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Europe & North America

branches of the armed and security forces in the region were given special emphasis in 2000. The size of the region covered by the delegation presented a major challenge to ICRC dissemination staff. The policy of reaching all sectors of society at all levels, was endorsed by government ministers, workshops and presentations for members of governments, academics and representatives of the media.

Police officers on the ministries of the ICRC and the International Federation, and on matters relating to humanitarian law and human rights.

Again in Guatemala, training in humanitarian law for staff of the Presidential Commission on Human Rights finally got underway. Training courses for deminers, spinners, deminers, and incorporated humanitarian organisations, as well as their own training programmes.

Non-personnel personnel, including the ICRC's Geneva office, the northern branch of the ICRC in Costa Rica, and the ICRC's large number of delegations and ICRC Red Cross ambulances, as well as the accompanied army demining units in both countries and the local community provide Non-governmental medical services and support. Also in Costa Rica, thanks to a network of 180 deminers, the ICRC has been able to identify and

Even a washing line can serve to bring the message of the danger of mines home to villagers in Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Western and Central Europe and the Balkans

ICRC delegations:

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

ICRC regional delegations:

Brussels, Budapest, Paris

Eastern Europe

ICRC regional delegations:

Kyiv, Moscow

The Caucasus

ICRC delegations:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

North America

ICRC regional delegation:

Washington

Staff

ICRC expatriates¹: 152

National Societies¹: 48

Local employees²: 1,598

Total expenditure: Sfr 228,897,297.84

Expenditure breakdown:

Protection:	15,420,025.28
Assistance:	161,459,328.53
Preventive action:	20,191,407.27
Cooperation with National Societies:	11,487,975.19
Overheads:	11,831,082.23
General:	8,507,479.34

¹ Average figures calculated on an annual basis.

² Under ICRC contract, as at December 2000.



● ICRC regional delegation

● ICRC delegation

During the year 2000 fighting in the Caucasus and tension in the Balkans continued to blight the region's political landscape. Although open hostilities in the northern Caucasus had subsided by May, ramifications of the conflict nevertheless affected the stability of neighbouring countries, particularly Georgia. In the same vein, a newly elected government in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia raised hopes of an end to 13 years of turmoil. However, ethnic divisions, always the bane of the Balkans, were still very much in evidence in southern Serbia, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In March, the ICRC President visited Moscow where he met the Russian

President. Mr Putin expressed the wish to see ICRC activities in the region extended to include visits to persons detained in connection with the military operations in Chechnya. Moreover, he gave a firm commitment that the authorities would provide all the security guarantees necessary for ICRC activities to proceed. From May, the ICRC began visits to persons detained by the authorities in Chechnya itself and elsewhere, although the difficult security situation meant that certain places of detention remained inaccessible to delegates.

Over the year, the ICRC virtually trebled funding for its programmes in the region in order to provide wide-ranging protection and assistance for the

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

thousands of civilians who had fled from Chechnya to Ingushetia, Dagestan and elsewhere in the northern Caucasus. Its assistance operations in Chechnya resumed in April 2000. Together with the Russian Red Cross Society, the ICRC conducted programmes in the relief, health, water and sanitation sectors that helped save countless lives. After the ICRC office in Grozny reopened in October, local employees increased distributions of food and other supplies to cover basic needs in schools, hospitals and community centres.

The fighting in the northern Caucasus lent further urgency to the ICRC's extensive dissemination programmes for the authorities, the armed forces and young people throughout the Russian Federation. A special effort was made to inform troops on active duty in the northern Caucasus of the rules of humanitarian law and of the ICRC's mandate.

In the Balkans, a tenuous peace was maintained only through the continued presence of a strong international military force both in Kosovo and in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Tension remained high in southern Serbia, and towards the end of the year several thousand ethnic Albanians fled the region to seek sanctuary in Kosovo. In response to this situation, the ICRC assisted those arriving in Kosovo while at the same time intensifying its activities in southern Serbia to help people who had remained behind.

Over the year, minority groups of Serbs and Roma continued to be the targets of acts of violence committed by ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. The ICRC did its utmost to protect these minorities, with delegates making regular visits to monitor their security situation and to provide them with assistance as needed.

In Kosovo, the issue of prisoners and missing persons remained a major concern. The ICRC held numerous talks with the authorities in Belgrade and in Pristina to remind them of their responsibilities towards the families of the missing, and stepped up its efforts to trace people from all ethnic communities who were still unaccounted for.

In 2000, Serbia remained the theatre of the ICRC's largest relief operation in the region. Working closely with the Yugoslav Red Cross and other National Societies, the organization maintained its extensive assistance programmes to help those most seriously affected: people from Kosovo, and impoverished local residents whose numbers rose sharply as the network of social services disintegrated because of lack of funds. Providing food for these vulnerable groups remained the main focus of the ICRC's work in Serbia, but local water boards and communities also benefited from emergency water and sanitation projects and ICRC supplies kept medical facilities operational.

WESTERN EUROPE

Regional delegation
(Brussels, Paris)

The ICRC's delegation in Brussels continued to focus its efforts on strengthening its working relations with European institutions, the Western European Union, and NATO.* One of the core aims of this relatively new delegation,³ specialized in humanitarian diplomacy, was to secure much-needed political support for ICRC field operations. To this end, the delegation maintained its contacts at various levels with NATO and SHAPE* and strengthened relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. The new ICRC President's first official visit to Brussels took place in February, and was the occasion for meetings at the Belgian Red Cross and with high-level government and EU* officials, including the Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid. In discussions with the High Representative and Secretary-General of the Council, the President reiterated the ICRC's commitment to closer cooperation with the EU, particularly in light of the development of a common foreign and security policy following the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam. During the latter half of the year France held the six-month rotating presidency of the EU, and in preparation for this delegates in Brussels and Paris liaised closely to establish a dialogue with EU representatives on issues pertaining to the ICRC's mandate. As an essential part of the delegation's work is to advise on international humanitarian law, the Brussels mission was consulted by the European Parliament on its draft resolution on support for the 1949 Geneva Conventions. The resolution was unanimously adopted by the Parliament in March.

* NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

³ See the ICRC's 1999 Annual Report, p. 237.

* SHAPE: Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe

* EU: European Union

Networking in Paris

The liaison office in Paris remained a key element in the ICRC's network for humanitarian diplomacy. It sought to promote humanitarian law and to increase understanding of the ICRC's mandate by targeting specific groups such as the French authorities, economic circles, and the press. One initiative worthy of note was the establishment of a strategy designed to spread knowledge of this body of law among the armed forces. The programme was carried out in conjunction with the French Ministry of Defence, and included an awareness-raising project for young people of draft age. The delegation also took an active part in NGO* fora and in symposia organized by the military academy and by universities on topics related to humanitarian law. In April, the ICRC President made his first official visit to France, where he was accompanied by the head of the Paris delegation and the President of the French Red Cross. Discussions with the French Prime Minister and other government officials focused on the ICRC's role and its mandate in times of armed conflict, with particular reference to the situations in Chechnya and in Kosovo. On a second visit to Paris in June, the ICRC President met the President of the Republic with whom he discussed topics ranging from ICRC activities in Chechnya to the adoption of an additional emblem.⁴

Enlisting support elsewhere in Europe

In his busy first year in office, the ICRC President visited several European capitals, holding fruitful discussions with heads of State, donors and the leadership of the various National Societies. While on an official visit to Italy in May, he had talks with the country's President and with high-ranking government offi-

cials, whom he thanked for their financial support. During his visit to Berlin, talks with the German Chancellor focused on the ICRC's operational philosophy in contexts of long-term instability, such as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The President also travelled to London in June, where he had meetings with senior members of government, including the Secretary of State for International Development. Dialogue with the Secretary of State covered priority issues for the ICRC – such as women affected by armed conflict, child soldiers and the effort to achieve greater cooperation and coordination between humanitarian agencies. An official visit was made to Stockholm in August where the President met with high-level officials including the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Talks with the Minister dealt with the need for the ICRC to further develop its dialogue with EU officials, particularly in light of the forthcoming Swedish presidency. The President held discussions with members of the Norwegian government and parliament when he visited Oslo in September. While in Oslo, he also met the President and Secretary General of the Norwegian Red Cross. Finally, the President paid a visit to The Hague on 19-20 December where he met the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs. At this meeting ICRC operations worldwide were reviewed in depth, with particular emphasis on Indonesia and the situation in Chechnya. In talks with the Minister of Cooperation, salient points discussed included the problem of weapons and a proposed overhaul of financial contributions for aid organizations. The new President of the Netherlands Red Cross accompanied the President to ministerial meetings. The President also met the incumbent of the Red Cross Chair on International Humanitarian Law at Leiden University.

* NGO: non-governmental organization

⁴ See p. 231.

ALBANIA

When reviewing his country's achievements in 2000, Albania's President highlighted the progress the government had made towards political and social reform. Albania had participated in the Balkans Stability Pact, begun the process of securing entry into European institutions, and initiated strategies to deal with the deep-seated economic problems afflicting the country. Among other encouraging developments were the determined efforts made by the authorities to heal rifts with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Macedonia and to tackle corruption.

As almost all of the 465,000 refugees who fled to Albania in 1999 had returned to Kosovo by early 2000, the ICRC and other organizations scaled down their activities during the year. The ICRC nevertheless pursued its efforts to improve the conditions of detainees, to prevent mine accidents amongst civilians and to help the Albanian Red Cross develop its tracing and dissemination capacity.

Detention and tracing activities

ICRC delegates visited places of detention holding detainees arrested in connection with the security situation. In conjunction with other organizations, the ICRC supported efforts by prison authorities to improve the living conditions of detainees.

At the beginning of the year, the residual Kosovar refugee population was estimated at 4,000. The delegation in Tirana assisted those seeking information about missing relatives, followed up allegations of arrest and worked to reunite family members separated following the events in Kosovo in 1999.



ICRC delegation

Training for the police and armed forces

During the year the ICRC organized various courses for senior police officers throughout the country. Topics covered included the role of the police in democratic States, human rights law, and the ICRC's mandate and activities.

Presentations on the law of armed conflict were given for senior officers and civil servants from military academies and from the Ministry of Defence. In September, the delegation also organized specialist courses on the law of naval warfare for instructors from naval training schools and for senior officers.

The ICRC participated in a NATO "Partnership for Peace" exercise, hosted by Albania, which ran from 21 June to 1 July. During the exercise, the delegation gave presentations on the law of armed conflict and on the ICRC's response to humanitarian needs in conflict situations.

Saving lives and limbs

In response to requests from the Albanian government, the ICRC lent its support for mine-awareness activities and assistance programmes for mine casualties. The ICRC and the authorities together lobbied donor countries for funding to facilitate the rapid arrival of organizations involved in demining both sides of Albania's 74-kilometre-long border with Kosovo. In June the ICRC conducted a survey to determine the extent of the mine problem in northern Albania. Mine victims were transported from the area to a prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Tirana, where amputees were fitted with artificial limbs.

The ICRC also supported the community-based mine-awareness programme carried out by the Albanian Red Cross, and arranged for technical experts from the ICRC/Croatian Red Cross programme to give training to future National Society instructors.

In a welcome development, Albania ratified the Ottawa treaty in 2000.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- visited detainees in police stations and provided material assistance to alleviate the effects of poor sanitation and overcrowding;



- processed tracing requests concerning 80 people;
- issued 23 travel documents;



- provided transport and treatment for 18 mine casualties at the prosthetic/orthotic centre in Tirana;



- gave 3 2-day seminars on human rights for 52 senior police officers;
- held a 5-day "train-the-trainer" course in October for 16 instructors at the Albanian Police Academy;
- distributed the Albanian version of *To Serve and to Protect*, an ICRC manual on human rights and

humanitarian law for police and security forces, to the Police Academy and the Ministry of Public Order;

- organized a course on the law of armed conflict for 15 future military instructors;
- held a series of 3-day workshops on the law of armed conflict at sea for 42 naval officers;



- through its mine-awareness programme involving 17 Albanian Red Cross instructors, reached over 43,996 people, including nearly 33,142 children.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

PROTECTION	2,650,022
ASSISTANCE	5,288,173
PREVENTIVE ACTION	2,194,911
COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES	2,231,273
OVERHEADS	773,888
GENERAL	593,768
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	Sfr 13,732,035

The international donor community has spent more than US\$ 5 billion in Bosnia-Herzegovina since the General Framework Agreement for Peace was signed on 21 November 1995 in Dayton, Ohio. Almost five years to the day, elections held on 11 November 2000 showed that for Bosnia's Serbs, Croats and Muslims ethnic divisions remained the determining factor in the country's political system. As governments and aid organizations took stock of the limited progress made so far in building a sustainable democracy and a strong market economy, the ICRC's focus in the year under review remained firmly on the conflict's legacy – the 18,275 persons still unaccounted for, the dangers posed by one million landmines on Bosnian soil, and support to rebuild the country's infrastructure, particularly in the virtually resourceless health sector.

Clarifying the fate of the missing

Over the course of the year, the ICRC kept up its pressure on the authorities to release information on the 20,508 per-



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation/office

— Inter-Entity Boundary Line

sons who disappeared during the conflict. It also intensified its efforts to inform families about progress made in the search for the missing, and tried to ensure that relatives received psychological support and administrative and legal help. In addition, the ICRC maintained its support for exhumations carried out under the aegis of the Office of the High Representative.*

The ICRC took part in several activities for the families of victims of atrocities that occurred in Srebrenica in 1995. On 29 March, under an agreement signed with Physicians for Human Rights

(PHR), the ICRC took over PHR's ante-mortem database containing detailed information on persons who went missing in Srebrenica. In June 2000, the ICRC published the aptly named *Book of Belongings* containing photographs of the clothes and possessions found on 354 exhumed victims of Srebrenica. In tandem with local Red Cross branches, the ICRC carried out an extensive publicity campaign to inform people of the book's existence, particularly in areas with the largest number of displaced people from Srebrenica. Red Cross staff, specially trained to give psychological support, showed the book to families of the missing. The book has already proved its usefulness, since many people

* High Representative: the official appointed to oversee implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton Agreement

were able to identify items belonging to their deceased relatives, a first step in the identification of mortal remains.

To raise the profile of the missing persons issue and the ICRC's role in this respect, the organization marked the fifth anniversary of Srebrenica by giving support to a three-week-long exhibition of handicrafts made by a group known as the "Women of Srebrenica". Held in July, the exhibition attracted considerable interest and was attended by numerous eminent figures including the President of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the High Representative.

Quality health care

The ICRC maintained its support for a primary health-care programme, investing essentially in people to promote reform in the health system. The programme involved working directly with health professionals, with representatives from different health sectors in 27 communities, and with the general public. Some 80 doctors were given the opportunity to upgrade their knowledge and skills through their work in 16 peer groups. In addition, the ICRC translated, printed and distributed the World Health Organization's "Learning Materials on Nursing" (LEMON) self-teaching modules for nurses in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mine awareness

Between 1996, when the ICRC began its mine-awareness campaign in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the end of 2000, the number of mine accidents in the country dropped from a monthly average of 50 to only nine. Red Cross staff continued to collect and publish statistics on mine victims, to give presentations on the dangers of mines to communities throughout the region, to support villages in implementing mine-awareness activities according to their needs, and to promote mine awareness through the media and in schools. ICRC assistance helped to underpin the activities of Red Cross organizations in both

entities. Progress was made towards the eventual handover of mine-awareness programmes to local Red Cross organizations when, in early 2000, a Cooperation Framework Agreement was concluded between them and the ICRC.

Preventive action

The ICRC continued to hold training courses and seminars for the armies of both the Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina with a view to incorporating the law of armed conflict into military training procedures. Presentations on humanitarian law and on the ICRC's role in conflict situations were also given for international peace-keeping troops of the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR).

Through its "Exploring Humanitarian Law" project, the ICRC kept up its efforts to spread knowledge of the subject among adolescents. Working with education authorities, it began preparations for pilot programmes targeting both teachers and pupils.

One National Society

There was an important development in September 2000 when the authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina officially agreed on the establishment of a single National Society comprising the Red Cross organizations in both entities. New momentum was given to the process of formal ICRC recognition when in December, after 30 months of patient inter-entity negotiations, a constitutive assembly was held in Sarajevo.

As in the past, the ICRC retained overall responsibility for assistance projects run by seven National Societies. The Societies' bilateral programmes ranged from psychological counselling for children affected by armed conflict to the production of prostheses.

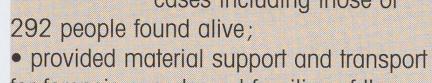
IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- visited 17 detainees charged with war crimes in 5 places of detention;



- out of a total of 20,508 tracing requests collected since the beginning of the conflict, resolved 2,241 cases including those of 292 people found alive;



- provided material support and transport for forensic experts and families of the missing to visit exhumation sites;
- published an addendum to the *Book of the Missing* containing more than 500 names of missing persons;



- supplied monthly food parcels for some 10,000 beneficiaries of the Red Cross home-care programme;



- supported a primary health-care programme and training for doctors and nurses;
- carried out an evaluation to assess the impact of ending its surgical supply programme in hospitals;



- provided the entity Red Cross organizations with material, technical and financial support for joint tracing and mine-awareness programmes;



- gave 7 courses on the law of armed conflict for 161 members of the armed forces of both entities and 6 presentations for SFOR troops;



- organized over 6,500 presentations and discussions involving 128 instructors for some 107,500 people, half of them children, as part of its mine-awareness programme.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

PROTECTION

7,321,002

ASSISTANCE

120,869,528

PREVENTIVE ACTION

1,873,255

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

2,928,656

OVERHEADS

6,480,316

GENERAL

1,283,293

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 140,756,050

No other Balkan country has undergone such dramatic changes in the style and tone of its leadership as has the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In September 2000, the electorate voted massively to remove a nationalist party perceived by many to have brought a host of social and economic problems to the country. The newly elected government pledged to seek peaceful solutions to political problems, to respect the rule of law, and to work with the international community to repair the damage caused by a decade of war.

Just weeks after his inauguration, Yugoslavia's new President met the head of the ICRC's delegation in Belgrade. During the meeting the ICRC gave assurances that it would continue to address the enormous humanitarian needs facing the country. The head of delegation emphasized that ascertaining the fate of persons who had disappeared was crucial to peace and reconciliation, and that the ICRC would continue its endeavour to inform families about the whereabouts of their missing relatives. The President was also briefed on the ICRC's activities for persons still



⊕ ICRC delegation

⊕ ICRC sub-delegation/office

⊕ ICRC mission

⊕ ICRC office

detained in connection with the conflict in Kosovo in 1999. In response, the President expressed his full support for the work of the Red Cross in Yugoslavia and stated that the government would seek ways of dealing with humanitarian concerns.

Finding answers for families

For the authorities and for the ICRC, perhaps the most formidable challenge in this complex region was to resolve the painful issue of those who had disappeared during the conflict in Kosovo. As lead agency for the tracing of missing persons, the ICRC held numerous talks with the relevant authorities in Pristina and Belgrade, coordinated its efforts with those

of other organizations, and systematically visited villages and towns in a quest to find answers for anguished relatives.

In June the ICRC published, and put on the Internet, the first edition of a *Book of Missing Persons*. The 200-page document contains the names of 3,368 people who disappeared during the Kosovo conflict. While most are Kosovar Albanians, the list also includes Serbs, Roma and people from other communities.

Over the year, forensic teams from specialist organizations continued the grisly work of exhumations. One of the ICRC's tasks was to ensure that families from all ethnic communities, including those displaced from Kosovo, were able

to take part in the identification of mortal remains. As a first step, photographs of clothing found on exhumed bodies were shown to relatives. The ICRC then provided transport for groups of Serbs to travel to Gracanica and Zvecan in Kosovo, where several people were able to identify with certainty the clothes found on some of the hundreds of bodies exhumed. In cooperation with associations of families of persons missing from Kosovo, the ICRC also helped relatives with psychological support and legal counselling.

During the year delegates continued to visit people arrested in Kosovo and held in detention in Serbia. Under the protection of the red cross emblem, 898 detainees released from Serbian prisons were transported back to their families in Kosovo.

In addition to these activities, the ICRC helped families who, for security or financial reasons, were unable to visit relatives in detention in Kosovo and elsewhere in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. By December 2000, 111 detainees in Serbia proper had been visited by families receiving ICRC assistance.

Minority groups in Kosovo

When the conflict ended, Serbs, Roma and other communities not of Albanian origin were subjected to violent attacks, threats or intimidation from ethnic Albanian radicals. ICRC teams regularly visited minority villages to monitor their security situation, address medical, food, sanitation and agricultural needs and help restore contact with relatives where necessary.

Southern Serbia

Towards the end of the year, renewed tension in the Presevo and Bujanovac regions of southern Serbia forced several thousand ethnic Albanians to seek refuge in Kosovo. As a result, the ICRC team in Nis stepped up its activities in the region to respond to the needs of communities isolated because of the poor security environment.

The ICRC assisted those who fled to the Gnjilane/Giljan area in Kosovo, gained access to villages in the "ground security zone" (the five-kilometre demilitarized strip on the Serbian side of Kosovo's boundary) to help both Serb and Albanian communities, and provided assistance in other areas in the Presevo valley.

Extensive assistance programme

In 2000, several million meals were prepared for over 94,000 beneficiaries in Serbia and Montenegro. These staggering statistics reflect the enormity of the humanitarian needs facing Yugoslavia. Run in conjunction with the Yugoslav Red Cross and other National Societies,⁵ the community kitchen programme for impoverished local residents and food parcel distributions for internally displaced people remained one of the cornerstones of the ICRC's relief effort. Regular assistance was provided for some 180,000 internally displaced Serbs from Kosovo. From mid-December, assistance was extended to the Bujanovac area of southern Serbia, where food was delivered to people in both Serb and Albanian communities.

In Kosovo, ICRC delegates worked closely with National Societies to provide direct assistance through community kitchens and to bring aid to minorities. To avoid duplication of effort, all assistance programmes were coordinated with UNMIK,* UNHCR* and other humanitarian agencies working in the region. In providing food aid, the ICRC aimed to fill the gaps and help the most vulnerable until UNMIK's social welfare programme became fully operational. Although overall needs for assistance diminished over the year, in November the ICRC increased supplies of food and other items to help ethnic Albanians recently displaced from southern Serbia.

⁵ See p. 156.

* UNMIK: United Nations Mission in Kosovo

* UNHCR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Emergency water supplies

In areas where sanitation services were destroyed by the conflict, the ICRC's overriding concern was to ensure that the population had access to safe drinking water. At the beginning of the year, the Swedish Red Cross and the ICRC launched a programme to help seven public health institutes in Serbia and one in Montenegro monitor the quality of their drinking water. In the poorest areas of southern Serbia, the ICRC also provided emergency assistance to prevent the total collapse of the water-supply system.

Essential health services

In 2000 the ICRC provided 35 hospitals in Serbia and five in Montenegro with surgical supplies. It also continued its monthly deliveries of basic drugs for chronic diseases to 12 Red Cross pharmacies across Serbia. Beneficiaries of the programme were refugees, internally displaced people and other vulnerable members of society.

Emergency surgical supplies were also furnished to the Bujanovac health centre and the Vranje hospital in southern Serbia.

Troops in Kosovo

In Kosovo's politically sensitive environment, the ICRC's programmes to promote humanitarian law and to inform international and local troops of its activities were of particular importance. During the year, delegates and national staff gave presentations on the law of armed conflict to officers from international peace-keeping units (KFOR) and to the Kosovo Protection Corps (demobilized fighters from the Kosovo Liberation Army). Delegates also attended human rights sessions for UNMIK police officers, and for the Kosovo police service, to give talks on humanitarian law, the ICRC and the Movement.

Safer villages

Villagers began returning to their homes in Kosovo from mid-1999. Between then and the end of 2000, 496

people had been killed or maimed by landmines. The ICRC therefore maintained its extensive mine-awareness programme, begun the previous year. The programme continued to focus on its four

principal objectives: to make communities in high-risk areas more aware of the dangers of mines; as the lead agency in this field, to gather as much information as possible on mine incidents; to help

ensure rapid clearance by passing on relevant statistics to demining agencies; and to inform the various aid organizations of the need for other forms of humanitarian assistance.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- visited 1,264 persons arrested in Kosovo and detained in Serbia or Montenegro;
- in Kosovo, visited 141 persons detained by international forces;
- made 94 visits to detention centres in Serbia, 39 in Kosovo and 8 in Montenegro;



- collected and distributed some 47,000 Red Cross messages;



- in coordination with the Yugoslav Red Cross and other aid agencies, supplied some 45,000 tonnes of food and non-food assistance to over 470,000 internally displaced people and 108,000 vulnerable residents;
- provided food and other assistance for the entire prison population at 3 large detention centres in Serbia (Nis, Sremska Mitrovica and Pozarevac);
- in the Presevo valley, distributed food parcels and hygiene kits for babies to beneficiaries living with host families;
- from mid-December, distributed food for beneficiaries in the villages in the ground safety zone;
- in Kosovo, served cooked meals daily to 14,000 people at community kitchens run by 4 participating National Societies;
- under the agronomy programme in Kosovo, distributed 354 tonnes of winter wheat seed, 159 tonnes of maize seed, 95 tonnes of bean seed, 81 tonnes of onion seed and 3,467 tonnes of fertilizer to some 12,000 households, including Serb families;

- repaired tractors at workshops run by participating National Societies;



- in Serbia, distributed surgical material to 40 hospitals and health facilities;
- in Serbia, supplied 12 humanitarian pharmacies with basic drugs to cover the needs of an estimated 400,000 people;
- donated supplies to the blood transfusion services of 6 hospitals in Kosovo;
- supported health facilities in Mitrovica North and South, rehabilitated 9 other medical facilities, and set up mobile clinics for minority groups in remote areas;



- in Serbia, supplied essential materials, including chlorinators, to water boards;
- helped rebuild the water and sanitation department of the Public Health Institute in Pristina and funded the establishment of a mobile laboratory to test for water-borne diseases;
- maintained support for water boards in 24 regions in Kosovo by repairing installations damaged by fighting, and supplying essential replacement parts;



- working with 9 National Societies, rebuilt 112 schools, 10,320 houses and 33 health centres in Kosovo;



- gave 36 presentations on the law of armed conflict and the ICRC's mandate to 1,992 officers of KFOR units from Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey and the UK;
- gave presentations on international humanitarian law to 3,200 members of the Kosovo Protection Corps;
- gave presentations on the ICRC, the Movement and the basics of humanitarian law to 1,076 police officers from Denmark, Germany, India, Turkey, the UK, the USA and several other countries;
- took part in the training of cadets and 2,326 future officers of the Kosovo Police Service;



- in Kosovo, ran a mine-awareness programme that reached 30,400 children in 140 schools, and 3,400 adults through 265 presentations;
- made 450 visits to mine-contaminated villages;
- trained 13 ICRC field officers and 150 village representatives as mine-awareness instructors;
- commissioned performances of "Little Red Riding Hood", illustrating the dangers of mines, which were attended by 34,600 children and 3,300 adults;
- supplied data to the Swiss Federation for Mine Clearance, which used the information to respond to 310 demining and marking requests from mine-affected communities.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA



ICRC delegation

By December 2000, only a few hundred ethnic Albanians from Kosovo still remained in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This figure contrasted sharply with that of the previous year, when an estimated 350,000 refugees streamed across the border into Macedonia. Some of those who stayed on were housed in collective centres, although the majority had been taken in by host families within the Albanian community. Over the year, the authorities took several measures to ease tension between Macedonians and ethnic Albanians, who comprised over a quarter of the country's two million inhabitants.

In spring 1999 when violence erupted in Kosovo, the ICRC's delegation in Skopje mobilized quickly to provide relief supplies for refugees and to help restore links between family members who had become separated. Once the emergency had subsided, these activities were scaled down considerably, although the Skopje office continued to serve as a vital logistics hub for ICRC activities in Kosovo. In 2000, the ICRC was able to focus once again on its programmes to disseminate humanitarian law, which had been put on hold because of the turmoil in Kosovo.

A database on the missing

The ICRC's central database containing all relevant information relating to people missing as a result of the events in Kosovo was set up in Skopje. One of the main tasks of the delegation was therefore to register all information collected on prison visits, tracing requests and allegations of arrest in Macedonia, Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Tracing activities to restore family links for refugees continued through the Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, while delegates regularly visited collective centres outside Skopje where the local Red Cross branches did not have the necessary infrastructure to cope with tracing requests.

Ongoing humanitarian assistance

During the period under review, the delegation in Skopje continued to dispatch relief supplies to the ICRC in Pristina and to participating National Societies throughout Kosovo. In addition, when tension escalated between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in the Preshevo/Preshevë region of southern Yugoslavia, the Skopje delegation set up a contingency stock of emergency supplies for an estimated 20,000 beneficiaries in anticipation of an influx of refugees at the Macedonian border.

Preventive action

The ICRC's dissemination programmes for the armed and security forces and for young people continued to be well received by the authorities and the population at large. Courses on humanitarian law and human rights for senior police officers in Kumanovo, Tetovo and Skopje came to an end, as planned, in December. Seminars on the law of armed conflict were also held for officers of the Macedonian army, and training sessions were organized for future instructors of the subject. The ICRC maintained its "Promotion of Human Values" project which it had initiated three years previously in conjunction with the Macedonian Red Cross and the Ministry of Education. The project aimed to improve relations between the country's different ethnic groups and targeted young people in particular. The dissemination team gave lectures and organized workshops for students and teachers in secondary schools throughout the country.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- distributed 151 Red Cross messages and collected 133;



- provided food and other relief supplies and supported the activities of participating National Societies in Kosovo;



- continued to provide support for National Society activities in the fields of tracing, dissemination and conflict preparedness;



- held a 5-day instructors' seminar for 21 army officers;
- gave presentations to some 200 officers

from KFOR;

- gave 4 5-day courses on humanitarian law and human rights law for 102 senior police officers;
- as part of its programme to promote humanitarian values among young people, organized 109 lectures for 435 teachers and 3,662 secondary school students, and held 16 workshops for 89 teachers and 531 students.

TURKEY

Throughout 2000, the ICRC intensified its contacts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ankara. Officials were briefed on the ICRC's activities, with particular emphasis on its operations in Kosovo and elsewhere in the Balkans, in Iraq and in the northern Caucasus.

In May, at the invitation of the Turkish General Staff, the ICRC took part in a seminar on the law of armed conflict organized by the Partnership for Peace training academy in Ankara. Subsequently, the authorities and the ICRC agreed to further develop training activities in this area. In June, senior officers of the Turkish General Staff participated in a conference ("HOT 4") on the law of armed conflict held by the ICRC in Geneva for heads of training. The following month, officers attended a regional seminar on the same subject in Budapest.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union/ICRC *Handbook for Parliamentarians* was translated into Turkish, as were other texts on international humanitarian law. Interest in humanitarian law continued to run high at universities and contacts were made and assessments carried out with a view to the future inclusion of humanitarian law modules in university curricula.

On two occasions, the ICRC was invited to address the General Assembly of the Turkish Red Crescent. The new President of the National Society and other senior officials visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva in July. The ICRC also supported training courses for National Society staff.

BUDAPEST

Regional delegation

(Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia)

Responsibility for activities in the Baltic States – Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia – and in Croatia were transferred to the Budapest delegation in the year 2000. The delegation therefore faced the challenge of covering a broad swathe of countries, 11 in all, stretching from Estonia on the Baltic to Croatia on the Adriatic.

To promote understanding of humanitarian law, delegates undertook a wide range of activities only some of which can be mentioned here, for lack of space. Programmes were tailored to the specific needs of each country and mainly targeted legislators and the armed and security forces. National Societies in the region were systematically included in the ICRC's dialogue with the authorities. On the whole, governments in the countries covered were responsive to the ICRC's message; they saw a clear advantage in bringing their domestic legislation in line with international humanitarian law as virtually all of them were candidates for admission to European institutions and had taken part in peace-keeping operations.

People still missing in Croatia

Throughout 2000, the Zagreb mission continued to focus primarily on the fate of 2,676 persons still unaccounted for in connection with the conflict in Croatia in 1991, and of those reported missing after the 1995 military operations in the former United Nations sectors. As in previous years, the collection of tracing requests was the responsibility of the Croatian and Yugoslav Red Cross Societies, while the ICRC facilitated the exchange of information between the former warring parties. By the end of 2000, out of a total of 3,830 files opened, 1,960 cases had been elucidated (1,873 cases clarified out of the 3,487 files opened by the Croatian side; 87 cases clarified out of the 343 files opened by the Yugoslav side).

Delegates continued to visit detainees held in connection with the past conflict, and to register new detainees. The ICRC also maintained its programme of family visits between Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, thereby enabling families to visit their detained relatives.

Advice on national legislation

The ICRC's legal adviser, based at the regional delegation, held numerous constructive meetings with representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Justice in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Slovakia and Slovenia; in these countries, the delegation provided technical assistance and advice on the drafting, adoption and amendment of national legislation to bring it in line with humanitarian law. In Lithuania, a study on the compatibility of the domestic legal system with international humanitarian law was submitted to the authorities. Over the year, national committees for the implementation of humanitarian law were established in Croatia, Estonia, Hungary and Lithuania. Discussions also began with the authorities in Warsaw on the creation of a national committee.

Training for the armed, police and security forces

Efforts to ensure that the military hierarchy incorporated humanitarian law into their instruction programmes achieved good results. For instance, in July the Budapest regional delegation succeeded for the first time in bringing together the heads of training of the armed forces of 19 countries at a seminar designed to stimulate international cooperation in dissemination and training.

The ICRC also supported efforts made by the relevant ministries to ensure that the provisions of humanitarian law and human rights law were taught to both the armed and police forces, especially at operational levels. By year's end, over 200 officers of the armed forces had attended ICRC seminars on humanitarian law. Presentations on human rights law and the basic principles of humanitarian law were also held for 182 police officers. In November, the head of the Budapest delegation and the Croatian Minister of the Interior signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the incorporation of humanitarian law and human rights law into training programmes for the country's police forces.

National Societies

The delegation concentrated on strengthening the capacity of National Societies in the fields of dissemination, tracing and conflict preparedness. In 2000, 10 of the region's 11 National Societies had officially designated dissemination officers; in 1999 such posts existed in only three of the seven countries then covered. A working group comprising dissemination officers from the region's National Societies was set up to produce guidelines for the dissemination of humanitarian law among key audiences such as the media and young people. In Croatia, ICRC support for the Red Cross youth programme resulted in the establishment of 22 youth clubs with over 70,000 members who helped the neediest people in the former war zones.

The scourge of mines

The ICRC worked in partnership with other groups to increase awareness among the population of the thousands of anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance that still infested Croatian territory. In 2000, the National Mine Action Programme adopted by the Croatian Parliament officially recognized the ICRC/Croatian Red Cross mine-awareness programme. Thanks to joint efforts with the Croatian Red Cross over the year, the ICRC was able to expand its mine-awareness programme under which various activities were regularly initiated by communities living in dangerous areas. In tandem with the Croatian Mine Action Centre, the ICRC launched a national media campaign in February to promote awareness of the problem in the affected regions. Thanks to these endeavours organizations in Croatia reported a major reduction in casualty figures.

"People on War"

Croatia and Hungary were two of the countries polled in 2000 by the ICRC for its "People on War"⁶ campaign. Delegates conducted interviews with war veterans and civilians, including the President of Croatia. In Hungary, some 120,000 postcards depicting humanitarian law themes were distributed.

⁶ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, pp. 348-350.

KYIV

Regional delegation
(Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine)

In retrospect, the year 2000 witnessed few changes in the living conditions of people in the three countries covered by the regional delegation in Kyiv. Belarusians went to the polls in parliamentary elections in the autumn, but the results were overshadowed by opposition allegations that vote counts had been rigged. Moldova's largely agrarian economy continued to flounder. Drought in the summer depleted food stocks and icy winter storms felled the country's grid of power and telephone lines and brought about severe energy restrictions. Although the situation in Ukraine was less bleak, public finances remained shaky, and new environmental concerns surfaced regarding the Chernobyl nuclear reactor. In the Crimea tension between the different communities heightened in October and November when vandals desecrated religious symbols.

In this context, the regional delegation in Kyiv pursued its brief to spread knowledge of and foster respect for international humanitarian law. The authorities of the countries covered remained extremely receptive to these activities and over the year made considerable efforts to implement humanitarian law at national level. Strategic contacts established with the armed forces led to genuine progress in the incorporation of humanitarian law into the training programmes of military academies and institutions. The delegation also backed efforts made by the relevant authorities to raise awareness among young people of the problems associated with conflict situations. For example, in Belarus the ICRC supported the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Education to include humanitarian law in the curricula of secondary and vocational schools.

Dispute between Moldova and Transdnistria

There was no breakthrough in the deadlock between Moldovan authorities and those of the self-proclaimed Moldovan Republic of Dniestr (Transdnistria). The ICRC kept a close watch on the situation of security detainees, notably those held in Transdnistria in connection with events that occurred in 1992. The regional delegation continued to negotiate with the authorities in Tiraspol regarding access to the "Ilascu group", and met the President to explain the ICRC's stance. By year's end, however, these negotiations had achieved little success.

Humanitarian law and the authorities

During the period under review ICRC dissemination delegates intensified their contacts with the region's governments as part of their efforts to have humanitarian law incorporated into national legislation. In July 2000, after three years of negotiations, the Ukrainian government set up an Interministerial Committee for the Implementation of Humanitarian Law. The delegation maintained regular contact with the interministerial committees in all three countries to help them bring their national legislations in line with their international obligations. The Kyiv delegation also arranged for senior government officials to take part in ICRC seminars on humanitarian law. For example, representatives from each country attended the ICRC's regional conference on the repression of war crimes which was held in Moscow from 29 to 31 May, while other high-level officials took part in the fifth ICRC-sponsored international course for legal experts from CIS* countries, also in Moscow from 14 to 16 June.

Working successfully with the armed forces

Considerable progress was made by the armed forces in all three countries to incorporate humanitarian law into the training programmes of military academies and institutions. The ICRC therefore felt that the awareness-raising phase of this programme had been completed. In July, the delegation arranged for an officer from Ukraine and one from Moldova to attend a meeting in Budapest of Ministry of Defence representatives from Central and East European countries. Such meetings served to evaluate the efforts made to include the law of armed conflict in military training programmes and to analyse its relevance in peace-keeping operations. Contacts with the police and security forces were particularly encouraging in Belarus, where a cooperation agreement was signed with the Ministry of the Interior in June regarding dissemination of humanitarian law and human rights law to the police. ICRC presentations to police forces began in Moldova at the end of 1999,⁷ and in Ukraine in January 2000.

Getting young people to think about humanitarian law

Promoting knowledge of humanitarian law in academic circles remained an essential part of the delegation's work. The regional delegation organized seminars and supported the distribution of teaching materials and the exchange of information on the subject, so as to promote its inclusion in university curricula. In Belarus, the Ministry of Education drew up plans to introduce the teaching of humanitarian law in secondary and technical schools. To support the Ministry's efforts, in January the regional delegation organized a training seminar for 35 future teachers of this body of law. Ministry officials and dissemination delegates met several times to discuss

* CIS: Commonwealth of Independent States

⁷ See the ICRC's 1999 Annual Report, p. 265.

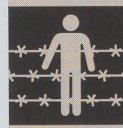
teaching methods, in particular the ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" project which addresses adolescents.

The fourth De Martens moot court competition took place in April and was held simultaneously at three different locations – Kyiv, Moscow and Tashkent. All the competitors used the same case study prepared by the ICRC delegation in Moscow, and the team from the International Institute of Linguistics and Law in Kyiv emerged as one of the three winners.

Strengthening the capacity of National Societies

The regional delegation continued to give strong support to the National Societies of all the countries covered. Assistance was provided for their tracing services and, in conjunction with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, training seminars were held for dissemination officers. The ICRC office in Simferopol stepped up its support for assistance programmes run by the Crimean branch of the Red Cross Society of Ukraine for the most vulnerable people in the region. The delegation focused its efforts on building up the expertise and resources of the Crimean branch, and provided support for its two main programmes, first-aid centres in rural areas and medical-social consultation facilities.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



1992 in Tiraspol, in the self-proclaimed Moldovan Republic of Dniestr;



• provided basic medicines, emergency materials and equipment for 22 first-aid centres covered by the Crimean branch of the Ukrainian Red Cross;

• strengthened the National Societies by training dissemination officers;

• conducted 14 joint dissemination seminars with local Red Cross branches;

• worked with the International Federation to help the as yet unrecognized Moldovan Red Cross reform its statutes and develop its capacity as a step towards recognition as a National Society;



• sponsored the participation of representatives of the Ukrainian, Belarusian and Moldovan governments in ICRC courses held for CIS officials responsible for the implementation of humanitarian law;

• arranged for high-level representatives of the authorities and members of academic circles to take part in ICRC conferences and seminars on topics relating to humanitarian law, in Brussels, Budapest, Geneva, Moscow and Warsaw;

• supported production of training manuals on the law of armed conflict for the armed forces in national languages;

• continued to back the publication of *Justice of Belarus*, a legal periodical that also covers humanitarian law;

• in Ukraine, took part in meetings of senior Ministry of Defence staff in April and June, to follow progress made in the incorporation of the law of armed conflict into training programmes for the armed forces;

• in all 3 countries, gave presentations on humanitarian law for 117 military officers;

• in Ukraine, trained instructors in the law of armed conflict;

• in Ukraine, organized a 2-day seminar for 25 future military chaplains of 5 different denominations;

• in October, gave a presentation for defence attachés from 12 NATO countries;

• trained 253 police instructors in human rights and humanitarian law and gave presentations to a total of 204 police officers and 331 cadets in the 3 countries;

• arranged for 2 junior lecturers, from Moldova and Ukraine respectively, to take part in a seminar on "War reporting and the fundamentals of international humanitarian law" – held near Moscow in September;

• organized a moot court competition in Kyiv for 8 teams from academic institutions in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

MOSCOW

Regional delegation

(Russian Federation with specialized services for all the countries in the region)

PROTECTION	733,478
ASSISTANCE	21,668,913
PREVENTIVE ACTION	5,895,267
COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES	3,997,252
OVERHEADS	1,968,960
GENERAL	736,895
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	Sfr 35,000,765

During his first 12 months in office, the new Russian President implemented significant policy reforms at central level and in the country's 89 regions. Propped up by oil revenues, the economy seemed to show signs of recovery. However, the political environment was less sanguine – violence in Chechnya continued to take a heavy toll, in terms of both human suffering and economic resources.

In response to this situation, the regional delegation in Moscow concentrated its efforts on two main areas. First, supported by the Russian Red Cross, a small team of expatriates assisted by highly competent local employees continued aid programmes for people affected by the fighting in the northern Caucasus;⁸ and second, delegates focused on a crucial aspect of the ICRC's mandate, i. e. the promotion of respect for humanitarian law through nationwide dissemination programmes for the authorities, the armed forces and young people. Programmes for the armed forces in particular assumed greater relevance, given the direct impact of dissemination on the conduct of military operations.

Visit to Moscow by ICRC President

From May onwards, ICRC delegates began visits to persons detained by the authorities in connection with the fighting in Chechnya. The visits were conducted after the Russian President gave assurances to the President of the ICRC, during talks in Moscow in March, that delegates would be granted access to all such persons, wherever they were being held. During the meeting, Mr Putin expressed his wish to see ICRC activities extend into Chechnya, in cooperation with the Russian Red Cross, so as to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs in the region, and made a firm commitment to provide Red Cross staff with the neces-

sary security guarantees. He also stated clearly that the ICRC's freedom of movement in Chechnya would not be curtailed because of security restrictions. For his part, the ICRC President expressed his determination to gain access for the ICRC to persons detained by Chechen fighters. Given the ICRC's serious concern about allegations of violations of international humanitarian law in Chechnya, the ICRC President further insisted on the importance of taking all necessary measures to ensure full respect for its provisions.

Implementing humanitarian law at the national level

Underpinning the ICRC's work in the Russian Federation was the conviction that for humanitarian law to be respected it must first be understood by those required to implement it. Over the course of the year, therefore, the delegation in Moscow continued to strengthen contacts previously established with key officials at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education, Defence and the Interior. Delegates organized numerous seminars in the Russian Federation and throughout the other CIS countries to raise the authorities' awareness of the need to adopt measures for national implementation of humanitarian law. For example, in October delegates went to Tbilisi to meet high-ranking officials of Georgia's Supreme Court. Discussions there focused on a study on the compatibility of Georgian legislation with the Statute of the International Criminal Court. The legal adviser of the ICRC's Advisory Service working at the Moscow delegation also served as a focal point for the provision of assistance for the incorporation of humanitarian law into the domestic leg-

⁸ See p. 170 for a complete description of ICRC activities in the northern Caucasus.

isolation of CIS countries and for the establishment of national implementation committees. In addition, the ICRC contributed to legal research on measures taken by States to promote the implementation of humanitarian law. One such case in point occurred after the Russian Federation signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in September. The delegation immediately offered the authorities technical assistance for national implementation of the Statute, and met representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss ratification.

Training for the military, police and security forces

The delegation also kept up its efforts to include the fundamentals of humanitarian law in the training of officers and soldiers. One encouraging development was the setting up of a working group by the Ministry of Defence to design a comprehensive manual on the law of armed conflict for the military. By year's end a draft had been completed and was ready for printing. Another positive development was the establishment by the Ministry of Defence of a training centre to instruct members of the Russian air force in the law of armed conflict. During the year, the ICRC signed cooperation agreements covering a broad spectrum of activities with the Ministries of Defence and the Interior, the Military Prosecutors' Office and the Federal Border Guard Service. Seminars on the law of armed conflict and on human rights were held for senior officers, training sessions were given to future instructors, and presentations on the principles of humanitarian and human rights law and the ICRC's work were targeted specifically at special Interior Ministry units whose duties were to restore order in troubled regions.

Teaching humanitarian law

Dissemination delegates went on numerous missions to CIS countries, where they gave talks on and took part in seminars on humanitarian law. The delegation sponsored the participation of faculty members and students in related activities, and provided financial and technical support for the publication of material on the subject. Delegates also worked intensively to build up a network of contacts among universities offering courses in humanitarian law, both in the region and in Western Europe.

Under the coordination of the Moscow delegation, some 100 students representing 31 law faculties from all 15 CIS countries took part in the fourth De Martens moot court competition on humanitarian law. The competition took place simultaneously in Kyiv, Moscow and Tashkent from 13-18 April 2000 and was based on a case study on humanitarian law prepared by the Moscow delegation.

Instilling responsibility in young people

For the fifth year running, the ICRC conducted a dissemination programme in secondary schools throughout the Russian Federation. The programme aims to educate young people in the fundamentals of humanitarian law and to increase their awareness of Red Cross activities. Delegates worked with the education authorities to target fifth- to eighth-graders (11-16 year olds), who received ICRC texts as part of their official courses in Russian literature. As of 1999, the basic principles of humanitarian law were included in civics courses for ninth-graders. To support teachers taking part in the programme, in 2000 the ICRC drafted and published a brochure on humanitarian issues and organized training seminars for them.

Cooperation activities

The ICRC gave considerable backing to Russian Red Cross headquarters and to local branches for their operations in the northern Caucasus, while at the same time maintaining support for the National Society's dissemination and tracing programmes. In the course of the year a pilot project was launched to extend the dissemination programme, already successfully implemented in the Moscow region, to three selected areas in central Siberia. Complementing the delegation's other activities involving young people, the project aimed to train volunteers to spread awareness of the principles of humanitarian law and the Red Cross to adolescents. The ICRC also covered part of the running costs as well as the salaries of the National Society's tracing office, which employed a staff of 18. The office expanded its services in 2000, following the establishment by the German government of a compensation fund for victims of the Second World War.⁹ The ICRC actively encouraged the National Society to carry out systematic evaluations of its activities. With this objective in mind, in October the delegation organized a seminar on financial reporting for Russian Red Cross staff.

⁹ See the ICRC's 1999 Annual Report, p. 270.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- issued travel documents for 42 beneficiaries;



- funded dissemination projects run by the Russian Red Cross, including 1 based in a Moscow museum;
- gave financial support to the National Society tracing centre (a total of 42,598 requests relating to the Second World War have been received so far), which opened 3,924 cases and closed 3,973;
- paid the salaries of senior staff at Russian Red Cross headquarters;
- funded the publication and nationwide distribution of the monthly Russian Red Cross magazine, which was produced entirely by the National Society;



- held a series of meetings with the relevant authorities, in particular the legal division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the ratification and national implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
- organized the 6th annual course on humanitarian law for civil servants, held in Moscow and attended by 26 participants from 10 CIS countries;
- organized 2 regional meetings, 1 for national committees on international humanitarian law, and 1 on the national and international repression of war crimes, in Moscow which were attended by representatives from CIS countries;
- in cooperation with the State Duma, completed the installation of an electronic database on humanitarian law for the Russian authorities;
- assisted national committees in several CIS States on national measures to implement humanitarian law;

- at the Ministry of the Interior, held 7 seminars on humanitarian law for 367 members of the police and security forces;
- at the Ministry of Defence, gave 10 presentations for 675 military personnel;
- gave a presentation for 100 members of the Federal Border Guard Service;
- arranged for 15 senior officers from CIS Ministries of Defence and the Interior to attend the Russian-language course on the law of armed conflict at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo;
- under the schools programme, organized 103 seminars to train 3,144 teachers and 70 regional coordinators on the use of ICRC 5th- and 6th-grade textbooks and the 9th-grade civic education brochure;
- began print runs of over 1.8 million textbooks for 7th-graders;
- prepared the trial phase of the 8th-grade textbook;
- undertook several missions to CIS countries to work on national implementation of international humanitarian law with the authorities and to promote the incorporation of humanitarian law into university curricula;
- attended 4 regional academic conferences on humanitarian law;
- in Snegiri, outside Moscow, organized a seminar on "War reporting and the fundamentals of international humanitarian law" for deans and heads of departments of faculties of journalism in CIS countries.

Northern Caucasus

Over the course of the year, the need for humanitarian assistance in this unstable region rose sharply as the effects of the military operations in Chechnya continued to be felt. To keep pace, the ICRC increased its operational support in terms of human and material resources. This was one of the largest ICRC operations in the region, second only to that in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Delegates succeeded in addressing the protection and assistance requirements of some 170,000 beneficiaries, within Chechnya itself and in other parts of the northern Caucasus.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement launched a five-month relief operation for the people displaced from Chechnya in November 1999; this was subsequently extended to the end of 2000. As the lead agency for the Movement, the ICRC coordinated all activities for internally displaced persons and local residents affected by the conflict, and funded Russian Red Cross programmes. Needs in the northern Caucasus were simply too great for any organization to cope with single-handedly. In addition, poor security conditions meant that efficient coordination with other humanitarian agencies, with the Movement and more specifically with the local branches of the Russian Red Cross, was paramount.

Operational challenges were daunting, since draconian security measures and the constant threat of abduction in one of the world's most dangerous regions precluded the permanent presence of expatriate staff in Chechnya. The ICRC therefore had to find imaginative, cost-effective solutions to come to the aid of the civilian population – those who had fled Chechnya, and the estimated 500,000 people who, having nowhere else to go, had simply remained behind after the outbreak of hostilities in October 1999.



⊕ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC presence

Concern for the safety of its staff forced the ICRC to suspend its operations in Chechnya in November 1999. At the end of March 2000, relying on its Chechen staff and the local branch of the Russian Red Cross, the ICRC resumed its activities in the republic. This resumption of activities became possible when, during a meeting with the ICRC President in Moscow, the Russian President specifically requested that ICRC activities be expanded within Chechnya and elsewhere in the region. Moreover, Mr Putin gave a firm commitment that the authorities would provide all the security guarantees necessary for ICRC operations. The ICRC's office in Grozny, the Chechen capital, was reopened in October under

the responsibility of 45 local employees, who from March had been covering Chechnya from neighbouring Ingushetia.

Operations in the northern Caucasus were directed by 13 expatriate delegates based in Nalchik, some 100 kilometres away from Chechnya, in close cooperation with over 300 national staff. The team in Nalchik was supported by the delegation in Moscow and by ICRC headquarters in Geneva. Relief supplies went to the republics of Chechnya, Ingushetia, Daghestan, Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, Kalmykia, Karachayevsk-Cherkesskaya, Adygea and the Stavropol and Krasnodar regions.

Access to detainees

In May, visits to detainees began after the ICRC received formal authorization from the President of the Russian Federation granting access to "all persons held in connection with security operations" in Chechnya. The ICRC carried out visits to detainees held under the responsibility of the Ministries of Justice and the Interior and the Federal Security Service. These visits took place in the republic of Chechnya itself and in other areas of the Russian Federation.

The volatile security situation and the difficulties involved in obtaining the approval of federal authorities for escorts meant that certain places of detention remained out of bounds, particularly within Chechnya itself. Visits to detention facilities in other regions were, for the most part, carried out without undue hindrance. During all visits, detainees were given the opportunity to write Red Cross messages which were then collected for delivery to their relatives. The ICRC was able to engage in direct, constructive dialogue with prison authorities and with the relevant ministry officials.

In parallel, the ICRC held discussions with Chechen rebel leaders on the situation of Russian prisoners in their hands, and emphasized that prisoners should be treated in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Assistance for the destitute and the displaced

During the winter of 1999-2000, hostilities in Chechnya forced over a quarter of a million people to take to the roads. Ingushetia, already one of the poorest republics in the Russian Federation, was the worst affected by the influx of displaced people. Most of the displaced, mainly women, children and the elderly, sought shelter there while others fled to Daghestan and elsewhere in the northern Caucasus. It was difficult to keep track of numbers and movements, as new people constantly arrived while

others crossed back into Chechnya. The lion's share of the ICRC's operational budget in the region went towards its relief programmes, primarily in Ingushetia. To ensure efficient planning and to obtain more precise numbers of beneficiaries, an evaluation of the relief programme there was carried out in December.

The ICRC responded rapidly to the crisis and was able to reach virtually all the displaced Chechens in Ingushetia. As a complement to the assistance provided by other aid agencies and by the Russian government, in Ingushetia the ICRC distributed food and other supplies (food parcels, wheat flour and hygiene kits) to cover the basic requirements of the displaced. Their living conditions were precarious – some 25,000 were housed in makeshift camps, tents and railway wagons, while around 120,000 found shelter with host families or in abandoned public buildings.

In Daghestan aid was distributed quickly and efficiently to thousands of displaced people, and to Daghestani returnees who had fled their villages after attacks by armed groups from Chechnya in August and September 1999. Following a needs assessment, beneficiaries were registered throughout the republic. Distributions were subsequently coordinated with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), one of a handful of agencies working in the region. The DRC covered five regions in which the displaced from Chechnya had found shelter, while the ICRC made distributions in eight outlying areas including mountainous districts where houses had been destroyed. Food parcels, wheat flour and hygiene kits (soap, washing powder, toothpaste) were also distributed.

After the ICRC reopened its office in Grozny in October, local employees carried out regular distributions of food parcels, blankets and kitchen sets to cover basic needs in schools, hospitals and collective centres.

Tremendous demands in the health sector

The ICRC's primary objective in the health sector was to provide support for the medical system, which had virtually no resources. To this end, hospitals in Ingushetia, Daghestan, North Ossetia and Kabardino-Balkaria were given emergency surgical material, enabling them to treat some 3,000 war-wounded.

From April onwards, the ICRC was able to resume assistance to hospitals in Chechnya. In addition to emergency material for the war-wounded, efforts were directed at improving basic conditions through distributions of blankets, stoves and plastic sheeting for temporary accommodation.

Restoring water supplies

The ICRC's overwhelming priorities particularly in summer were to control the vectors of disease in camps and settlements for the displaced in Ingushetia and Daghestan and to ensure the availability of drinking water. Emergency water supplies were organized, and nine ICRC tanker trucks began delivering 250 cubic metres of water daily. Reservoirs for stocking drinking water were built, bladder tanks were installed, and showers were constructed. Hygiene kits and jerrycans were also distributed every three months.

Although open hostilities had subsided by May, four months of fighting resulted in appalling living conditions for the Chechen population (approximately 350,000 residents plus 150,000 displaced persons). Most of Grozny's infrastructure was destroyed and residents were living in badly damaged buildings without heat, electricity, running water or any sanitation system. Assessments were made to ascertain needs, although it was difficult to obtain accurate population figures for Grozny. Educated guesswork suggested that some 100,000 people (20% of them ethnic Russian) were still living in the city and surrounding areas.

Delegates began by addressing the problem of water supply. They brought a pumping station, built by the ICRC in 1995, back into service, thus providing clean drinking water for Grozny's remaining inhabitants.

Mine awareness

A source of particular concern for the ICRC in Chechnya was the increase in the numbers of victims of landmines and other unexploded ordnance (UXO) among the civilian population. In July, delegates carried out a needs assessment to determine attitudes and perceptions and to identify possible risky behaviour on the part of those involved. In order to implement an appropriate strategy, data collection on mine/UXO casualties began and continued throughout the year in Chechnya, Daghestan, Ingushetia and Kabardino-Balkaria. Once the data was collected, the ICRC began a mine-awareness programme in Ingushetia and distributed information on mines in Daghestan and Chechnya, to inform displaced people of the dangers and to teach them rules of behaviour so as to limit the risk of accidents when they returned to Chechnya. In December, the ICRC mine-awareness team, using posters and leaflets depicting characters from Chechen folklore, began holding information sessions for children, and by extension their parents, on the risks associated with mines and UXO.

Troops in the northern Caucasus

Long-term initiatives to increase awareness of and promote respect for humanitarian law were not forgotten. Fruitful contacts built up over the years enabled the ICRC to reach troops on active duty in the northern Caucasus and a particular effort was made to inform them of the rules of humanitarian law and of the ICRC's mandate. The delegation's dissemination staff gave presentations on humanitarian law to servicemen

of the Ministries of Defence and the Interior, and for federal border guards.

Support for Russian Red Cross activities

The ICRC lent its full support to the wide range of relief and assistance operations undertaken by the National Society throughout the northern Caucasus and southern Russia. Quite apart from its own food distributions, the ICRC funded the bread and hot meals programmes run by local Red Cross branches, and donations of clothing to over 50,000 displaced persons.

The Ingush branch of the Russian Red Cross made weekly distributions of bread to some 20,000 people in camps for the displaced and served hot meals daily to 2,000 particularly vulnerable beneficiaries in community kitchens. The local Red Cross branch in Daghestan also ran a bakery, which covered the needs of about 8,000 displaced, and two soup kitchens which regularly provided some 2,700 especially vulnerable displaced people with hot meals.

After a six-month suspension in activities due to the hostilities, from May onwards the Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross, jointly with the ICRC, reactivated the bread programme in Chechnya. The distributions were greatly needed by the beneficiaries, many of whom were solitary, elderly Russians. The ICRC maintained its support for the visiting nurses programme which also resumed in May. Under the programme, housebound, often isolated people were visited in their homes by nurses who dispensed medical care and hot meals and distributed food parcels.

The ICRC also supported mobile medical teams and health posts run by the National Society in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan. The medical teams usually included a doctor and a nurse, and, in Chechnya, a paediatrician. The ICRC provided the units with the necessary vehicles and the financial means to give medical examinations and dispense essential medicines.

The ICRC worked together with the Russian Red Cross on a primary health-care programme for several thousand people in Ingushetia and Daghestan. From September onwards, the programme was extended to Chechnya, in conjunction with the local branch of the Red Cross. This service was particularly appreciated in areas in the south where medical facilities had been completely destroyed and humanitarian assistance was scarce.

For seven years running, the ICRC has helped to fund social welfare programmes and has provided assistance for orphanages, psychiatric hospitals and homes for the elderly. These programmes are run in cooperation with local Red Cross branches throughout the northern Caucasus and southern Russia. After a hiatus due to the conflict, in early 2000 the ICRC resumed its support for these programmes in Chechnya.

Thanks to ICRC support the Russian Red Cross was able to address the needs of an additional 20,000 internally displaced persons from Chechnya who had taken refuge outside the northern Caucasus. As well as monthly hygiene kits and food parcels, the displaced received legal, psycho-social and medical assistance in eight Russian Red Cross centres in Stavropol and in southern Russia. For many of the displaced, the Red Cross was their sole source of assistance.

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- visited 9 places of detention in Chechnya, and 20 elsewhere in the northern Caucasus;
- registered 739 detainees held in connection with the conflict in Chechnya;
- exchanged 629 Red Cross messages between detainees and their families;



- in cooperation with local branches of the Russian Red Cross, arranged for the exchange of 1,910 Red Cross messages between separated family members in the northern Caucasus, including Chechnya, and elsewhere in the CIS;



- in Ingushetia, provided 475,000 quarterly food rations and material assistance for internally displaced people living in camps or with host families at 160 distribution points;
- in Daghestan, distributed 21,700 food parcels, 442 tonnes of wheat flour, 21,000 hygiene kits, 324 rolls of plastic sheeting, and 5,300 kitchen sets (pots and utensils);
- assisted 10,860 internally displaced persons with food parcels and hygiene kits in Kabardino-Balkaria and Karachayev-Cherkesskaya;
- in Chechnya, distributed plastic sheeting, kitchen sets and stoves to 60 schools, social welfare and medical institutions and centres for the displaced;
- distributed school kits, textbooks and blankets to Chechen children in Kabardino-Balkaria, and in Chechnya;
- in Grozny, began the installation of gas stoves in schools, hospitals and other institutions in preparation for winter;



- delivered monthly supplies of medicines and medical material to 6 hospitals in Ingushetia, 5 in Daghestan, 5 in North Ossetia, and from April, to 18 health facilities in Chechnya, enabling them to treat some 53,000 patients;
- provided medical supplies for the monitoring of epidemic diseases such as typhoid to medical centres in Ingushetia, Daghestan, North Ossetia and Chechnya;



- in Ingushetia, installed showers and delivered water supplies for displaced people living in camps;
- in Grozny, rehabilitated pumping station No. 1 in November and, in December, began distributing chlorinated water daily for some 15,000 beneficiaries;



- with local Russian Red Cross branches, provided monthly food and material aid for 10,000 displaced Chechens in the Khasavyurt region of Daghestan, for Daghestani returnees and Daghestanis displaced by the fighting in August 1999, and in December began distributions of food parcels and wheat flour for 7,500 beneficiaries in the Buinaksk and Botlikh regions of Daghestan;
- in southern Russia (Astrakhan, Volgograd, Krasnodar, Rostov, Saratov, Stavropol, Kalmykia, Adygea), supported monthly Russian Red Cross distributions of food parcels for 16,000 displaced people from Chechnya;
- in Chechnya, supported the bread programme run by the Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross (12 loaves of bread per person per month for 20,000 beneficiaries);

- in Chechnya, distributed oil, sugar and soap to beneficiaries of the bread programme;
- in Ingushetia and Daghestan, supported 4 mobile and 4 fixed Russian Red Cross dispensaries;
- from September, with the Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross, supported 1 fixed and 4 mobile dispensaries which gave consultations to 10,733 patients;
- in Chechnya, provided financial and material support for a network of 50 visiting nurses who gave home care for 720 beneficiaries;
- with local Red Cross branches, gave monthly supplies of food, hygiene kits and medicines to 2,340 housebound elderly beneficiaries and 3,780 vulnerable residents in the northern Caucasus and southern Russia;
- under existing social welfare programmes run by the Russian Red Cross in the northern Caucasus, distributed food parcels, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting and blankets for 24,000 beneficiaries;
- in southern Russia, supported the efforts of the National Society to offer psychological counselling, medical assistance and legal advice to 16,000 displaced people from Chechnya;



- gave 45 presentations on humanitarian law to 4,188 members of the armed forces;
- in the republics of Karachayev-Cherkesskaya, North Ossetia, Adygea and Kalmykia continued its dissemination programme in secondary schools;



- gave 65 mine-awareness presentations to 2,481 children at camps for the displaced in Ingushetia;
- organized 19 presentations for 256 teachers;
- held 12 presentations for 480 adults.

ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN

ARMENIA

PROTECTION
475,813

ASSISTANCE
1,470,833

PREVENTIVE ACTION
1,019,336

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES
161,712

OVERHEADS
196,001

GENERAL
260,503

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 3,584,198



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

AZERBAIJAN

PROTECTION
706,636

ASSISTANCE
2,107,944

PREVENTIVE ACTION
668,626

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES
120,027

OVERHEADS
221,524

GENERAL
121,043

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 3,945,800

The year 2000 brought few changes to the political and economic climate in the southern Caucasus. Although the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan held bilateral talks on several occasions, regional tension over the territory of Nagorno Karabakh persisted, punctuated by occasional armed clashes.

During the period under review, the ICRC focused its activities on persons unaccounted for or detained in connection with the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and on the most vulnerable groups of detainees within the prison population. In the health sector, tuberculosis, primary care and physical rehabilitation programmes were all maintained. Delegations in the field also kept up their

efforts to promote the incorporation of international humanitarian law in national legislation and in training programmes for the armed and security forces.

ICRC position paper on the missing

During the year, the ICRC reminded the authorities of their responsibilities towards the families of people who had gone missing during the conflict. The ICRC reiterated its readiness to facilitate the establishment of a mechanism between the parties to deal comprehensively with this issue. In August 2000, the ICRC handed over to the respective authorities and to representatives of the

international community a position paper in which it underlined the importance of setting up such a mechanism. To date, the ICRC has received over 2,600 tracing requests from families in Armenia and Azerbaijan, including Nagorno Karabakh.

Breakthrough in prison negotiations

Negotiations with the Azerbaijani authorities for access to all detainees culminated in the signing on 1 June of an agreement between the ICRC and government authorities allowing delegates to visit all places of detention in Azerbaijan. The first visit to Gobustan prison was made on 23 June. At the end of the year, the ICRC had visited detention facilities under the responsibility of the Ministries of Justice, of the Interior, and the Ministry of National Security.

The ICRC had less success with the authorities in Nagorno Karabakh. By year's end, delegates were still unable to visit those arrested following an attempt on the President's life in March 2000.

In Armenia, the ICRC had access to the entire prison population, both common-law and security detainees, including those held in connection with the October 1999 assault on the parliament building during which the Prime Minister and seven others were killed.

Tuberculosis – main cause of mortality in prisons

In 2000 the Armenian government, in conjunction with the ICRC, launched a tuberculosis-control programme within the country's penitentiary system.¹⁰ August saw the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Ministries of Health, Justice and the Interior and the ICRC. The ICRC agreed to help rebuild the prison system's central tuberculosis (TB) hospital in Yerevan, to build and equip a national reference laboratory for diagnosis in Abovyan, and to train local staff.

¹⁰ See the ICRC's 1999 Annual Report, p. 280.

In Azerbaijan, the ICRC's treatment programme for TB patients in prisons was handed over to the Ministry of Justice. A total of 2,700 prisoners have been treated for TB by the ICRC since the inception of the project in 1995. In 2000, the Ministry of Justice introduced a comprehensive TB control plan with more treatment facilities and earlier diagnosis, in an effort to improve the unsatisfactory cure rate of 55 %. For its part, the ICRC continued to monitor the prison programme and to provide TB drugs and laboratory supplies.

Primary health care in Nagorno Karabakh

After delays in implementation, the primary health-care programme implemented by the American Red Cross made a significant contribution to the quality of health services in the Martuni and Mardakert regions. Under the programme, guidelines were finalized for the diagnosis and treatment of the 10 major adult and infant diseases prevalent in the region, a new health information system was consolidated, and repair work was carried out on several facilities.

Physical rehabilitation for mine victims

The ICRC maintained its support for a free prosthetic/orthotic centre in Baku, run by the Azerbaijani Ministry of Labour and Social Security. As in the past, the delegation provided technical assistance, replaced equipment and held training courses for local prosthetic technicians, in preparation for an eventual handover of the project to the government.

Azerbaijani authorities take over mine-awareness programme

The ICRC's mine-awareness programme in Azerbaijan began in 1996 and since then has reached over 600,000 people. Those living in or having to go to contaminated areas were informed about the dangers of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), a mine-awareness programme was conducted in schools, and information and training sessions were held for teachers and members of NGOs. In February, the authorities in Azerbaijan officially assumed responsibility for the programme. Two former ICRC mine-awareness officers were recruited by the Azerbaijani National Agency for Mine Action, and ICRC delegates subsequently maintained working contacts with the Agency to ensure a smooth transition.

The authorities and the inhabitants of Nagorno Karabakh cooperated fully with the ICRC on the issue of mines/UXOs. Although in existence for only one year,¹¹ the ICRC programme, carried out in close cooperation with the Halo Trust and with the local authorities, had already proved its effectiveness since there was a clear decrease in the number of mine-related injuries. Collection of data on mine/UXO victims was begun by the ICRC in conjunction with the local authorities. By year's end, the authorities had taken full responsibility for the collection and coordination of information, but the ICRC database on mine/UXO casualties was still being used for data analysis.

¹¹ See the ICRC's 1999 Annual Report, p. 280.

A working group to coordinate activities on mine issues had been set up in Nagorno Karabakh at the ICRC's initiative in 1999. In 2000 the group, which included staff of the Ministries of Health, Education and Defence and representatives of the local media, approved an ICRC-designed mine-awareness curriculum for schools. Delegates organized training courses for teachers in tandem with the Ministry of Education, and began work on a programme for adults in mine-infested villages. As part of mine-awareness activities in schools, the ICRC commissioned a group of professional actors to write and produce a puppet show for children. The ICRC's mine-awareness activities for both children and adults stimulated wide-ranging discussions of the subject over the year and motivated the authorities to significantly increase their mine-clearing efforts.

Growing awareness of humanitarian law

The ICRC maintained its efforts to promote the incorporation of international humanitarian law into national legislation. Azerbaijan adopted a penal code that included provisions on humanitarian law, as did the new Armenian draft penal code. Meetings with legal experts in the Azerbaijani parliament and in academic circles served to encourage adherence to the humanitarian treaties. Over the course of the year the delegation continued to provide information and technical advice on the implementation of humanitarian law and to supply the relevant authorities with translations of reference texts.

To raise awareness of humanitarian law, the delegation pursued its dialogue with representatives of the Ministries of Defence, the Interior and National Security in Armenia and Azerbaijan. Seminars on humanitarian law were held for members of the armed forces in Azerbaijan, and courses were given to students at the military academy in Armenia. In June, high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Defence in Nagorno Karabakh attended a presentation on the incorporation of humanitarian law into military training programmes.

The delegation also continued to work closely with educational authorities, in both schools and universities. Lecturers and students from the law faculty at Yerevan State University attended ICRC conferences on humanitarian law held in the Russian Federation. Students from Baku State University won the fourth De Martens moot court competition on humanitarian law, organized by the ICRC. Over 100 students from 31 law faculties in all CIS countries took part.

Alongside their work in universities, ICRC dissemination delegates consolidated the existing schools programme and extended it to older students. The programme aimed to arouse an interest in humanitarian principles amongst young people by training teachers and providing teaching materials.

Interaction with other organizations

To avoid duplication of effort, ICRC delegates in the field coordinated their activities with those of other organizations present in Armenia and Azerbaijan. For example, in Armenia they had regular meetings with UNHCR to ensure the complementarity of protection programmes, with the OSCE* in Yerevan and with representatives of the World Food Programme. Contacts were also maintained with the OSCE Minsk group. As there were over 40 international NGOs working in Azerbaijan, ICRC delegates took part in monthly inter-agency meetings which served as a forum for the exchange of information. Although up to 1999 the ICRC was the humanitarian organization with the biggest role in Nagorno Karabakh, the situation changed somewhat during 2000, with the arrival of many organizations to implement projects funded through a donation from the United States. Here too participation in different inter-agency meetings ensured that the ICRC's activities were coordinated with those of others.

The ICRC continued to work closely with the National Societies in both countries, providing financial support and training for their tracing and dissemination activities and building up their first-aid services to enable them to respond quickly in emergency situations. The delegation maintained regular contact with the International Federation and worked with it to strengthen the capacity of the two National Societies.

* OSCE: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- visited a total of 18 places of detention in Armenia and Azerbaijan;
- supervised the repatriation of 12 detainees held in connection with the conflict;



- received 60 new tracing requests relating to people missing as a result of the conflict;
- arranged for the exchange of 2,929 Red Cross messages, mainly between detainees and their next of kin and families with relatives abroad;



- under a project delegated to the American Red Cross, carried out a primary health-care programme involving repair work on 43 health centres serving 45,000 people in Nagorno Karabakh;



- fitted 150 new patients with artificial limbs and produced 51 orthoses at the ICRC-supported centre for war amputees and disabled people in Baku;



- arranged for representatives of the authorities to attend ICRC-organized seminars and presentations on humanitarian law in Moscow;
- held workshops on humanitarian law for 98 officers of the armed forces;
- conducted "train-the-trainer" sessions in humanitarian law for 24 military officers and a civil servant;
- in Armenia, secured the inclusion of humanitarian law in military academy teaching programmes for 3rd- and 4th-year students;
- held the first humanitarian law competition for law students from private and public universities in Baku;
- pursued its schools programme by distributing ICRC textbooks in secondary schools and running training programmes for teachers;
- supported the Armenian Red Cross Society in its efforts to strengthen its capacity in the field of dissemination;



- through its mine-awareness programme in Nagorno Karabakh, taught 21,528 children (grades 1-8) and 1,514 teachers

how to avoid injury and death in a mine-contaminated environment;

- trained 112 teachers as mine-awareness instructors;
- held mine-awareness sessions in 205 schools.

SOUTHERN CAUCASUS GEORGIA

GEORGIA

PROTECTION
1,355,711

ASSISTANCE
9,963,180

PREVENTIVE ACTION
1,523,180

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES
148,279

OVERHEADS
860,361

GENERAL
653,651

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 14,504,362

The year under review was a particularly bleak period for Georgia. Although presidential elections on 9 April gave the incumbent President a landslide victory over his rivals, the government's attempts to pursue political and economic reforms failed to yield the expected results. The end of the year saw a wave of street demonstrations in urban areas as people voiced their grievances over a decade of power cuts, chronic unemployment and corruption. Efforts continued on all sides to find a durable solution to the separatist conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, but little tangible progress was achieved. Humanitarian needs remained acute, and although the volatile security environment in the Gali



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

area restricted the movement of staff in Abkhazia, delegates were able nonetheless to provide relief and medical assistance to the most vulnerable in the region, and to run medical and tracing programmes in western Georgia, where many displaced people from Abkhazia had settled. Early in the year, the ICRC team in Sukhumi was temporarily cut off when the border between Gali and western Georgia was closed at the same time as the border in the Adler region between Abkhazia and the Russian Federation. The ICRC maintained a strong field presence elsewhere in Georgia as it pursued its traditional activities of protecting detainees and vulnerable groups, promoting international humanitarian law, and

implementing an ambitious programme to eradicate tuberculosis in prisons.

Sensitive relations between Georgia and the Russian Federation were further complicated by the presence of some 6,500 Chechens who took refuge in the Pankisi valley in eastern Georgia, near the border with Chechnya. The new arrivals virtually doubled the numbers of the resident population, who are Kists, or Georgians of Chechen descent. The ICRC had responded quickly to the influx of refugees in 1999,¹² and in 2000 had scaled down its water and habitat projects as planned, when three of its employees were abducted in the Pankisi

¹² See the ICRC's 1999 Annual Report, p. 287.

region on 4 August. With the help of the authorities, the hostages were released unharmed nine days later, but deteriorating security conditions forced the ICRC to suspend its presence in the valley.

Favourable developments for detainees in Abkhazia and South Ossetia

The ICRC had unrestricted access to all people detained for conflict-related or security reasons both in Georgia proper and in Abkhazia. Relations with prison authorities in Abkhazia improved considerably after the ICRC obtained written authorization to visit detainees there.¹³ Another welcome change came in June 2000 when delegates were allowed to visit all places of detention in South Ossetia, in accordance with standard ICRC procedures.

The ICRC's Red Cross message network continued to play a vital role in maintaining contact between people living in Abkhazia and their relatives in Georgia or other countries of the CIS. Under the ICRC's family reunification programme, several elderly people left Abkhazia to join their relatives, mostly in Georgia. As in previous years, the ICRC closely observed the situation of minority communities, often the target of criminal attacks.

13. *See the ICRC's 1999 Annual Report, p. 285.*

Searching for the missing

The search for people who had disappeared during past years of conflict received fresh impetus when the Georgian and Abkhaz State Commissions for tracing the missing requested ICRC assistance in improving management of information on missing persons. Tracing delegates carried out evaluations in close cooperation with both Commissions, and organized the visit of a forensic expert from Physicians for Human Rights who gave lectures on the different aspects involved in the identification of mortal remains.

Assistance for Chechen refugees

In close coordination with UNHCR, the International Federation, the Georgian Red Cross Society and *Médecins sans frontières*, the ICRC was able to tailor its programmes to assist people who arrived in the Pankissi valley. Duplication of effort amongst the various aid organizations was avoided, as each covered needs not addressed by the others. The ICRC's activities included support for hospital No. 5 in Tbilisi where the war-wounded were referred for treatment, tracing through the Red Cross message service, and visits to people detained by the Georgian authorities. Following an assessment of the water and sanitation needs of refugees and 8,000 residents in the Pankissi valley, communal latrines and baths were built, and a water piping system was installed.

Food security in Abkhazia

The ICRC kept up its support for five assistance programmes for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, the disabled, orphans and large families in Abkhazia. Under the community kitchen programme delegated to the Finnish Red Cross, the ICRC supplied food daily for over 5,000 people in urban areas. The home-assistance programme provided meals and basic health care for the bedridden, with food distributed either by the Finnish Red Cross community kitchens, or by canteens run by the Spanish branch of Action Against Hunger (ACH); towards the end of the year the ICRC began incorporating some 8,000 beneficiaries of the latter programme into its own after ACH was forced to reduce its activities in the region. The programme for the destitute covered the nutritional needs of people in rural areas through monthly distributions of dry food rations, while under the partial assistance programme people in urban areas with no support from other sources received dry food rations every three months, to prevent them from falling into destitution. To increase long-term self-sufficiency, beneficiaries of the agricultural programme were given supplies of fertilizer and pesticides, together with technical advice from an ICRC agronomist.

Combating tuberculosis in Georgia

The ICRC kept up its support for the government's national tuberculosis programme, which implemented comprehensive control measures in prisons. Significant progress was made during the year, due in large measure to improved treatment and screening of the prison population to detect infected patients as early as possible. Systematic screening, coupled with strict adherence to the WHO*-recommended DOTS* approach (which requires medical staff

* WHO: World Health Organization

* DOTS: Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course

to personally supervise the daily intake of medicines by each patient for the full course of treatment), helped to reduce the number of infectious cases and curb the spread of drug-resistant strains. In April 2000, a tripartite agreement was signed by the ICRC and the Ministries of Justice and Health. Full government support thereafter allowed the ICRC to focus on improving the TB programme in prisons and promoting its expansion to other detention facilities so that all infected prisoners would have access to treatment. In the Ksani prison TB hospital in Tbilisi, DOTS was administered by Ministry of Justice personnel, and, in parallel, the involvement of ICRC staff was gradually reduced. The DOTS system was also introduced in two other detention facilities. Construction and repair work on TB prison wards were funded and supervised by the ICRC, thus ensuring a safe working environment for diagnosis and treatment and better living conditions for prisoners. At year's end, the new National Reference Laboratory for Tuberculosis became fully operational. The laboratory, built by the ICRC, was inaugurated by the Georgian President in November.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Justice, the ICRC held health education sessions for prisoners, and was closely involved in the organizing of an international seminar entitled "Health in Prisons", together with the Ministry of Justice, the Albert Schweitzer Institute and the Soros Foundation.

All these measures proved that it was possible to control the spread of TB in prisons. Over 1,000 patients have been treated since the programme began, with a cure rate of 75%.

Primary health care and safe blood transfusions

In view of the steady deterioration of medical facilities in western Georgia and in Abkhazia, the ICRC's health programmes continued to target the destitute in these regions. At outpatient clinics for internally displaced people in Zugdidi and for vulnerable groups among the resident population of Sukhumi, training courses were held for staff and essential drugs were supplied. By year's end the ICRC, working with the Hellenic Red Cross, had rehabilitated two clinics that badly needed repairs. In line with WHO recommendations, the ICRC also began a project for safe blood transfusion at hospitals in the region. ICRC staff began testing emergency supplies of blood at referral hospitals in Zugdidi and Sukhumi early in the year, set up a blood bank, and drew up new guidelines to ensure that blood products were as safe as possible. In addition, the ICRC continued to ensure access to emergency surgical care in western Georgia and Abkhazia by donating essential drugs and equipment.

ICRC-trained technicians graduate

The ICRC maintained its support for prosthetic/orthotic centres and workshops in Tbilisi and Gagra. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the physical rehabilitation project, in February 1998 the ICRC began a two-year training programme for local technicians. In March 2000, the first batch of graduates were awarded international certificates of professional competence. A third year was added to the programme, thus allowing graduates to obtain the final ISPO* diploma.

Promoting international humanitarian law

The delegation continued to advise the authorities on the incorporation of humanitarian law into national legislation, particularly with the entry into force of the new Georgian penal code in January. In August 2000, the Ministry of Defence agreed to cooperate with the ICRC in training instructors in the law of armed conflict and in integrating this body of law into combat procedures and manuals. Delegates also facilitated the inclusion of humanitarian law in the curricula of universities in Tbilisi and Sukhumi by organizing advanced seminars for law lecturers and supporting the production of teaching material in Georgian.

The ICRC kept up its support for the schools programme, carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. The ICRC seventh-grade textbook was adapted and translated into Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Russian in order to include linguistic minorities in the programme.

Georgian Red Cross

The ICRC continued to support the activities of the Georgian Red Cross Society. Dissemination and tracing activities were developed and training seminars and workshops were organized for all branches. In western Georgia, the dissemination programme for young people was officially handed over to the National Society. Seminars on Red Cross principles were held for pupils at secondary schools.

* ISPO: International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics

IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- visited 1,659 detainees, including 75 in Abkhazia, in 22 places of detention;



- handled 34,177 Red Cross messages exchanged between family members separated as a result of the conflict;

- organized 30 family reunifications (mainly involving transfers from Abkhazia to other areas of Georgia, the Russian Federation or Greece);



- supplied 1,512 tonnes of food for the 19 canteens run by the Finnish Red Cross in Abkhazia, which provided 6,780 people with 1 hot meal per day;
- helped 1,125 elderly housebound people in Abkhazia through the Swedish Red Cross home-assistance programme;

- gave 797 beneficiaries (mainly elderly Russians and Georgians) in rural areas in Abkhazia monthly parcels containing wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar, salt, yeast, corned beef and soap;
- gave 11,115 needy people in urban areas of Abkhazia dry food rations 4 times a year;
- distributed emulsion oil for treating citrus trees to 7,300 families in 39 villages;
- met the water and sanitation needs of 6,500 Chechen refugees and 8,000 residents in the Pankissi valley;



- together with the Ministry of Justice, provided treatment for 1,100 patients enrolled in the tuberculosis control programme for detainees in Georgian prisons;

- held health education sessions for 8,000 inmates in 10 penal colonies;
- renovated 2 buildings for multi-drug-resistant patients in Ksani TB colony and completed work on a new reference laboratory in Tbilisi for the national TB programme;
- renovated buildings to house new polyclinics in Zugdidi and Sukhumi;
- with the support of the Hellenic Red Cross, provided medical supplies for 4 health facilities in the Sukhumi district;
- supplied surgical material to 7 health facilities in Abkhazia and 3 in western Georgia;
- delivered emergency medical and surgical supplies to a Tbilisi hospital treating Chechen war-wounded;



- fitted 1,872 new patients and produced 3,197 artificial limbs and 1,147 orthoses at its centres for war amputees and disabled people in Tbilisi and Gagra, and distributed 1,140 pairs of crutches and 635 wheelchairs;
- trained 12 orthotic/prosthetic technicians in Tbilisi and Gagra;



- held numerous seminars on humanitarian law for representatives of the authorities, university and high-school students, and the armed forces;

- completed a draft 7th-grade textbook illustrating humanitarian law for Armenian, Russian and Azeri language schools in Georgia;
- presented the 6th-grade textbook in Russian to teachers in South Ossetia;
- gave 43 presentations for school-leavers in Abkhazia and western Georgia.

WASHINGTON

Regional delegation

(Canada, United States)

The regional delegation in Washington stepped up its contacts with high-level government officials, private organizations and universities in Canada and the United States to raise funds and foster political support for the ICRC's programmes worldwide. Both countries offered a supportive environment for the ICRC, and their governments, the general public and the military remained committed to humanitarian principles and the ICRC's concerns. The US government has, over the years, helped underwrite the ICRC's protection and assistance programmes for countless victims of conflict and the delegation maintained a regular dialogue with members of Congress, senior United Nations officials and its principal contacts in the State Department. A wide range of humanitarian issues was discussed, with special emphasis on new measures to protect and assist internally displaced people.

Throughout the year, delegates lobbied to promote understanding of the ICRC's mandate and its operations and took advantage of every opportunity to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law. Numerous lectures were given on the subject and delegates also took part in dissemination activities at leading US military academies, including the School of the Americas, the Inter-American Defense College and the National Defense University. As in previous years, the delegation maintained close working relations with the OAS* and attended its General Assembly held in Ontario, Canada. In addition, delegates took an active part in seminars covering areas of interest to the ICRC, such as those organized by the American Society of International Law, the Brookings Institution and the Holocaust

Memorial Museum. The Washington bureau served as the ICRC's liaison with the World Bank, and during the year a delegate was seconded to the Bank's post-conflict unit. The regional office also established closer contacts with other organizations including UNHCR, Human Rights Watch and the American Jewish Committee.

In Canada, the delegation maintained its fruitful cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Defence, the Canadian International Development Agency, and universities and institutions such as the Pearson Peace-keeping Centre.

Working with the National Societies

The Canadian Red Cross Society emerged from a transition period and played a more active part in international programmes, both in its own overseas operations and in ICRC delegated projects in which many of its staff were involved. In 1999¹⁴ the ICRC seconded an experienced delegate to the National Society's headquarters to help it redefine and resume its international role. The fact that such assistance proved unnecessary in 2000 attested to the Society's success in restructuring its operations. Nonetheless, the ICRC's Washington office continued to work closely with the Canadian Red Cross and the head of the delegation went on a two-day mission to Ottawa in August and attended the National Society's annual meeting in September.

As a major National Society with substantial financial resources, the American Red Cross increased its involvement in relief and development operations all over the world. During the year, senior staff visited ICRC headquarters in Geneva where they were briefed on the organization's worldwide assistance and protection programmes.

Diplomatic initiatives in Washington

In April, the new ICRC President paid his first official visit to Washington, where he had exchanges of views with members of Congress and key officials at the State and Defense Departments on ICRC activities in the various regions of the world. Of particular interest to the Secretary of State and the Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration was the President's report on his meeting earlier in the year with the Russian President in Moscow. While in Washington the ICRC President also had talks with the President of the American Red Cross and with the leadership of the American Jewish Committee with a view to finding a solution to the complex issue of an additional emblem.¹⁵

* OAS: Organization of American States

¹⁴ See the ICRC's 1999 *Annual Report*, p. 290.

¹⁵ See p. 231.