties, and promoted the establishment of national committees on humanitarian law and the adoption of national legislation on humanitarian law and the emblem;
- took part in training sessions and workshops throughout the region on the law of armed conflict and the role of the ICRC for the armed forces, police and security forces, in particular launching a programme which reached 5,000 soldiers in Guinea-Bissau;
- trained the officers of the Senegalese contingent preparing to join the UN mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

LAGOS

Regional delegation (Nigeria)

Nigeria experienced its first full year of civilian democratic rule in 2000 after 15 years of military government. Potential threats to political stability and internal security were effectively contained, while political and economic reforms and an anti-corruption drive initiated by the government received general support from Nigeria's international partners. The armed forces remained an important guarantor of stability, but also had a major external role as part of the UN peace-keeping force in Sierra Leone. Compulsory retirement of senior officers brought new faces into the military leadership but did not change the good working relationship with the ICRC which had prevailed since the Nigerian civil war over 30 years before.

Internal flash points

Serious riots in Kaduna in February and May resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives and the displacement of several thousand people. These disturbances, linked to the controversy in Nigeria over the introduction of Sharia law in some states of the federation, took on religious overtones. The loss of life, looting and destruction of property, including mosques and churches, prompted the intervention of the police and army to restore order.

In what appeared to be a reaction to the events in Kaduna in May, intercommunal fighting broke out in three south-eastern states and forced 20,000 people to seek the protection of the security forces. In the west, violent clashes continued between two communities in Osun state, and in October clashes again broke out in Lagos between Yoruba- and Hausa-speaking communities. The 200 dead made this a more serious incident than the one that occurred the year before.

The ICRC supported the Nigerian Red Cross Society in its response to these violent incidents, providing non-food assistance for the victims and medical supplies and water for several hospitals treating the wounded. The Nigerian Red Cross is present in all 36 states and is well respected by the population. It strengthened its institutional base in 2000 to improve its response capability.

While these violent clashes were serious, they affected a relatively small number of people. For the overwhelming majority of Nigeria's estimated 110 million population, the first full year of democracy was peaceful.

Political and economic challenges

The new democratic structures also stood the test of political and social pressure in 2000. A major constitutional and political crisis was averted by the leadership of the ruling People's Democratic Party when it resolved a serious rift between two of its factions. The nationwide strike in June against fuel price rises, during which a number of people died in violent clashes, was also resolved when the government agreed to moderate the increases.

Oil continued to dominate the national economy, but although Nigeria was still the fourth most important OPEC* producer in 2000, its huge population put it well down the per capita national wealth list according to the UN's human development index. In fact poverty increased in 2000, with an estimated 60% of the population below the UN poverty line. The sheer numbers involved make this situation one of Africa's most important social and humanitarian challenges.

Stable relations

Nigeria faced no destabilizing external problems in 2000. The decade-old maritime border dispute with Equatorial Guinea was settled when the Presidents of the two countries put their signatures to a treaty in Malabo in September. The border dispute with Cameroon over the Bakassi peninsula was awaiting a ruling from the International Court of Justice. More widely the Nigerian army provided troops for ECOWAS* and UN peace-keeping activities in Sierra Leone, and signed a military agreement with the United States which will provide training for five Nigerian battalions in peace-keeping roles.

Defence and security issues emerged as significant factors in Nigeria's growing relationship with South Africa. Visits by high-ranking officers were followed by talks on joint ventures in arms manufacture.

* OPEC: Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

* ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

Red Cross initiatives

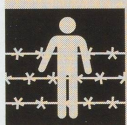
The ICRC worked closely with both the government and the Nigerian Red Cross in 2000. In May a refresher course on the law of armed conflict was held at the Defence Academy in Kaduna. Presentations were also made at the air force training centre and the police staff college in Jos. It was decided to adapt the ICRC's publication *To Serve and to Protect* for use by the Nigerian police.

The ICRC and the Nigerian Red Cross organized workshops in Lagos on alternatives to violence and a conference on "Weapons and international humanitarian law: mines, arms availability and new weapons" in Abuja in June. The Abuja conference aimed to promote Nigeria's accession to the Ottawa treaty and ratification of the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. It was attended by most ECOWAS countries and provided a useful sounding board for the ICRC's plans for a cooperation agreement with the organization. Negotiations with the ECOWAS secretariat in Abuja progressed well, opening up the possibility of widening the ICRC's mandate in West Africa.

ICRC support was also given during the year to Nigerian Red Cross dissemination activities and its emergency preparedness department. Relations between all components of the Movement worked smoothly in 2000 with both the ICRC and the International Federation sharing premises in Lagos with the National Society.

Media activities included a special briefing for journalists in Abuja on the ICRC's mandate and on the "People on War" project in Nigeria. The project revealed how the experience of the civil war, 30 years before, still profoundly affected Nigerian attitudes to war.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- gave support to the Nigerian Red Cross for its hygiene activities in 56 prisons throughout the country;



- provided, through the National Society, items such as cooking implements, blankets and soap to over

10,000 people affected by the communal violence in Kaduna, the south-east, Osun, Kwara and Lagos states;



- evacuated more than 60 victims of the violence to hospital and provided medical supplies and 16,000 litres of water for 2 hospitals;



- ran a dissemination workshop with the Nigerian Red Cross for training officers from 30 of its branches;
- gave the National Society financial and material support, particularly for its emergency preparedness programmes;



- ran a course on the law of armed conflict for 45 instructors at the Nigerian Defence Academy in Kaduna, and gave

presentations to 130 cadets and officers at the Academy, to 1,100 officers and airmen at 2 Nigerian air force training centres and to 100 officers at the Police Staff College in Jos;

- ran workshops with the Nigerian Red Cross as part of the "alternatives to violence" programme;
- organized, in association with the National Society and a local NGO, a conference in Abuja on "Weapons and international humanitarian law: mines, arms availability and new weapons" which also promoted Nigeria's accession to the Ottawa treaty and ratification of the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

BURUNDI

PROTECTION

824,920

ASSISTANCE

5,326,036

PREVENTIVE ACTION

338,902

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

52,213

OVERHEADS

436,245

GENERAL

348,467

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

Sfr 7,326,783



ICRC delegation



ICRC office

A peace accord was signed by most of the parties involved in Burundi's internal conflict in Arusha on 28 August and in Nairobi on 30 September 2000. At the end of the year, however, Burundi was not at peace. The peace initiative had been taken over by Nelson Mandela in December 1999 after the death of former mediator Julius Nyerere, raising hopes that the long-running conflict in the country could be brought to an end. But the task of reaching an agreement was complicated. The two main rebel groups did not take part in the peace negotiations and refused to sign the accord. The absence of cease-fire provisions also limited the immediate impact of the agreement.

Evolution of the conflict

In the south and west of the country there were recurrent attacks by armed groups against military targets and the civilian population in Bururi, Makamba, Rutana and Bujumbura-Rural provinces. Clashes between the army and rebel groups reached a peak just before the Arusha agreement. The conflict took the form of hit-and-run attacks by either side rather than sustained offensives and resulted in the destabilization of large areas.

Banditry, often involving the theft of property or livestock, was also rife in many parts of the country. Intimidation of the civilian population was widespread, with people victimized for supporting, or not supporting, a particular group. Civilians could not avoid being caught up in the fighting and on some occasions were specifically targeted.

Thousands flee the fighting

The fighting and disruption continued to produce a refugee exodus. More than 70,000 people fled to Tanzania during the year bringing the number of Burundian refugees in the country to 350,000, according to UNHCR estimates.

Added to this were over 300,000 displaced people in Burundi itself, scattered in some 220 camps around the country. One opposition demand in the peace talks was implemented during the year with the closure of "regroupment" camps for civilians around Bujumbura housing 325,000 people. They returned to their places of origin, often to find their homes and livelihood destroyed. This created an additional vulnerable group in need of humanitarian assistance to rebuild their lives.

Social and economic dislocation

The impact of the civil war on Burundi's infrastructure, production and services was dramatic, and was compounded by three years of economic embargo. The near collapse of public services, particularly in the health sector, had the greatest impact on the most vulnerable groups. Medical supplies and medicines were hard to come by, health facilities were neglected, and many trained medical staff continued to leave the country. Clean water supplies remained a serious problem.

Although the economic embargo imposed by neighbouring countries was lifted in January 1999, the economy showed few signs of revival in 2000. The level of external economic development aid remained low, and trade and business were unable to recover in the face of continued internal disruption and transport dislocation. Poverty and unemployment, in what is Africa's most densely populated region, added to Burundi's economic problems and increased humanitarian needs.

Security constraints on ICRC activities

The unstable security environment restricted the ICRC's activities in 2000. Most roads were unsafe, and the main centres of ICRC operations had to be linked by air. Much of the organization's efforts focused on people deprived of their freedom and the wounded or sick living in safer urban areas.

Prison conditions

In 2000 the ICRC regularly visited six of the 11 civilian prisons in Burundi, covering 80% of the total prison population of close to 9,000. It concentrated most of its activities on Mpimba, Gitega, Ngozi and Muyinga prisons where assessments revealed a range of problems including overcrowding, limited health care, poor hygiene, and infrastructure in need of repair. To ease the situation the ICRC distributed a mattress, blanket and soap to each detainee visited, provided medical supplies and equipment to dispensaries, supported disinfection and anti-infestation projects, and, under an agreement with the Ministry of Justice, carried out rehabilitation work on prison sanitary and kitchen facilities.

Assistance for civilians

Action on behalf of the civilian population included the supply of medicines and essential medical equipment to seven health centres and seven hospitals for treatment of emergency surgical cases. Patients also included detainees and the war-wounded.

Water and habitat activities

In cooperation with the national water company, the ICRC initiated a number of projects designed to extend and repair neglected urban water-supply systems which were no longer able to cope with rapid demographic growth. This work was carried out in parallel with water and sanitation projects in various prisons throughout Burundi. The first phase of a project to rehabilitate existing water supplies and protect five new springs in Ngozi (27,000 inhabitants) was successfully completed.

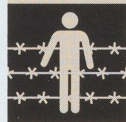
In Bujumbura the construction of two slow sand filters started, which aimed to help the water company increase by 50 % the amount of drinking water produced by the capital's water-treatment plant, which supplies 80 % of its needs. Once finished, the additional water supply will greatly benefit the inhabitants of the poorest northern and southern suburbs, which have grown as a result of migration from rural areas. In the north-eastern town of Muyinga, rehabilitation work started on a reservoir to store and supply water to the local hospital and prison.

Preventive action and cooperation with the National Society

Events and activities to raise awareness of international humanitarian law and the work of the ICRC reached large sectors of Burundian society in 2000 despite the restrictions imposed by the security situation. The main targets of these activities were the armed and security forces, the police, government authorities, young people and the media.

The ICRC also trained Burundi Red Cross volunteers in dissemination as part of its cooperation with the National Society. The ICRC and the International Federation also helped with a review of the Society's statutes, and the International Federation provided training in emergency preparedness.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- visited detainees in 6 of the country's 11 central prisons to assess conditions, including sanitation and nutrition,

thereby reaching 80 % of the total prison population;

- provided each detainee visited with a mattress, a blanket and soap and also supplied basic utensils for food;
- supplied medical material and beds worth 8,000 Swiss francs to prison dispensaries;
- with the government's agreement, carried out extensive rehabilitation work on prison sanitary and kitchen facilities;
- assessed the extent of HIV-related problems in places of detention;



- provided 7 hospitals and 7 health centres with medical supplies to enable them to deal with surgical emergencies for the local civilian population and to treat detainees and the war-wounded;



- worked with the local water boards in Ngozi, Bujumbura and Muyinga to repair and extend water-supply systems benefiting 31,000 people;



- trained local Burundi Red Cross volunteers in dissemination techniques;



- carried out activities to raise awareness of humanitarian law among the armed forces, security forces, civil and military authorities, young people, local human rights organizations and the media.

CENTRAL AFRICA DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

PROTECTION

7,057,924

ASSISTANCE

26,497,358

PREVENTIVE ACTION

1,164,965

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

2,077,209

OVERHEADS

2,349,030

GENERAL

1,038,133

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 40,184,619



ICRC delegation



ICRC sub-delegation



ICRC presence



ICRC mission

Despite the signing of a cease-fire in July 1999, the Democratic Republic of the Congo remained a country torn by conflict in 2000. International involvement also continued: at least six African countries had troops in the country throughout the year. All the parties to the conflict met in Lusaka in August to try to revive the peace process. While the meeting demonstrated a continuing interest in a negotiated settlement, it failed to break the deadlock. President Laurent Kabila, who had already expressed reservations about some provisions of the cease-fire agreement, left after only a few hours.

The main conflict between the Kinshasa government's forces, the three armed opposition groups and their allies on either side continued sporadically throughout the year. By the end of 2000, however, the front line, running from the north-west to the south-east, was roughly where it had been 12 months earlier, dividing the country into two almost equal parts. The ICRC maintained a presence on both sides with a delegation in the capital Kinshasa and a sub-delegation in Lubumbashi to cover the west and south of the country, and in the east a mission in Goma, with sub-delegations in Kisangani, Bukavu and Bunia and offices in Kalemie and Uvira. During 2000 it succeeded in extending its oper-

ations closer to the front line. The Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo also continued to work as a single National Society, recognized by all the main parties to the conflict and operational in all parts of the country.

The military jigsaw in 2000

Government forces were confronted by three main rebel groups operating in five northern and eastern provinces. The Goma-based RCD* was the most important, controlling much of Kivu province and large parts of the adjacent provinces. The *Mouvement de Libération*, a break-away from the RCD, was active in the area around Bunia in Orientale province, while the MLC* dominated most of Equateur province.

Both sides received external military support, the government from Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe, the rebels mainly from Rwanda and Uganda. The situation was made more complex by the presence of local militias in many areas, and ongoing ethnic disputes. One of the militia groups, the Mayi-Mayi, emerged as a significant military presence in 2000 and took control of parts of Kivu province. The sheer size of the country and the difficult terrain resulted in frequent stalemates in the fighting between the principal belligerents. During the year very little territory changed hands.

Conflicts which had their origins outside the Congolese territory also disrupted the country, particularly in the eastern provinces which border Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Armed opponents of the governments of all three countries used the Congo as a base. Security along the southern border was affected by the civil war in Angola.

* RCD: *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie*

* MLC: *Mouvement pour la Libération du Congo*

Evolution of the conflict

As in the previous year, the main flashpoint between the rebels and the Congolese armed forces was Equateur province in the north-west. During the fighting the government made modest territorial gains, but encountered strong resistance from the armed opposition in the province and by their allies in neighbouring Kasai. By the end of the year the rebels had regained most of the ground they had lost. The fighting had a major impact on the civilian population with up to 100,000 crossing the Ubangui river to seek refuge in the Republic of the Congo.⁶

In May and again in June fierce fighting broke out between Rwandan and Ugandan troops in Kisangani, the main city in Oriental province, leaving many Congolese civilians wounded or dead. The ICRC made representations to both governments on behalf of the civilian population and, together with the local Red Cross, continued working in the city throughout the violence. Over 2,000 war-wounded were treated in four hospitals and many smaller centres, with medical supplies provided by the ICRC. Red Cross volunteers buried hundreds of civilians and soldiers killed in the fighting. The ICRC also took care of over 12,000 people whose homes had been damaged or destroyed in the conflict, providing them with essential non-food items. Damage to the city's water supply posed a significant health threat. In June, the ICRC flew in 70 tonnes of water-treatment chemicals, enough to provide safe drinking water for Kisangani's 600,000 residents until the end of 2000.

There was an upsurge of fighting in Katanga late in the year. Kalemie was bombed by government forces and the town of Pweto fell to the rebels. Tens of thousands of people fled the violence, seeking refuge in Zambia.

⁶ UN estimate.

Working closer to the front line

The ICRC increased its efforts in 2000 to bring protection and assistance activities closer to the 3,000-kilometre front line. This change in strategy had three main goals: to locate internally displaced people earlier; to track down and assist the war-wounded more effectively; and to respond to the protection needs of civilians and detainees near the front line.

Internally displaced people

An estimated one and a half million people were still displaced in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2000. The ICRC extended its assistance to cover almost 200,000 displaced people in the eastern provinces during the year, and made a significant breakthrough in northern Katanga, aiding 20,000 people close to the front line in an area where no humanitarian organization had worked before. In northern Kivu, assistance was given to more than 26,000 displaced people staying with host families in Goma or in the Sake camp just outside the city. In southern Kivu 65,000 people from unsafe areas around Bukavu were given food and the ICRC resumed its agricultural programme, interrupted by the fighting, for a further 38,000 people. Further south, over 30,000 displaced people received food and other assistance in and around Uvira.

The ICRC, in agreement with the authorities, reduced its food distribution in camps for the displaced in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi, where other sources of supply had been found. Medical and infrastructure support was still given to hospitals and health centres serving displaced and other vulnerable groups, and the ICRC continued to provide agricultural equipment and seed to displaced and needy resident communities which had access to land.

Water and health

Urgent rehabilitation work began on the main water plant in Kinshasa, which serves over four million people. In the east of the country the ICRC provided water-treatment chemicals for 16 plants run by REGIDESO, the national water company, constructed wells in the Uvira area, and improved the water storage capacity and electricity supply to hospitals in Bukavu.

The ICRC also provided surgical assistance and essential drugs to three hospitals in Kinshasa and four hospitals and a rehabilitation centre in Lubumbashi treating the war-wounded. In rebel-held eastern Congo, 10 hospitals and 21 other medical centres received support, although access to some areas was still a problem. Throughout the year the ICRC's orthopaedic workshop continued to manufacture prostheses.

Following an outbreak of cholera in Lubumbashi, a city of over one million people, the ICRC provided logistic support for the National Society's disinfection campaign.

War surgery seminar

The Congolese Ministries of Health and Defence and the ICRC organized an important seminar in Kinshasa at the end of September for 65 surgeons and specialized nurses, both military and civilian. Its aim was to improve care for the war-wounded along the evacuation chain from injury to final hospitalization. A second seminar was held in Lubumbashi in October. In December, 150 military stretcher-bearers were given first-aid training at Mbandaka, again with the aim of improving the treatment of war-wounded during their evacuation from the fighting. At the same time, the ICRC began evaluating the needs of the nearby military hospital at Ngashi camp close to the front line.

Access to detainees

The ICRC generally received good cooperation from the government and the three main rebel factions in places to which it had access. The customary rules were respected, in particular the right to speak privately to detainees. The ICRC visited some 2,000 people deprived of their freedom on both sides of the front line. The ICRC was also involved in the process of repatriation of prisoners of war (POWs) and civilians, including 97 Rwandan POWs from the Congo to Rwanda, 9 Congolese POWs from Chad to Kinshasa and 156 Rwandan civilian internees from the Congo to Rwanda.

Food and other items, especially medical and hygiene products, were distributed in places of detention. A significant improvement in sanitary conditions for many detainees was achieved under an agreement whereby the authorities provided manpower and the ICRC materials. The pressure on detention centres was relieved by government amnesties during the year.

The law of war

Despite the complexities of the situation, the ICRC was still able to engage in activities to promote humanitarian law on both sides of the conflict. Printed material on the law of war and first aid was distributed to members of the three main armed opposition groups, and regular sessions looking particularly at the protection of women and children in war were held for people bearing weapons in the eastern regions. Information sessions were held for government armed forces in Kinshasa. The *Soldier's Handbook* was translated into Kiswahili, the main national language spoken in the east and south of the country.

The protection of children was also the main subject of a large number of dissemination sessions held for local human rights NGOs, the media, students and civic leaders.

Sharp increase in the volume of Red Cross messages

The tracing network and Red Cross message system was considerably improved in 2000. The Kinshasa delegation negotiated a simplification of procedures with the government which was followed by the rapid expansion of the tracing and message network. As a result, in the western area covered by the Kinshasa delegation over 4,500 messages a month were being handled by the second half of the year, and in the eastern area over 13,000 a month.

The programme to reunite unaccompanied children with their families also made significant progress in November. With the government's agreement, the ICRC chartered the first of a series of special flights which transferred 79 children from the east to Kinshasa and 77 to Katanga. Fourteen children from the west were reunited with their families in the east. Until then an average of only five children a week were being transferred by commercial flights via Nairobi. For the first time unaccompanied minors in Tanzanian refugee camps were reunited with their families in rebel-held Katanga.

Special position of the National Red Cross Society

The year was a turning point for the National Society. Representatives of branches in all provinces, with ICRC assistance, attended meetings of the Central Committee and General Assembly in Kinshasa in November. A new leadership was elected by the Assembly. These events demonstrated the National Society's unity and nationwide relevance in a country split by so many divisions. They also boosted the morale of many thousands of volunteers who constitute one of the main strengths of the Congo Red Cross.

Training workshops in emergency preparedness were organized by the ICRC and the local Red Cross in most major cities, including Kananga and Mbandaka near the front line. The ICRC provided training in tracing procedures,

office space and equipment for the National Society's regional offices, and installed HF transmitters in its provincial headquarters in Equateur, Kasai Oriental and Kasai Occidental. The ICRC also worked with the local Red Cross in their

hospital cleaning programme and provided regional and provincial officials with the means to attend the National Society's General Assembly in Kinshasa.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- visited over 1,600 people deprived of their freedom, including prisoners of war, people detained in connection

with the conflict in both government-controlled and rebel-held areas, and over 500 civilian internees;

- assisted in the repatriation of more than 100 POWs and over 150 civilian internees to Rwanda and of Congolese POWs from Chad to Kinshasa;



- reunited unaccompanied Congolese children with their families and repatriated Rwandan children to their home country;

- exchanged almost 70,000 Red Cross messages in both the government-controlled and rebel-held areas;



- assisted displaced people and other vulnerable civilians in government-held areas through the provision of

1,160 tonnes of food, 11 tonnes of seed and 230 tonnes of other relief supplies;

- assisted displaced people and other vulnerable groups in rebel-held areas through the provision of 5,200 tonnes of food, 412 tonnes of seed and 650 tonnes of other supplies;

- provided non-food items for over 12,000 people whose homes had been damaged or destroyed in the Kisangani fighting;



- started emergency repairs on Kisangani's hospital and the Tshopo hydroelectric power plant, both damaged in the fighting;

- aided more than 2,000 people wounded during the crisis in Kisangani in May and June by delivering medical and food supplies to 4 hospitals and 40 smaller health centres in the region;
- fitted new amputees at the Kalembe-Lembe prosthetic/orthotic workshop;
- conducted a war surgery seminar in conjunction with the Ministries of Health and Defence for 65 military and civilian surgeons and specialized nurses;



- began rehabilitation work on the main Kinshasa water-treatment plant serving 4 million people, supplied

chemicals for water purification to 16 national water company (REGIDESO) plants in the east, and as a one-off operation delivered 70 tonnes of water-treatment chemicals to the Kisangani water plant damaged in the fighting between Rwandan and Ugandan troops;



- trained 150 military stretcher-bearers in first aid for the war-wounded, in cooperation with the Congo Red Cross;

- supported the National Society in its regional development efforts by providing office space and equipment, installed 3 HF transmitters in provincial headquarters, provided training in dissemination and tracing, gave support for its hospital cleaning programme, and provided the means for regional leaders to attend the Society's General Assembly in Kinshasa;



- held humanitarian law sessions for military personnel on both sides of the front line focusing particularly on the

protection of women and children in war, and held similar sessions for local NGOs, civic leaders, the media and students.

REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO

ICRC delegation

+ ICRC office

In the last few days of 1999 a comprehensive peace agreement was signed between the government and the military opposition, ending the third period of civil war in the Congo since the introduction of a multiparty system in 1991. For humanitarian and relief agencies this meant a major change of emphasis and all parts of the country were now opened up to them.

The peace process

The peace agreement set up a *Comité de suivi*, a follow-up body comprising a mediator and representatives of the government and opposition parties, to monitor the transition from civil war to peace. An amnesty was declared and

detainees held in connection with the conflict were released. The commitment by all sides to the free movement of people and goods was respected. Over 12,000 former militia members were demobilized by the end of the year and 13,000 weapons were handed in, although an unknown number of small arms still remained in circulation. Some reintegration of former members of the armed forces took place. Despite a number of minor localized incidents, the country returned to a level of internal security it had not known for many years. For the ICRC and other agencies, the emphasis shifted to post-conflict rehabilitation.

Political timetable

Continued security, and therefore the future of rehabilitation activities, depended on the success of the political transition initiated by the peace agreement. In December 2000, the final report of the *Comité de suivi* was handed to President Sassou Nguesso and the international mediator of the peace accord, President Omar Bongo of Gabon. According to the report the conditions had been met for the international mediator to launch a national "dialogue without exclusion" to be undertaken by a national council of transition. A timetable for adopting a new democratic constitution by referendum in late 2001 was announced. Some notable opposition leaders in exile did not return to take part in the dialogue in 2000, but those already in the country became involved in the new political process. The Congolese political scene was still very fragmented with over 100 registered political parties. The parliamentary coalition led by the *Parti congolais du travail* remained in power throughout the year with executive control firmly in the hands of the President.

Influx of refugees

In October the Republic of the Congo felt the effects of the civil war in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo. According to UNHCR, fighting between government forces and rebels in Equateur province forced up to 100,000 people to cross the Ubangui river and seek refuge in the Congo.

Scale of humanitarian needs

The end of the war coincided with a rise in the price of oil, Congo's main export, bringing much needed funds into the exchequer. Congo's gross domestic product continued to grow in 2000. However, the country faced a huge external debt and the non-oil sectors of the economy remained in serious difficulty. The government moved to stimulate economic reconstruction during the year, particularly through transport schemes, but limited funds were available to tackle the humanitarian needs created by the conflict. Massive population displacement, the collapse of agriculture, serious damage to health, water and sanitation facilities, and a rise in the number of people below the poverty line provided the background against which the ICRC embarked on its post-conflict activities.

By the end of the war a third of the population – 800,000 people – were displaced from Brazzaville, the Pool, Niari, Bouenza and Lékoumou regions. An ICRC survey recorded a death rate in the Pool six times higher than that normally considered an emergency. Half the displaced population was malnourished. Clinics and schools were closed, farms destroyed and local civil administration abandoned.

Emergency post-conflict assistance was forthcoming from numerous UN agencies and NGOs by the middle of the year, but a question mark remained over longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction. The International Monetary Fund, World Bank and the European Union all held back financial support pending internal political and economic reform. For several months the ICRC was the most important source of assistance in Brazzaville and, with the opening up of internal communications, was able to extend its activities to other regions. However, the ICRC concentrated its efforts in the south of the country where most of the vulnerable groups were situated.

Change of focus

The ICRC continued its programmes to protect civilians, reunite families, visit detainees and promote humanitarian law, but with the ending of the conflict short-term rehabilitation, especially in the health sector, became a priority. A major health assistance programme was developed in Niari and the Pool, where help was given to 18 health centres serving a population of 180,000. Buildings were renovated and equipment, medicines and clean water supplies were provided in each case. Three ICRC health teams, based in major towns, provided regular back-up training in diagnosis, treatment and the management of the facilities. On average the health centres treated over 5,000 patients a month. By December 2000 the ICRC had completed the rehabilitation programme and handed over control to the local authorities.

At the national level the ICRC supported a vaccination campaign to eradicate poliomyelitis, also taking the opportunity to treat children for worms and provide much-needed vitamin A. Basic food requirements and other supplies were distributed to nine orphanages and three homes for the elderly.

Crop production was severely affected during the conflict and it is estimated that 75% of livestock was lost. The ICRC's food security initiatives in 2000 targeted 13,000 vulnerable families in the Pool region. Distribution of tools and seed were followed by regular visits to give advice and monitor progress. A trial income-generation project involved the distribution of chickens, for egg production, to particularly vulnerable single-parent families. By the end of the year the project was making good progress in stabilizing the lives of the families involved. Both projects aimed to restore a degree of self-sufficiency for the families and simulate rural production and trade.

Relations with the military

The return to peace created a less tense atmosphere for the ICRC's dealings with the military and access to new groups – reintegrated former soldiers and militiamen – became easier. Contact with the military authorities ensured that courses in the law of armed conflict continued to be compulsory in the new situation. Materials were given to military instructors and, as a new initiative, a training course was held for them in November. Training was also provided for police and security forces, and former rebels.

Red Cross cooperation

The ICRC helped the Congolese Red Cross, in cooperation with the International Federation, to restore its national network and structures. Funds were provided for a central committee meeting, the first since 1998, to elect its leadership. The ICRC also provided technical support for dissemination and information and to improve tracing procedures and the Red Cross message service.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- obtained access to all places of detention in the country, made recommendations for the improvement of conditions and made 45 visits to detention centres;



- arranged for the exchange of 5,892 Red Cross messages between separated family members, including Rwandan refugees;
- reunited 141 unaccompanied children with their families;



- provided emergency food supplies for 28,000 former residents and displaced people in Brazzaville, and transport for over 6,000 people to return to their place of origin;
- distributed agricultural tools, other non-food items, seed and livestock to 11,500 displaced families with access to land in the Pool and Niari regions;



- treated 1,500 malnourished children at a feeding centre at Kindamba;
- provided support for 18 health centres in the south of the country catering for returnees, displaced people and local residents, in the form of medicines, equipment and training, and repaired health facility buildings damaged during the conflict;



- improved the supply of clean water for 180,000 displaced people and local residents by providing water-treatment plants with spare parts and chemicals;
- repaired treatment plants and supply systems for 3 hospitals and 21 health clinics in Niari and the Pool, and for feeding centres in Brazzaville;



- supported the institutional development of the Congolese Red Cross and provided technical assistance for its dissemination, information and tracing services;



- increased awareness of international humanitarian law and the role of the ICRC among the armed and security forces, the police, militias and former rebels;
- provided the local and international media with regular information on the role of the ICRC, the Congolese Red Cross and the Movement.

RWANDA

PROTECTION

13,262,996

ASSISTANCE

17,100,625

PREVENTIVE ACTION

1,869,344

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

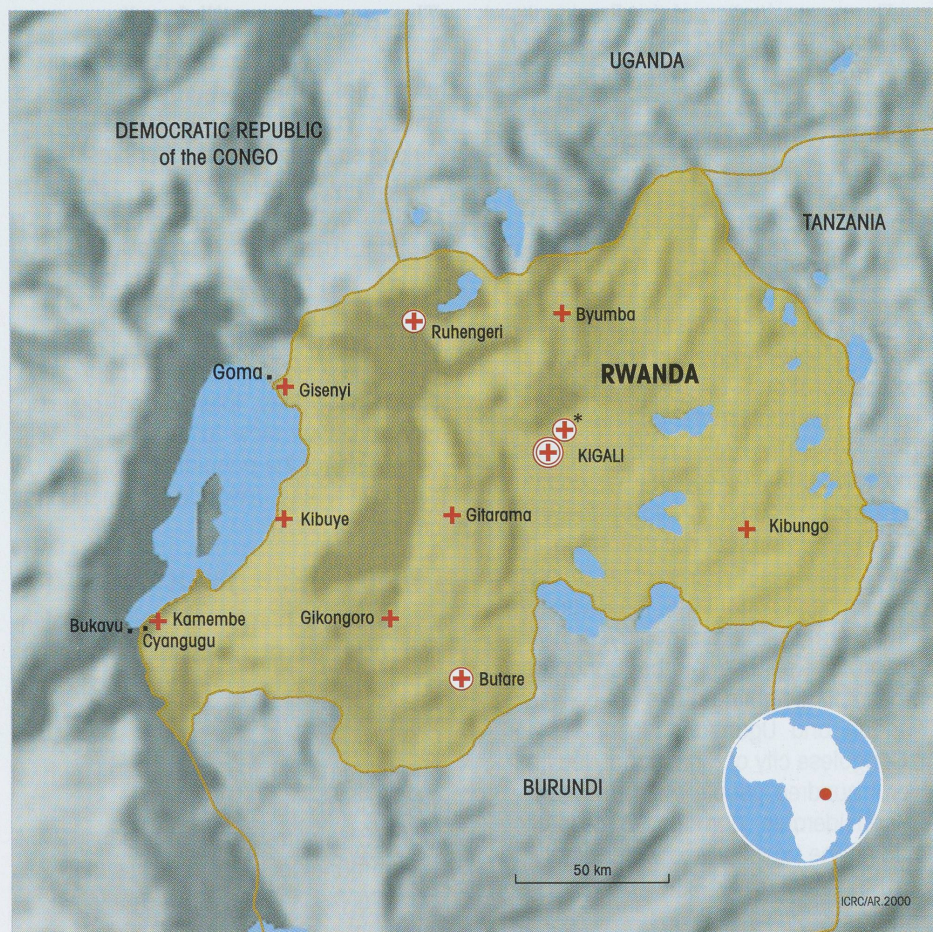
231,884

OVERHEADS

2,368,803

GENERAL

535,403

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 35,369,055

⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation ⊕ ICRC office ⊕* ICRC sub-delegation for NE region

In 2000 Rwanda made further progress towards reconciliation and reconstruction, following the 1994 genocide and many years of internal conflict. A start was made on reforming the justice system, although the reintroduction of the traditional system of local justice through conciliation, known as *gacaca*, was delayed. Administrative reforms were also initiated and ambitious plans to regenerate and diversify the economy, and develop education were outlined by the government. A census of the victims of the genocide was carried out in July aimed at establishing the number and names of people killed. Relations between the Arusha-based International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and

the government improved following mutual visits. An ICTR information centre was opened in Kigali for the Rwandan public.

The main political event of the year was the election in April of former Defence Minister and Vice-President Paul Kagame, as the fifth President of Rwanda, following the resignation of Pasteur Bizimungu. The delicate balance of parties in the coalition government and transitional national assembly ensured political stability. The Rwandan army also played a significant role in maintaining internal security.

The assassination of the President's adviser in January, and the resignation of the Prime Minister and his subsequent request for asylum in the USA, did not seem to have any significant effect on the situation.

Priority for security

Security in the country remained generally good and a top priority for the government, as the President emphasized in a speech given at the anniversary celebrations on 4 July of the Rwanda Patriotic Front's capture of the capital Kigali in 1994. Armed opponents of the government, based in Kivu, continued to make incursions into north-western Rwanda, the most notable being the attack in the Gisenyi prefecture in April 2000. At the regional level, the Rwandan Patriotic Army remained deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In May and June fighting broke out between Rwandan and Ugandan contingents in the Congolese city of Kinsangani, leaving several hundred people dead and causing considerable damage to property, including the hospital and water plant.

The situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was discussed at a summit in Lusaka aimed at reviving the 1999 peace agreement, but little progress was made and Rwandan troops continued to be stationed in eastern Congo.

The economy still fragile

The economic situation remained uncertain. Population growth, in what is already a densely populated country by African standards, put further pressure on the supply of basic goods, and food production problems were compounded by drought. There was a sharp increase in prices, especially for food and fuel. Production and trade remained stagnant and the decline in the value of the national currency added to the country's economic difficulties. International development aid was slow to materialize. With over 70% of the population living below the poverty line, Rwanda's humanitarian crisis was acute.

Legacy of the genocide

The large number of people in detention accused of genocide and crimes against humanity remained a major challenge for the authorities in 2000. The ICRC recorded a decrease in the overall number but the figure was still almost 113,000 by the end of the year. More than 78% were in central prisons, 27% in communal lock-ups and less than 2% in military prisons. Despite the decline in numbers, prison facilities remained severely overcrowded and inmates suffered the effects of poor health care, lack of medicines, malnutrition, inadequate water supply and poor hygiene. The ICRC tried to improve these conditions wherever it could. There were other legacies of the genocide: it caused tremendous disruption and dispersion of families, and widows and orphans became a large and identifiable vulnerable group.

ICRC priorities

Nearly all of the ICRC's activities in 2000 focused on people still suffering from the effects of the genocide and internal conflict in Rwanda during the 1990s. These activities took place against a background of limited international and local funding for reconstruction and rehabilitation. Many people who lost their livelihood in the mid-1990s still faced severe privation.

Assisting the large number of detainees accounted for a major part of the ICRC's work in the country. By the end of the year 760 visits had been made to 214 places of detention. Visits to prisoners of war and others detained in connection with the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued, and repatriations were arranged for Namibian, Ugandan and Zimbabwean prisoners. 13,500 tonnes of food were supplied to prisons, together with medicines, medical supplies and vitamins. Essential infrastructure was repaired or renovated in 19 places of detention.

The exchange of Red Cross messages and the programme to reunite families continued throughout the year. A fourth photo album of children separated from their families was produced in April in an effort to trace their relatives. School fees were paid for over 2,600 orphans.

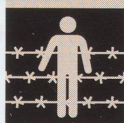
The ICRC also set up over 70 agricultural or pastoral micro-projects to help people who had lost their livelihood. More than 11,000 benefited from rural water projects.

Given Rwanda's recent history, the promotion of humanitarian law was another priority for the ICRC. Presentations, courses and seminars were held for members of the Rwandan Patriotic Army and the *gendarmerie*, and a wider public was reached through a weekly radio programme, media interviews and the production of a play.

Local cooperation

The Rwandan Red Cross, which had all but collapsed during the conflict, was further reorganized and developed in 1999. As a result the ICRC was able to sign a dissemination and information agreement with the Society in 2000. The ICRC also worked closely with NGOs dealing with unaccompanied children and those involved in detention issues.

IN 2000 THE ICRC



- carried out 760 visits to 214 prisons, lock-ups, police stations and military camps and registered 2,515 detainees;
- regularly visited 81 prisoners of war and arranged for the repatriation of POWs to their home countries;
- distributed 13,500 tonnes of food to prisons together with medicines, medical supplies and vitamins for detainees;



- reunited a total of 999 young children with their families in Rwanda and centralized data on unaccompanied children;
- exchanged 13,997 Red Cross messages;



- set up 76 small agricultural projects and completed 35 "quick impact" water-supply projects;
- completed plans for a rural water project covering 11,000 vulnerable residents;



- organized presentations on international humanitarian law for the armed forces and police;
- raised awareness of the ICRC's activities and role among the wider public through a weekly radio programme and the press.

UGANDA

PROTECTION

1,391,703

ASSISTANCE

8,242,591

PREVENTIVE ACTION

650,145

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

504,871

OVERHEADS

767,416

GENERAL

683,708

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 12,240,434

⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC presence ⊕ Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

In Uganda there was no respite in 2000 from the persistent internal and external conflicts. In a major referendum held in June, which passed off peacefully, an overwhelming majority of the population voted in favour of continuing President Yoweri Museveni's "no-party" system.

Internationally, the Ugandan armed forces remained involved in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, mainly through their strong support for two of the three Congolese rebel movements. In May and June, violent fighting broke out between Ugandan and Rwandan troops in Kisangani, despite their alliance in the internationalized internal conflict in the Democratic

Republic of the Congo. These clashes caused heavy loss of life, mostly among the civilian population, and generated a desperate need for humanitarian aid.⁷ Moreover, the peace agreement signed with Sudan in December 1999⁸ yielded only partial results. In January 2000 Uganda released 72 Sudanese prisoners of war, who were repatriated under the auspices of the ICRC.⁹ At the end of the same month, however, the Ugandan authorities accused Sudan of failing to respect the terms of the agreement – under which each party undertook to stop supporting armed opposition groups

⁷ See p. 53.

⁸ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 138.

⁹ See p. 90.

fighting against the other – and of continuing its support for the activities of the LRA* in northern Uganda.

Internally, the amnesty law adopted by the Ugandan parliament at the end of 1999, which gave all armed opposition groups the option of laying down their weapons "without fear of further pursuit", had little effect and, in particular, was rejected by the LRA. This amnesty, initially due to last for six months, was extended until January 2001. The internal conflicts continued on several fronts, especially in the north and south-west of the country, where there were 450,000 and 150,000 displaced people respectively. The deterioration in security conditions and the lack of security guarantees during the first part of the year forced the ICRC to interrupt its activities temporarily in these two regions. Furthermore, Ebola fever broke out for the first time in the country, in the northern Gulu district, causing even more hardship and distress for the local population, which was already suffering the effects of the armed conflict. The use of landmines in Acholiland in northern Uganda continued to pose a particularly grave threat.

Resumption of fighting in Acholiland

During the course of 1999, security had gradually improved in Acholiland, but the LRA resumed its infiltration of the region at the end of December 1999 and the situation continued to deteriorate in the early months of 2000. Displaced people who had left their camps (in this region, also known as "protected villages") in 1999 in order to return home now found it impossible to cultivate their land. For fear of looting, those who had managed to harvest their crops rushed to sell their produce at rates well below market prices.

For the first three months of the year, uncertain security conditions and the lack of security guarantees forced the ICRC to suspend all travel outside Gulu and Kitgum. At the end of March, however, after obtaining assurances from the LRA, delegates were able to resume their activities throughout the region, beginning with a comprehensive survey undertaken with the help of National Society volunteers. This revealed an increase in the number of displaced people (around 450,000 as opposed to 350,000 the previous year)¹⁰ and also in the scale of needs, especially in terms of hygiene and health education. Needs were particularly acute in Gulu district, where constantly high numbers of displaced people in the camps led to problems with latrines, waste disposal, drainage and so on. The ICRC therefore distributed hygiene items, sanitation equipment and basic essentials (tools, blankets, jerrycans, saucepans and soap) in Gulu and Kitgum districts.

In Kitgum district, after initially returning to the camps, a large number of displaced people adapted rapidly to their new environment and managed to plant crops. By August, almost 80% of the population of the district had returned to their original lands. But the unusually short rainy season and the resulting mediocre harvest further compromised economic security. The displaced people were therefore reduced to having to count on rations, notably from WFP, and tended to take greater risks by leaving the camps in order to work their land.

Seed distribution and aid for hospitals

With the aim of restoring self-sufficiency in terms of food, which had been disrupted by events in 2000, delegates carried out seed distributions in line with local needs. In Adjumani district, the harvest resulted in a food security level sufficient to allow the phasing out of food distributions to 1,000 beneficiaries in July. In Kitgum district, two recently established camps – Potika and Agoro – received seed, as did six camps in Gulu district which were not officially recognized.

* LRA: Lord's Resistance Army

¹⁰ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p.140.

On the health front, the ICRC continued to assist dispensaries and hospitals in Gulu and Kitgum districts, which were coping with serious logistic difficulties. The aid was mainly intended for the treatment of war-wounded and displaced persons. In 2000 there was an increase in the number of "war-wounded" in the northern Karamoja region following seasonal attacks by Karamajong warriors. The ICRC therefore supplied surgical material to the hospital in Kalongo (east of Kitgum).

Joint effort to combat the Ebola epidemic

An epidemic of Ebola fever, a serious haemorrhagic disease previously unknown in Uganda, broke out in Gulu district in October. By the end of the year, when it seemed that the epidemic was under control, 681 cases had been recorded, 159 of them fatal. The ICRC coordinated all action taken by the Movement and provided support in the form of equipment and personnel when the epidemic was at its height. At the request of the district health authorities, the Uganda Red Cross Society mobilized around 50 volunteers who, though well aware of the risks they were running, endeavoured to make the community understand how the disease was transmitted and helped detect new cases. The International Federation dispatched a specialized doctor to the scene to supervise the National Society volunteers. The effort to control the disease, and the restrictions imposed because of its highly contagious nature, absorbed much of the energy of the sub-delegation in the north of the country, with inevitable consequences for its other activities in the region.

Insecurity in the south-west

The unrelenting conflict between an armed opposition group, the ADF,* and the UPDF* in the south-west led to the displacement of some 150,000 civilians into 59 camps in 1999.¹¹ The difficult living conditions (problems of access to food and health care and poor hygiene conditions) prompted the ICRC to mount an emergency relief operation, but an upsurge in ADF operations and the lack of security guarantees forced it to partially suspend activities in December 1999. Delegates resumed their work at the end of April 2000, once they had obtained security guarantees from the ADF. The conflict continued for the rest of the year in the Bundibugyo area, and to a lesser extent in Kasese district, causing severe hardship among the civilian population.

The inhabitants of the south-west, who had not been living in a conflict situation for as long as those in the north, did not have as many coping mechanisms and were more dependent on external aid. Furthermore, the arrival of different groups of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo seeking safety in the region's camps put extra pressure on available resources. In this difficult situation, the ICRC strove to help the displaced to gain a measure of economic security, and continued its distributions of seed and farming implements.

An outbreak of cholera, a disease endemic to the region but aggravated by the overcrowding in the camps, was confirmed in Kasese district early in the year, followed a few months later by a new outbreak in Bundibugyo district. The ICRC provided material aid (medicines, soap and chlorine) and logistic support, and Uganda Red Cross volunteers helped to treat patients while continuing their health-care training programme and home visits.

* ADF: Allied Democratic Forces

* UPDF: Uganda People's Defence Forces

¹¹ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 139.

Return to West Nile

At the start of the year, about 1,000 displaced people originally from the Obongi and Aringa counties (West Nile) stated their intention of returning home. After assessing the situation on the ground, the ICRC supplied them with resettlement aid (basic essentials such as saucepans, blankets and soap, seed, tools and fishing tackle). The operation was successfully completed by mid-March. The ICRC also provided the district medical authorities with enough medicines and basic medical supplies for three months to help them cope with these new arrivals.

Visits to detainees

The number of people in prison dropped sharply over the year, thanks to hundreds of releases, some of which involved security detainees within the mandate of the ICRC. Delegates continued their visits to security detainees in military bases, police stations and civilian prisons, in accordance with the ICRC's usual procedures. On several occasions the organization made written representations to the detaining authorities to inform them of certain acute problems it had observed, and to suggest improvements.

The ICRC covered travel and accommodation expenses to enable needy families to visit their relatives detained in Luzira Upper and Mityana prisons. For humanitarian reasons, it was decided to include in this programme the destitute families of detainees who had been sentenced to death, even if they did not formally fall within the ICRC's mandate. The Red Cross message service, which the ICRC ran in cooperation with the National Society, also enabled security detainees to keep in touch with their relatives.

The prison authorities suffered from a chronic lack of financial and material resources, so to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases various medical supplies were distributed on an ad hoc basis, together with hygiene items and, in individual cases, high-energy food supplements. Farming projects designed to improve the detainees' food situation also continued.

Free "surgical camps"

The Ugandan hospitals were unable to cope with the influx of war-wounded, and a great many people did not have the means to pay for complicated operations. Ugandan surgeons therefore organized regional "surgical camps", lasting one week, during which they performed free operations on about 200 serious cases. As it had done in 1999, the ICRC supported the two camps held in 2000 by providing surgical supplies, antibiotics and dressings.

Similarly, as most amputees were unable to pay for treatment, the ICRC continued to support prosthetic/orthotic workshops in Fort Portal and Gulu. In early 2000 two technicians from the Mbarara workshop received training in Fort Portal, and subsequently manufactured prostheses and orthoses in Mbarara using the ICRC's production system.

Preparing the National Society for emergencies

The Uganda Red Cross was undergoing a process of reorganization and decentralization which was mobilizing its entire staff. The ICRC continued and expanded its work aimed at strengthening the capacity of the National Society so as to make it fully capable of playing its role as a partner in conflict zones. The number of regional branches directly supported by the ICRC therefore increased from six to 12. Following two workshops, organized in 1999 and 2000 respectively, all the key people in strategic branches received training in emergency preparedness and action. The delegation also helped organize the first annual seminar on the dissemination of humanitarian principles and rules and on tracing activities for branches in the north and east of the country.

Radio spots to promote protection of civilians

Throughout the year the ICRC continued its representations to all warring parties, stressing the need to respect humanitarian law, especially where the protection of civilians was concerned.

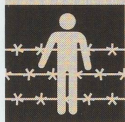
Considerable efforts were made to spread this message among armed opposition groups by means of a poster campaign and radio spots in the 11 languages spoken in the conflict areas. Initial surveys suggested that this campaign was having a positive impact, so it was decided to continue it in 2001.

Dissemination for high-ranking officers

The ICRC continued its consultations with the UPDF to promote the inclusion of humanitarian law in military instruction. This cooperation is to result in a handbook on humanitarian law, currently in preparation. As regards training in the law of armed conflict, in 2000 the ICRC concentrated on high-ranking officers at brigade and division level. Senior officers of the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (which is the ICRC's main partner for dialogue on the subject of visits to security detainees) received similar training, in addition to talks on human rights and the ICRC's detention-related activities.

The Ugandan police, which now has a handbook on human rights, also introduced humanitarian law into its training programme for candidates for promotion, although these innovations did not reach all 11 of the country's regions. The ICRC therefore organized two initial regional workshops for 24 police inspectors in December.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- repatriated 72 POWs from Uganda to Sudan and 28 POWs from Rwanda to Kampala;
- visited 845 detainees,

480 of them newly registered, in 58 places of detention;

- continued its agricultural assistance programme in 17 prisons;
- provided hygiene items, food and medicines on an ad hoc basis, according to need;
- organized visits for the families of detainees in close cooperation with the Uganda Red Cross Society;
- in cooperation with the National Society, exchanged 2,231 Red Cross messages between detainees and their families, mainly in Uganda but also abroad;
- gave parcels (blankets, soap, jerrycans, saucepans and hoes) and financial aid to 180 out of 503 former detainees returning home on their release;



- made representations to the parties concerned when it learned of acts of violence committed against civilians;

- in particular, raised the issue of landmines planted near civilian residential areas;
- made written and oral representations to the Ugandan authorities regarding the fighting in Kisangani (Democratic Republic of the Congo), to remind them of their obligations under humanitarian law, especially those relating to respect for the civilian population and the principles governing the conduct of hostilities;



- helped the Uganda Red Cross run its Red Cross message network for members of families split up by the fighting and for refugees;



- distributed 46 tonnes of seed, 11,800 tools, 61,000 jerrycans, 123,700 blankets and 210 tonnes of soap to

displaced persons in Acholiland (northern Uganda), and provided 1,000 people in the same area with monthly food rations;

- in Kasese and Kabarole districts (south-west of the country), distributed shelter materials, 20,350 jerrycans, 61 tonnes of soap, 38,000 blankets, 31,340 hoes and 130 tonnes of vegetable seed to 65,000 displaced persons;
- in Obongi and Aringa counties (West Nile), distributed resettlement parcels (saucepans, plastic sheeting and soap), seed and fishing tackle to 1,000 displaced persons;



- supplied 23 health centres and 9 hospitals in Acholiland and the south-west of the country with medicines and surgical

material;

- trained 25 nursing aides in Bundibugyo district;
- in cooperation with the National Society, distributed insecticide-treated mosquito nets to 4,000 households;
- supported National Society volunteers in Gulu district during the Ebola epidemic, supplying them with 3 vehicles and 2 drivers, protective clothing and disinfectants;
- provided hospitals treating Ebola patients with medical supplies and protective equipment;



- provided technical, material and financial assistance, and also training, for 3 workshops producing

10-15 prostheses and orthoses for amputees every month;



- in cooperation with the Uganda Red Cross, set up hygiene and health education sessions in 31 camps for displaced persons;

- carried out rehabilitation work to improve sanitary conditions in camps for the displaced (protection of wells and springs, rehabilitation of septic tanks);



- gave the Uganda Red Cross support for an open day organized to present the Movement and the fundamental Red Cross and Red Crescent

principles to 30 journalists in northern Uganda;

- at Makerere University, in cooperation with the law faculty, organized a week-long exhibition on the Ottawa treaty banning anti-personnel mines, and held a 1-day workshop on the same subject for 11 well-known media figures.

YAOUNDÉ

Regional delegation

(Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, São Tomé and Príncipe)

The region was stable and mainly at peace in 2000. The conflict in Tibesti in northern Chad rumbled on, and the renewed fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo brought an influx of refugees into the Central African Republic. Cameroon's dispute with Nigeria over the Bakassi peninsula, on the other hand, presented no threat to regional security as both countries awaited a decision by the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The ICRC's active role during the fighting over Bakassi in 1998, and in particular in the repatriation of prisoners of war, had established its credibility in Cameroon and helped it to develop relations with the government in 2000. The ICRC also reopened its office in N'Djamena during the year in response to unrest in Chad.

Continuing stability in Cameroon

A general atmosphere of stability and calm prevailed in Cameroon in 2000. While fragile, the economy revived, despite concern expressed in the media that the process of privatization might bring disturbances. In October, work also began on the World Bank-financed oil pipeline between Chad and Cameroon which will mean disruption, and in some cases displacement, for many small rural communities along its route. The ICRC indicated its readiness to support the Cameroon Red Cross Society, which has a good national network, in providing for communities concerned.

The activities of the secessionist Southern Cameroon's National Council also remained peaceful in 2000, despite the continued detention of its leader following his invasion of the Buea radio station at the end of 1999 to proclaim the independence of the English-speaking southern Cameroon.

Humanitarian law initiatives

The ICRC organized seminars, developed contacts with government and supplied documentary support to encourage Cameroon's accession to the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and ratification of the Ottawa treaty. It also supported the setting-up of an interministerial committee on international humanitarian law in Yaoundé. Humanitarian law was promoted in universities and a variety of civic forums. In June the regional delegation presented a handbook on the subject to the President of the Parliament and provided copies for all parliamentarians. Regular visits were made to security detainees and action was taken to improve conditions in gaols in Yaoundé and Douala.

Red Cross cooperation

In addition to holding courses for the armed forces, the delegation spread knowledge of ICRC activities, in cooperation with the National Society, through a weekly radio programme, information to journalists, and tracing and information workshops.

In July the ICRC supported a Cameroon Red Cross programme to promote respect for the red cross emblem. As part of the campaign 11,000 stickers were produced in English and French. The ICRC also helped the Society produce a quarterly newsletter and expand the Red Cross message service.

Conflict in northern Chad

The year began with a worsening of the situation in northern Chad¹² where the army clashed with the rebel Movement for Democracy and Justice. A battle at Bardai between the two sides on 17-18 July was the bloodiest since the conflict began, and in December another fierce battle took place near the Libyan border. Other areas of the country were also threatened with a resumption of rebel activity, while in the Doba region in the south the army was involved in pacifying the oil-producing area in advance of the construction of the Chad-Cameroon pipeline due to start in October. The project was causing considerable dissent among local communities along the pipeline route. During the army's activities rebel leader and former minister Moïse Ketté was killed. In response to the unrest in the south and conflict in the north, the ICRC reopened its office in the capital N'Djamena and stepped up its training in the rules of armed conflict. Contact was also made with the government to ensure access to detainees held in connection with the conflict in the north and the evacuation of the war-wounded. As part of its wider work on behalf of detainees, the ICRC submitted proposals to the authorities for improvements in living conditions in several prisons and encouraged the government to build a new detention facility, a decision which was taken during the year.

¹² A non-international armed conflict subject to the provisions of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions.

Prosthetic/orthotic programme

The ICRC, which had been supporting the country's prosthetic/orthotic centre since 1982, joined with a local NGO and a national agency in 2000 to extend help to mine victims in remote areas. The programme financed transport, accommodation and orthoses or prostheses for patients, the first of whom were treated in September.

Development of the Red Cross of Chad

The ICRC supported the new leadership of the Red Cross of Chad which took over in 2000. It organized training workshops in information, tracing, water and sanitation, and financed the Society's quarterly newsletter and radio programmes in French and Arabic. The ICRC welcomed the National Society's efforts to open up contacts with the mainly Muslim and Arabic-speaking population in the north.

The Central African Republic

More than 10,000 refugees fleeing the fighting in Equateur province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo arrived in the Central African Republic in 2000. Disruption of traffic on the Ubangui river due to the Congo conflict led to severe fuel and other shortages which put pressure on the newly elected government of President Patassé. The departure of the UN peace-keeping mission in February 2000 left a military void. A potential threat to security following the withdrawal was, however, averted by the efforts of the administration to make up back pay of the country's armed and security forces. The ICRC responded to the new situation by stepping up its training in humanitarian law. In July, 75 officers from the army, the presidential guard and the police force received training. With the reorganization of the army almost complete, the ICRC pressed for the incorporation of such training into the standard curriculum of the armed forces. Relations with the National Society also progressed well with the ICRC providing help for institutional development and tracing services. It also attended and provided support for the Society's General Assembly held in Bangui in May.

Refugee relief

In response to the influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ICRC put its emergency stock of supplies at the disposal of UNHCR, which coordinated the relief effort with a number of humanitarian agencies. The ICRC provided plastic sheeting, blankets and cooking utensils.

Apart from the new influx into the Central African Republic, the region in general saw a decline in refugee numbers in 2000. Congolese refugees in Gabon continued to return home following the Brazzaville peace agreement.

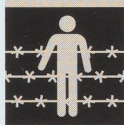
Equatorial Guinea

A new oil-producing State, Equatorial Guinea continued to make its presence known in the region in 2000 and in particular developed its relations with Nigeria following the settlement of a maritime border dispute. Relations with Cameroon, however, remained strained as Yaoundé maintained its refusal to expel opponents of the Equatorial Guinean government who had taken refuge there. An ICRC breakthrough in December 1999 in securing access to detainees was followed in May 2000 by further prison visits to 69 detainees in 18 centres of detention. Blankets, mattresses, cooking utensils, soap, buckets and mosquito nets were provided for the detainees. The National Society also worked to ensure a supply of safe water to prisons.

Gabon's oil production falters

The decline in oil production and the lack of new reserves posed a growing threat to Gabon's economy in 2000. Despite the downturn, the country remained stable with few signs of social discord. With no internal conflict and no detainee problem to deal with, the ICRC concentrated on promoting humanitarian law.

IN 2000 THE ICRC



- regularly visited security detainees, 16 held in Chad, 35 in Cameroon, and 1 in the Central African Republic, and

started visiting some 70 detainees in Equatorial Guinea;

- provided detainees with blankets, mattresses, cooking utensils, soap and buckets;



- monitored tracing activities throughout the region;



- provided emergency assistance through UNHCR to refugees in the Central African Republic fleeing the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

- reopened its office in N'Djamena to deal with the humanitarian needs arising from the intensification of fighting in the Tibesti region in northern Chad and the government's pacification activities in the south;

Promotion of international humanitarian law

When the Government of Equatorial Guinea requested the ICRC to assist in the promotion of international humanitarian law in the country, the ICRC responded by organizing a series of seminars and workshops in 2000. The ICRC also organized a series of seminars and workshops in 2000. The ICRC also organized a series of seminars and workshops in 2000.

Prosthetic/orthotic activities

The ICRC continued to be involved in prosthetic/orthotic activities in the country. The ICRC also organized a series of seminars and workshops in 2000. The ICRC also organized a series of seminars and workshops in 2000.



- assisted a prosthetic/orthotic programme in Chad for mine victims from remote areas of the country;



- provided financial support for the weekly radio programmes of the Chad and Cameroon Red Cross Societies;

- provided the National Societies of the region with training, financial and material support for institutional development, emergency preparedness, tracing services, and water and sanitation projects;

- gave financial support for the General Assembly meetings of the Central African and the São Tomé and Príncipe Red Cross Societies;



- undertook training and other activities with the armed and security forces of Cameroon, the Central African Republic and

Equatorial Guinea to promote better understanding of humanitarian law;

- encouraged the inclusion of humanitarian law in teaching programmes at academic institutions in Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic and Gabon.

ANGOLA

PROTECTION

2,288,049

ASSISTANCE

42,466,832

PREVENTIVE ACTION

1,282,307

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

159,615

OVERHEADS

2,312,212

GENERAL

1,603,606

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 50,112,621



ICRC delegation
 ICRC sub-delegation
 Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

Clashes between Angolan government forces and UNITA* fighters continued throughout 2000, with the government launching major offensives in May and September in the provinces of Bié, Uíge and Moxico, and announcing the capture of several towns. UNITA expanded its guerrilla activities, and in August attacked several places recently retaken by the army (Chipipa, Huambo and Catála). It also stepped up its ambushes on government convoys, making economic activity still more difficult. Clashes also occurred along the Namibian and Zambian borders, with some fighting between the Angolan and Zambian armies.

* UNITA: National Union for the Total Independence of Angola

In March, the UN Security Council discussed a report produced by a panel of experts on violations of the sanctions against UNITA; the report named individuals and countries suspected of violations. In April, the Security Council adopted resolution 1295, which took up many of the panel's recommendations and established a monitoring mechanism to collect and further investigate information regarding suspected sanctions violations. Following a visit to Angola, the members of the monitoring mechanism submitted a report to the Security Council in November, stating that UNITA was continuing to bypass UN sanctions.

The various military operations conducted in Angola had dire consequences in humanitarian terms. Not only did the fighting itself result in casualties, including civilians, but the poor security conditions – especially the presence of landmines – continued to make access to farmland difficult and thus to prevent the population from regaining their self-sufficiency in terms of food supplies. In addition, displaced people were unable to return to their homes and the fighting prompted further mass movements of the civilian population.

Continued assistance for the Planalto

The ICRC pursued and in some cases increased its assistance for vulnerable groups – both displaced and resident – and continued to monitor the food situation closely. A study launched in June 1999 on over 26,000 children in the Huambo region showed that in 2000 almost 65 % enjoyed an acceptable level of nutrition, as against 20 % at the start of the study.

Seed distribution in Huambo and Kuito

The delegation again set up an agricultural assistance programme, distributing hoes, seed and fertilizer. The programme started in June, the season for planting *nacas* – irrigated fields bordering rivers – and required a major logistic effort. At the same time food was distributed to enable some 67,000 displaced and resident families on the outskirts of Huambo and Kuito to survive the period between harvests. The distribution programme continued in September, in advance of the harvests in the *lavras* (rain-fed fields).

Access to detainees

Throughout the year, the delegation continued to make representations to the authorities with a view to regaining access, in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedures, to persons detained in connection with the internal conflict. Following a visit by the President of the ICRC, in December the Angolan armed forces' General Staff agreed in principle to the delegation resuming its work with detainees.

Working conditions still hazardous

The precarious security situation continued to impede the work of international and humanitarian organizations in Angola, with some of them suffering casualties among their staff. The ICRC delegation regularly updated its security rules in response to the situation. Conditions on the ground also prevented humanitarian workers from reaching conflict victims in many areas.

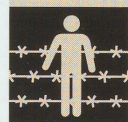
Promotion of international humanitarian law

Within the framework of its traditional activities, the ICRC pursued its efforts to promote humanitarian law in both civilian and military circles in Angola. One concrete result of these efforts was Angola's ratification of the Ottawa treaty in July.

Prosthetic/orthotic activities

The ICRC continued to fit amputees with artificial limbs in the prosthetic/orthotic centres in Kuito, Bomba Alta (Huambo) and Neves Bendinha (Luanda). The ICRC production units also continued to manufacture prosthetic/orthotic components. ICRC flights bringing in amputees from other provinces for fitting at the three centres resumed in January.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- took steps with a view to obtaining access to 7 Angolan nationals captured by the Namibian armed forces during the events in the Caprivi Strip in August 1999 and handed them over to the Angolan authorities;
- continued its representations to obtain access to persons arrested in connection with the internal conflict in Angola;
- in September, visited 56 persons – including 12 former UNITA fighters – who had surrendered to the government in the province of Malanje;



- working with the National Society, collected and distributed over 15,300 Red Cross messages exchanged between Angolan nationals and between refugees and their families abroad;
- successfully processed 14 tracing requests;
- reunited 6 people with their families, 5 of them unaccompanied children;



- distributed food and basic necessities (soap, blankets, jerrycans, etc.) to tens of thousands of displaced and resident persons in Huambo and Bié provinces, working with the National Society wherever possible;
- supplied food and material assistance to 500 patients in Huambo hospital;
- during a 6-month period, supplied 67,000 resident and displaced families living in villages and districts on the outskirts of Huambo and Kuito with agricultural assistance and food rations for the dry season, and started a similar programme for the rainy season;

- planted 800,000 trees in the Huambo and Kuito regions, in cooperation with the Angolan Ministry of Agriculture and a specialized local institute, as part of a reforestation programme designed to provide the resident population with wood and fruit and to stop soil erosion;



- supplied Huambo hospital with surgical and medical material and technical support for the treatment of around 3,780 patients;

- held 2 seminars on operating procedures and war surgery techniques for representatives of the Huambo provincial authorities and medical service, and for staff of Huambo hospital;
- in conjunction with the Angolan Ministry of Health, provided medical and technical support for 4 primary health-care facilities in Huambo province, and for a health post in a camp for displaced persons in Cuando;
- supplied medicines to 2 Angolan Red Cross health posts in Uige province and 2 others in Bié province;



- produced 2,369 prostheses and distributed orthopaedic components to other organizations working in this field;
- organized transport to and from the prosthetic/orthotic centres in Huambo and Neves Bendinha for about 10 patients from Malanje province and another 10 from Zaire province;
- fitted approximately 100 new amputees every month;
- repaired the prostheses of longer-term amputees;



- between February and May, worked with NGOs to provide drinking water for thousands of displaced persons in camps around Kuito;

- built over 1,190 latrines in camps for displaced persons, working with the National Society in certain cases;
- rehabilitated 13 water sources in different neighbourhoods of Kuito;
- carried out maintenance and renovation work on the sanitary facilities at Huambo hospital;
- taught over 3,000 displaced persons about basic hygiene principles using a theatre company;



- provided support and materials for the work carried out by the Angolan Red Cross to restore and maintain family links;



- gave presentations on humanitarian law, the Movement and the ICRC to over 1,500 members of the Angolan armed forces and national police;

- gave the first-ever course on human rights and humanitarian law for 20 instructors from Angolan police colleges;
- organized a 3-day seminar for 36 military instructors to promote the teaching of humanitarian law in the Angolan army;
- produced a weekly radio programme on various topics related to the ICRC's mandate;



- provided photos and video material for a UNICEF* exhibition on anti-personnel mines held to mark the first anniversary of the Ottawa treaty.

* UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

HARARE

Regional delegation

(Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

During 2000, political unrest persisted in Zimbabwe and there was a fresh upsurge of tension in Mozambique. The effects of the ongoing conflict in Angola continued to be felt on the territory of Namibia, whose armed forces, like those of Zimbabwe, were involved in the fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Zambia continued to receive thousands of Congolese refugees and people fleeing the fighting in Angola. Economic and social conditions remained difficult for most countries of the region, and as in other parts of southern Africa the effects of the AIDS epidemic were disastrous. The ICRC maintained its programmes of cooperation with the region's National Societies, providing financial or material assistance as needed and organizing training in emergency preparedness, crisis management and the restoration of family links. The Harare regional delegation also continued to promote knowledge of and respect for humanitarian law, targeting such groups as the authorities, the armed and security forces, academic circles, the media and NGOs. Discussions were held with the relevant authorities to encourage them to adopt national implementation measures and ratify various humanitarian treaties. During the year Botswana ratified the Ottawa treaty and the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Regional repercussions of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In accordance with the Third Geneva Convention, the ICRC carried out further visits to Rwandan prisoners of war held in Zimbabwe until it repatriated them in June. It also continued to visit Namibian and Zimbabwean POWs held in Kigali.

Tension along the borders of Namibia

Because of the presence – authorized by the Namibian government – of Angolan armed forces on Namibian territory,¹³ from which they were conducting operations against UNITA, the north-east of the country, especially the Kavango region, was the target of several attacks by armed groups. The resulting casualties included civilians. Furthermore, thousands of Angolans fleeing the fighting in the south of their country took refuge in Namibia. The Namibian army arrested several dozen suspected members of UNITA. The ICRC stepped up its presence in Namibia, opening a mission in Windhoek and setting up offices for the Kavango region and the Caprivi Strip. Tension persisted in these areas, prompting more civilians to seek refuge in Botswana. The regional delegation also increased its assistance to displaced persons in Namibia and helped refugees there re-establish links with their families. In August, the ICRC submitted a memorandum to the Namibian authorities on compliance with humanitarian law during their military operations against UNITA and in Angola.

Mounting tension in Mozambique

RENAMO,* the big losers in the December 1999 general elections, took the matter to the Mozambique Supreme Court. At the beginning of January 2000, the Court confirmed the ballot result; RENAMO took up its seats in the new parliament, but continued to demand a recount, threatening to set up a parallel government in the six provinces where it had won a majority. In May, a campaign of civil obedience culminated in an attack on a police station by about a hundred RENAMO sympathizers. The end of the year saw a wave of violence – clashes between the police and RENAMO members claimed some 40 victims, while several dozen people were arrested. In December, however, the leader of RENAMO and the President of Mozambique agreed on measures to ease tension.

Instability in Zimbabwe

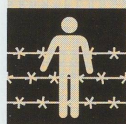
At the end of February, the Zimbabwean electorate rejected a government-backed proposal for a new constitution. Parliamentary elections took place in June against the background of a grave economic crisis. The elections were preceded by outbreaks of violence that claimed many victims and displaced several thousand people. The elections passed off peacefully, the ruling party (ZANU-PF*) winning by a narrow margin. On the economic front, the government issued a decree permitting the expropriation of land without compensation, and war veterans occupied white-owned farms with increasing frequency, often using violence in the process.

* RENAMO: Mozambican National Resistance Movement

* ZANU-PF: Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front

¹³ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 105.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- made regular visits to 129 people (of whom 22 were registered during the year) arrested and held in Namibia following the events in the Caprivi Strip, registered and visited a UNITA fighter in March, and registered 82 Angolans held in Namibia in September, visiting them several times thereafter;
- repatriated a Zimbabwean POW held in Rwanda in April, followed by 35 more in June;
- repatriated 11 Namibian POWs held in Rwanda in June;
- in Zimbabwe, continued regular visits to 43 Rwandan POWs registered in 1998, repatriating them in June;
- visited, in October and November, 19 Namibian nationals held in Botswana in connection with the events in the Caprivi Strip;
- continued representations to regain access to security detainees held in Zambia following the 1997 attempted *coup*, and to persons arrested in Zambia in connection with the Angola conflict;
- made 2 visits, at the end of the year, to an Angolan national held in Lusaka;
- gave all the above detainees the opportunity to exchange Red Cross messages with their families;



- registered 23 Rwandan unaccompanied children and a Congolese in Malawi;
- registered 4 Angolan unaccompanied children and a Burundian in Namibia;
- registered 21 Congolese unaccompanied children in Zambia;
- arranged, via the Mozambique Red Cross Society, for the reunification of families split up by the severe flooding that occurred in February;



- provided the International Federation with the following supplies for distribution to Mozambican flood victims: 12,000 blankets, 2,000 tarpaulins and 2 tonnes of soap;
- through the National Society, distributed food and material assistance to 4,000 displaced persons in Zambia, near the Angolan border;
- working in conjunction with the National Society, provided ad hoc material assistance to over 3,500 persons displaced or otherwise affected by the political violence in Zimbabwe;



- provided material and technical assistance to the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society during its preparations for the elections;
- advised the Mozambique Red Cross on operations to restore family links following the floods in February;
- attended a meeting of the Southern African Partnership of Red Cross Societies, held in Maputo in October, to discuss various topics concerning the National Societies of the region;
- helped launch campaigns in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia against misuse of the red cross emblem;

- stepped up its support for activities to restore family links carried out in refugee camps by the Red Cross Societies of Zambia, Malawi, Botswana and Namibia;



- organized several presentations and seminars on the law of war, both at the SADC* Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Harare and as part of the British Military Advisory Training Team Regional Senior Officers' Development Course;
- gave a number of other presentations on humanitarian law, the Red Cross principles and the work of the ICRC, in some cases together with National Societies or other organizations, for representatives of the authorities and the armed and security forces of the countries covered by the Harare regional delegation.

* SADC: Southern African Development Community

PRETORIA

Regional delegation

(Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland)

The political situation was relatively calm in all countries covered by the Pretoria regional delegation except for the Comoros, Lesotho and Swaziland, where tensions persisted. The delegation took action to help victims of unrest wherever necessary, mainly via the National Societies. The ICRC continued to supply institutional, material and financial support for National Society development activities, notably dissemination of international humanitarian law, restoration of family links and emergency preparedness. In addition, the regional delegation pursued its efforts to promote humanitarian law in political, military and academic circles, in schools, among the general public and in the media. By offering technical support, the delegation encouraged States to implement humanitarian law at the national level and to ratify humanitarian treaties. In June the Seychelles ratified the 1980 United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols, and the Ottawa treaty, while in November South Africa ratified the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Instability in the Comoros

In January, Anjouan confirmed its intention to secede – and hence to repudiate the April 1999 Antananarivo agreement which granted the island a large degree of autonomy¹⁴ – in a referendum whose results were rejected by the federal authorities in Moroni. The authorities also imposed economic and financial sanctions on Anjouan, and the OAU threatened to do likewise if the island's leaders failed to sign the Antananarivo agreement promptly. Following a mission to the country in June, the OAU also urged the government of the Comoros, led by Colonel Assoumani (who had survived a *coup* attempt in March), to hand over power to a prime minister chosen by the political parties. Relations between the central authorities and those of Anjouan improved substantially during the second half of the year, leading to the signing in August of a reconciliation agreement in Fomboni, capital of the island of Moheli. The agreement – which was rejected by the other African governments – gave each of the three Comoros islands control of most of its internal affairs. A tripartite commission was set up in November to produce a draft constitution for submission to a national referendum. However, signing of the agreement gave rise to disturbances in the capital of Anjouan, leading to arrests. The ICRC made a number of visits to the Comoros in 2000 to evaluate the humanitarian situation and hold discussions with the civilian and military authorities and with the leadership of the National Society. During these visits, ICRC delegates had access to persons detained in connection with the attempted *coup* on Grande Comore and the disturbances on Anjouan. In September, following an ICRC visit, the government of the Comoros signed the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

¹⁴ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, pp. 108-109.

Sentencing of police and military personnel involved in Lesotho mutinies

The trials of police and military personnel accused of mutiny following the events of 1997¹⁵ and 1998¹⁶ continued into 2000. A total of 25 members of the police and three military personnel, all of whom were receiving ICRC visits, were tried and sentenced. The general elections originally scheduled for March, then for October, were further postponed until 2001, and this prolonged the political instability which had beset the country for several years.

Tension in Swaziland

Conflict flared in September between the chiefs of two villages and an associate of the King, prompting intervention by the security forces. Tension subsequently spread to the rest of the country, as this local problem brought to the surface more generalized social and political discontent, accentuated by a deteriorating economy. Demonstrations, some of them involving clashes with the police, took place at the instigation of the unions and of political groups opposed to the monarchy. The National Society treated more than 250 casualties during these confrontations.

¹⁵ See the ICRC's 1997 *Annual Report*, p. 93.

¹⁶ See the ICRC's 1998 *Annual Report*, p. 98.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- visited 38 persons detained in the Comoros for involvement in the March *coup* attempt or arrested during the disturbances on Anjouan in August;
- in Lesotho, made repeat visits in May to 72 security detainees held in the Maseru central prison and high-security prison;
- provided all detainees with material aid and offered them the opportunity to exchange Red Cross messages with their families;



- handled 1,163 Red Cross messages to help maintain contact between refugees in South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland and their families abroad;



- provided support for training in cholera prevention and treatment for over 80 Comoros Red Crescent volunteers;
- helped the National Society train volunteers and disseminate humanitarian law among government representatives and military personnel by providing technical and financial support;
- provided technical assistance for the emergency preparedness programmes of the Lesotho and Swaziland Red Cross Societies;
- translated a first-aid manual into local (South African) languages;

- continued to support the community first-aid programmes of the South African Red Cross Soweto branch and of the Malagasy Red Cross;
- provided funds and materials for Mauritius Red Cross training programmes;
- financed and conducted a workshop on dissemination and information for 13 National Societies of countries covered by the Pretoria and Harare regional delegations;



- tested a humanitarian law teaching module with students in Soweto and the Cape;
- organized and conducted, or participated in, humanitarian law dissemination sessions for police and military personnel in Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland;
- ran a course in February primarily intended for future South African military observers about to join UN contingents in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

ERITREA

PROTECTION

2,429,375

ASSISTANCE

17,336,890

PREVENTIVE ACTION

102,787

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

602,130

OVERHEADS

1,144,236

GENERAL

215,616

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 21,831,034



⊕ ICRC delegation + ICRC office

The conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, which had varied in intensity since 1998,¹⁷ entered a phase of large-scale hostilities on 12 May 2000, with serious consequences in humanitarian terms. On 18 June the hostilities were ended by an agreement reached in Algiers under the auspices of the OAU and the United States. This accord provided for a demilitarized "temporary security zone" 25 kilometres wide to be placed under the control of a United Nations peace-keeping force. Two UN Security Council resolutions (Nos 1312 and 1320) subsequently set up the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and

Eritrea (UNMEE) and authorized it to deploy a force of up to 4,200 men in the two countries. Their task was to monitor compliance with the cessation of hostilities and to supervise the redeployment of the warring forces outside the buffer zone until the border was precisely demarcated by international experts.

By the end of the year this deployment was three-quarters complete. It was a prelude to the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces from areas that had not been administered by the Ethiopian government before 6 May 1998, and to the redeployment of Eritrean troops outside the temporary security zone. A comprehensive peace agreement between the two countries (permanent cessation of

¹⁷ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 112.

EAST AFRICA ERITREA

hostilities) was signed on 12 December in Algiers.

This text required that the two parties release and repatriate all prisoners of war without delay, and that all other civilians detained or interned in connection with the conflict be either repatriated or authorized to return to their most recent home. Wounded and sick POWs were the first to be repatriated, under ICRC auspices, on 23 and 24 December, in an operation involving 359 Eritrean and 360 Ethiopian POWs.

In 2000, the country also restored diplomatic relations with two of its neighbours, Sudan and Djibouti.

First visits to POWs

On 14 August, the Swiss Confederation (the depositary State of the Geneva Conventions) officially announced that Eritrea had deposited its instruments of accession to the Geneva Conventions, thereby becoming the 189th State Party. This accession had immediate consequences for the ICRC's protection activities. As early as September, delegates were able, for the first time since the start of the conflict,¹⁸ to visit Ethiopian POWs detained in Eritrea, register them and check their conditions of detention.¹⁹ The visits took place in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedures, and assistance was provided to improve the prisoners' living conditions.

Civilians deprived of their freedom

Following the resumption of hostilities on 12 May, the Eritrean authorities interned a number of civilians of Ethiopian origin in various camps. The ICRC regularly visited two camps housing over 4,300 civilian internees protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention. To improve their conditions of internment, blankets and hygiene items were distributed, and one of the camps received regular deliveries of water by tanker truck.

Another consequence of Eritrea's accession to the Geneva Conventions was that access for the ICRC was extended to a number of other places of detention, such as police stations and prisons, where over 1,200 civilians of Ethiopian origin protected by the Fourth Convention were being held. Discussions took place with a view to obtaining access for the ICRC to the remaining places of detention.

Safe passage for people expelled and repatriated

With the resumption of hostilities in May, Eritrea's attitude to residents of Ethiopian origin changed significantly. From that time, the Eritrean government encouraged their repatriation to Ethiopia. Following the agreement of 18 June, and at the request of the two governments concerned, the ICRC organized the safe return to Ethiopia of over 12,000 civilians of Ethiopian origin (including civilian internees and civilians deprived of their freedom) who had been expelled or had expressed the wish to leave Eritrea, where they were resident. Delegates interviewed them beforehand to find out whether they needed to restore or maintain contact with their families. The ICRC also organized the safe repatriation of civilians of Eritrean origin who had been expelled from Addis Ababa, or who had expressed the wish to go to Eritrea.²⁰

Each time, water and high-protein biscuits were distributed to the civilians concerned. Other Ethiopian civilians returned to their country in July and August without any ICRC involvement at the border.

In view of the tensions between the two communities in Eritrea, the ICRC continued to monitor Ethiopian residents' living conditions very closely, and to remind the relevant authorities of their obligations.

Protecting civilians in occupied territory

During the hostilities in May-June 2000, some Eritrean territories were occupied by the Ethiopian army. The ICRC gained access to these occupied territories in mid-September and carried out weekly visits to Eritrean civilians living in the Senafe region, who were protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention. All these people – some 45,000 – received aid in the form of food and hygiene items. Delegates also helped to repair the water-supply system, which had been damaged during the fighting, and provided four health posts with medical supplies.

In accordance with the rules protecting civilians living under occupation, the ICRC continued to monitor closely the living conditions of Eritrean civilians in these territories and to remind the relevant authorities of their obligations in this respect.

Family news

Red Cross messages remained the main means of restoring contact between family members separated by the conflict, whether between the two countries or between people living in the occupied territories and their relatives elsewhere in Eritrea. This work expanded considerably in close cooperation with the National Society.

¹⁸ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 113.

¹⁹ See p. 82 (for Eritrean POWs visited in Ethiopia).

²⁰ See p. 82.

Assistance for war-wounded

In May and June, when the hostilities were at their height, hospitals were inundated with war-wounded (between 150 and 300 a day in the Asmara hospital alone).

The ICRC provided considerable material assistance and a surgical team composed of a surgeon, an anaesthetist and two specialized nurses. A maxillo-facial surgeon and an anaesthetist also divided their time between treating patients and training Eritrean colleagues.

The training of Eritrean medical personnel, an important part of the ICRC's activities, had to be interrupted during the hostilities, but was resumed at the end of July. The training courses were intended mainly for nurses in traumatology and those working in intensive care. The first training programme for future physiotherapists, scheduled to last 18 months, began in February.²¹

Assistance for internally displaced persons

The resumption of hostilities had serious consequences for the civilian population. In less than 10 days, 750,000 civilians – according to government estimates – were displaced and swelled the ranks of the tens of thousands already living in camps. The occupation of the plains in the south-west and the centre forced the population, including people who had already been displaced, to seek refuge in drought-stricken areas in the north.

Working in close cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Eritrea, the ICRC concentrated on non-food aid and on water and sanitation programmes for 150,000 beneficiaries in 20 camps. A specialized engineer joined the ICRC team in Eritrea for this purpose. During the emergency phase, water had to be delivered by tanker truck to camps for the displaced and to towns and villages affected by the war. Once the emergency was over, the focus shifted to the installation of temporary water-supply systems in the camps and repairs on systems damaged by fighting in residential areas. In the Gash-Barka area, host families also received support in the form of non-food aid.

After the cessation of hostilities, some of the displaced people gradually began to return to their villages, and by the end of the year the number of displaced had declined considerably. Some Eritrean refugees in Sudan likewise returned across the border.²² In response to these movements, the ICRC continued its shelter programmes and stepped up its water and sanitation activities, with special emphasis on villages to which people were returning.

Assistance for drought victims

A shortage of rainfall in some areas added to the country's problems. Particularly hard hit was the Zoba Anseba region in the north, where drought affected the harvest and further aggravated the nutritional situation of the local residents, who had also taken in a good many displaced people.

Following a joint assessment in the Zoba Anseba region, the Eritrean Red Cross, with ICRC support, carried out regular distributions of food to 88,133 people between October and December.

First police training course

Following Eritrea's accession to the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC organized a dissemination course at the Asmara Police Academy for the first time since the country gained independence. Most of the 50 participants were high-ranking officers in charge of training.

Meetings took place with the Minister of Justice to discuss the translation of the Geneva Conventions.

Cooperation with the Red Cross Society

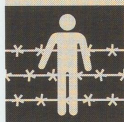
The ICRC did what it could to support the Red Cross Society of Eritrea, whose recognition process could not begin until Eritrea had acceded to the Geneva Conventions. In November, the government therefore appointed an official responsible for advising it on the procedures to follow to gain recognition for the Society, which at that time was recognized neither by the Eritrean government nor by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Eritrean Red Cross, which was facing many challenges, demonstrated its operational capacity through its activities for internally displaced persons and victims of the drought. The ICRC continued to provide financial and technical support in the spheres of dissemination, tracing and emergency preparedness. A framework agreement between the two parties, defining their respective roles and responsibilities, was signed in February.

²¹ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 114.

²² See p. 91.

IN 2000, THE ICRC:



- visited over 1,000 Ethiopian POWs protected by the Third Geneva Convention, who were held in 1 camp;

- visited over 4,300 civilian internees and over 1,200 civilians of Ethiopian origin protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention, who were held in 21 places of detention;



- in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Eritrea, organized safe passage across the front lines for 12,493 civilians

of Ethiopian origin who had been expelled or were returning voluntarily to Ethiopia, including over 5,000 civilian internees and other civilians deprived of their freedom;

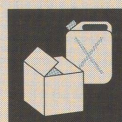
- helped the Eritrean Red Cross ensure the safe repatriation of 357 people of Eritrean origin who had been expelled or were returning voluntarily from Ethiopia;
- made representations to the authorities to remind them of their obligations vis-à-vis civilians protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention, i. e., people of Ethiopian origin in Eritrea, and made representations to the Ethiopian authorities concerning Eritreans living in occupied territories;



- working with the respective Red Cross Societies, exchanged 16,326 messages between Ethiopian and

Eritrean POWs and their families;

- working jointly with the Eritrean Red Cross Society, exchanged 13,288 Red Cross messages between families living in Eritrea and relatives from whom they had been separated by the war and who were living in Ethiopia (including civilian internees), in the occupied territories or in other countries;
- reunited 109 unaccompanied children and other vulnerable persons with their families in Eritrea;



- in cooperation with the Eritrean Red Cross, distributed aid to over 150,000 civilians affected by the conflict, in the form

of 147,130 blankets, 15,254 tents and other non-food items;

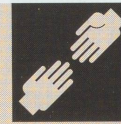
- financed projects to supply water to displaced persons and internees;



- in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, provided enough surgical supplies to treat 10,000 war-wounded (brought in

by air because of the emergency);

- gave a course on traumatology to 11 doctors and 65 nurses;
- for the first time, launched an 18-month training programme for future physiotherapists, and provided basic physiotherapy equipment for 8 hospitals;



- supported the Eritrean Red Cross in its efforts to strengthen its emergency services and to develop its capacity in the areas of

dissemination and restoration of family links;

- jointly with the International Federation, organized 2 seminars on disaster preparedness for senior staff of the Eritrean Red Cross;
- financed the purchase of an ambulance for the Mendefera branch of the Eritrean Red Cross;
- as lead agency for the Movement, supported the Eritrean Red Cross in its emergency response to the drought in Zoba Anseba;



- encouraged the authorities to incorporate international humanitarian law into national legislation;

• donated a basic library on humanitarian law to the Law Faculty of the University of Asmara;

- together with the Eritrean Red Cross, organized dissemination sessions for high school teachers in Zoba Maakel and Asmara.

ETHIOPIA

PROTECTION

4,776,260

ASSISTANCE

22,622,763

PREVENTIVE ACTION

1,191,284

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

1,330,189

OVERHEADS

1,721,361

GENERAL

518,750

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 32,160,607

⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation ⊕ ICRC presence/antenna ⊕ Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

In May and June 2000 the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, which had serious consequences in humanitarian terms, flared up into large-scale hostilities. These were brought to an end by an agreement to cease active hostilities signed on 18 June under the auspices of the OAU and the United States, and peace was definitively restored with the signing of an accord in Algiers on 12 December. This accord provided for a number of measures intended to resolve the dispute between the two countries and bring about the release of POWs and other persons detained in connection with the conflict.²³

²³ See pp. 77-78.

The effects of the war were compounded by drought, which was particularly severe in Somali National Regional State (formerly the Ogaden). To make matters worse, this region, already one of the poorest in Ethiopia, experienced growing security problems during the year under review owing to the activities of armed opposition groups. This led to the postponement until September of federal and regional elections, which were held in the rest of the country in May and resulted in a comfortable electoral victory for the outgoing government.

Visits to POWs and civilian internees

The ICRC paid regular visits to Eritrean POWs, who were protected by the Third Geneva Convention,²⁴ and also to civilians of Eritrean origin interned because of the conflict, who were protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention. The ICRC distributed material aid (hygiene products and educational and recreational materials) directly to both groups and delivered basic medical supplies to the camp clinics. Both orally and in writing, the delegation informed the relevant authorities of its findings regarding the treatment of internees and their living conditions.

Safe passage for people expelled or repatriated

Once active hostilities had come to an end, the ICRC organized the crossing of the demarcation line, safely and with dignity, for 327 civilians of Eritrean origin who had either been expelled from Ethiopia or were returning voluntarily to Eritrea. Similarly, over 12,000 civilians of Ethiopian origin living in Eritrea were repatriated.²⁵ These repatriation operations took place at the request of the governments in Addis Ababa and Asmara.

The delegation closely monitored the situation of civilians of Eritrean origin living in Ethiopia, who were protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention. In particular, a health delegate, with the help of a representative of the Eritrean community, kept track of over 1,700 sick and destitute Eritreans in Addis Ababa, buying them basic medicines or arranging for their transfer to hospital as needed.

Forwarding family news

The displacement of part of the population – due primarily to the international conflict with Eritrea – caused thousands of people to lose contact with their families. Minors found themselves separated from their parents, and many families were without news of relatives in the armed forces. The ICRC, in cooperation with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, set up a network for the collection and distribution of Red Cross messages.

Assistance for displaced persons interned in the north

Emergency supplies of medicines were delivered at the start of the year to the clinics in two camps housing over 5,000 people from the border regions (Baati and Waele Nehbi) who had been displaced by the conflict. Water was supplied to the camps and sanitation work was carried out in cooperation with MSF-Holland.

Whether or not these people – and others who had been displaced by the fighting – returned home depended mainly on mine clearance: anti-personnel mines planted during the conflict continued to be a very real problem along the border, in both Eritrea and Ethiopia.

War-wounded and amputees

During the hostilities in May-June, surgical facilities had to cope with large numbers of war-wounded who needed surgical treatment and prostheses and/or orthoses.

The ICRC helped Ethiopian military surgeons to treat over 400 wounded, and completely fitted out an operating theatre in the military hospital in Degen (Tigray). ICRC surgeons trained medical personnel and worked alongside their Ethiopian colleagues in several of the country's hospitals. The delegation provided medical equipment for the Armed Forces General Hospital in Addis Ababa, and for various civilian hospitals in Tigray, for the treatment of wounded civil-

ians and military personnel. An emergency stock sufficient for 2,000 more wounded was also established.

Two ICRC technicians continued to support four prosthetic/orthotic centres: Addis Ababa (which serves as a regional centre for Africa and the Middle East), Dessie, Harar and Mekele. The ICRC funded treatment for 1,252 war amputees, 617 of whom had been maimed by anti-personnel mines, and provided material support for prosthesis production in the Dessie, Harar and Mekele workshops.

Visits to police stations in Addis Ababa resume

The ICRC continued its regular visits to persons detained for reasons connected with the change of government in 1991 or for reasons of State security. In 2000 there were over 8,210 such detainees.

On 9 May, the delegation was authorized to resume its visits to people imprisoned in the Central Investigation Department and in Addis Ababa's 29 police stations.²⁶ Following these visits, a report summing up the ICRC's observations and recommendations was delivered to the relevant authorities. The delegation continued its efforts to gain access to detainees being held in a transit camp in the capital.

Representations were made to the authorities concerning the extrajudicial detention of persons coming within the ICRC's mandate who had been held without charge for lengthy periods. Subsequently, trials were resumed for some of these detainees, while others were released. The ICRC continued its regular observation of two cases being tried *in camera* in the Federal High Court in Addis Ababa, and five other cases being tried in other courts.

²⁴ See p. 78.

²⁵ *Idem*.

²⁶ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 118.

Assistance of various kinds for drought victims

The scarcity of the rains wiped out huge numbers of livestock and caused major food losses. The drought had particularly harsh consequences in Somali National Regional State, which is one of the poorest and most underdeveloped regions in Ethiopia and where internal tension persisted. Faced with the prospect of famine, a large proportion of the population moved elsewhere in search of food and grazing for their livestock, or congregated around towns and villages.

Following surveys carried out in February and March, which revealed high mortality rates linked to malnutrition, the ICRC, with the help of the Ethiopian Red Cross, launched a large-scale operation in aid of some 190,000 beneficiaries in the south of Somali National Regional State (Gode, Fik and Afder). The food distributions were intended to complement action taken by UN agencies and the Ethiopian Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Commission. In a first phase, from 12 April to 5 June, an airlift brought food from Nairobi (Kenya) to Gode and Dire Dawa. Thereafter, this emergency aid arrived by ship in the ports of Berbera (Somalia) and Djibouti, from where it was sent on by truck to the distribution centres.

The most vulnerable families also received soap, plastic-coated tarpaulins and sorghum seed. An emergency veterinary project to distribute antibiotics and anti-parasitics for 140,000 head of livestock was launched at the end of March.

In August, when the food situation had improved and the emergency phase had ended, it was decided to reduce food distributions and concentrate instead on agricultural and economic rehabilitation programmes. In November 2000 a food-for-work project was set up, aimed at

increasing the area under cultivation by improving the rainwater retention and irrigation systems in 10 communities. A survey was launched to study the possibility of extending the project to other communities in 2001.

In Gode, the project to increase the town's water supply by 50%, which had been under way since 1998,²⁷ was completed early in the year with the rehabilitation of the pumping station and the installation of a system to supply water to five schools and the hospital. The ICRC also provided communities in the Afder region with technical and material assistance in rehabilitating five major wells. These areas were the scene of inter-clan disputes over land and access to water.

Agreements with the Ethiopian Red Cross

In 2000 the Ethiopian Red Cross had to cope with war and drought at one and the same time. Working in cooperation with the International Federation, the ICRC maintained an operational partnership with the National Society to build up its capacity in the following spheres: tracing activities, spreading knowledge of humanitarian law and principles, conflict preparedness and strengthening the branches in Tigray and Somali National Regional State. Agreements to this effect were signed in March 2000, giving priority to five pilot branches and to regions beset by open or latent conflict.

In the Tigray region in particular, this partnership focused on assisting people displaced by the international conflict through the training of surgeons, increasing stocks of surgical supplies in civilian hospitals, ambulance maintenance and training of volunteers in first aid.

Spreading knowledge of international humanitarian law

In August a dissemination session was held for the first time for members of the Central Investigation Department, one of the ICRC's most important partners for dialogue on issues concerning security detainees. The book *To Serve and to Protect* was translated into Amharic and distributed to Ethiopian police instructors.

Following the translation of the Geneva Conventions into Amharic,²⁸ it was decided to produce 1,000 copies of the text for members of government and academic circles. The delegation continued its dialogue with the University of Addis Ababa and the Ethiopian Civil Service College on incorporating a substantial course on humanitarian law into their curricula.

The ICRC also produced an Amharic version of the *Soldier's Handbook*, which sums up the basic rules of the law of armed conflict and also contains a section on first aid. These booklets were distributed in June to 40,000 soldiers, through the medical service of the Ethiopian armed forces.

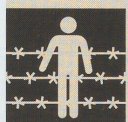
ICRC mission to the OAU

The ICRC's permanent mission to the OAU concentrated on gaining a better understanding of the political scene in Africa from within, and on developing sound relations with various organizations and their accredited ambassadors: the OAU itself, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, specialized UN agencies, regional African organizations and NGOs. By this means the ICRC strove to promote wider recognition for and application of humanitarian law throughout Africa, and to spread knowledge of the ICRC's role and activities worldwide.

²⁷ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 121.

²⁸ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 122.

IN 2000, THE ICRC:



- visited over 2,500 Eritrean POWs, including some 2,000 captured/newly registered during the

previous year, who were protected by the Third Geneva Convention and were detained in 2 main internment camps;

- visited over 1,200 Eritrean civilians protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention, who were interned in 6 places of detention;
- in 117 places of detention, visited over 6,200 detainees out of a total of over 8,200 people who had been deprived of their freedom for reasons to do with the change of government in 1991 or for reasons of State security, and supplied them with basic medical equipment, blankets, hygiene products and recreational items as needed;
- exchanged over 31,500 Red Cross messages between these detainees and their families;
- repaired water-supply and sanitation systems in 22 prisons, benefiting over 23,000 detainees, including POWs;



- by organizing their safe passage, assisted in the repatriation to Eritrea of 327 civilians of Eritrean origin;

• in cooperation with the Tigray Red Cross, organized the safe passage across the front lines of over 12,400 civilians of Ethiopian origin who had been expelled or were returning voluntarily to Ethiopia, and 2,700 civilian internees of Ethiopian origin;



unaccompanied children and other vulnerable individuals of Eritrean origin with their families;



- imported 8,640 tonnes of emergency food aid which was distributed to almost 190,000 people affected by the drought in Somali National Regional State;
- distributed 185 tonnes of seed and veterinary medicines to farmers and herdsmen, and over 4 tonnes of soap and 8,450 plastic-coated tarpaulins to families affected by the drought;



- gave assistance of various kinds (ambulance services, medical and surgical supplies) to 6 hospitals and 4 health centres for the treatment of war-wounded and provided a surgical team;
- organized training in advanced first aid and the evacuation of the wounded for over 150 medical staff, and training in war surgery, in particular maxillofacial surgery, for 40 surgeons;
- prepared emergency stocks for combating cholera, together with water tanks, in preparation for outbreaks of the disease;



- provided material and technical support and training that enabled 4 prosthetic/orthotic centres to produce 1,252 prostheses and 1,100 orthoses;
- at the Addis Ababa training centre, held courses for 26 technicians on polypropylene technology;
- provided components and supplies for various prosthetic/orthotic projects around the world;



- rehabilitated 10 wells in Somali National Regional State;
- installed 9 reservoirs supplying drinking water to 40,000 people in drought-stricken areas;



- donated 7 radios to enhance the communication capacity of the Tigray branch of the Red Cross;
- organized 4 seminars on tracing activities, covering the entire country;



- held a 5-day seminar for 34 police instructors in the Oromia and Addis Ababa areas;
- gave a course on humanitarian law for 70 law students at the University of Addis Ababa;
- gave presentations on its detention activities in Ethiopia and on humanitarian law, in particular the question of judicial guarantees, to 800 staff of the Oromia Regional Justice Bureau.

SOMALIA

PROTECTION

580,927

ASSISTANCE

23,546,242

PREVENTIVE ACTION

486,994

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

1,330,301

OVERHEADS

1,476,409

GENERAL

150,144

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 27,571,017



(ICRC delegation in Nairobi)



SRCS/ICRC hospital

In the summer of 2000, for the first time after almost a decade without any State authority, Somalia acquired an elected President, Abdulkassim Salat Hassan, a 225-member interim National Assembly, and various other transitional institutions. This was the outcome of the Somalia National Peace Conference, which brought together some 700 representatives of civil society in Arta, Djibouti, from June to August. Somalia was represented by its new President in the millennium celebrations organized by the United Nations in New York in September, after almost 10 years of absence from the UN scene. The prospect of stabilization of the situation was greeted with relief in a number of places, such as

Mogadishu and Baidoa, where a visit by the new President sparked demonstrations of public jubilation. Finally, the creation of a new police force began with the recruitment of 1,300 former militiamen, thanks to financial support from the business community.

Daunting challenges nonetheless remained for a country which, since 1991, had lived in a state of anarchy marked by the complete absence of any central government or administration, and where a host of clans and sub-clans were fighting for power while still continuing to fragment. The Somali population had been forced to cope simultaneously with violence and lawlessness, under-development and difficult climatic

conditions. The political process that had begun in Arta quickly ran into stiff resistance from the warlords of central and southern Somalia and various other political players, including the government of Somaliland, which had declared itself independent in 1991 and was therefore opposed to the government of a Somalia that included Somaliland.

Relative peace and stability reigned during the year in Somaliland and Puntland (north-eastern Somalia), where rivalry between clans was less marked than in the south of the country, although their rejection of the Arta process caused some internal tension. Somaliland continued the reconstruction and development effort it had begun in 1991 on its secession and self-proclaimed independence.

The south, on the other hand, continued to live in a state of permanent crisis. Inter-clan violence in the Lower Juba regions and recurring clashes between the RRA* and the militia of the Sharia courts in Lower Shebele claimed dozens of victims and caused widespread destruction. Insecurity also spread to the Hiran region, which had been relatively stable up to 1999 when it fell prey to banditry and disputes between sub-clans. Crime and violence between clans also escalated in Mogadishu and its surrounding area.

The economic situation worsened still further when, at the end of September, there was an outbreak of Rift fever in the Gulf countries. The result was an immediate ban on imports of Somali livestock, which deprived large sectors of the population of an important source of income.

Security incidents

For years, the unpredictability of the explosions of violence in the south left the humanitarian agencies with little room for manoeuvre. In January a local ICRC employee was shot and wounded when returning from a relief distribution to villagers not far from the Kenyan border; and in July two expatriate staff of the NGO *Action contre la faim* (Action Against Hunger) were taken hostage in Mogadishu South and were not released until mid-September.

Although the ICRC delegation for Somalia remained based in Nairobi, Kenya, expatriates and field workers travelled regularly to all parts of the country. Most of the ICRC's activities throughout the territory were carried out by the Somali Red Crescent Society and the ICRC's Somali staff.

The ICRC, which remains the main relief agency working in Somalia, has adopted a dual approach in the country. On the one hand it provides an emergency response to the direct effects of the conflict, which are often aggravated by natural disasters, and on the other it has adopted a medium-term strategy aimed at supporting local coping mechanisms and maintaining acceptable living conditions for the most vulnerable groups, such as women and children. Generally speaking, projects have to remain relatively simple so that they can be managed locally.

Aid for displaced persons and disaster victims

Although rather late, the *gu* rains (April-June) fell in abundance, considerably improving the food situation after the catastrophic harvests of 1999.²⁹ Exceptions were already vulnerable areas around Gedo and in the Lower and Middle Juba regions, where the harvest was very poor. On several occasions the ICRC distributed not only seed and tools but also food to thousands of families, both displaced and resident, in the worst affected areas.

The ICRC also provided non-food aid for families displaced as a result of the violence in Hiran, Lower Shebele and Lower Juba, and also in Middle Juba, where villages had been burned down by militiamen. In all, half a million people belonging to the most vulnerable groups received assistance during the year.

Wells bring villages back to life

In Somalia, where water is a scarce commodity, the prevailing anarchy also led to serious deterioration of shallow wells and traditional underground reservoirs (*berkad*), for lack of maintenance. The ICRC, working with local communities, strove constantly to maintain a supply of drinking water for human beings and livestock. During the first three months of the year, attention focused on providing equipment (generators, pumps and spare parts). In some cases, renovating wells literally brought villages back to life. In Xingon in the Mudug region, for example, the population increased in a few weeks from several hundred to several thousand people once a shallow well was put back into service, replacing the transport of water by tanker.

For the rest of the year the emphasis shifted to a more comprehensive approach aimed at improving the water storage and distribution capacity of communities living in central regions.

²⁹ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, pp. 126-127.

* RRA: Rahanwein Resistance Army

The Medina hospital reopens

Because of the chronic overloading of the country's medical facilities, it was decided to reopen the Medina hospital in Mogadishu South, which, apart from some sporadic attempts, had not been functioning for eight years. The ICRC played an active part in setting up this project, in the complete renovation of the hospital premises and in the training of staff, and so the hospital reopened on 28 May with 55 surgical beds. For an initial period the ICRC will give the hospital special support but it will remain the property of the community, which will be responsible for it. To make the hospital viable in the long term, the laboratory and radiology service will have to generate their own revenue, and an ICRC administrator worked closely with the hospital's accountants to draw up a budget.

The ICRC provides various kinds of assistance (salaries, food, maintenance work, medicines and medical supplies) for four hospitals: Keysaney in Mogadishu North, which is the main surgical facility in the country, Medina (Mogadishu South), Galkayo (Mudug region), and Baidoa (Bay region). Renovation of the Keysaney hospital also began in 2000; and early in the year an ICRC surgeon organized a seminar in Mogadishu for surgeons working at the Keysaney and Medina hospitals.

The Somali Red Crescent is the only provider of basic health care for large segments of the population, working mainly through a network of primary health centres and four oral rehydration centres in Mogadishu. The ICRC supported some of these facilities, supplying them with medicines, first-aid kits and financial aid.

New tracing offices

For many Somalis, Red Cross messages remained the only means of restoring or maintaining contact with their relatives, within the country or abroad, despite security problems which at times seriously restricted the movements of tracing staff. At the start of the year the Somali Red Crescent, in close cooperation with the ICRC, opened two new tracing offices in the south (Hudur Bakool and Buale, in Middle Juba).

Supplementing the Red Cross message network and tracing requests, the BBC* Somali service in Nairobi, in cooperation with the Somali Red Crescent and the ICRC, continued to broadcast radio programmes aimed at locating missing persons.

Dissemination programmes

The delegation took advantage of the opportunity offered by the rapid expansion of the media scene, mainly in Mogadishu, to make programmes on health. Under the overall title "Basic Means of Survival", they were broadcast from November on the new HornAfrik radio-TV station.

The "People on War"³⁰ report on Somalia was launched throughout the country in April and May. This was another opportunity to stress the difference between combatants and civilians, to remind people of the rules of conduct during hostilities and to draw parallels between those rules and traditional Somali values. Drawing on its wide experience of adapting dissemination methods to the Somali context, the delegation produced videos of short plays (*googoos*) using humour and music to encourage respect for humanitarian rules.

* BBC: British Broadcasting Corporation

³⁰ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, pp. 129, 348-350.

Public awareness campaign

As the only national organization working in a highly complex environment, the Somali Red Crescent faced serious challenges. In January, together with various representatives of the Movement, the ICRC took part in a meeting during which the National Society asserted its determination to remain united and took certain strategic decisions. The ICRC and other members of the Movement supported the Somali Red Crescent's communication campaign, helping with the printing of a brochure explaining its role, principles and activities. The delegation also continued to provide technical, material and financial support for the National Society in the spheres for which the latter bears full responsibility (tracing activities, dissemination and conflict preparedness).

IN 2000, THE ICRC:



- supported the efforts made by the Somali Red Crescent to ensure the delivery of 26,000 Red Cross messages

exchanged between family members dispersed in Somalia and abroad;

- opened 42 tracing files and resolved 53 cases;
- through the Somali service of the BBC in Nairobi, broadcast the names of 2,901 Somalis at the request of families seeking missing relatives;



- distributed 635 tonnes of seed, 6,900 tonnes of food and 425 tonnes of non-food relief supplies to over 26,000 people

displaced by the fighting or affected by drought and/or flooding;

- distributed non-food aid to 3,000 families who had returned to their burnt-out villages in Wajid and Rabdure districts (Bakool region);
- supplied villages situated along river banks with 44,000 empty sandbags to help them avert flooding in the rainy season;



- continued to support 22 health posts (out of the 44 run by the National Society) in the Hiran, Middle and Lower Juba,

Galgudud and Mudug regions, established a central distribution point in Kismayo (for 7 health centres in Middle and Lower Juba), and another in Dusamareb (for health centres in Galgudud);

- gave medical supplies and financial support to cholera treatment centres providing oral rehydration;



- maintained and repaired shallow wells and provided emergency generators, pumps and spare parts in 20 places

in the central region to give some 20,000 people better access to clean water;

- organized a course on the maintenance of water points and wells for 300 members of local communities in Galkayo and Dusamareb;
- launched 16 water-storage and distribution projects in the central region, and began the renovation of 10 traditional underground catchment reservoirs (*berkad*) in southern Mudug, Galgudud and northern Hiran;
- produced a handbook in the Somali language on the maintenance of shallow wells;



- financed an 8-week course at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, for 4 employees responsible for health activities in Somali

Red Crescent branches;

- in August-September, flew 40 National Society dissemination and tracing officers to Nairobi for a seminar organized by the Somali Red Crescent with ICRC participation;



- discussed with the BBC Somali service the possibility of producing a programme based on the results of the "People on War" survey.

SUDAN

PROTECTION

1,550,869

ASSISTANCE

27,550,448

PREVENTIVE ACTION

874,468

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

1,989,323

OVERHEADS

2,110,035

GENERAL

1,331,445

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 35,406,588



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation ⊕ ICRC office ⊕ ICRC hospital ⊕ Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

The fragile "humanitarian" cease-fire observed by the government and the SPLM/A* in 1999³¹ did not survive the year. In 2000 the conflict resumed, often taking the form of major clashes, particularly in Bahr-el-Gazal, the Blue Nile regions and the north-east. Sabotage attacks on the oil pipeline linking Unity State to Port Sudan continued and increased the risk of military operations. Fighting often caused large-scale population movements and civilians were directly affected, when not deliberately targeted.

* SPLM/A: Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army

³¹ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 131.

Despite three meetings in Kenya during the year, there was almost no progress in the peace process between the Sudanese government and the SPLM/A. Meanwhile, Egypt and Libya launched a parallel peace initiative. More positively, the northern Umma party left the NDA* and announced the end of its armed struggle against the government, some of its top leaders returning to Khartoum. The authorities granted an amnesty to all opposition fighters.

* NDA: National Democratic Alliance, an umbrella group of northern opposition forces and the SPLA

The state of emergency was extended until the end of the year.³² Presidential and legislative elections which took place in December were won by the outgoing President and parliament with a large majority.

Internationally, the Sudanese government resumed relations with various countries in 2000, including several members of the Arab League, and with all its neighbours except Uganda. Indeed, the agreement signed the previous year between Khartoum and Kampala did not lead to any significant progress, although it did allow the release of 72 Sudanese POWs by Uganda and their repatriation in January under the auspices of the ICRC.³³ In July Sudan again became a full member of the International Monetary Fund, but without having access to the Fund's loans. By contrast, in October Sudan failed to obtain a seat on the United Nations Security Council.

The ICRC's operation in Sudan remained one of its largest in Africa. The delegation focused on three main goals: providing protection and assistance for internally displaced persons and the resident population, who had suffered all the hardship of 17 years of conflict; ensuring that the war-wounded and civilians received the necessary surgical treatment or basic medical care; and finally, monitoring the situation of persons deprived of their freedom.

Security incidents

The highly explosive and unpredictable environment in Sudan affected, sometimes tragically, the work of humanitarian agencies. During the year 10 of their staff met a violent death in ambushes.

Bombing in the south gave constant cause for concern. The ICRC had to evacuate its office in Chelkou and restrict its flights in Bahr-el-Gazal for a time before resuming normal activities in October. In August, the UN had to interrupt Operation Lifeline Sudan for a full week before receiving security guarantees from the government.

Fighting in western Upper Nile

In June, fighting resumed in the western Upper Nile region, causing large-scale population movements in the direction of Bentiu, where the ICRC swiftly distributed non-food aid. On 24 June, the SPLM/A seized the town of Gogrial. Many combatants were wounded on both sides. The ICRC supplied the military hospital in Wau with medical equipment to help it cope with the influx of patients.

The ICRC also took complete charge of urgent surgical cases and war-wounded in two specialized hospitals, the ICRC's Lopiding surgical hospital in Lokichokio, northern Kenya, and the government-run university hospital in Juba. The effects of the upsurge in military activity were keenly felt in the Lopiding hospital, which in 2000 had the highest rate of activity since it was built. The influx of patients overstretched the capacity of the hospital and highlighted the limits of the waste water disposal and sewerage systems. Renovation work had to be started, and is due to be completed in the spring of 2001. The ICRC also launched building and renovation work at the university hospital in Juba.

An integrated approach to increase self-sufficiency

In view of the complexity of the situation in southern Sudan, where the population had to cope simultaneously with a low level of development and a 17-year armed conflict, in 2000 the ICRC introduced a medium-term "integrated" approach. This combines preventive and curative health-care activities to improve water and sanitation, and agricultural and other work in regions where delegates can maintain an uninterrupted presence (Yirol, Juba, Wau and Raga). The new approach is designed to break the vicious circle whereby the population's living conditions steadily deteriorate.

The delegation had already combined preventive and curative health care (vaccination programmes, health education and veterinary projects). The primary health-care centres in Yirol, Juba, Chelkou, Raga and Wau, together with various health posts and dispensaries, regularly received equipment to improve their services. Health delegates pursued their training and preventive activities, while engineers continued work on water supply and sanitation (sinking wells, repairing waste water evacuation systems, etc.).

This integrated approach has a substantial agricultural component. After contributing to emergency operations during the famine in 1998 and carrying out a large-scale seed and tool distribution programme in 1999, in 2000 the ICRC continued its efforts to improve the population's self-sufficiency in terms of food through the promotion of more effective techniques. This covers a wide range of activities and includes demonstrations on the cultivation of new crops, on ploughing methods and on techniques for processing and storing food.

³² See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 132.

³³ See pp. 62-63.

More prostheses and orthoses produced

Sudan has a large number of amputees and people with disabilities, often directly or indirectly attributable to the conflict (fresh upsurge of poliomyelitis following the interruption of vaccination campaigns, for example). Many of the disabled do not receive the treatment they need. The ICRC has a permanent presence at the National Centre for Prosthetics and Orthotics in Khartoum where in 2000 the number of prostheses and orthoses produced rose significantly, thanks to modernization and reorganization. The centre catered for amputees and other disabled people from areas under government control, while the prosthetic/orthotic centre at the Lopiding hospital took care of amputees living in southern Sudan.

An alternative postal network

On several occasions, delegates visited prisoners in the hands of the SPLA and the SPDF,* in particular after the capture of Gogrial and Maban in the southern Blue Nile region. When people are detained far from home and have no contact with their families, Red Cross messages are a lifeline essential for their emotional well-being.

But these messages have much wider implications. Over the years, the conflict in Sudan has generated massive population movements. In 2000 there were around four million displaced people within the country, while 300,000 had taken refuge abroad. As the postal service is not functioning in most of the territory, Red Cross messages remain the only means whereby separated family members can keep in touch. With the assistance of the Sudanese Red Crescent in the north, and of volunteers in the south, the ICRC continued to operate a vast network, one of the three largest in Africa.

* SPDF: Sudan People's Democratic Front, opposition movement formed in 2000

Support for the National Society in aiding Eritrean refugees

In May, the fighting between Eritrea and Ethiopia brought tens of thousands of Eritrean refugees to the eastern state of Kassala.³⁴ Very quickly and efficiently, the Sudanese Red Crescent provided material and medical aid for these new refugees, who were given shelter in three camps. To support this work, and in coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC immediately supplied hygiene items and shelter materials, and also two tanker trucks and water-purification equipment for the Galsa camp, which was housing around 30,000 refugees in a very arid area. The ICRC offered its services to the Sudanese government with a view to visiting over 1,300 Eritrean soldiers who had also entered Sudanese territory in May and June. These soldiers were subsequently repatriated without any ICRC involvement.

Cooperation on an early-warning system

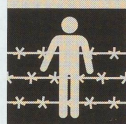
As the main national humanitarian organization, the Sudanese Red Crescent plays a decisive role in all the ICRC's spheres of activity in the areas under government control. In addition to its traditional support for the National Society's headquarters and seven of its branches, in 2000 the ICRC financed the construction of new offices for the branches in Malakal, Juba, Wau and Raga. It continued its support for tracing and dissemination activities and for a conflict-preparedness programme. The delegation also gave volunteers from particularly vulnerable places in the south training in how to set up an early-warning system for food shortages.

³⁴ See pp. 77-79.

First course for the police

The year under review saw the publication, in Arabic, of several works on the law of armed conflict and human rights intended for the armed forces, the security forces and the police. The new training manual on the law of armed conflict was translated and given to the department in charge of military instruction and training. In addition, a great many bearers of weapons belonging to different parties to the conflict received a bilingual (English-Arabic) version of the *Code of Conduct for Combatants*, which also contains a section on first aid. Finally, the Arabic translation of the book *To Serve and to Protect* was distributed in October at the first seminar held for the police, which was attended by 21 officers and instructors.

IN 2000, THE ICRC:



- visited 489 detainees in the hands of the SPLA and SPDF in 10 different places;
- distributed high-protein

biscuits, seed and material assistance (soap, blankets, mosquito nets, plastic sheeting, jerrycans, saucepans and recreational items) to detainees, and gave dressing kits and basic medicines to health facilities in the detention centres;

- provided water and sanitation assistance in some places of detention;
- collected and distributed 4,507 Red Cross messages exchanged between detainees and their families;
- assessed the living conditions of over 1,300 Eritrean military internees who had entered Sudanese territory;



- in close cooperation with the Sudanese Red Crescent network of volunteers in particular, exchanged 105,468 Red

Cross messages between displaced persons, refugees and their families abroad;

- continued to monitor the situation of children stranded in Wau since the 1998 famine, the majority of whom were reunited with their families or housed in schools or other institutions;



in conflict zones, distributed 415 tonnes of food and 190 tonnes of other relief to over 50,000 particularly vulnerable displaced persons and residents;



- in cooperation with the Sudanese Red Crescent, continued to support 7 health centres in the Raga area through a

project delegated to the German Red Cross;

- supervised and trained local medical staff, provided public health supplies and conducted vaccination campaigns;
- ran the Lopiding surgical hospital in Lokichokio, Kenya, which admitted a total of 2,148 patients, including 1,039 war-wounded, many of whom were evacuated from Sudan by ICRC aircraft and repatriated following treatment;
- continued to supply basic medicines to the university hospital in Juba;
- admitted and took charge of 2,705 surgical cases, including 83 war-wounded, some of whom had been evacuated from Wau or Raga by an ICRC plane;
- continued the food-for-work programme involving 800 health workers;
- organized 2 seminars on war surgery, with the participation of military and civilian medical staff;



- provided support for the National Centre for Prostheses and Orthoses in Khartoum, where 767 prostheses and

374 orthoses were manufactured for 1,141 patients, and completed the renovation of the centre;

- in the prosthetic/orthotic workshop at the Lopiding surgical hospital, produced 348 prostheses and 160 orthoses for 508 patients;



- made monthly visits to supervise the water-treatment plant at Bentiu, which supplied 200,000 litres of water a

day thanks to staff of the local branch of the Sudanese Red Crescent;



- provided regular financial and logistic support for the 5 Sudanese Red Crescent branches in the south of the country

(Raga, Wau, Bentiu, Malakal and Juba), and to 2 branches in the east (Kassala and Ed Damazin);



- ran training and consolidation courses for more than 75 senior military officers and instructors;

• conducted dissemination sessions for some 3,000 officers and soldiers (government and SPLA);

- trained almost 300 SPLA and SSIA* commanders in southern Sudan in the basic rules of the law of armed conflict.

* SSIA: Southern Sudan Independence Army

NAIROBI

Regional delegation

(Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania)

The ICRC's regional delegation in Nairobi pursued two aims: first, to meet the needs of conflict victims and continue its humanitarian diplomacy in the three countries it covered; and secondly, to provide logistic services and any other specialized support needed by ICRC operations in countries in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region.

As the hub of regional activity, the Nairobi delegation made a key contribution to various ICRC operations. It furnished expertise in areas such as nutrition, agriculture, veterinary matters, water and sanitation, and dissemination for the armed forces, and provided various kinds of support (procurement and management of emergency stocks, transport services, personnel management and administration, tracing activities, logistics, and liaison with the media and donors). Thanks to its well-developed infrastructure it was able to deliver emergency humanitarian assistance very quickly over a huge area, notably to Ethiopia, Eritrea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Drought in Kenya

In 2000, more than half of Kenya was stricken by a severe drought, with serious consequences for town-dwellers and economic production, and also for living conditions in parts of the countryside (the Rift valley, the north and north-east), where farmers lost almost all their harvest and large numbers of livestock.

The drought led to extensive population movements and further heightened the long-running tension between semi-nomadic herdsmen, now forced to travel long distances in order to feed and water their herds, and crop-growers. Intercommunal friction – also exacerbated by cattle-stealing and disputes over access to chronically scarce water resources –

erupted in numerous incidents of localized violence, especially in Wajir in the north-east, the Kerio valley and the Rift valley. In 2000 some 40,000 people, mostly members of the Marakwet tribe, were displaced as a result.

Water-supply projects

Through a project delegated to the American Red Cross,³⁵ the ICRC continued water-supply rehabilitation activities in the Kerio valley (Pokot, Marakwet and eastern Baringo, the scene of clashes between the Pokot and Marakwet tribes). The project, which focused on the repair of gravity-fed water-supply systems, shallow wells and underground tanks, achieved its goals by August 2000. It also included the renovation of schools destroyed in the clashes, road-mending (mobilizing the local population in a food-for-work scheme), and strengthening the capacity of the local branch of the National Society. By agreement between the ICRC and the American Red Cross, it was decided to extend the project until May 2001 and to concentrate on water supply.

Another area that suffered intertribal violence – this time between the Kikuyu and semi-nomadic herdsmen – was Laikipia in the Rift valley. Here the ICRC set up a project, delegated to the Swedish Red Cross, to tap springs and repair small dams for the benefit of some 38,000 people. Work was completed half-way through the year, and a community house for the National Society sub-branch in Ol Moran was also built. The project was extended until the start of 2001 so that additional shallow wells could be sunk.

Finally, in the Wajir district, the ICRC began digging shallow wells for around 18,000 herdsmen and people displaced by the violence.

More tracing requests

In 2000 there were some 215,000 Somali, Ethiopian, Eritrean, Sudanese, Rwandan and Burundian refugees in Kenya, and a further 300,000 non-registered asylum-seekers. Working in cooperation with the Kenya Red Cross Society, the ICRC offered these people the opportunity to stay in touch with their families by means of Red Cross messages. Owing to new arrivals, especially from Sudan, the number of tracing requests increased during the year.

Initiative to halt the proliferation of light weapons

Intercommunal violence in Kenya was further aggravated by the large quantities of firearms arriving across the country's northern border. In early 2000 the issue of the proliferation of light weapons, for years a cause for concern to the ICRC, also mobilized the foreign ministers of 10 countries of the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa. At a meeting in Nairobi attended by the head of the ICRC delegation, the ministers signed a declaration condemning the proliferation of such weapons, and the Kenyan President called for commissions to be set up to strengthen regional capacity to curb the phenomenon.

Promotion of humanitarian law

The ICRC was invited to take part in the regional peace-keeping exercise held in Mombasa in May and involving officers from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The ICRC gave presentations on the rules of conduct in combat situations, international humanitarian law and the Movement.

³⁵ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 147.

In September 2000 progress was made with regard to the promotion of humanitarian law in academic circles when the subject was introduced as an optional course by the law faculties of the University of Nairobi and Moi University in Eldoret. Humanitarian law was also incorporated into the programme of the Kenya Institute of Administration, which trains all the country's administrative authorities and senior civil servants. The ICRC donated reference books on humanitarian law and computers to these three institutions. Finally, a course in humanitarian law was developed at the United States International University with the active involvement of the ICRC.

At the end of 2000, the Kenyan government was preparing to ratify the Ottawa treaty banning anti-personnel mines.

New influx of refugees into Tanzania

With the intensification of the conflicts in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo,³⁶ there was a new influx of refugees into Tanzania at the start of 2000. By the end of the year there were 470,000 Burundian, Congolese and – to a lesser extent – Rwandan refugees in the country. The Nairobi delegation continued to help the Tanzania Red Cross Society to exchange family messages between Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the one hand and Rwanda on the other. In March the ICRC and the National Society undertook a joint assessment in the country's 12 refugee camps to identify areas where tracing activities could still be improved. An operational agreement on the tracing programme in western Tanzania was signed in September by the National Society and the ICRC. The agreement specified, among other things, the scope and aims of the programme and the responsibilities of the

two parties. A special effort continued to be made to resolve the cases of 350 unaccompanied Rwandan and Congolese minors.³⁷

Violence in Zanzibar

Early in the year there was some quite serious violence in Zanzibar, arising from local political disputes. The ICRC gave the Tanzania Red Cross support for emergency-preparedness activities in advance of the presidential and parliamentary elections of 29 October, in the form of training sessions for volunteers and first-aid equipment for branches in areas more exposed to violence. Technical, financial and material support was given to the National Society in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and other parts of the country during the elections themselves, which passed off peacefully, except in Zanzibar. Tanzania Red Cross teams responded efficiently and treated the wounded in Zanzibar and Pemba.

Visits to detainees

The ICRC continued its visits to people accused of treason who were detained in Kilimani prison on the island of Zanzibar. In view of the age of this building and the prison service's lack of resources, an assistance programme was launched (installation of water pumps and reservoirs, sanitization of latrines and renovation of the kitchen).

Detainees accused of war crimes or genocide and held by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha also received regular visits from the ICRC.

Safe water for Zanzibar

Many villages in Zanzibar were severely affected by recurrent outbreaks of cholera, caused mainly by poor water quality and public-health problems. In cooperation with the Tanzania Red Cross, in 2000 the ICRC continued a water and habitat project for 17,000 families living in 10 particularly vulnerable villages on the islands of Unguja and Pemba.³⁸

Djibouti

A peace agreement between the government and the FRUD* was signed in Paris on 7 February, bringing an end to the conflict that had resumed in 1998 after an initial phase lasting from 1991 to 1994. In April the President of the FRUD arrived in Djibouti after nine months of exile to negotiate the follow-up to the peace agreement. In March, Djibouti re-established diplomatic relations with Eritrea.

Anti-personnel mines laid during the conflict are a hazard in the country, especially for nomads and their herds. Mines were on the agenda of a meeting between representatives of the region's governments held in Djibouti at the end of the year with the participation of the ICRC. This was the first meeting of its kind in the Horn of Africa.

The ICRC continued to handle Red Cross messages for 21,000 refugees from Somaliland and 200 Ethiopian refugees who had been in Djibouti since 1990. For most of them, the ICRC's tracing network was the only means of keeping in touch with their families.

³⁸ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 149.

* FRUD: Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy (Afar rebel movement)

³⁶ See pp. 49-50 and 52-53.

³⁷ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 148.

The peace agreement led to the release of all the security detainees held in the Gabode central prison, whom the ICRC had visited regularly, and of government soldiers in the hands of the FRUD. A large number of foreign

detainees and minors still remained in Gabode, however. The ICRC therefore decided to continue its visits, on the one hand to give the foreigners an opportunity to restore contact with their families, and on the other to try and find a lasting

solution for the minors. Given the poor conditions of hygiene in the prison and the prison administration's lack of resources, the ICRC provided ad hoc assistance (blankets, hygiene items, water and sanitation equipment).

IN 2000, THE ICRC:



- visited 41 security detainees in the Gabode central prison in Djibouti, provided hygiene items for 500 detainees, and began

renovation work in the prison;

- visited 42 detainees in the detention centre of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania;
- visited 21 detainees on the island of Zanzibar and began work to improve prison infrastructure;



- supplied the Kenya Red Cross Society with 2 VHF radios and motorcycles for the Kakum and Dadaab refugee camps;

- jointly with the Tanzania Red Cross Society, continued the tracing programme for the benefit of Congolese, Burundian and Rwandan refugees, and handled 35,152 Red Cross messages for them;
- continued to maintain contact between Somalis and Ethiopians in Djibouti refugee camps and their relatives by exchanging 1,264 Red Cross messages;
- helped repatriate 92 Ethiopian women who had been shipwrecked in northern Djibouti;



- organized the distribution of high-energy food for 21,025 highly vulnerable people in western Wajir (north-eastern Kenya);



- established the post of regional surgeon for Africa, based in Nairobi, the incumbent providing advice, technical

information and training for

7 delegations (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya-Tanzania, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and Somalia);

- provided financial and technical support for the building of a maternity unit in Kamawaura (Rift valley, Kenya), which was completed during the year;
- supplied medical material and financial support for war-wounded refugees in 3 Tanzanian hospitals, in Kigoma and along the border with Burundi;
- in Djibouti, provided medical and surgical assistance for the wounded (6 civilians and 5 FRUD combatants);



- strengthened the capacity of the region's Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the areas of dissemination,

tracing and conflict preparedness;

- helped strengthen the capacity of 2 regional offices of the Kenya Red Cross in the Rift valley;
- provided technical and material support for the Tanzania Red Cross dissemination programme in Zanzibar;
- provided the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti with a vehicle and a driver to facilitate food distribution to people affected by drought in Dikhil district;



- organized 2 workshops for 205 members of the Kenyan armed forces and 4 workshops for 77 officers and instructors

from the Tanzanian People's Defence Forces;

- in April, took part in the National Conference on Higher Education for Human Development in Kenya, held at Kenyatta University and attended by 400 leading figures from academic, government and NGO circles;
- donated reference works on international humanitarian law to the law faculty of the University of Dar es Salaam, the only Tanzanian institution to teach the subject;
- in Djibouti, gave a course on the law of armed conflict for 10 instructors from the armed forces and 5 instructors from the national *gendarmerie*, and provided the *gendarmerie*, which set up a commission on humanitarian law, with books on the subject;
- presented the activities of the ICRC and the Movement to Somali teachers and pupils in the Hol-Hol refugee camp in Djibouti;
- organized a trip to the Kerio valley for journalists, to show them activities receiving Red Cross support.