

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (2001)

Rubrik: Africa

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 24.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

AFRICA

Delegations

- Angola
- Burundi
- Congo, Democratic Republic of the
- Congo, Republic of the
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- ICRC mission to the OAU
- Guinea
- Liberia
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Uganda

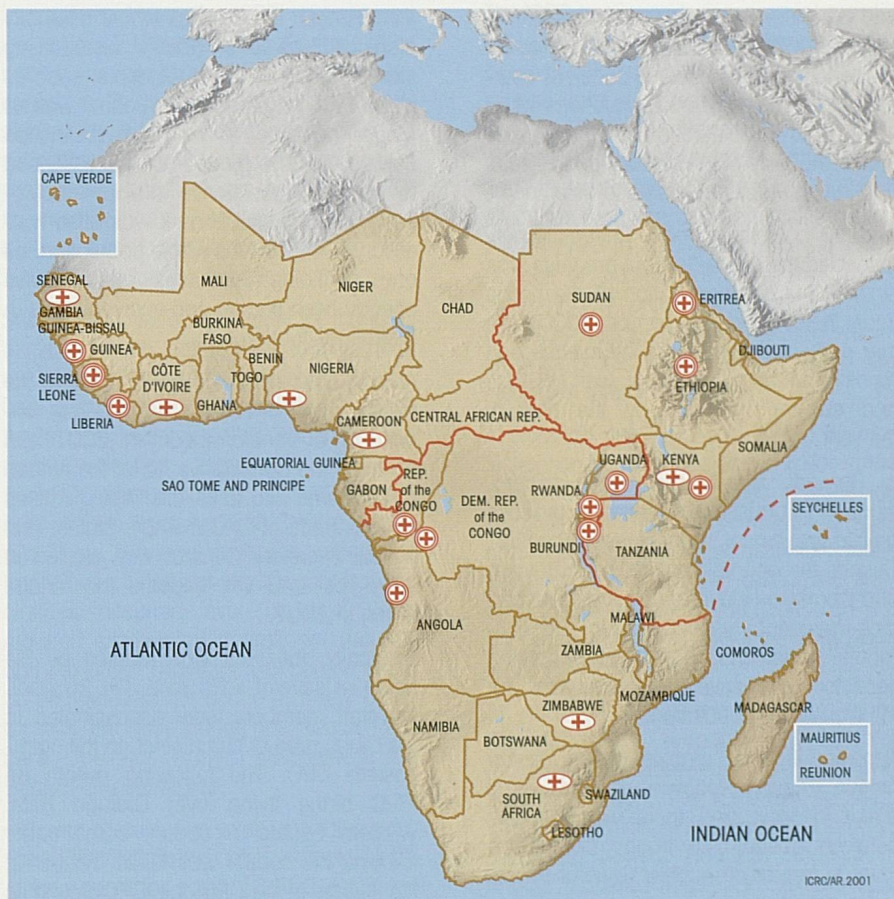
Regional delegations

- Abidjan
- Dakar
- Harare
- Lagos
- Nairobi
- Pretoria
- Yaoundé

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	44,544,857
Assistance	177,953,438
Preventive Action	17,132,857
Cooperation with National Societies	17,587,176
General	6,953,647
Overheads	16,607,302

280,779,278



⊕ ICRC regional delegation

⊕ ICRC delegation

The beginning of the year saw political dialogue, mediation initiatives and peace-keeping missions take centre stage in several African conflicts, most notably the international conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the regional situations involving the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sierra Leone and their respective neighbours. However, towards the end of 2001, initial optimism was fading as major difficulties started to surface, hampering or slowing peace efforts.

In West Africa, although developments in Sierra Leone gave rise to hopes for peace and stability, the country's prospects remained closely linked to the situation in Guinea and Liberia, and, without a sub-regional solution, the potential for violence

in the area remained undiminished. In the DRC, although the internationalized part of the conflict had stabilized, the internal strife in the east of the country complicated the search for peace and remained a cause of untold suffering among the civilian population.

Elsewhere, the continent continued to be plagued by a number of longstanding, entrenched conflicts, such as those in Somalia, Angola, Sudan and the Casamance region of Senegal. For many of the combatants involved, waging war had become the sole means of survival. Furthermore, in a growing number of African contexts, the combined effects of economic failure, chronic underdevelopment, poor security and low-intensity conflict

had left entire populations totally destitute. Here the ICRC faced some of its greatest challenges: how to devise coherent operational strategies in such situations while taking into consideration the magnitude and complexity of the humanitarian needs and the resources available to meet them.

In 2001 Ethiopia and Eritrea largely respected the cease-fire, but progress was slow in the implementation of the peace treaty they signed in December 2000. Neither party had completed the release and repatriation of prisoners of war (POWs) and civilian internees by the end of the year.

In Burundi, the Arusha peace accord, signed in August 2000, failed to produce any improvement in the internal conflict. Despite the appointment of Pierre Buyoya and Domitien Ndayizeye as President and Vice-President respectively in an 18-month transitional government, fighting persisted with severe consequences for the war-weary population.

Renewed fighting erupted in the Central African Republic following a failed *coup d'état* in May, and there were clashes between government troops and forces loyal to former army chief General Bozize in November.

On a more positive note, the Republic of the Congo continued its well-managed steady path towards political normalization and a peaceful settlement to the conflict seemed within reach.

Although the 11 September attacks in New York and the subsequent international response did not have major direct repercussions on the African continent, a number of countries started to integrate the global fight against terrorism into their domestic political strategies, changing the tenor of government relations with opposition movements.

Increasingly, in countries where internally displaced persons (IDPs) were living side-by-side with local residents, such as in the DRC, Angola and Burundi, it was no longer possible to make a distinction between the two groups and the ICRC had to adapt its assistance strategy accordingly. In such situations it was often necessary to support the whole population, as any available resources would have already been shared and everyone was in a similar situation.

Among other major political changes, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) underwent a transformation in 2001. On 26 May, the Constitutive Act of the African Union came into force after being ratified by two-thirds of OAU member States, and a new Secretary General was elected in July. The OAU will become the African Union in 2002.

Tragically, the year was marked by the death of several ICRC staff. On 26 April, six staff members were assassinated in the Djugu area of Ituri district, in the north-eastern DRC. The following month an ICRC plane flying over Didinga Hills, Western Equatoria, Sudan, came under fire and the copilot was killed. Following the killings in the DRC, the ICRC closed its Bunia sub-delegation and suspended all operations in territory controlled by the Congo Liberation Front and the Ugandan People's Defence Force. It also suspended activities in its sub-delegations in Uganda, and for the rest of the year maintained a reduced expatriate presence confined to the capital, Kampala. The ICRC's first priority was to ensure a rigorous investigation by the Ugandan authorities into the incident. In the DRC, the ICRC's objectives for 2002 took account of the operational decisions that followed the killings. It was decided that there would be no activities in Ituri district, and that the eventual resumption of operations in the areas concerned would depend on the thoroughness of the investigation and on its findings.

In the course of the year, despite several operational constraints, the ICRC's delegations in Africa were able to achieve the majority of their objectives. Nonetheless, the ICRC's operational approach and staff numbers had to be adjusted to keep pace with developments; this was particularly noteworthy in Burundi, Guinea and Liberia.

In April the ICRC launched an appeal for a budget extension for its Burundi operation to cover the cost of emergency food aid needed to attenuate the effects of climatic extremes and malaria on the population of northern and central Burundi. The emergency phase of this operation, during which more than 5,000 tonnes of food were distributed to over 300,000 displaced and other vulnerable people, lasted for six weeks and was successfully concluded as planned before the June harvest.

In West Africa the ICRC increased its operational presence, developing and consolidating field operations in Liberia and Guinea, and in Chad, the Central African Republic and Nigeria. Activities in Guinea were stepped up to respond to the growing needs of displaced victims of the violence and the deteriorating situation there. The ICRC opened an operational delegation in Conakry in January and expanded its infrastructure, communication network and logistic capacity. A corresponding budget adjustment was necessary at the end of April. In Liberia existing operational objectives were reoriented and significantly extended in July. The overall budget was increased so as to assist and protect some 35,000 people who had fled to zones bordering the conflict areas and the resident population in regions receiving IDPs.

Nigeria saw a marked increase in inter-communal tensions and violence which claimed the lives of hundreds of people and displaced tens of thousands of families, mainly in the states of Kaduna, Nasarawa, Plateau, Bauchi, Kano, Benue and Taraba. The ICRC supported the efforts of the Nigerian Red Cross Society to aid the many victims of the violence, providing food and other supplies, safe water and emergency medical assistance. In the Central African Republic the ICRC, in cooperation with Red Cross volunteers, organized relief in June for some 10,000 displaced victims of the violence. The increased presence of the ICRC, especially in health centres in the southern neighbourhoods of the capital Bangui, also facilitated the gradual return to calm and ensured that the civilian population had access to health care.

In Angola, the ICRC scaled down the number of beneficiaries of its food-aid programme as planned from 300,000 to 30,000 of the most vulnerable IDPs living in camps and having no access to land. It was decided to shift the emphasis in 2002 to agricultural assistance for 300,000 IDPs and residents on the Planalto.

The ICRC's assistance strategy in the DRC also evolved over the year. Field operations were reoriented and extended throughout the country outside urban centres, with numerous assessment and assistance missions near the disengagement zone, mainly in Katanga, Equateur, Kasai Oriental and Kasai Occidental provinces. The ICRC continued to focus on providing a rapid response for vulnerable populations affected by the conflict, offering the appropriate assistance (non-food or agricultural assistance, water and sanitation or medical support) to help them recover their self-sufficiency.

In southern Africa, the ICRC strengthened its regional delegation in Harare, Zimbabwe, so as to establish and develop contacts with all parties involved in the crisis in the country. Dialogue was initiated with the authorities on a number of protection-related issues and the ICRC, together with the National Society, was able to assist people displaced by violence during farm occupations.

Sudan was also a top priority for the ICRC in 2001. With community involvement, sustainable "integrated projects" continued to be developed in order to improve health care, water supplies, sanitation and food production, targeting more than 130,000 people in areas with high numbers of IDPs, such as Yirol, Chelkou, Juba and Wau. Working in Sudan, where the front lines shifted constantly and isolated clashes occurred over a huge area, required exceptional operational mobility and flexibility. Thousands of people could be displaced in the space of a few days, as was the case during the Sudan People's Liberation Army's offensive in the Bahr al-Ghazal region.

In terms of detention work, the ICRC continued its visits to security detainees in 24 African countries (over 18,000 detainees were visited in 2001, in addition to the 105,000 genocide suspects regularly visited in Rwanda). Visits to detainees began in the Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Namibia, Zanzibar and Angola, and new categories of detainees were visited in Chad, Rwanda, the Comoros and Guinea.

The ICRC continued to focus on issues still outstanding from the international conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, mainly the release and repatriation of POWs and civilian internees. Meanwhile, the ICRC delegation in Addis Ababa turned its attention increasingly to Ethiopia's internal problems, carrying out more visits to people detained in connection with the 1991 change of government or for reasons of State security, providing emergency medical assistance, conducting surveys in violence-prone areas and assisting the victims of internal violence.

In Rwanda, the ICRC maintained its protection and assistance activities for some 105,000 detainees accused of genocide who were still held in Rwandan prisons and temporary places of detention, while trying to ensure that the authorities supplied their share of the food distributed and encouraging them to fulfil their obligations in other areas.

An average of 30 hospitals in Africa received ICRC support every month, including the Juba Teaching Hospital in southern Sudan, the ICRC-run Lopiding hospital in Lokichokio, near the Sudanese border in Kenya, Huambo hospital in Angola, Kenema hospital in Sierra Leone, and the two hospitals in Mogadishu, Somalia. During the year a total of 29,755 operations were performed and 76,164 outpatient consultations given in these ICRC-supported hospitals. In addition, the ICRC delivered monthly supplies to 80 community health centres. These centres, which covered a total population of 1,280,000 patients, gave some 89,000 consultations per month.

Long-term efforts continued with the aim of increasing knowledge and understanding of international humanitarian law (IHL) and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement among different target groups throughout Africa. The ICRC also worked to establish or strengthen contacts with armed forces and other bearers of weapons across the continent with a view to securing the systematic incorporation of IHL into military training and operations.

As in previous years, the ICRC enjoyed the support of the National Societies of the countries in which it worked. Red Cross/Red Crescent volunteers were very often the first and sometimes the only people in a position to assist vulnerable populations. Where appropriate, and taking account of the National Societies' capacities, the ICRC tried to encourage and develop operational cooperation in the areas of tracing, relief and medical assistance. At the same time it pursued its institutional cooperation with the National Societies, building up their capacity to respond more effectively to emergency situations, developing efficient tracing services, and promoting knowledge and understanding of the Movement, its Fundamental Principles and the basic rules of IHL.

The main constraints encountered in the field did not change significantly in 2001. These included the challenges and complexities involved in working in conflicts of a regional or cross-border nature, the unpredictability of events and the rapid deterioration of situations (for example in the Central African Republic, Zimbabwe, Guinea and Liberia), political and economic factors, and rising crime.

ANGOLA

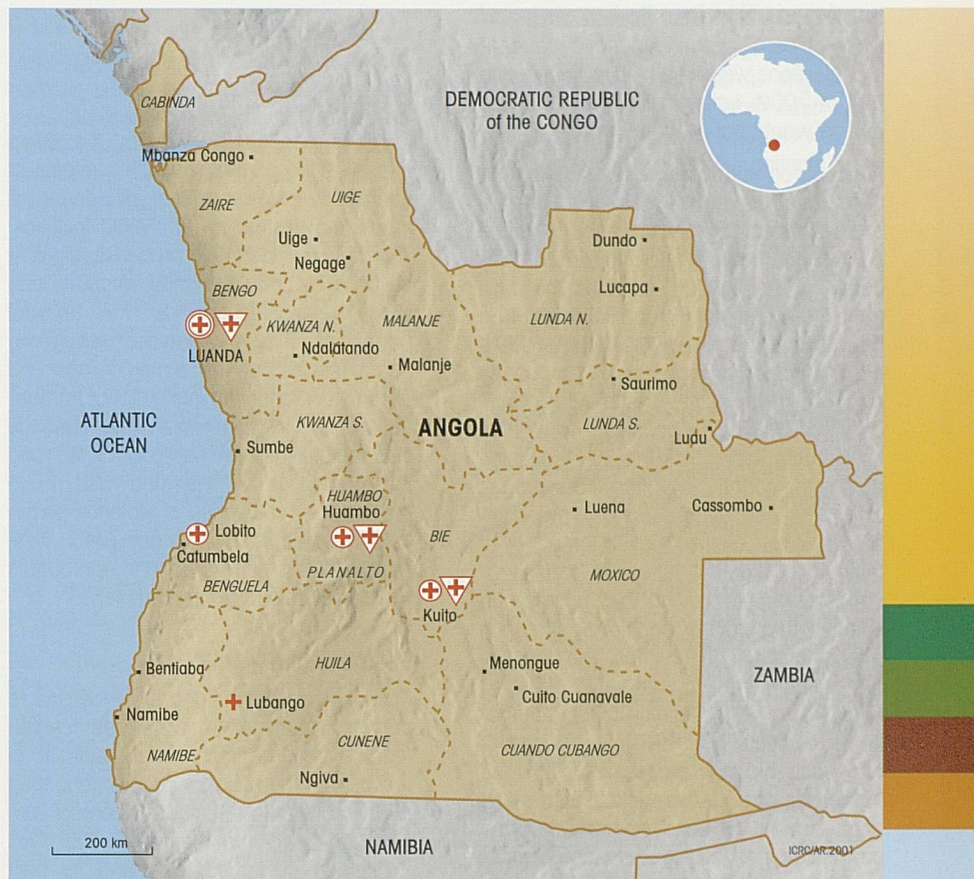
Personnel:
36 expatriates
389 locally hired staff

For over 25 years, the conflict in Angola has devastated the country's economy, leaving vital infrastructure such as hospitals, water supply systems and roads in ruins and the civilian population dependent on humanitarian aid for its survival. While the ICRC maintains its primary health care, surgical, prosthetic/orthotic and water and sanitation programmes in the major towns of Huambo, Kuito and Caála, it has increasingly tailored its food-aid programmes to the population's changing needs. Having helped the residents of Huambo and Caála to achieve a measure of self-sufficiency, the ICRC's priority now is to do the same for internally displaced people (IDPs).

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	3,476,076
Assistance	28,538,927
Preventive Action	1,091,871
Cooperation with National Societies	191,950
General	602,067
Overheads	2,037,224

35,938,115



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

CONTEXT

Angola has known little peace since its independence from Portugal in 1975, and the lack of serious commitment to the 1994 Lusaka Accord led to a perpetuation of the fighting. At the beginning of 2001, against a background of escalating hostilities, the Angolan government proposed a four-point "peace plan" whereby UNITA¹ was to declare an unconditional ceasefire, hand over its weapons to the UN, adhere to the Lusaka Accord and participate in the forthcoming 2002 elections.

At the end of March, UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi broke his 18-month silence. In an interview he proposed a resumption of peace talks but rejected the government's previous attempts at reconciliation. Both UNITA and the government reiterated and developed their public stance regarding the peace process. While the government insisted that it would engage in dialogue only within the framework of the Lusaka Accord, UNITA challenged this by requesting a reformulation of the terms of the Accord. UNITA's demands found no support within the international community.

¹ National Union for the Total Independence of Angola

AFRICA ANGOLA

In his 2001 New Year speech, President Dos Santos officially announced that general elections would be held in the second half of 2002. Later, in August, he stated that he would not be standing.

Although on various occasions during the year the government asserted, on the basis of recent military successes, that the conflict had come to an end, the intensification of the fighting indicated the contrary. It seemed that the conflict might drag on, albeit at a low level of intensity, dashing any hopes of recovery for the country and of improvement in the inhabitants' quality of life. UNITA continued to employ its guerrilla tactics and clashes persisted across the country, with numerous reports of looting and attacks on convoys. Displacements – allegedly often forced, or at least encouraged – increased, with thousands of people leaving their homes and villages and putting additional strain on already crowded IDP camps. The hopes of the humanitarian community, including the ICRC, of reestablishing reliable operational contacts with UNITA forces faded, and each aid agency restricted its road travel to within its own established security perimeter. On 20 December the government authorized the UN to resume contact with UNITA, a gesture aimed at relaunching the peace process.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Civilians continued to suffer the direct effects of the conflict, including spates of attacks by armed groups, plundering of crops and destruction of civilian facilities. The ICRC collected data on abuses against civilians by people bearing weapons and made representations to the relevant authorities. It also conducted dissemination sessions for the armed forces and security personnel on international humanitarian law (IHL). A constructive dialogue was established between the ICRC and the authorities in Huambo and Kuito provinces. Three cases of violence perpetrated against the civilian population were reported to the authorities, and appropriate measures were taken immediately.

Restoring family links

Postal services had long since ceased to provide countrywide cover as certain regions became increasingly difficult to reach, and the need for people separated by the conflict to re-establish contact with their families remained great. The ICRC delegation continued to extend its own Red Cross message (RCM) network and tracing activities as well as to work through efficient provincial branches of the Angola Red Cross. At the beginning of the year it opened three new RCM posts, two in Luanda and one in Cuito Cunavale. In 2001 there was a growing demand for the RCM service from neighbouring countries, particularly Zambia, where a large number of Angolans took refuge during the year. The number of RCMs distributed during 2001 was 15,352 – a 100% increase over the year 2000.

Food aid

Decades of conflict in Angola have eroded the population's economic self-sufficiency and reduced it to a state of dependence on outside aid. Attempts to help IDPs to achieve self-sufficiency were hampered by their limited access to land. In 1999 the ICRC launched a food-aid programme for some 300,000 civilians. In 2001, however, the yield from the March/April harvest allowed it to scale down, as planned, the number of beneficiaries of general food distributions in Huambo from almost 333,000 (mainly residents) to 28,000 people living in camps. Even the latter were given only half-rations, as their nutritional status remained satisfactory. A nutritional survey carried out subsequently showed that the decision was appropriate and that the population's degree of self-sufficiency was improving. The 28,000 IDPs who continued to receive food on a regular basis remained in a stable condition.

The last large-scale distribution of seed and tools – part of a programme launched in 1999 – began in September for the *lavras* planting season and was completed by the end of October. A total of 61,000 families in Huambo and 10,000 families in Kuito received aid under this programme. This final distribution comprised 552 tonnes of seed and 2,500 tonnes of food in Huambo and 112 tonnes of seed and 390 tonnes of food in Kuito, plus one vegetable kit per family. Displaced people registered as ICRC beneficiaries also received tools for the planting season.

The ICRC's agricultural rehabilitation project included the digging of nearly 10,000 compost pits. The organic fertilizer produced contributed to the successful vegetable harvest grown from the first round of 70,000 seed kits distributed by the ICRC.

Water and sanitation

Both displaced and resident populations often had to live in insanitary conditions, in congested areas with insufficient access to water. The ICRC's spring-protection programme for residents of Kuito continued with six springs being protected and five rehabilitated, covering 36,500 beneficiaries. The ICRC also constructed 780 latrines in the ever-expanding IDP camps, and gave other organizations emergency water kits when water shortages occurred in certain camps as a result of an influx of new arrivals and the end of the dry season.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

At provincial level, regular field visits and contact with the authorities enabled the ICRC to gain access to temporary places of detention in the provinces of Moxico, Cuando Cubango, Uige and Zaire, in order to monitor the conditions of detention and treatment of persons detained in connection with the conflict. Various observations and recommendations were made to the detaining authorities during talks held after each visit.

Access to detainees and fighters who had surrendered continued to be granted at provincial level without major difficulties, Huambo, Benguela and Lubango still being the exceptions. During the year 268 detainees were visited in 22 places of detention. Limited access to places of detention and lack of information made it impossible, however, to gain an accurate overall picture of the situation.

Since the ICRC had no contact with UNITA in the field, visits to UNITA detention centres were not possible.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Years of conflict had run down health-care facilities, which could no longer meet the population's needs. Hospitals had neither sufficient surgical equipment nor enough qualified personnel to cope with the influx of war-wounded.

The ICRC's support for the Huambo hospital started to produce results in 2001. Despite limited human resources, the quality of service to patients improved. Regular visits by an ICRC surgeon, efforts to reorganize the emergency ward, the ongoing work of the physiotherapist and the permanent presence of an ICRC nurse in the hospital helped to achieve an acceptable level of care. A total of 7,467 patients (1,940 inpatients and 5,527 outpatients) were treated during the year and more than 1,200 operations were performed.

The withdrawal of an Italian NGO which had been providing support for the paediatric department of the Huambo hospital prompted the ICRC to extend its activities to this ward and to draw up new objectives for 2002. Monthly training sessions were held by the ICRC for 70 traditional birth attendants in health posts in Huambo.

A survey was conducted of the eight health centres in the country receiving ICRC support, and minor rehabilitation work was undertaken on rubbish pits, latrines and other infrastructure. These centres served a population of 144,000. In 2001 over 150,000 consultations were given, including more than 60,000 for children under five and 45,000 for women.

The few health-care facilities in operation lacked the means to maintain adequate standards of sanitation. The ICRC upgraded water-supply and sanitation systems in health centres receiving its support in the Planalto, thus indirectly benefiting more than 20,000 people.

Amputees and other disabled people

The ICRC continued its vital support for prosthetic/orthotic facilities in Angola. In 2001 a total of 1,869 prostheses were produced, 1,532 of them for mine victims. During the year 1,049 new patients were fitted with prostheses, 19 new patients were fitted with orthoses, 6,232 patients received crutches and 64 received wheelchairs.

AUTHORITIES

In August the government announced the establishment of a new coordination body named "National Intersectoral Committee for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance". The members of the Commission were to belong to different ministries, the armed forces and six NGOs. The ICRC was to have observer status and would therefore be in a position to follow the whole process. Three subcommissions – demining, social reintegration and physical rehabilitation – were set up with the aim of coordinating the different activities at provincial level.

At the end of the year, Angola's adhesion to the Ottawa treaty banning anti-personnel mines was in the process of being completed.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The rules of IHL were not widely known among the armed forces in Angola, and civilians continued to suffer the consequences of the armed conflict. The political will to include IHL in military training was confirmed during meetings with the Minister of Defence and the military Chief of Staff, but the ICRC's efforts to organize, together with the armed forces, a new IHL training programme for army instructors in 2001 produced little in the way of results.

AFRICA ANGOLA

Nevertheless, at troop level, the armed forces continued to be very receptive. The ICRC enjoyed easy access to all army commanders in the field and maintained a constructive dialogue, especially for the organization of dissemination sessions in Kuito, Huambo, Catumbela, Namibe, Bailundo (near Huambo) and Menongue. The troops' discipline and the attention they paid during the sessions indicated a good level of preparation and training.

The police were also very receptive in this respect. Courses and seminars on human rights were frequently organized for police officers in Luanda, Huambo, Kuito, Bailundo, Benguela, Ndalatando, Namibe, Lubango and Saurimo. The ICRC established a dialogue with police headquarters on the Rapid Reaction force, but this did not produce any results before the end of the year.

CIVIL SOCIETY

After two and a half decades of civil war, there were signs of an emerging civil society in Angola, whose population was looking forward to peace and respect for human dignity. This offered an ideal opportunity for the ICRC to make its activities and IHL known to the general public.

In Kuito and Huambo, where the ICRC maintained a permanent presence, an effort was made to increase the awareness of both traditional authorities and inhabitants of the ICRC's mandate and activities, the danger of mines, the special protection needs of women, the rules of health and hygiene, ways of producing natural fertilizer, etc. The sessions took place mainly during aid distributions and were conducted by the ICRC, National Society staff or specially trained theatre groups. The same messages were relayed in other provinces where the ICRC was not permanently present.

Media

The Angolan media continued to project a positive image of the ICRC despite the scaling down of direct assistance during the year. This reduction was well publicized and was generally understood and accepted. ICRC radio spots were broadcast regularly, and articles were published in the press. A field visit to the ICRC's main operational area was organized for local journalists and received wide media coverage.

Universities

Humanitarian law was not taught in Angolan universities. The ICRC maintained contact with the Catholic University of Angola in Luanda, which offered a five-year law course. Progress towards the inclusion of IHL in the course was, however, slow and a seminar planned for June did not take place.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Angola Red Cross still required support to respond to the needs of people affected by the conflict. After an 18-year presence, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies closed its office in Luanda and thereafter covered Angola from Harare.

The ICRC continued to strengthen the capacity of the National Society on the provincial level. A total of 110 volunteers of the Huambo branch were trained by the ICRC in sanitation and hygiene and carried out health-education activities within their communities.

The ICRC also continued to boost the National Society's tracing services by providing training and material assistance. The theatre group of the National Society received support from the ICRC to enable it to perform sketches on mine-awareness and the Fundamental Principles of the Movement before various audiences.

BURUNDI

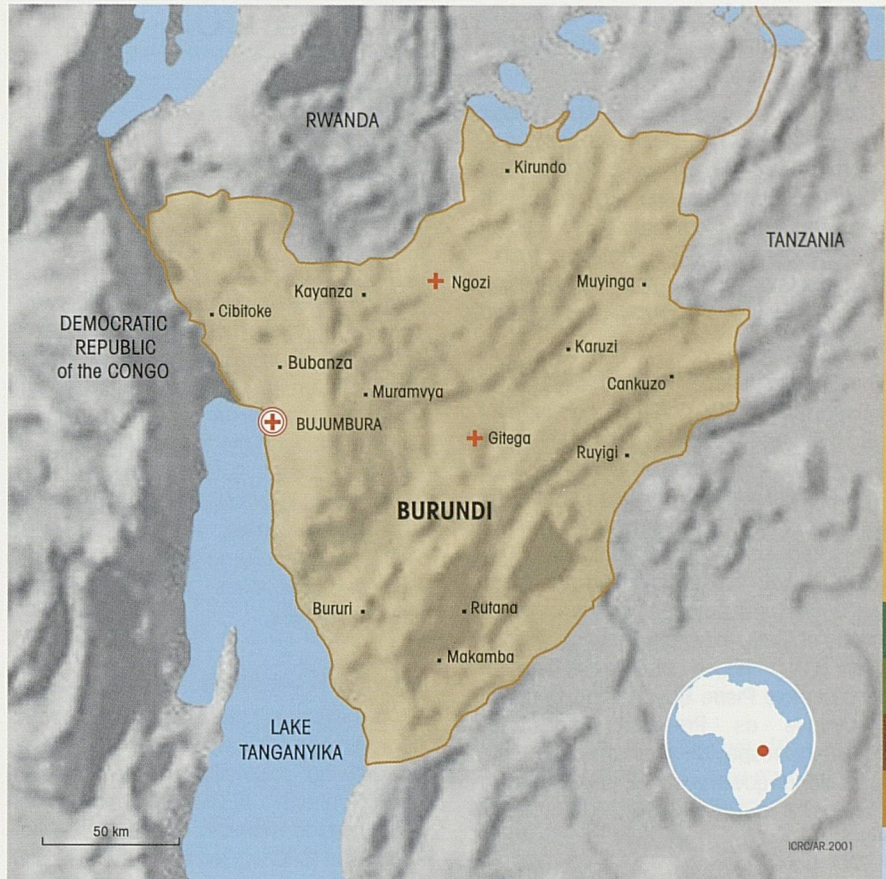
Personnel:
20 expatriates
88 locally hired staff

In Burundi, the ICRC's main concerns are to protect and assist people deprived of their freedom, wounded or sick victims of the conflict, and the civilian population. Its activities are carried out in urban areas where security conditions permit. Aid programmes include efforts to facilitate access to water and sanitation facilities and to improve hygiene and medical care, both in prisons and at local community level.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	1,021,269
Assistance	13,032,585
Preventive Action	560,918
Cooperation with National Societies	97,749
General	286,623
Overheads	928,676

15,927,820



⊕ ICRC delegation + ICRC office

CONTEXT

The political instability and insecurity prevailing in Burundi since the conflict began in 1993 severely hampered the country's social and economic development. The economy floundered, the people became more impoverished and public health services were unable to meet needs. As a result of the conflict almost 580,000 people remained internally displaced and 400,000 were living as refugees abroad. During 2001, regular clashes caused the temporary displacement of tens of thousands of people for periods ranging from several days to several weeks. Access to food, health care and basic social services remained difficult for the majority of Burundi's 6.1 million inhabitants. The

nutritional crisis in the north-east of the country prompted the ICRC to reassess its objectives, and in April it extended its budget by almost Sfr 18 million in order to cover the basic needs of over 300,000 beneficiaries.

The security situation deteriorated during the year, with frequent clashes especially along the main roads into Bujumbura, around the Kibira forest in the north and in border provinces such as Makamba, Rutana, Ruyigi and Cankuzo. There were also continued attacks on civilian targets, including convoys, health centres and NGO personnel. These incidents severely restricted the work of the ICRC, which

since August 1999 had been obliged to limit its activities to urban areas accessible by air.

There were two attempted *coups d'état* in 2001. The second, in July, was the more serious: a group of 200 to 300 soldiers sought to take control of national television and, according to some sources, the airport. The same group also tried, but to no avail, to break into Mpimba prison (Bujumbura) and free certain detainees.

The Arusha Peace Accord, signed on 28 August 2000, had still not brought about any improvement in the conflict situation. The main sources of dissent were the establishment of a cease-fire and the choice of leader for the transitional phase. After a final round of consultations, however, in July the facilitator Nelson Mandela, with the support of the region's heads of State, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the UN, took the decision to designate Pierre Buyoya and Domitien Ndayizeye as President and Vice-President respectively of an 18-month transitional government. This government took office on 1 November 2001.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

The ICRC worked to re-establish contact between family members separated as a result of the conflict, but because of the lack of an effective Red Cross message network these activities were rather limited. Forty-three messages were, nevertheless, exchanged between family members in Burundi and their relatives who had taken refuge in neighbouring countries, especially the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Refugees from the DRC also benefited from the service. The ICRC reunited 11 unaccompanied children (nine Burundians from the DRC and two Rwandans) with their relatives during the year.

Water and sanitation

Urban water-supply systems throughout Burundi remained inadequate to cope with a growing population. As the national water board, REGIDESO, lacked the resources to maintain or expand the network, the ICRC worked closely with its staff to provide safe drinking water for residents affected by the conflict. Work continued on the large-scale project of constructing a new filter to purify water from Lake Tanganyika, which had begun in December 2000. The filter, capable of processing 24,000,000 litres of water per day, will benefit about 315,000 people in the most deprived areas of Bujumbura.

After the initial rehabilitation of the existing water supply, the ICRC and REGIDESO began working on the construction of a new pumping station and the renovation of a second in Ngozi. Both projects were completed in 2001, including the installation of 13 tapstands in the most densely populated districts. The new installations made three times more water available to the town, providing the 27,000 inhabitants with about 105 litres of drinking water per person per day.

Food aid

In April the ICRC launched an appeal for a budget extension to cover the cost of food distributions urgently needed to attenuate the effects of climatic extremes and malaria on the population of northern and central Burundi. Set up in record time and requiring considerable manpower and logistic resources, the emergency phase of the operation, which lasted for six weeks, was successfully concluded as planned before the June harvest. More than 5,000 tonnes of food (3,842 tonnes of cereals, 1,249 tonnes of beans, 380 tonnes of oil and 63 tonnes of salt) were distributed, in two rounds, to over 300,000 displaced and other vulnerable people. Distributions in areas not covered by the ICRC were carried out by the World Food Programme, which the ICRC supplied with 187,000 litres of oil.

All nine communes in Ngozi province and five in Kayanza were visited frequently during the food distributions. There was, however, a lack of understanding and discontent in communes not receiving food, especially in Kayanza province. The delegation was forced to suspend its food-aid programme in May, and the second round of food distributions planned for that month in Kayanza did not take place. A second distribution of food and agricultural tools in Ngozi province planned for August to December also had to be cancelled. The ICRC began to hand over the rest of its stocks, some 929 tonnes, to 40 national and international organizations working in the country. This continued into 2002.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Throughout the year the ICRC regularly visited six of the country's 11 civilian prisons – Mpimba in Bujumbura, Ngozi (male), Ngozi (female), Gitega, Muyinga and Ruyigi. These visits were undertaken to assess the treatment and conditions of detention of the prison population of about 7,000 detainees and to pursue the dialogue with the authorities concerning overcrowding in the prisons. The ICRC also regularly supplied the inmates with blankets, hygiene articles and educational and recreational materials.

Following an agreement with the Ministry of Defence in December 2000, the ICRC was able to begin visiting people in places of detention under the responsibility of the gendarmerie in 2001. It visited 858 detainees in 16 of these places of detention and subsequently made recommendations during talks with the detaining authorities. A summary report on treatment and material conditions, covering visits made between January and July 2001, was submitted to the highest authorities in September.

In June, the ICRC signed an agreement with the Ministry of Internal Affairs for visits to places of detention under the authority of the Public Security police. It visited 286 detainees in eight of these places during the year.

Water and sanitation

In order to improve hygiene in the prisons, the ICRC completed the rehabilitation of the sanitation infrastructure in the six prisons it visited, thus improving conditions for about 80% of Burundi's prison population. This project, along with other medical and material assistance, hygiene measures, and training in prison maintenance given in close cooperation with the relevant authorities, helped lower the mortality rate from 2.6 per 10,000 detainees per day in 1998 to 0.4 in 2001.

HIV/AIDS

In the country's three largest civilian prisons, Mpimba-Bujumbura, Gitega and Ngozi, the ICRC introduced an AIDS programme, thus contributing to the National Plan against HIV/AIDS. The programme covered both preventive action and medical assistance for the treatment of opportunistic infections. As part of the effort to control HIV and AIDS in prisons, screening for tuberculosis was guaranteed in these three prisons thanks to special training given to auxiliary doctors and the equipping of a small laboratory. A total of 80 detainees and 80 warders underwent training to enable them to pass on preventive messages and raise awareness of HIV/AIDS infection among the rest of the prison population and the warders by holding regular information sessions.

Furthermore, the staff of the dispensaries of the three main prisons were trained in HIV screening. Anonymous voluntary screening was made available from September onwards by the authorities with the ICRC's support.

The ICRC provided prison dispensaries with medicines and medical supplies throughout the year.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Assistance

The persistent conflict in Burundi had weakened the health system, and medical facilities were unable to meet the needs of the population. The ICRC continued its efforts to guarantee minimum health standards by providing the following hospitals with sufficient medicines and other medical supplies to treat a total of some of 130 surgical cases per month: Prince Régent Charles hospital in Bujumbura, the military hospital in Kamenge, and the provincial hospitals of Gitega, Kirundo, Muyinga, Ngozi and Ruyigi. The choice of medical facilities was determined by security considerations. These facilities are either in non-conflict areas and accessible

by road or, if in a conflict area, have a nearby landing strip, as the ICRC is often restricted to air transport for its movements around the country.

The ICRC also provided eight dispensaries in Bujumbura Mairie, Gitega, Ngozi, Muyinga and Ruyigi with essential medicines on a monthly basis throughout 2001. Each dispensary catered for a population of approximately 40,000 to 50,000 people.

Rehabilitation

Having completed rehabilitation of the sanitation system in Gitega hospital at the end of March, the ICRC began work on the electricity system. This project continued into 2002. In Ngozi hospital, rehabilitation work on both the electricity and the sanitation systems was completed. The catchment area of the two hospitals comprises a total of 50,000 people.

HIV/AIDS

To support the National Plan against HIV/AIDS, the ICRC trained medical staff at the Prince Régent Charles hospital, the provincial hospitals of Gitega and Ngozi and a health centre in each of these towns to diagnose and treat opportunistic infections linked to HIV, and regularly supplied the appropriate medicines. The attention of paramedical staff of the Prince Régent Charles hospital and the Gitega hospital was drawn to the need to take special precautions when treating patients and the necessary protective materials were provided.

AFRICA BURUNDI

AUTHORITIES

Throughout the year the ICRC met with ministers, government representatives and magistrates to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) and ICRC activities in the country. Close cooperation between the Burundian government and parliamentary authorities and the ICRC is essential for the smooth running of operational activities. Good relations prevailed in particular with the Ministries of Justice, Defence, Health and Education, and with the provincial governors. The ICRC met members of the new transitional government when it took office on 1 November.

ARMED FORCES
AND OTHER BEARERS
OF WEAPONS

Armed forces

The Burundian army was heavily engaged in the conflict with rebel forces, so improving knowledge of the basic rules of IHL remained a priority. The ICRC maintained good relations with the Ministry of Defence, which approached it requesting dissemination sessions for officers destined to become battalion commanders. Throughout the year, the ICRC held seminars on IHL for high-ranking army officers.

Instruction in IHL was not a part of military training at the *Institut Supérieur des Cadres Militaires* (ISCAM),¹ but senior officers expressed a desire to include it. Little progress was made in this respect, however, as all teaching at ISCAM was suspended for most of the year because of the deterioration in the security situation and classes resumed only in December. Working relations were maintained and the ICRC was able to organize dissemination sessions for soldiers with the support of an officer already trained by the ICRC and an ICRC delegate specializing in dissemination to the armed forces.

The Ministry of Defence offered to fund the participation of two officers in the San Remo IHL course in September and two more in October.

Other bearers of weapons

Contact was established with political representatives of opposition groups outside Burundi. These meetings took place in the field in Tanzania and in the DRC, with the full knowledge of the government authorities.

Members of armed opposition groups were kept up to date with the ICRC's activities and their attention was drawn to their obligation to respect IHL.

Police

The police, the *gendarmérie* and the Public Security Police all have responsibility for places of detention. During 2001, the ICRC held dissemination sessions to inform members of these forces of the ICRC's detention-related activities. The aim was to familiarize them with the ICRC, its mandate and its working methods in order to facilitate access to detainees.

At the end of the year the ICRC received a positive response to its proposed plan of action for the incorporation of IHL in the training of all *gendarmérie* officers and non-commissioned officers.

¹ Military Officers' Academy

CIVIL SOCIETY

In order to promote IHL and Red Cross activities among the general public, the media were approached as the best means of reaching the maximum number of people. Universities, the training ground for future leaders and opinion-makers, were encouraged to incorporate IHL into their law degrees and schools were encouraged to promote awareness of humanitarian issues.

Media

Through contacts, both formal and informal, with representatives of the media, the ICRC built up a network of journalists familiar with the ICRC's activities and working methods. The national media cooperated with the ICRC and willingly published the information it provided on its activities in Burundi.

Universities

There are four universities in Burundi with a combined body of 17,500 students, but only the university in Bujumbura has a functioning law faculty. Previously IHL was not offered as an option, but at the beginning of the 2001-2002 academic year the ICRC found an army officer with a legal background whom the university employed to teach 30 hours a week. This was a significant step towards including IHL as a compulsory component of the law course.

"Exploring Humanitarian Law"

"Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) is an educational programme designed to introduce adolescents to the basic rules and principles of IHL. A working group composed of officials from the Ministry of Education, ICRC staff and National Society representatives was formed to study, comment upon and analyse EHL teaching methods. A report was submitted to the Minister of Education and the different departments involved, and four schools were chosen to pilot the programme at the beginning of the 2001-2002 academic year.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Although it has an official membership of 46,000, the Burundi Red Cross is little known at national level and its activities are limited. It has severe financial problems and is funded almost entirely by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and certain European National Societies such as the Spanish and French Red Cross Societies.

The National Society continued to suffer from structural, operational, staffing and financial problems in 2001. Its President and the 15 members of the National Committee had all been in their posts for over 30 years. During the year the National Society drafted new statutes in conformity with the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, but no meeting of the General Assembly was held to ratify them. The British Red Cross undertook to finance the reform process.

In an effort to strengthen the National Society's dissemination capacity, the ICRC signed a cooperation agreement on 8 January 2001. Under the agreement the ICRC provided support for a dissemination programme on the Movement and its fundamental principles which also aimed to raise awareness of the activities of the National Society in the country. This programme was initiated in five of the 13 provinces in which the Burundi Red Cross is active. A training programme for dissemination officers was also set up at the beginning of the year. Sessions on IHL and the Fundamental Principles for National Society staff, health workers and local authorities began in July.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Personnel :
46 expatriates
396 locally hired staff

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo the ICRC focuses its activities on bringing prompt assistance to vulnerable groups affected by the conflict so as to ensure their survival, while at the same time promoting their self-sufficiency; supporting the authorities in their efforts to provide adequate health care for the war-wounded and the civilian population; conducting protection activities for different categories of people deprived of their freedom, including prisoners of war, people detained in connection with the conflict and civilian internees; restoring contact between separated family members; and promoting the development of the National Society.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	6,501,894
Assistance	21,924,537
Preventive Action	1,531,693
Cooperation with National Societies	2,069,895
General	982,627
Overheads	2,106,361

35,117,007

AFRICA DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



ICRC delegation
 ICRC sub-delegation
 ICRC office
 ICRC mission

CONTEXT

The assassination of President Laurent-Désiré Kabila in January and the appointment of his son Joseph Kabila to replace him as head of State brought significant changes in 2001. Upon taking office, Joseph Kabila showed considerable willingness to end the political isolation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and initiate dialogue at international and continental level. As a result, peace talks resumed in Lusaka in February. On 22 February, following a special meeting on the DRC, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1341 which set a new timetable for implementation of the Lusaka peace accord signed in 1999. The inter-Congolese talks also seemed to be

picking up speed. Following the Congolese and European tours of Sir Ketumile Masire, former Botswanan President and facilitator of the talks, the Congolese parties to the Lusaka peace accord signed the "Declaration on the Fundamental Principles of the Inter-Congolese Political Negotiations" in Gaborone, Botswana. The cease-fire was respected, and the warring parties began withdrawing in accordance with the Kampala and Harare protocols. A setback came in October, however, when the inter-Congolese talks held in Addis Ababa failed to make any progress.

On 14 April a new cabinet was formed, and on 17 May the political system was liberalized, permitting the registration and functioning of political parties.

Despite the stabilization of the internationalized armed conflict, the internal conflicts in the east of the country continued. In addition, there was an increase in the eastward movement of Interahamwe militias who were apparently aiming to return to Rwanda.

The year 2001 was marked by the tragic death of six ICRC delegates who were murdered on 26 April near Djugu in the north-eastern Ituri district. Following these killings, the ICRC closed its Bunia sub-delegation and suspended all operations in territory controlled by the Congo Liberation Front and the Ugandan People's Defence Force. The Ugandan authorities formally agreed to undertake an investigation, but by the end of the year the ICRC had yet to receive any conclusive results.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

In 2001, the ICRC tracing operation in the DRC was still the largest worldwide. Red Cross messages (RCMs) were exchanged mainly across the disengagement zone and within eastern DRC, but the operation also covered neighbouring countries such as Tanzania and Zambia, which were host to Congolese refugees. To help people living close to the front line to re-establish contact with their relatives, the RCM network was extended in Uvira, and thanks to good cooperation with the National Society it was also extended in Kasai Oriental and Occidental. By the end of the year there were 183 tracing outposts, and 142,655 RCMs had been collected and 125,413 distributed countrywide.

The ICRC/National Society tracing network in the DRC and neighbouring countries aimed to reunite unaccompanied children with their families wherever possible. During the year, 1,045 unaccompanied minors were registered by the ICRC and 373 were reunited with their families within the DRC. Medical assistance was given to unaccompanied children in three transit camps in Goma, and also to other children in orphanages, bringing the number of children aided to 1,227.

Child soldiers

In view of the persisting phenomenon of the recruitment of children into the armed forces and their participation in hostilities, the DRC issued a decree ordering the demobilization of child soldiers under 18 years of age and their return to their families. On 13 June, President Kabila officially launched an awareness campaign on the issue. This position taken by the country's highest authorities was very encouraging. In November 2001, in eastern DRC, the

opposition Congolese Rally for Democracy officially announced the demobilization of over 2,500 child soldiers.

At the end of 2001 the ICRC, in cooperation with the National Society, registered the first group of 225 child soldiers who had been demobilized and brought to a centre near Kinshasa. RCMs were written by the children in the hope of locating and rejoining their families. In eastern DRC, child soldiers demobilized and in possession of demobilization orders were also able to use the tracing service to restore family links.

Food assistance

Civilians continued to suffer the economic effects of the war. Many people had had to abandon their land and livelihood and resettle elsewhere, and mass internal displacement put pressure on the limited resources of the resident population. The aim of the ICRC's assistance programmes was to help the beneficiaries to regain their self-sufficiency. During the year, the ICRC provided some or all of the following to more than 275,000 displaced people and residents: non-food kits, seed and agricultural tools, and, exceptionally, monthly food rations (full or partial).

Following evaluations conducted in Nyunzu, northern Katanga, in April, where the ICRC found a population destitute as a result of two years of isolation and the impossibility of using part of its land for security reasons, the ICRC decided to provide assistance until the next harvest in June. Two distributions took place, one at the end of April and one at beginning of May, which totalled 320 tonnes of basic food supplies. This programme covered the entire population of the town comprising 13,500 people.

Among others receiving aid were 600 displaced families in the area surrounding Lubumbashi, who were given three-quarter food rations on a monthly basis until April. In May, a seed distribution was carried out. The ICRC then phased out its assistance as the beneficiaries were well on their way to self-sufficiency. Also near Lubumbashi, the ICRC conducted an evaluation of the impact of seed distributions on another 500 families. The results showed that the beneficiaries consumed 40% of what they produced and sold the rest. This enabled them to buy more seed and continue the cycle.

Water and habitat

The water-supply network was in a state of neglect after years of conflict, so the ICRC continued to supply chemicals and spare parts to the national water board, REGIDESO, thus contributing to the provision of safe water for the entire population of Goma, Kisangani, Bunia, Bukavu and Gbadolite. In addition, the ICRC rehabilitated 68 water sources to provide safe drinking water for 200,000 people who did not have access to the network in Kisangani. A chlorination project in Goma receiving financial support from the ICRC and executed by the NGO *Amis-Kivu* continued throughout the year. Some 20 chlorination sites treated water from Lake Kivu, which was used by households that did not have access to the REGIDESO network.

In Kisangani, support was given to the REGIDESO to rehabilitate part of the Tshopo II treatment plant and the Dama station on the left bank, which served 100,000 people and supplied water to the Lubunga hospital. This was about double the previous number of beneficiaries and eased the pressure on the existing water network.

In Kinshasa, rehabilitation of the Ndjili water-treatment plant continued throughout the year. Once completed, this project will increase water production by 50% and serve a population of four million.

In Kalemie, the three filters of the treatment plant were repaired, increasing the water-production capacity of the REGIDESO in the town by 50% and leading to the possibility of rehabilitating other parts of the network. Other projects included the construction of tapstands and wells for an estimated 100,000 beneficiaries all over the DRC.

Medical services

The conflict had also left the health system in a very poor state. At the beginning of the year, the ICRC began to give priority in the distribution of medical assistance to health facilities located close to conflict zones. Most of its support, in terms of materials and expertise, went to 12 hospitals in western DRC and in Bukavu, Uvira, Kalemie, Kisangani and Bunia, eight health centres in Bukavu, Uvira, Kalemie, Goma and Bunia, and two health centres in Equateur (see *Wounded and sick*).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In 2001, the government and opposition groups were still holding combatants captured as a direct result of the conflict. No new prisoners of war (POWs) were registered, but the number of people arrested for reasons of State security or in connection with the conflict, especially in eastern DRC, remained high. A total of 796 new detainees were registered in 2001.

Prisoners of war

The ICRC visited the two remaining POWs – one Burundian and one Ugandan – in government-held areas to monitor their general living conditions. After making representations to the Congolese military authorities, the ICRC repatriated the Ugandan POW on 16 September. Three Ugandan civilian internees were repatriated at the same time. At the end of the year, the Congolese authorities gave their agreement in principle to the repatriation of the Burundian POW.

Five Congolese POWs held in Rwanda were repatriated to Kinshasa in November under ICRC auspices.

Civilian internees

The ICRC continued to monitor the conditions of internment of 250 civilian internees (mainly of Rwandan origin, but also some Burundians and one Ugandan national) held at the National Social Security Institute in Kinshasa. The ICRC continued its assistance programme for the internees, which comprised weekly distributions of full food rations, plus milk and sugar for children under 12. Medicines and medical supplies were provided every two months. The internees were also given the opportunity to send and receive RCMs.

Places of detention

The ICRC made 247 visits to 62 places of detention, both government- and RCD-run, throughout the DRC. Some 900 security detainees were followed up individually, and oral representations were made to the detaining authorities where appropriate. In addition, more than 6,400 inmates benefited from ICRC assistance under health, nutrition, water and hygiene and agricultural programmes. Some of these assistance programmes were conducted in partnership with local NGOs or church organizations already working in the prisons. Detainees were also given the opportunity to maintain contact with their families through the RCM network. A total of 2,151 RCMs were distributed to detainees in the DRC during 2001.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Although, given the cease-fire, the military situation was calmer than in previous years, renewed fighting with further casualties was still a constant threat. Hospitals lacked the materials and skilled staff necessary to provide proper treatment for the war-wounded.

The ICRC provided 22 medical facilities with assistance, training and expertise. Hospitals treating the wounded were supplied with material assistance, and 940 war-wounded were treated during the year. The number decreased after the cease-fire, but almost 100 were still hospitalized in Kinshasa and undergoing rehabilitation. In cooperation with the National Society, the ICRC conducted training sessions for more than 1,000 first-aiders. The positive impact was immediately evident, as wounded combatants coming from the front line arrived at centres such as the Ngashi Military Hospital in Mbandaka with pretreated and non-infected wounds.

The ICRC lent its expertise to help improve the quality of treatment given to patients. An ICRC surgeon based in Nairobi worked for a week alongside local surgeons at the Kinshasa and Uvira general referral hospitals and at the hospital in Kalemie. A war-surgery seminar was organized in November by the ICRC in cooperation with the armed forces medical service and the Ministry of Health.

The ICRC also worked to improve sanitation at several hospitals in the country. These projects included the resumption and completion of a project at Masisi hospital near Goma, where work had been temporarily interrupted by poor security conditions. A water-storage system comprising two 4,600-litre reservoirs was installed, the latrine and shower blocks, including the septic tank and the cesspool, were rehabilitated, and the plumbing was repaired.

Amputees and other disabled people

During the year, 188 prostheses and 18 orthoses were produced in the Kalembe-Lembe prosthetic/orthotic centre in Kinshasa for amputees and other disabled patients. There was a sharp decrease in the number of patients treated in mid-February, mainly because a curfew prevented patients from attending the centre and returning home the same day. The workshop delivered prostheses every month for military and civilian amputees from all over western DRC.

AUTHORITIES

The DRC had yet to sign and ratify certain IHL treaties, and the ICRC continued to encourage the authorities to do so. Significant progress was achieved in 2001 as the President signed decrees for the DRC's adherence to Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions, the 1980 UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and the Ottawa treaty. Several human rights treaties were also signed. The ICRC then began advising the Congolese authorities on the implementation of the provisions of these treaties.

The growing number of humanitarian agencies in the DRC created some confusion as to their respective roles and activities. The ICRC held information sessions on the ICRC, its mandate and its activities for political and administrative officials in Bas-Congo, Kasai Oriental, northern Katanga, South Kivu and Equateur. The UN Mission in the DRC also asked the ICRC to give talks explaining its mandate and activities.

A quarterly fact-sheet was produced for the ICRC's main contacts and the authorities to keep them informed of ICRC activities in the DRC.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The fact that neither the government nor the opposition armed forces had a full understanding of the ICRC's specific mandate and activities or of international humanitarian law (IHL) posed a potential security threat to the organization's staff and operations. In order to raise their awareness, the ICRC maintained regular contact with government forces and armed opposition groups. In addition to its contacts with the Congolese armed opposition, the ICRC kept in touch with commanders of the Rwandan Patriotic Army and the Ugandan People's Defence Force during missions to Equateur, Katanga, South Kivu and North Kivu, in order to inform them of the ICRC's mandate and activities and stress the importance of respecting the red cross emblem.

The ICRC had encouraging talks with representatives of armed militias in Kalundu and on the northern and south-eastern roads out of Bukavu concerning the prospects for conducting dissemination sessions. From July, contacts with the armed forces of Burundi and Rwanda increased on the Ruzizi plain. Thanks to these meetings, the ICRC obtained assurances that the integrated assistance programme (water and sanitation, medical, first aid) could continue, and was able to carry out a seed distribution at the beginning of September for 15,000 families.

The ICRC maintained regular contact with the local military authorities in Goma, Bukavu, Kisangani and Kalemie, and, in Kinshasa, regular approaches to the authorities resulted in a decision to cooperate with the ICRC in conducting training sessions on IHL at the Maluku military training centre.

Workshops for officers in the military regions were organized in Bas-Congo, Katanga, Equateur, Kasai Oriental and Kasai Occidental, and awareness-raising sessions on the activities of the ICRC with an introduction to IHL were held for officers at military headquarters and Ministry of Defence officials.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The lack of awareness among the population at large, and leaders and opinion-makers in particular, about the ICRC's specific mandate and activities and the confusion between IHL and human rights law had a negative impact on the ICRC's humanitarian operations. Following the tragedy in Ituri, a nationwide effort was made via the media to impress upon all sectors of society – civilian, military, customary and religious authorities, civil society, etc. – the importance of sustained support to allow the ICRC to continue its activities on Congolese soil. Local radio and television stations in Bukavu, Kisan-gani, Goma and Uvira continued to broadcast information on the ICRC's activities in the east of the country, and newspapers published articles on the ICRC.

In addition to regular contacts with the media and meetings with the Red Cross journalists' club, press releases were issued and distributed to local media in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi. Press releases on the repatriation of four Congolese POWs from Rwanda and their reunification with their families in December were published by both the national and the international press. A programme on the reunification of unaccompanied children with their families was broadcast on Radio Elykia in Kinshasa. In August, a special newsletter on the opening of the Darma water-treatment plant near Kisan-gani was published. The event was covered by three radio stations and local television.

Traditional leaders attended an ICRC information session on its mandate and activities in Equateur and Katanga.

Students at universities and other higher-education establishments in Kinshasa received ICRC and IHL publications, and IHL reference libraries were given to the universities of Kinshasa and Lubumbashi.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1888, the Red Cross Society of the DRC is the oldest African National Society. Throughout 2001, its volunteer workers and first-aiders continued to demonstrate its operational strength. Nevertheless, there were still areas that required support and further development, and the ICRC worked with the National Society to improve its ability to assist victims of conflict and other emergencies.

In the field of conflict-preparedness and response, training sessions for first-aid team leaders were organized all over the DRC, and particularly in eastern regions where such training had not yet been given. Emergency plans were subsequently put in place and first-aid kits were distributed to National Society provincial committees to help the first-aid teams to cope with emergencies when they arose. The ICRC also helped the National Society organize a training session on crisis-management techniques for the seven provincial heads of the Emergency Aid Service. Following the death of Laurent-Désiré Kabila, the National Society mobilized its first-aid services so as to be prepared for any emergency.

Another important part of the work of the National Society was to raise awareness of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The ICRC organized dissemination sessions on the Movement and its Fundamental Principles for National Society volunteers and members of their respective committees throughout the country. It also supported the production of the review *Echo de la Croix-Rouge*, published by the National Society for distribution both within its ranks and externally. Some 4,000 copies were produced each quarter.

Furthermore, the ICRC continued to train National Society volunteers in tracing activities. Provincial coordinators were appointed at six of the provincial committees to centralize information received from RCM and tracing outposts.

The ICRC helped the National Society preserve its unity by providing it with the logistic and financial means needed to organize its Central Committee and provincial assemblies. Four training sessions in administration and finance were held for the new heads of provincial committees.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Personnel:

8 expatriates

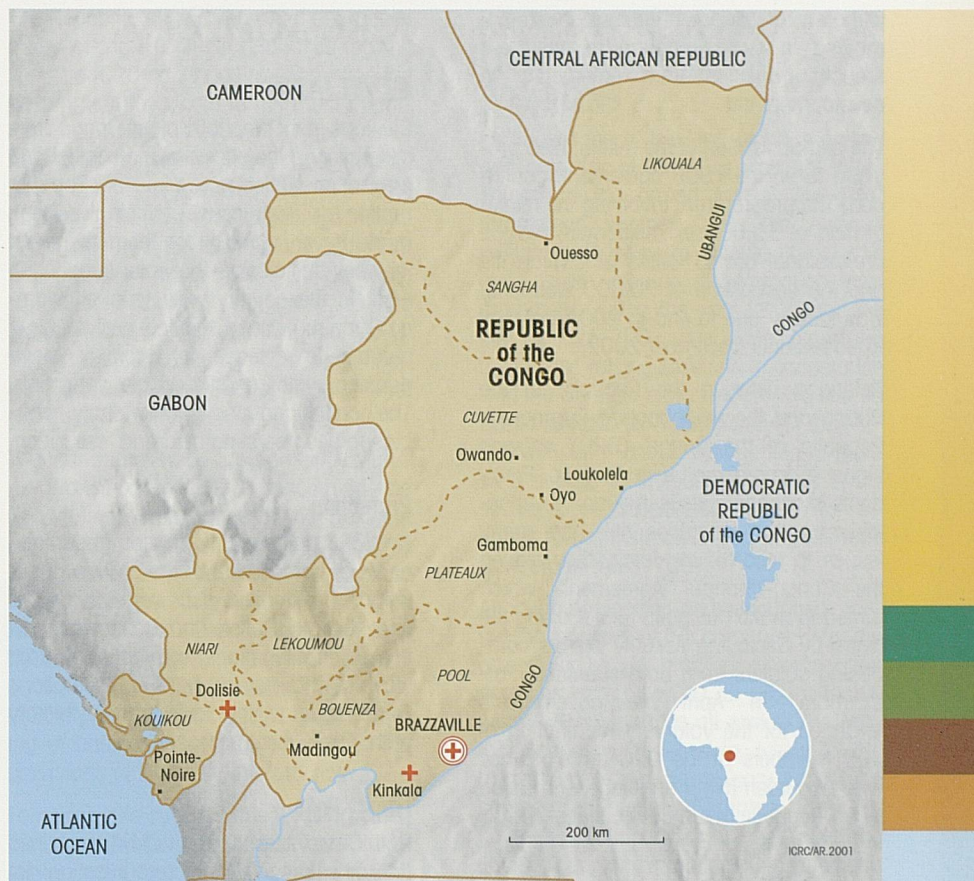
90 locally hired staff

After years of conflict, the emphasis in the Republic of the Congo has shifted from emergency assistance to reconstruction. The essence of the ICRC's activities in the country remains monitoring the situation of civilians and the living conditions of people deprived of their freedom. The ICRC also provides financial, material and technical support for water-supply projects, and strives to raise awareness of international humanitarian law among the armed and security forces.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	755,429
Assistance	1,351,776
Preventive Action	1,038,428
Cooperation with National Societies	245,184
General	93,532
Overheads	204,737

3,689,085



⊕ ICRC delegation + ICRC office

CONTEXT

On 2 February 2001, the government announced the schedule for the *Dialogue national sans exclusive*¹ provided for in the 1999 agreement to end hostilities. The dialogue began on 17 March with a decentralized debate at regional and communal level; this was followed by a national convention held from 11 to 13 April. The process culminated in the signing of the *Convention de la paix et de la reconstruction du Congo*² and a draft constitution. The draft constitution was adopted in September by the *Conseil National de*

Transition.³ Following a referendum on the issue due to take place in January 2002, presidential elections were planned for March and April 2002.

In 2001 the Republic of the Congo's reconstruction phase was still at its very beginning. Although economic indicators were promising and the population had regained a degree of nutritional self-sufficiency, there was still high unemployment and very limited access to basic goods and services, in particular medical care and education. Another growing concern was that, as international humanitarian agencies providing emergency aid

¹ All-inclusive national dialogue

² Convention for Peace and Reconstruction in the Congo

³ National Transition Council

withdrew, development agencies were not moving in swiftly enough to ensure a smooth transition from emergency to development aid.

The demobilization of the militia, also provided for in the 1999 agreement, continued. The programme, involving the reintegration of 15,000 ex-militiamen into the professional armed forces or civilian life and the destruction of 20,000 weapons, was initially due to end in 2001 but was extended until December 2002.

Relations between the Republic of the Congo and the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) showed signs of improving, with the two Presidents exchanging visits in June. Nevertheless, the two countries still had many issues to resolve. In March, they signed the Congo-Ubangui Agreement, which aimed to make navigation safer along the rivers by deploying security patrols comprising soldiers from both countries. Furthermore, in April the governments arranged for the voluntary repatriation of 400 members of the DRC armed forces who had been living as refugees in Bétou in the Republic of the Congo since 2000.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Civilians in the Republic of the Congo were still suffering the effects of the conflict and were often subjected to violence. The disruption or destruction of their livelihood made it very difficult for them to regain their self-sufficiency. The water-supply network in the country was seriously damaged or run down, leaving civilians vulnerable to disease for lack of clean drinking water and adequate sanitation. The conflict had also caused family members to become separated and lose touch.

Protection

The ICRC gathered information about incidents of harassment of the civilian population. Weekly field visits were conducted from Kinkala, Dolisie and Brazzaville, during which allegations were collected from victims and witnesses. Representations were made to the civilian and military authorities where necessary.

Family links

Red Cross messages (RCMs) remained the only means of communication for many refugees from Rwanda, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and more recently from the Central African Republic, who were living in the north-east of the country. A major constraint for the exchange of RCMs at the beginning of the year was the difficulty of access to the north-eastern region and the irregularity of flights. Nevertheless, 3,299 RCMs were collected and distributed to separated family members. Unaccompanied children from the Republic of the Congo or from other countries were put in touch with their families and reunited with them wherever possible.

Assistance

Throughout the year the ICRC maintained an emergency stock of non-food items for a minimum of 5,000 beneficiaries (1,000 families), to enable it to react quickly should the need arise. It also provided 274 of the most vulnerable families in the Pool region with seeds and tools for the planting season.

The ICRC constructed some 29 wells with hand- or foot-pumps and protected 10 water sources, improving access to water for some 45,000 people throughout the country. In addition, work on the boreholes and pumps of the former GTZ⁴ project in Niari and Bouenza came to end with a total of 129 pumps evaluated, 83 rehabilitated, 36 undergoing maintenance work and 10 replaced. This project is now benefiting 40,000 people.

The ICRC also carried out rehabilitation work on the Nkayi water-treatment plant, which supplies 48,000 people. Work continues on the plants of Madingou, Djiri (Brazzaville), Dolisie and Kinkala, which will serve tens of thousands of people.

Throughout the year, the ICRC maintained the capacity to distribute safe water to 12,000 people in the event of conflict.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC conducted regular visits to 586 detainees in 21 places of detention – prisons, lock-ups, and police and *gendarmérie* posts – throughout the country to ensure that the treatment of detainees and conditions of detention conformed to international standards. It provided ad hoc assistance to the authorities in order to improve living conditions and repaired the drainage system of the security cells at the *Gendarmerie nationale* in Dolisie.

⁴ Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, a German government aid agency

Early in the year, the ICRC produced a summary report on five of the country's central prisons and submitted it to the authorities concerned. The report made recommendations concerning basic judicial guarantees. After the release of the last nine ICRC-registered detainees in April, there were no detainees within the ICRC's mandate left in the Republic of the Congo. The ICRC nevertheless continued its visits to all places of detention to pursue its dialogue with the authorities and thereby contribute to an improvement in conditions of detention for all inmates.

WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC's emergency medical programme came to a close at the end of the year 2000, but throughout 2001 the ICRC maintained enough medical stocks to treat a minimum of 200 war-wounded to ensure that health centres could respond in the event of an emergency. Despite ongoing efforts, the ICRC was not successful in finding a National Society or NGO willing to take on a long-term development programme to support 18 health facilities that it had rehabilitated in the Pool and Niari regions.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC maintained contact with the civilian authorities in Brazzaville. It had unimpeded access to the entire country and no obstacle was put in the way of its activities. The authorities were provided with dissemination materials on international humanitarian law (IHL) on a regular basis. The ICRC also conducted numerous dissemination sessions for administrative authorities, heads of districts, members of the *Conseil National de Résistance*,⁵ etc. to familiarize them with the rules of IHL and with the mandate and activities of the ICRC. Newsletters were regularly distributed to the authorities to keep them up to date with ICRC operations in the country.

⁵ The National Resistance Council, a grouping of former opposition fighters

The Republic of the Congo had not ratified many of the IHL treaties, and during the year the ICRC continued to encourage the government to adhere to the most important instruments. Regular meetings were held with representatives of the *Conseil National de Transition* and the legal adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to set priorities for the implementation of IHL and its incorporation in domestic legislation. Priority was given to the Statute of the International Criminal Court, which the Republic of the Congo had signed on 17 July 1998 but had still not ratified by the end of 2001.

The law approved by the *Conseil National de Transition* in 2000 concerning the Ottawa treaty was signed by the President of the Republic in February 2001, and the legal instruments required for adherence to the treaty were signed on 3 April. The Republic of the Congo then officially became the 113th State party to the treaty on 4 May. The ICRC provided the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with advice on the drafting of national legislation for putting the provisions of the treaty into practice.

Following this success, the ICRC provided the Legal Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with fact sheets on the 1980 UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its four Protocols, and on the legal provisions governing use of the red cross emblem, as there had been allegations of misuse of the emblem within the country. At the end of October the ICRC took part in a meeting organized by the National Society on the setting-up of a committee in charge of drafting a national law on protection of the emblem and comprising representatives of the National Society, the ICRC, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, Defence, the Interior, Trade and Transport. A decision on the committee was postponed until after the elections. No progress was made on the establishment of an interministerial committee for the implementation of IHL in general.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

As knowledge of IHL and of the mandate and activities of the ICRC was not widespread in the armed forces, the ICRC maintained contacts with the relevant military authorities to discuss the matter and devise regular dissemination programmes. During the year 2000 and the first half of 2001, the ICRC organized awareness-raising sessions in cooperation with the *Comité Permanent de Diffusion du Droit International Humanitaire* (CPDDIH),⁶ but with only one instructor. Many more were needed to increase the scope of the sessions, so accelerated courses for 64 armed forces instructors from Pointe-Noire were organized in 2001.

Although no decree had been signed making the teaching of IHL compulsory for the armed forces, in practice dissemination sessions were given by an IHL instructor, with ICRC support, to all ranks. The Military Academy reopened in July with IHL being taught as a compulsory part of the course at all stages of training. The ICRC gave technical advice to help get the courses up and running and provided documentation for the Academy's library.

The Police School opened its doors in June with IHL included as a compulsory component of its course at all levels. The ICRC lent its support to the instructor during his preparation of the course and provided the school with a specialized library. The *gendarmerie* school hoped to give instruction in IHL in 2002.

Throughout the year the ICRC organized regular dissemination sessions for members of the armed forces, the police and the *gendarmerie*.

⁶ Standing Committee for the Dissemination of international humanitarian law

CIVIL SOCIETY

Media

Contacts were maintained with the media so as to reach a wide audience for the promotion of IHL and Red Cross activities. Items on the ICRC and its work were frequently published in newspapers and broadcast on the radio, the main sources of information in the country. Quarterly newsletters distributed to all media in the Congo were well received, especially by the press, and Radio Congo continued to broadcast its weekly Red Cross programme.

University

The ICRC also fostered its relations with Marien Ngouabi University in an effort to reach future leaders and opinion-makers. Law students attended lectures on IHL in their fourth year only, but the ICRC helped the law faculty draft a proposal for the inclusion of IHL as a compulsory element in the second and third years of the law course. This draft was submitted to the university's governing body in November.

The *Ecole Nationale d'Administration et de Magistrature*⁷ informed the ICRC that IHL was already a component of its course but that it lacked a teacher. Two teachers were found by the ICRC and the IHL course, comprising 26 hours for students in the second year of diplomatic studies, began in July. Dissemination sessions also took place in the two private universities – the *Ecole Supérieure de Gestion et d'Administration des Entreprises*⁸ and the Congo Free University.

The ICRC gave an IHL library – 71 books and a CD-ROM – to the Legal Documentation Centre in Brazzaville for use by the general public and students of IHL in particular.

⁷ National School of Administration and Magistrature

⁸ School of Corporate Management and Administration

Reintegration of ex-militiamen into civil society

In 2001 the ICRC was in contact with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which was in charge of the programme to disarm ex-militiamen and reintegrate them into civil society. It was agreed that a module on the basic rules of IHL would be included in the compulsory training courses on commercial and agricultural skills designed to help these former fighters return to civilian life. A total of 200 ex-militiamen attended the first dissemination session, which continued to be given twice a month to all ex-militiamen attending the reintegration course. In parallel, the ICRC continued to spread knowledge of IHL among militiamen not attending the IOM's reintegration programmes.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC began to tackle the problem of the absence of tracing activities in the Congolese Red Cross during the year. Following the signing of a cooperation agreement on the restoration of family links by the ICRC and the National Society on 5 November, the recently appointed head of tracing underwent a three-week training course with the ICRC tracing team. The tracing service then began operating in December using office material provided by the ICRC. The collection and distribution of RCMs is now the responsibility of the National Society. Tracing services for unaccompanied children will be the next activity undertaken.

In December 2001 an agreement was signed with the National Society on the revision of its statutes to bring them more into line with the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The ICRC undertook to finance the 11 regional assemblies which were due to take place in 2002 and the General Assembly planned for April 2002, when the statutes will be revised.

ERITREA

Personnel :
27 expatriates
70 locally hired staff

In Eritrea, a party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions since August 2000, the ICRC endeavours to alleviate human suffering arising from the effects of the international armed conflict with Ethiopia. The ICRC's priorities are twofold: to assist the population still affected and/or displaced by the conflict; and to ensure that prisoners of war and civilians of Ethiopian origin enjoy the protection due to them under the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions respectively. The ICRC supports the "Red Cross Society of Eritrea" in its efforts to develop its capacity in the areas of tracing, dissemination, conflict preparedness and emergency response.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	2,890,099
Assistance	6,627,396
Preventive Action	269,309
Cooperation with National Societies	671,293
General	143,951
Overheads	763,388

11,365,436



⊕ ICRC delegation + ICRC office

CONTEXT

One year on from the Algiers peace accord, Eritrea and Ethiopia had by and large respected the mutually agreed cease-fire and, despite several contentious issues, progress was being made in implementing the peace treaty they signed on 12 December 2000.

In December 2000 a commission was set up with the task of demarcating the disputed border between Ethiopia and Eritrea. In late February 2001, the Ethiopian Defence Forces withdrew from the territories they were occupying in the Senafe region. By the beginning of April 2001, the armies of the two countries had been redeployed on both sides of the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ). The TSZ – a 25-kilometre-wide buffer zone between the two countries – was officially established by the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) on 18 April.

At the end of 2000 Eritrea and Ethiopia had started to release and repatriate prisoners of war, but the process was not completed by either party in 2001. The release in July 2001 of the last Ethiopian civilians identified by the ICRC in internment camps in Eritrea brought civilian internment in the country as defined by the Fourth Geneva Convention to an end. Ensuring compliance by the authorities with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions relating to prisoners of war (POWs) and civilians of Ethiopian origin was a priority for the ICRC during the year. The ICRC regularly visited POWs, internees and detainees to monitor conditions of detention and treatment and made representations to the relevant officials. In coordination with Ethiopian and "Eritrean Red Cross" volunteers, it also ensured safe passage during the repatriation of released POWs and civilians and handled Red Cross messages (RCMs) for family members separated by the conflict.

A reported 700,000 people fled their homes in Eritrea during the war. After the TSZ was set up in April, thousands returned to their towns and villages in war-affected areas. Many found their homes partially or completely destroyed and water-supply and health facilities in disrepair. They were also late for the planting season. In December 2000 there were some 50,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in camps, mainly because of the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance. The ICRC responded with emergency food and other aid and longer-term assistance to provide access to water and basic health care for both vulnerable resident communities and IDPs.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

During 2001, the ICRC provided assistance for both the resident population and recent returnees in war-affected towns and villages and for IDPs in camps. Meetings were held with other humanitarian agencies to coordinate the aid, which included food and non-food items, water and basic health care.

Food and other assistance

Throughout the year, the ICRC provided emergency supplies of food and other items such as roofing materials, blankets, cooking sets, shovels, axes, jerry cans, and plastic bags imprinted with landmine-awareness information for vulnerable populations in the war-torn areas of Gash Barka and Debub near the Ethiopian border. It had already begun in September 2000 to monitor closely the living conditions of residents in the territories occupied by the Ethiopian Defence Forces, in accordance with the rules protecting civilians living under occupation. After the Ethiopian troops' withdrawal in late February 2001, the residents' situation improved but the ICRC maintained its presence and assistance in the Senafe region. In February and March, to help them through a critical food shortage, some 45,500 people living in and around Senafe were each given monthly ICRC rations comprising 2 kg of field peas, 1 kg of sugar, 1 litre of oil, 250 g of tea, and 800 g of washing and laundry soap. In an innovative pilot project to assist returning IDPs, the ICRC brought in palm leaves for the repair of over 1,000 traditional homes called *agudos* in and around Barentu in the Gash Barka region. This provided shelter for over 7,000 people.

Water and sanitation

The mass return of people to their homes in war-affected areas put water supplies under severe pressure. IDPs in camps also faced water shortages. The ICRC responded by trucking in emergency supplies of water and repairing war-damaged water installations in Gash Barka and Debub.

In the main town of Senafe in Debub province, the ICRC completely rehabilitated the water-supply system, installing two generators and a hydrant and connecting two underwater pumps. This benefited some 17,300 people. The system was then handed over to the local authorities. In nearby Roxoito, the water system rehabilitated by the ICRC served a valley population of over 1000 people and their livestock. The ICRC also repaired 27 hand-pumps in villages throughout Debub. In Gash Barka, the ICRC provided a water system for the town of Barentu and also installed a new reservoir, pipelines and a system of taps in the town of Shambiko to ensure a water supply sufficient for some 7,000 people in preparation for an influx of returnees. Working with the "Red Cross Society of Eritrea," which is not recognized by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the ICRC distributed water by tanker truck to over 9,000 people in IDP camps throughout Gash Barka and Debub. The water-supply systems in the camps were checked, cleaned and repaired as needed.

Basic health care

To provide basic health care, the ICRC gave support to local health facilities on an ad hoc basis, where the need was greatest. In the occupied territories in the Senafe region, six health posts received medicines and technical support. In the village of Forto, south of the town of Senafe, the ICRC completely renovated the health centre after the Eritrean Ministry of Health had designated it as a priority facility, serving some 45,500 people. The Forto centre also received a one-off delivery of medical equipment.

Restoring family links

Communications such as postal services and telecommunications were still not functioning between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the RCM network remained a vital link for thousands of people separated from their families by the war. During the year, 27,004 RCMs were exchanged between Eritrea and Ethiopia, including messages for POWs, detainees, internees and civilians. The ICRC also reunited families where requested. Under ICRC auspices, 42 people were reunited with their families, 41 by bringing family members from Ethiopia to Eritrea and one from Eritrea to Ethiopia. Of the 97 tracing cases opened during the year, 52 cases were successfully concluded with the persons sought being located.

With the support of the "Eritrean Red Cross", the ICRC supervised the repatriation of people wishing to return to their countries of origin. A total of 20,702 civilians of Ethiopian origin were repatriated under ICRC auspices in 2001, and 1,194 Eritreans returned from Ethiopia. The ICRC provided safe passage from point of departure to destination, plus food, water and blankets for the trip.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**Prisoners of war**

The number of POWs of Ethiopian origin held in Nafka camp in Eritrea decreased from just under 700 at the start of 2001 to 375 in December. The ICRC carried out nine visits to the camp during the year and provided the POWs with nutritional supplements such as vitamin A and D and hygiene and recreational items, including clothing, straw mats, notebooks and pens, footballs and a radio. Following the visits, the ICRC reminded the Eritrean authorities of their obligations under the Third Geneva Convention regarding conditions of internment and the release and repatriation of POWs. During the year, 293 Ethiopian POWs were repatriated, 43

for reasons of ill-health after ICRC representations. In total, 1,714 RCMs were exchanged on behalf of POWs in Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Civilian internees and detainees

The number of civilian internees and detainees of Ethiopian origin held in Eritrea and followed up by the ICRC fell from 2,282 in January 2001 to 566 in December. During the year, the ICRC conducted 148 visits to 55 places of detention holding civilians, including internment camps, prisons and police stations. The ICRC monitored the conditions and treatment of internees and detainees and made representations to the relevant authorities in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention. Before the closure of the internment camps, the ICRC monitored health services for internees and ensured that they had a sufficient supply of safe water. For example, it trucked in 280,000 litres of water to Ala camp and set up a bladder tank in Afabet camp.

In July 2001, with the release from Ala camp of the last civilian internees identified by the ICRC, the internment of civilians as defined by the Fourth Geneva Convention came to an end in Eritrea. After the camp closed, the ICRC offered short-term financial aid to 119 former internees of Ethiopian origin who stayed in Asmara with no means of support. The aid covered medical care, the fee for a residence permit and the cost of setting up a home or of repatriation.

WOUNDED AND SICK**War-wounded**

Some hospitals and other health centres in war-affected areas were damaged during the international conflict. The ICRC helped to re-equip facilities treating and rehabilitating the war-wounded. Medical and surgical supplies were distributed during 2001 to the Eritrean Ministry of Health, UNMEE, Adi Keih hospital, Barentu hospital, and the Forto and Roxoito health

posts. To consolidate their field experience, 16 Eritrean doctors attended an intensive four-day trauma-management course at Halibet hospital, organized by the ICRC in cooperation with the Eritrean Ministry of Health. The course included lectures, practical demonstrations and examinations, with reference material and textbooks for the participants.

Amputees and other disabled people

Eritrea has a large number of disabled people, especially young amputees, requiring prostheses or orthoses and follow-up physiotherapy. The three Eritrean prosthetic/orthotic workshops were unable to meet the demand. Following an ICRC assessment, on 6 November the Eritrean authorities and the ICRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a physical rehabilitation programme for disabled people in the country. Plans were made to upgrade the skills of the staff at the ICRC's Keren Prosthetic and Orthotic Centre in 2002, and to use the facility as a model for other centres. Meanwhile, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, a first group of 12 students qualified in December as associate physiotherapists following an ICRC-supported 18-month training course. A second group of 14 students completed the theory section of the course and started their training in clinical practice.

AUTHORITIES

Eritrea acceded to the Geneva Conventions in August 2000, paving the way for the implementation process and the incorporation of international humanitarian law (IHL) in national legislation. The ICRC completed a draft translation into Tigrinya of the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions which was to be presented to the authorities for approval.

To increase awareness among international authorities of IHL and the ICRC in the context of Eritrea and Ethiopia, the ICRC began a dissemination programme targeting commanding officers of UNMEE battal-

AFRICA ERITREA

ions in the TSZ. Sessions on the ICRC's mandate and activities were given in the field to 30 Jordanians, 35 Kenyans and 35 Indians. Regular briefings to exchange information on the ICRC's mandate and related activities in Eritrea were also held with UNMEE and the diplomatic corps.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces

The ICRC met the Minister of Defence and Ministry officials on a number of occasions to discuss IHL training for the armed forces. An official offer was made to hold a preliminary workshop for a group of senior officers in 2002 and to use that as a basis for agreement on a more detailed programme of cooperation.

Other bearers of weapons

The year 2001 saw close cooperation between the ICRC and the Eritrean police force. In March, the ICRC held an inaugural six-day workshop on humanitarian and human rights law for 21 senior officers at the Eritrean Police Training Centre in Asmara. The director of the centre and the training commander announced they wanted to incorporate IHL as a standard component of the curriculum, with the police force eventually taking full charge of the programme. The agreed plan was to train trainers within the police force while the ICRC continued to hold ad hoc IHL and human rights seminars for senior officers and to give presentations on the ICRC to all new recruits.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Media

In view of the key role that the media could play in informing the public about IHL and the work of the Red Cross, the ICRC kept in regular contact with the Eritrean media throughout the year. In particular, repatriation operations for POWs and civilians attracted wide local and international coverage.

Universities

In an effort to raise awareness of IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities among future leaders, opinion-makers and administrators, the ICRC established a good working relationship with Asmara University at the end of 2001. Presentations were given to core groups of professors on the basic rules of IHL and the work of the ICRC. Briefings and meetings were held with heads of departments and deans of the Faculties of Arts and Social Science. The Department of Journalism and Mass Communications and the Law School both expressed interest in incorporating IHL studies in their curricula.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC continued to provide the "Red Cross Society of Eritrea" with the services of a full-time cooperation delegate. The aim was to further develop the capacity of the local "Red Cross" – especially at branch level – to respond to humanitarian needs and emergencies, in particular medical cases and water shortages.

Emergency preparedness

The ICRC provided funds for the necessary personnel and the upkeep of a fleet of 19 heavy goods vehicles, including ambulances and water tankers, and bought two new ambulances plus spare parts and tools. It also paid for the renovation of the vehicle workshop and introduced a computer system and cost-analysis programme for the ordering and purchase of spare parts. With ICRC support the "Eritrean Red Cross" provided ambulances for repatriation operations and stationed two ambulances in the former occupied territories to evacuate people to the nearest health facility in an emergency. The "Red Cross" also provided tanker trucks, in coordination with the ICRC, to supply various IDP camps with water.

Training, tracing and dissemination

The ICRC dissemination delegate worked closely with "Eritrean Red Cross" staff and volunteers to identify training needs at headquarters and in the branches. The "Red Cross" tracing coordinator received regular training in tracing techniques, and similar training was given to three branch tracing clerks in the war-affected regions of Gash Barka and Debub and in the capital, Asmara. Under the cooperation agreement for 2001, the ICRC also supported the running costs, including personnel, administration and transport, of the "Eritrean Red Cross" tracing service and dissemination department.

Mine awareness

The ICRC cooperated closely with the "Eritrean Red Cross" to distribute mine-awareness leaflets and posters via the network of "Red Cross" branches. Under ICRC sponsorship, the "Red Cross" dissemination officer attended a mine-awareness workshop in Zagreb, Croatia, in May.

ETHIOPIA

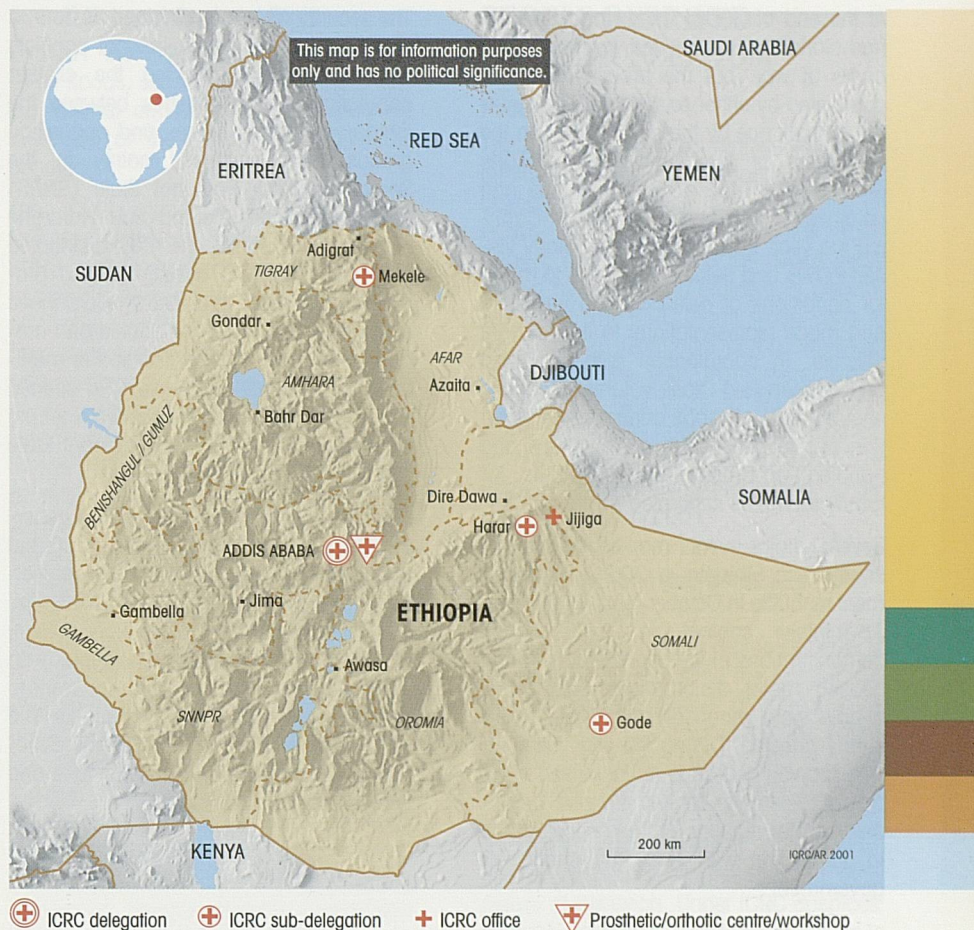
Personnel:
51 expatriates
204 locally hired staff

In Ethiopia the ICRC responds to the needs arising from the recent international armed conflict with Eritrea and from internal conflicts and disturbances, needs which are often aggravated by poor seasonal rainfall. The ICRC focuses on ensuring that prisoners of war (POWs), civilian internees and people of Eritrean origin enjoy the protection due to them under the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. It also provides protection and assistance for the population affected and/or displaced by the international conflict and internal armed violence in various parts of the country, and visits detainees held in connection with the 1991 change of government and for reasons of State security. In the Somali National Regional State, the ICRC implements integrated health, veterinary and water-rehabilitation programmes for nomadic populations and carries out flood-management projects in areas particularly at risk.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	5,065,197
Assistance	8,404,801
Preventive Action	973,107
Cooperation with National Societies	1,408,501
General	550,158
Overheads	1,082,894

17,484,658



CONTEXT

In 2001, Ethiopia's population was having to cope with the consequences of the recent war with Eritrea, armed internal conflict, and cyclic drought.

One year on from the Algiers peace accord, Eritrea and Ethiopia had by and large respected the mutually agreed cease-fire and, despite several contentious issues, progress was being made in implementing the peace treaty they signed on 12 December 2000.

In December 2000 a commission was set up with the task of demarcating the disputed border between Ethiopia and Eritrea. By the beginning of April 2001, the armies of the two countries had withdrawn from occupied territories and been redeployed on either side of the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ). The TSZ – a 25-kilometre-wide buffer zone between the two countries – was officially established by the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) on 18 April. Between May and December, the majority of internally displaced people returned to their homes in the war-affected area.

AFRICA ETHIOPIA

At the end of 2000, Eritrea and Ethiopia had started to release and repatriate prisoners of war, but the process was not completed by either party in 2001. Ensuring compliance by the authorities with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions relating to POWs, civilian internees and detainees was a priority for the ICRC during the year. ICRC delegates regularly visited POWs and detained civilians to monitor conditions of detention and treatment and made representations to the relevant officials. In coordination with Ethiopian and Eritrean Red Cross volunteers, it also ensured safe passage during the repatriation of released POWs and civilians and handled Red Cross messages (RCMs) for family members separated by the conflict.

Several major events marked the internal situation in Ethiopia in 2001. A government reshuffle in October resulted in a new 18-minister cabinet. In April, student demonstrations in the capital Addis Ababa caused major disturbances. Dozens of people were reportedly killed and thousands arrested. During the year the ICRC was granted access to an increased number of detention centres to visit people detained for reasons of State security and in connection with the 1991 change of government.

The security situation remained tense in a number of areas where internal conflicts and disturbances affected the civilian population. Armed clashes between the Ethiopian Defence Forces and opposition groups were reported, mainly in the Somali National Regional State (SNRS) and in the Bale, Borena and Hararghe regions. In response, the ICRC distributed emergency medical assistance and provided support for four prosthetic/orthotic centres treating the war-disabled and amputees. To be in a better position to monitor violence-prone areas, the ICRC opened a temporary office in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional State (SNNPRS) in December 2001.

The food situation in Ethiopia had generally improved as compared with 2000, but remained fragile in 2001. In the conflict-ridden and drought-stricken SNRS, the ICRC stepped up its food-for-work project, which provided vulnerable people with food and other items in return for work to build or repair vital water installations. The ICRC veterinary programme in the SNRS trained nomadic herders to diagnose and treat livestock diseases.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

The ICRC worked on two main fronts in Ethiopia in 2001, responding to the aftermath of the international conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia and to the effects in humanitarian terms of internal conflicts between government forces and opposition groups and between tribal and ethnic groups.

Aftermath of the international conflict

In accordance with the rules protecting civilians living under occupation (Fourth Geneva Convention), the ICRC continued to monitor closely the living conditions of some 45,000 Eritrean civilians resident in the territories occupied by Ethiopia in and around Senafe until the withdrawal of the Ethiopian army at the end of February. In this region the ICRC distributed food and other items and repaired water-supply systems in January and February.

In the Tigray region bordering Eritrea, 1,500 vulnerable families affected by the war received basic materials such as eucalyptus poles and corrugated iron to rebuild their homes. The ICRC also rehabilitated four wells and fitted them with hand-pumps, thus benefiting 2,000 people in seven villages in the Gulumekeda *woreda* (district) in northern Tigray. Three wells could not be completed by the end of the year because the projects encountered layers of hard rock.

Restoring family links

With the support of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, the ICRC supervised the repatriation of people wishing to return to their countries of origin. A total of 20,702 civilians of Ethiopian origin were repatriated in 2001 and 1,194 Eritreans returned from Ethiopia. The ICRC provided safe passage from point of departure to destination, plus food, water and blankets for the trip. In June, during the deportation of 704 Eritreans from Ethiopia, the

ICRC made representations to the Ethiopian authorities regarding humanitarian standards and the principle of non-refoulement.

Communications such as postal services and telecommunications were still not functioning between Ethiopia and Eritrea, so the RCM network remained a vital link for thousands of people separated from their families by conflict. During the year, 27,004 RCMs were exchanged between Eritrea and Ethiopia, including messages for POWs, detainees and their families. The ICRC also reunited families where requested and kept in contact with families whose civilian relatives were still unaccounted for in connection with the war. Under ICRC auspices, 42 families were reunited, 41 by bringing family members from Ethiopia to Eritrea and one from Eritrea to Ethiopia. During the year the ICRC collected 29 tracing requests and allegations of detention. Of these, 10 tracing cases were successfully concluded, with the persons sought being located.

Protection

Armed clashes between government forces and opposition groups and inter-ethnic strife in various parts of Ethiopia continued to put civilians at risk.

Throughout the year the ICRC carried out regular field trips to monitor the humanitarian situation in violence-prone regions, mainly in Oromia, the SNRS and the SNNPRS, where the ICRC opened a temporary office in December. The ICRC also monitored the April student demonstrations and disturbances in Addis Ababa. Information was systematically collected and analysed, and representations were made at local and federal levels.

Somali National Regional State

In 2001 the SNRS was especially hard hit by floods, seasonal drought and ongoing internal armed conflict, affecting the livelihood of the resident and nomadic population.

The ICRC expanded its food-for-work flood-management programme in the SNRS, which was intended to help communities to manage water resources more efficiently and increase agricultural yield. The project provided vulnerable people with sorghum, palm oil, shovels and pick-axes in exchange for the digging and clearing of water canals and the construction of ponds, dykes and dams. The first phase, which ended in April, involved some 30,000 workers and saw 30 irrigation projects completed, benefiting 10,780 households. In the second phase more than 70 projects were launched, covering over 10,000 households in 20 villages.

In parallel with the food-for-work project, the ICRC initiated other programmes in the SNRS, in the Gode, Afder, Liben, Korahe and Fik zones. Some 67,000 households in the Ogaden region around the River Wabi Shebele received fishing twine and hooks and training in fishing techniques, enabling them to supplement their diet. To facilitate planting and weeding, the ICRC distributed hoes to over 42,000 families and also introduced ox-ploughing methods in three selected villages. The ICRC completed three traditional underground reservoirs (*berkads*) and three hand-dug wells with drinking troughs for camels, mainly in the Gode and Afder zones, to improve access to water for some 20,000 people and their livestock in nomadic communities. In addition, 146 nomadic herdsman in the Gode and Afder zones took part in the ICRC veterinary programme which trained herders to identify and treat diseases in their cattle and camels. The training lasted about one week and each herdsman received two reusable syringes and four reusable needles.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Prisoners of war

The ICRC continued its representations to remind the relevant authorities of their obligation to release and repatriate all POWs, in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention and the peace treaty signed by Eritrea and Ethiopia in December 2000. The ICRC made seven visits to the Dedessa internment camp, where at the end of the year there were 1,529 POWs, and two visits to Mike military camp in northern Tigray. Access to the latter was denied from April. In total, 520 Eritrean POWs were repatriated under ICRC auspices in 2001.

Civilian internees and detainees of Eritrean origin

The ICRC made regular representations to the authorities requesting the release and repatriation, if requested, of Eritrean civilian internees, as required by the Fourth Geneva Convention. At the end of 2001 there were 269 civilian internees in the Dedessa internment camp and 100 detainees, often accused of common crimes, monitored by the ICRC in other places of detention. Under ICRC auspices, 989 internees were repatriated to Eritrea in the first three months following the December 2000 peace treaty, with just one internee repatriated during the rest of 2001.

AFRICA ETHIOPIA

Detainees

During the year the ICRC carried out 245 visits to 154 places of detention to follow up individually some 6,800 civilians held in connection with the 1991 change of government (ex-Derg), or for reasons of State security. The ICRC regularly made representations to the relevant authorities concerning judicious guarantees. The Federal Court in Addis Ababa and the Special Prosecutor's Office responsible for ex-Derg detainees made an effort to speed up the process of charging and sentencing or releasing detainees. Some 1,000 detainees monitored by the ICRC were released in 2001, twice as many as in 2000.

Against a backdrop of internal tension in some regions, the ICRC gained access to prisons and police stations it had never visited before, notably the Police Hospital in Addis Ababa. The ICRC was also authorized in October, for the first time in 15 months, to visit the Central Investigation Division detention centre. The authorities in Oromia issued a written clearance allowing the ICRC to visit all prisons and police stations in the region in 2002. The question of regular access to police stations in Tigray was not resolved, but 15 ad hoc visits were carried out.

ICRC health delegates also went regularly to places of detention to monitor sanitation conditions, investigate outbreaks of diseases such as scurvy, parasitic worm infestation and diarrhoea, and provide medical supplies for treatment. The ICRC made major progress in drawing attention to scurvy as a health issue in prisons, and, with the cooperation of authorities, treating the vitamin deficiency. The ICRC also completed 16 major projects in selected prisons to provide basic sanitary facilities such as showers and kitchens for the benefit of over 15,000 detainees.

WOUNDED AND SICK

War wounded, amputees and other disabled people

During the war, health services in Ethiopia encountered difficulties in meeting the needs of war-wounded requiring surgery and artificial limbs. After the cease-fire, landmines, the internal conflict and diseases such as polio and leprosy continued to take their toll.

Supported by the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD), two prosthetists closely monitored the Patient Support Service at the four prosthetic/orthotic centres run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Addis Ababa, Dessie, Harar and Mekele. This involved quality control and management of patients' fittings, on-the-job training and technical and material assistance, together with financial support for orthopaedic appliances, transport and accommodation. At the four centres, 1,902 patients were fitted with prostheses and 1,498 with orthoses in 2001. Of these, 2,252 were war-disabled. The ICRC also donated 18 wheelchairs.

According to its mandate, the SFD, based at the centre in Addis Ababa, provided substantial support to ensure the continuity of both former ICRC orthotic/prosthetic centres for the war-disabled and other rehabilitation centres in developing countries, mainly in Africa. During the year, the Fund supplied 33 centres in 17 countries with prosthetic/orthotic equipment, technical expertise and training. This included seven one-month courses on prosthetic techniques held in Addis Ababa for 31 trainee prosthetists from 14 countries.

Basic health care

In Tigray, the ICRC provided medical supplies for three hospitals – Adwan, Axum and Mekele – which treated sick people among those repatriated from Eritrea.

The ICRC continued to supervise and train 25 "village health women" who treated wounds and common diseases such as malaria and diarrhoea in some 20 villages in the Afder zone of the SNRS, where there was no basic health-care infrastructure.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces

In 2001, a significant first step was taken towards including training in international humanitarian law (IHL) in the curriculum of the Ethiopian air force. In December, the ICRC organized workshops for senior pilots and operational commanders at two air force bases. Discussions were held about organizing similar IHL sessions at the other air force bases in 2002.

The dissemination programme for ground forces planned for 2001 was still being negotiated at the end of the year. The ICRC did, however, give five sessions on basic IHL and ICRC activities at five military camps and centres, reaching over 700 Ethiopian Defence Forces military instructors and officers.

Other bearers of weapons

At the request of the Federal Police Commission, between March and December the ICRC completed an ambitious programme of basic training on IHL, ICRC activities, human rights and good policing for regional police instructors, commissioners and zone and *woreda* police commanders in all Ethiopian regional states. A total of 99 instructors attended a five-day course, and 864 commissioners and commanders attended intensive two-day seminars. Half-day seminars were given for 1,790 new recruits, 150 cadets, 350 special forces cadets and 250 prison administration trainees.

Other developments in the area of promoting knowledge of IHL and the ICRC included the publication of the police handbook *To Serve and to Protect* and teaching files for military instructors in Amharic. The newspapers of the Ethiopian Defence Forces and the Ethiopian Police Federation regularly published extracts from IHL, the first-aid manual and *To Serve and to Protect*, as well as articles on ICRC activities in Ethiopia.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Recognizing the key role of the media in promoting understanding of IHL and of its own work, the ICRC regularly issued press releases during the year. As a result, ICRC repatriation and safe-passage operations received wide coverage in the government and private press. In April, the ICRC held a one-day workshop for journalists in Tigray on Red Cross activities and the ICRC's mandate.

Another ICRC priority was to ensure that all law graduates in Ethiopia were well versed in IHL. At the request of Mekele University, the ICRC worked on a draft IHL programme for the new law faculty. At Addis Ababa University, however, the disruption following student demonstrations in April prevented the ICRC from giving IHL instruction to law students as planned and from reviewing the new law curriculum.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC established constructive contacts in 2001 with the Institute of Justice and Legal System Research, which was responsible for revising the Ethiopian Penal Code. The ICRC stressed the importance of introducing provisions on the repression of war crimes and on the respect due to the red cross emblem during international and internal armed conflict.

The ratification of IHL treaties was delayed as a result of the political problems in the country.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society was the ICRC's main partner, particularly in emergency assistance and repatriation operations. The ICRC continued to support the operational costs of the Ethiopian Red Cross and to offer assistance in training and logistics.

In the first part of 2001 the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Ethiopian Red Cross signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at building up the National Society's capacity in the areas of dissemination, tracing and emergency preparedness. The document also specified the need to improve the organization of Red Cross branches in the ICRC's priority regions of Tigray, Afar, the SNRS and Borena. In those areas, for example, the Red Cross built up sufficient contingency stocks for 1,000 families affected by conflict or natural disasters. In Tigray, the Red Cross launched a successful programme for street children under which 38 children returned to school and were given shelter, food and clothing.

Throughout 2001, the Ethiopian Red Cross assisted the ICRC during repatriation operations, supplying ambulances and distributing hygiene items and blankets. In another example of cooperation, after a breakdown of the water-supply system in Harar, the ICRC and the National Society installed four large bladder tanks serving 10,000 people. The Ethiopian Red Cross also distributed ICRC-donated blankets and plastic sheeting to 400 families stricken by floods in South Omo in the SNNPRS. In Afar, the ICRC equipped two of the National Society's mobile mine-awareness teams with generators, television sets, VCRs and overhead projectors.

ICRC MISSION TO THE OAU

Personnel:
See under Ethiopia

The aim of the ICRC's permanent mission to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) is to gain a broad insight into the political scene in Africa and to build strong relations with African governments and intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. By this means, the ICRC endeavours to draw attention to problems requiring humanitarian action, to promote greater recognition and much wider application of international humanitarian law (IHL) throughout Africa, and to raise awareness of the ICRC's role and activities worldwide.

Expenditure: see *Ethiopia*

AFRICA ICRC MISSION TO THE OAU

CONTEXT

The OAU, founded in 1963, works to promote unity and solidarity among African countries. Its main aims and objectives include defending the territorial integrity and independence of African States, promoting international cooperation, and coordinating and harmonizing member States' economic, diplomatic, educational, health, welfare, scientific and defence policies in order to improve general living standards. OAU membership encompasses 53 of the 54 countries in Africa, the exception being Morocco. Under a cooperation agreement, the ICRC was given official observer status at the OAU in Addis Ababa in 1992, and a permanent ICRC mission was opened in 1993.

The year 2001 brought fundamental changes to the OAU. On 26 May, the Constitutive Act of the African Union came into force after being ratified by two-thirds of OAU member States. By July all member States had ratified the Act, apart from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Madagascar. Also in July, a new Secretary General, Amara Essy, a diplomat of international standing from Côte d'Ivoire, was elected in Lusaka. The OAU was set to become the African Union (AU) in July 2002, and its Secretariat was to be transferred to the Commission of the AU. The new Union, with a Consultative Pan-African Parliament, an African Court of Justice, a Central Bank, and an African Monetary Fund, was expected to revive plans for an African economic community.

ICRC ACTION

In 2001 the ICRC was represented at the OAU by a head of mission and one other senior staff member. It regularly attended OAU meetings and made oral and written presentations regarding ICRC concerns in member States. On 12 December, the newly elected Secretary General of the OAU, Amara Essy, formally received the ICRC's two representatives and was briefed on current ICRC activities and problems requiring humanitarian action in Africa. Earlier in the year, to give a first-hand view of its work in Africa, the ICRC organized a tour of its delegation and the ICRC-assisted prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Addis Ababa for OAU ambassadors from the organization's five regional groups.

The ICRC also coordinated closely with UNHCR, UNICEF, other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations which had observer status at the OAU or were working in Africa on issues related to IHL, in particular internally displaced people and child soldiers. For example, it took part in the meetings of the special OAU/ICRC/UNHCR task force dealing with refugees and displaced persons. On International Women's Day, 8 March, the ICRC and the OAU jointly organized a four-hour round table in Addis Ababa on Women in Armed Conflict, attended by some 100 representatives of the OAU Secretariat and member States, non-African States and international organizations. The presentation and discussion centred on the ICRC study entitled *Women Facing War*. The ICRC also played a major role in organizing a joint OAU/UNICEF Pan-African Forum on the Future of Children in Africa, held in Cairo in May.

On 15 February, the ICRC signed a co-operation agreement with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which comprises 16 countries and aims to promote a common market and to prevent or settle regional conflicts. The ICRC delegation in Nigeria and ECOWAS then jointly organized a series of events to promote the dissemination of IHL.

GUINEA

Personnel :
21 expatriates
67 locally hired staff

In Guinea the ICRC assists internally displaced people (IDPs), visits people deprived of their freedom, conducts dissemination activities for the armed and security forces, political authorities, the media and the general public, and develops the Red Cross tracing network for refugees and unaccompanied children. It also provides assistance for the care of the war-wounded.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	2,115,080
Assistance	6,337,349
Preventive Action	981,237
Cooperation with National Societies	738,623
General	523,236
Overheads	639,026

11,334,551



⊕ ICRC delegation

⊕ ICRC sub-delegation

CONTEXT

In 2001, Guinea remained marked by events that had occurred during the latter months of 2000. From September 2000, clashes at the country's borders with Sierra Leone and Liberia intensified, causing some 250,000 Guineans and tens of thousands of refugees to seek refuge further inland in Guinea. The conflict shifted into Liberia in spring 2001, which eased the situation in Guinea but increased tension in Liberia. By the end of the year, with the exception of areas near the Liberian border, IDPs were slowly beginning to return to their villages.

The Foreign Ministers of the Mano River Union, comprising Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, met in Monrovia and Free-town and agreed to reactivate a joint security committee and seek ways of resolving the armed conflicts in the sub-region. The heads of State of the three countries were expected to meet in early 2002.

On the Guinean political front, three events are worth mentioning. In May 2001, Alpha Condé, the leader of the opposition movement *Rassemblement du peuple guinéen*, was freed but did not regain his civic rights. In November 2001, a constitutional referendum broadened the scope of presidential powers and removed the two-term limit on the President's mandate. Meanwhile, legislative elections scheduled for 27 December 2001 were postponed.

Throughout 2001 the security of humanitarian workers, particularly in the south-western *Guinée forestière* area, remained a constant concern. The ICRC made a considerable effort to enhance perception of the organization and of other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and to promote understanding of their respective mandates.

The ICRC continued to play its role as lead agency for the Movement. It worked closely with the Red Cross Society of Guinea and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to foster greater complementarity between the Movement's components and ensure a coordinated response. To avoid duplication of humanitarian infrastructure, the ICRC used food received via the World Food Programme's (WFP) pipeline, further to a Letter of Agreement signed by the two institutions. In consultation with UNHCR, it was decided that the ICRC would continue its cross-border family reunification activities for unaccompanied minors, while UNHCR and its partners focused on family reunification within the country. It was also agreed that the ICRC's work for refugees would be limited to tracing activities and visits to detained refugees.

Having previously covered its activities in Guinea from its regional delegation in Abidjan, the ICRC opened an operational delegation in the Guinean capital Conakry in January 2001. It expanded its infrastructure, communication network and logistic capacity by setting up three sub-delegations, in Kissidougou, N'zérékoré and Kankan, the latter being a logistics centre.

ICRC surveys carried out in late 2000 and early 2001 revealed that the initial objectives and budget for 2001 as presented in the *Emergency Appeals* needed to be revised. Accordingly, on 27 April 2001 the ICRC launched an appeal for a budget extension for Guinea which brought the total 2001 budget for its operations in the country to Sfr 15,490,474.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Resident population

The living conditions of the resident population deteriorated during 2001 as the presence of IDPs overburdened their coping mechanisms and infrastructure. During the first half of the year, residents benefited indirectly from ICRC assistance operations targeting IDPs.

Towards the end of 2001, the ICRC gained access to the Macenta prefecture and began assessing the needs of the resident population living in Guinea's border zone with Liberia. However, renewed difficulties of access prevented the delegation from distributing assistance to this target group. At the end of the year, a non-food distribution programme targeting some 1,500 resident families was in the planning stages.

The ICRC also provided local hospitals and dispensaries in host communities with medical assistance to help them meet the increased demands created by the IDP influx. (*See Wounded and sick.*)

Internally displaced people

From September 2000, some 250,000 displaced persons had sought refuge in inland Guinea. On their arrival in new locations, the displaced families needed help in meeting their immediate needs in terms of food and other basic items.

Initially, the ICRC distributed across-the-board food and non-food aid to some 87,000 displaced people in the Forécariah and *Guinée forestière* regions. This enabled the beneficiaries to maintain their nutritional status during the difficult period following their arrival in host families and prior to their establishing coping mechanisms of their own. In addition, to be prepared for further sudden emergencies, the delegation set up stocks of food and other relief supplies in Conakry and Kankan.

AFRICA GUINEA

In spring 2001, the ICRC began a second phase of assistance to reach the more vulnerable among the original beneficiary population. With strict application of tightened criteria, ICRC teams revised target figures and focused their efforts solely on IDPs whose coping mechanisms were insufficient to enable them to survive.

Assessments conducted in Guinea's more unstable regions, such as rural and peri-urban areas in *Guinée forestière*, enabled the ICRC to identify some 25,000 vulnerable persons, including single-parent families, unaccompanied children, the elderly, pregnant women and those bringing up young children. This target group received food, seed, tools and other items.

By the end of June 2001 the ICRC had completed its assistance to the population targeted, providing 5,004 displaced families¹ comprising 27,085 people with agricultural items (seed and tools) or urban kits (containing a variety of non-food items). In addition, food assistance – donated to the ICRC by the WFP – was distributed.

Over a year after the town of Guéckédou was destroyed in fighting between government forces and rebels, the security situation in the area was still uncertain. While IDPs were not yet returning to the area in large numbers, by the end of the year 1,819 families (13,307 persons) had gone back to their places of origin in Kassaradou, a prefecture of Guéckédou. The ICRC provided the returnees with aid in the form of tarpaulins, blankets, sleeping mats, cooking sets, buckets and soap.

Restoring family links

Throughout the conflict, the situation of refugees remained unstable as camps and refugees were frequently moved. To provide the refugee population with tracing services, the ICRC had not only to reorganize the RCM network but also to determine the whereabouts of unaccompanied minors among the refugee population. By mid-year, the situation stabilized and the ICRC was able to set up tracing services in the recently relocated refugee camps. During the latter half of 2001, displaced families re-established contact with their relatives mainly by means of informal networks.

In all, the ICRC arranged for 217 unaccompanied minors, mostly refugees, to rejoin their families and distributed 4,396 RCMs in 2001.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In 2001, the ICRC continued to prepare the ground for the establishment of working relations with a network of key officials at field and higher levels with a view to conducting its traditional activities for detainees throughout the country. For the new operational delegation this meant first making contact with the appropriate authorities – ministerial, regional and judicial – in order to gain access to detainees in detention centres and prisons country-wide. The ICRC also pursued efforts to create a similar network of contacts with the military.

Giving priority to detention centres located in ICRC operational areas, the delegation conducted 40 visits to 20 places of detention in 2001. The visits were carried out in accordance with the ICRC's standard working procedures. Reports on the findings were systematically handed over to the authorities concerned and ad hoc assistance, in the form of non-food items and water, sanitation and medical services, was provided for eight central prisons, four *gendarmeries* and one military camp.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Internally displaced people

The ICRC provided health facilities with appropriate medical supplies and material, including the delivery of three emergency health kits² to prefectures in Kissidougou, N'zérékoré and Macenta, and undertook essential water and sanitation work. To give early warning of health or nutritional problems, the delegation continued to promote epidemiological monitoring in health centres in areas with high IDP concentrations. By the end of July, the delegation had begun planning the establishment of emergency water and sanitation stocks for up to 15,000 persons.

¹ 1,598 farming families having secured access to land and 3,406 non-farming families.

² World Health Organization kits containing enough medical supplies to treat up to 10,000 patients for three months.

War-wounded

During the year clashes in border areas escalated, leaving referral hospitals overburdened by the influx of war-wounded. To improve care for the war-wounded, the ICRC helped train evacuation teams, supplied health facilities with medical supplies and material, and undertook essential water and sanitation work. Seven referral hospitals received regular or ad hoc assistance in 2001: those in Kissidougou, N'zérékoré and Macenta and, in Conakry, Donka, Ignace Deen, the military hospital and Kilometre 36. The ICRC also held two war-surgery seminars to assess medical skills and train 80 civilian and military surgeons to treat war-wounded patients. Two ICRC doctors – a war surgeon and an anaesthetist – conducted a two-month practical training course. In addition, an ICRC health delegate carried out epidemiological monitoring, gave assistance to health facilities in zones with a heavy influx of IDPs and provided follow-up for war-wounded patients.

To increase its capacity for a rapid response in the event of a new wave of war-wounded, the ICRC pre-positioned emergency medical stocks for a total caseload of 400 at the Conakry, N'zérékoré and Kissidougou sub-delegations. Consumables were distributed to referral facilities on a new-arrivals basis.

AUTHORITIES

In 2001, to enhance general awareness of IHL, the Movement and its principles, and the mandate of each of its components, the ICRC conducted information sessions and seminars whenever possible for the authorities in prefectures along the country's southern borders. As a result, the authorities in Guinea gained a better knowledge and understanding of IHL and the principal roles and activities of the ICRC, the National Society and the International Federation. However, further efforts were needed to build up a network of working relations with key authorities, especially in prefectures upcountry.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

To facilitate access to victims and enhance general awareness of IHL and of the Movement, its principles and the mandates of each of its components, the ICRC whenever possible conducted information training sessions and seminars in troubled areas for the armed forces and others bearing weapons.

CIVIL SOCIETY

When the ICRC stepped in as lead agency for the Movement in addressing the humanitarian crisis provoked by the conflict, there were already numerous humanitarian organizations working in the country. Enhancing the perception of the ICRC and promoting understanding and acceptance of its mandate therefore became a key task of the delegation.

To dispel misunderstandings arising from perceived inequities in humanitarian relief distributions, the ICRC sought to identify appropriate associations through which ad hoc assistance could be distributed to vulnerable residents in host communities.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Guinea Red Cross was active in bringing aid to refugees but needed support to cope with the deteriorating situation of resident communities seriously weakened by the IDP influx.

The ICRC supported the National Society's dissemination activities, such as Red Cross school programmes, and helped to strengthen its relief department by providing training for volunteers involved in conflict preparedness and response (first aid, relief methods, hygiene teams). In addition, National Society volunteers were actively involved in implementing ICRC relief programmes.

LIBERIA

Personnel:
5 expatriates
39 locally hired staff

In Liberia, the ICRC closely monitors and provides assistance to civilian populations affected by the fighting whenever needed. It also focuses on making as many people as possible aware of international humanitarian law (IHL), the ICRC's mandate and its work, visiting places of detention and monitoring security detainees, and supporting the efforts of the Liberian National Red Cross Society.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	688,533
Assistance	2,766,933
Preventive Action	489,354
Cooperation with National Societies	316,650
General	81,330
Overheads	298,333

4,641,134

AFRICA LIBERIA



ICRC delegation

CONTEXT

Liberia has been in a post-conflict situation since a peace agreement in 1996 ended years of hostilities. From mid-2000 the border area with Guinea became destabilized and at the beginning of 2001, fighting along the border intensified, while other parts of Liberia, including the capital, remained quiet. Thousands of people fled from northern Lofa County to seek refuge, mostly in neighbouring Bong County, but also in Grand Cape Mount County, in southern Lofa County and in Sierra Leone's Kailahun district. The number of people displaced from northern Lofa County rose from 3,000 at the start of the conflict to about 40,000 by the end of the year. The government established

seven camps for these internally displaced persons (IDPs) in western and central parts of the country. The camp-dwellers' immediate needs were for shelter and access to clean water, sanitation, medical care and food. Another major need was to restore contact between separated family members.

Towards the end of July, displacement from northern Lofa County stabilized, but there were still some movements towards Bopolu and thousands more IDPs arrived in Jene Mannah in September. At the end of the year, while the rest of the country remained calm, armed clashes broke out in areas around Gbarma and Bopolu. In the face of the violence, some 12,000 IDPs fled their camps. Their ranks were swelled by members of the resident population, and successive waves of both camp dwellers and residents moved towards safer zones, such as Sawmill in the south-west.

In economic terms, the situation in Liberia continued to be disastrous in 2001 and the country's infrastructure remained in a state of disrepair. In addition, in May the UN Security Council imposed a range of sanctions on Liberia because of allegations concerning the country's role in fomenting Sierra Leone's civil war through support for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). The Liberian government, on the other hand, accused Guinea of supporting dissident fighters of the Liberian United Liberation Movement for Democracy (ULIMO) and Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD). Liberia denounced the sanctions and asked the UN to send a team of monitors to its borders to verify the situation. The UN, unconvinced of any progress, stated that it would reassess the sanctions in a year's time.

In July 2001, the President, Charles Taylor, declared a general amnesty for all exiled Liberian politicians and clemency for all those accused of fighting in Lofa. Among those who returned from exile was Mrs Ellen Johnson, one of the most prominent Liberian opposition politicians. During the summer months the Foreign Ministers of the Mano River Union (MRU), comprising Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, met in Monrovia and Freetown and agreed to reactivate a joint security committee and seek ways of resolving the armed conflicts in the sub-region. President Taylor anticipated that a MRU tripartite negotiation settlement would be concluded, as the three countries' heads of State were expected to meet in early 2002. Towards the end of the year, however, relations between Liberia and Guinea again deteriorated.

Owing to clashes in Lofa County, the ICRC stepped up its operations to assist the civilian population directly affected by the fighting. In coordination with other humanitarian organizations present in Liberia, the ICRC worked to assist and protect some 38,000 IDPs who had fled to areas bordering the conflict zones, as well as the resident population in areas receiving large numbers of IDPs.

In January 2001, the ICRC helped 1,527 IDPs return to their villages of origin. The operation, carried out in cooperation with the Liberia National Red Cross Society, relieved the plight of these IDPs, who had been living in Monrovia for the past six to ten years.

Throughout the year the ICRC and other humanitarian actors were able to work in most parts of the country, but no aid organizations were authorized to travel to or work in Lofa County and little information was available on the humanitarian situation there. This was still the case at the end of 2001.

Violence caused both *Médecins sans frontières-France* (MSF) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to withdraw respectively from local hospitals in Kolahun and Zorzor earlier in the year. Owing to the instability in Lofa County, all local Red Cross branches pulled out from the area as well. From May 2001, emergency aid was delivered by the ICRC and the few international non-governmental organizations present in Liberia (MSF, *Action contre la Faim*, Oxfam, LWF, Concern, Save the Children-UK and the American Refugee Committee), with good inter-agency coordination. When the fighting escalated in Gbarpolu County in December, the ICRC took on its role as lead agency, coordinating the joint Red Cross emergency response and working with the different components of the Movement.

In response to the crisis, delegation staff levels were increased and the ICRC opened a base in the Gbarnga area. Several more expatriates from Geneva (specialists in medical and relief work, logistics and cooperation) conducted ad hoc missions to help with surveys and other activities during the most critical period.

Owing to the extension of assistance activities for people displaced from Lofa County, the number of local staff was also increased from 22 at the beginning of the year to 39 by December 2001, and the year's initial budget was revised from Sfr 2,027,121 up to Sfr 4,778,088.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Internally displaced people

In the western and central parts of the country, some 38,000 IDPs were housed in seven camps set up by the government: Belefanaï, Cari 1 and 2, Bopolu, Gbarlatuah, TV Tower, and Jene Mannah. While the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed food at most of the camps, the ICRC provided essential non-food items and shelter materials. The ICRC and the Liberian Red Cross began running the TV Tower camp in May 2001. Efforts on behalf of this camp's IDP population, numbering some 6,000, included the provision of 32 large tents (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) and the building of roofs for 13 semi-complete concrete buildings (ICRC and American Refugee Committee). The tents were gradually replaced by semi-permanent structures. By the end of the year 600 huts had been built and were occupied, another 71 huts were under construction and 41 new plots had been laid out.

The ICRC provided agricultural assistance to help some 971 families in IDP camps in Bopolu (471) and Belefanaï (500) to plant vegetable gardens, in order to supplement WFP food rations or grow cash crops. Agricultural supplies comprising machetes, shovels, watering cans and vegetable seed were provided on a per family basis. The volatility of the sub-region demonstrated the need to preposition stocks so as to be able to offer a rapid response in the event of new population displacements. As in Sierra Leone and Guinea, the ICRC set up permanent non-food contingency stocks sufficient for 17,000 persons (5,000 families) in Monrovia. This enabled it to take prompt action to assist victims affected by the December crisis.

To improve access to clean water and proper sanitation for some 11,000 IDPs in the TV Tower, Belefanaï and Bopolu camps, in 2001 the ICRC sank a total of 13 wells, rehabilitated five others, built 112 latrines and 32 bath-houses, brought in water by tanker truck and installed bladder tanks and tapstands.

Moreover, the ICRC paid transport costs for 1,527 impoverished IDPs, who had been living in Monrovia for six to ten years, to return to their villages in Sinoe (Greenville), Grand Geddeh (Zwedru) and Maryland (Harper, Pleebo and Kanweken). In cooperation with the National Society, it also provided them with food and medical assistance both during the sea voyage and during their stay at transit camps.

Resident population

Towards the end of 2001, the ICRC focused on assisting vulnerable residents in communities hosting IDPs. Following the surveys conducted in several villages in the Bopolu and Belefanaï regions, the ICRC and local authorities jointly selected some 540 vulnerable families in eight villages in and around Bopolu for cash-crop programmes. Another 300 resident families in Belefanaï were registered to receive the same aid.

The ICRC also carried out construction work, repairs and maintenance on 13 wells and eight latrines in Lofa, Bong, Grand Geddeh, Montserrado, River Cess and Sinoe Counties, serving some 39,000 residents. National Society water and sanitation teams were trained to take charge of long-term maintenance.

Restoring family links

Most of the tens of thousands of IDPs who fled the conflict in the north of the country comprised women, children and the elderly. During the year the ICRC set up tracing posts in all the IDP camps to offer separated family members the opportunity to get in touch through the Red Cross message network. ICRC family reunification activities were extended to include unaccompanied minors among both IDPs and Sierra Leone refugees in Liberia.

In all, the ICRC distributed 1,083 Red Cross messages in 2001.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Regular visits to security detainees in places of detention in Liberia – prisons, police stations and military camps – were part of the ICRC's core activities. The aim of these visits was to monitor conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees held in connection with the conflict. Whenever the need arose, the ICRC tried to bring about improvements in conditions of detention either by drawing specific problems to the attention of the relevant authorities or by providing ad hoc assistance.

Owing to the outbreak of the fighting in north-western Liberia and the possibility of arrests for security reasons, the ICRC gave priority to visiting places of detention in Monrovia where detainees within its mandate might be held.

During 2001, the ICRC pursued negotiations with the government to obtain access to presumed places of detention run by the Anti-Terrorist Unit and to the Executive Mansion (government building). By the end of the year, such access had not yet been granted.

The ICRC conducted 112 visits to 18 official places of detention in Liberia, including police stations. Regular medical care for detainees was provided by an ICRC nurse. On an ad hoc basis, the ICRC provided medical items and non-food assistance and carried out minor repairs to cooking facilities, water-supply and sanitation systems, and roofs.

WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC increased its support to three health centres run by the Liberian Red Cross and to government health facilities, in an effort to ensure that IDPs had access to health care of a standard similar to that of resident communities. Furthermore, three hygiene/sanitation teams were put in place in each of the following camps: TV Tower, Belefani School and Belefani Market.

Working with a National Society medical team, the ICRC set up an efficient clinic at TV Tower camp and supplied it with drugs and other medical supplies. Red Cross hygiene teams comprising a total of 20 people were given the task of monitoring the situation in the camp and referring cases to the camp clinic. Officially opened on 5 June, the TV Tower clinic had treated a total of 7,000 people by the end of the year. In addition, 9,866 people were vaccinated against yellow fever, polio and measles by the clinic's mobile vaccination unit, which covered other IDP camps throughout the area.

During the year, the ICRC provided drugs and medical supplies so that the war-wounded could be treated free of charge at the referral hospital in Phebe, in the Gbarnga area. The ICRC also offered its services for treatment of the war-wounded nationwide. Due to an influx of casualties following clashes in the Bopolu area and in Grand Cape Mount County, ad hoc assistance was delivered to the hospital in Tubmanburg. In Monrovia, the ICRC set up sufficient emergency stocks for referral hospitals to treat up to 100 war-wounded.

AUTHORITIES

To enhance general awareness of the Movement and the principles and mandates of each of its components, the ICRC conducted regular information and training sessions and seminars on IHL and the Red Cross and Red Crescent for national and local authorities, particularly in areas affected by the conflict.

The ICRC continued lobbying the authorities in an effort to ensure that the displaced received proper treatment and appropriate and timely humanitarian assistance. It also held an IHL workshop for 68 members of the Senate.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In 2001, the ICRC stepped up its dissemination efforts, concentrating on the armed and security forces, including troops from the presidential Anti-Terrorist Unit.

By the end of the year, the ICRC had held some 60 seminars and information sessions on IHL and the Movement for the Anti-Terrorist Unit, the Liberian National Police, the Armed Forces of Liberia, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Ministry of National Security, and the Liberia Female Law Enforcement Association, a consortium of female law-enforcement units working for different security organizations in Liberia.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC regularly organized Information sessions on its mandate and activities for the media, the general public, local and international NGOs, university students, secondary school teachers and students.

Taking advantage of the opportunity provided by regular meetings on the IDP situation with all the humanitarian organizations, including several UN agencies, working in Liberia, the ICRC reminded participants about its own mandate and the principles and activities of the Movement.

To promote respect for IHL and the Red Cross/Red Crescent principles, the ICRC continued to organize regular "Respect for Human Dignity" events and concerts or plays dramatizing the application of the Geneva Conventions. "Respect for Rules" football tournaments were also held for young people and the general public in Monrovia and upcountry. As a result of these efforts to promote fair play, which reached thousands of spectators, the ICRC was named honorary member of the Liberia Football Association.

AFRICA LIBERIA

NATIONAL SOCIETY

In 2001, the National Society's resources were mobilized to conduct assistance activities for IDPs. As a result, extra training was needed in addition to the objectives included in the year's cooperation programme. In July, when the International Federation closed its operation in Liberia, the ICRC took on additional cooperation activities and gave support for the National Society's relief, health, and water and sanitation programmes. To help strengthen the National Society's tracing capacity and its efforts to raise public awareness of Red Cross principles, the ICRC also provided training, financial and technical assistance.

During the year, the ICRC conducted conflict-preparedness sessions for volunteers from six National Society branches. In addition, it provided regular hands-on training for Liberian Red Cross volunteers and staff in the areas of shelter, medical relief, water and sanitation and tracing by systematically involving them in ICRC relief activities for the seven IDP camps. The ICRC ensured that six Red Cross branches had 18 trainers with knowledge of the basics of hygiene and sanitation by giving them on-the-job training in the construction and maintenance of boreholes and latrines. It also contributed to the training of 40 Red Cross branch coordinators from nine counties in tracing techniques and the handling of RCMs.

The ICRC paid the salaries of the Liberian Red Cross dissemination coordinator and 14 branch dissemination officers and provided support for the National Society to organize 120 dissemination sessions and workshops for schools, youth groups and local authorities.

The Liberian Red Cross ran three clinics in Liberia. The ICRC continued to fund two of them – Dolo Town clinic and Gbatata clinic – in 2001. However, as a result of the conflict, the third clinic, a health post in Voinjama, was closed in February 2001.

RWANDA

Personnel:

55 expatriates

413 locally hired staff

In Rwanda, the ICRC focuses its activities on detainees held in prisons and communal lock-ups (*cachots*), unaccompanied children seeking their families after becoming separated from them either in 1994 or during the mass repatriations in 1996/1997, vulnerable genocide survivors and victims of internal conflict (predominantly widows and orphans) in need of assistance to rebuild their lives, resident populations whose local water networks are still damaged after the genocide, and people temporarily displaced for reasons of security.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection

12,685,312

Assistance

15,073,947

Preventive Action

1,054,919

Cooperation with National Societies

450,232

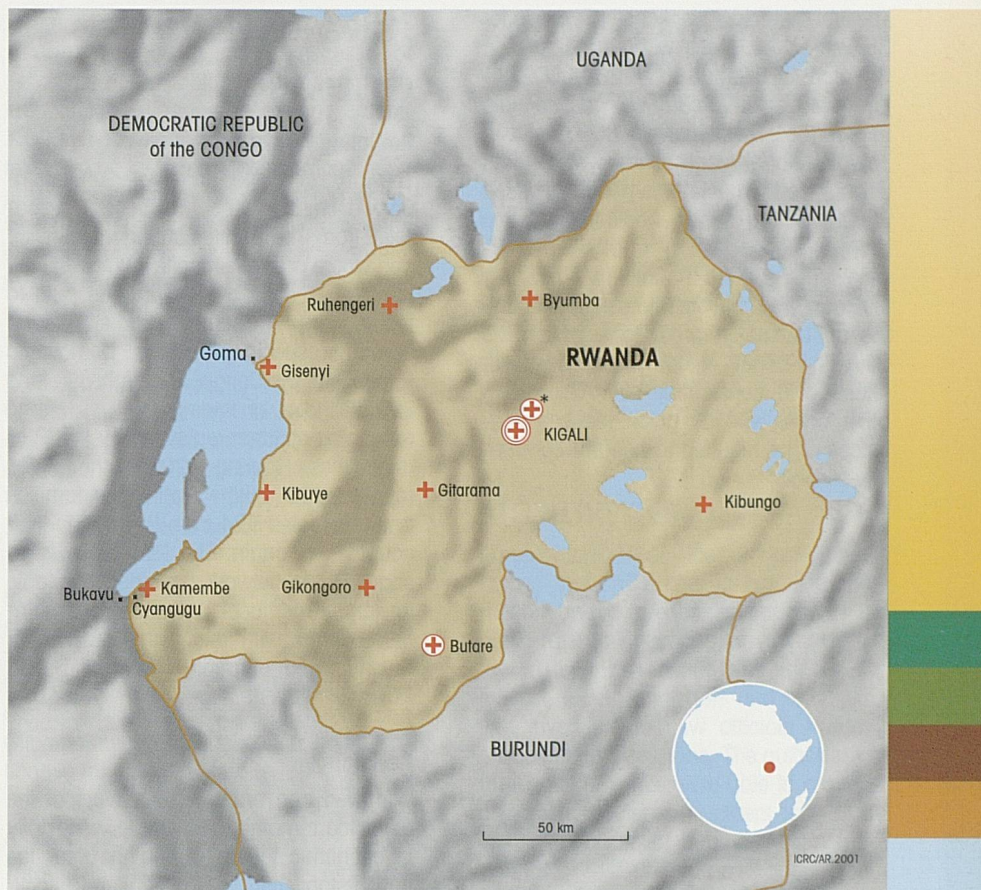
General

486,777

Overheads

1,857,901

31,609,087



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

CONTEXT

In 2001 Rwanda experienced relative peace within its borders, while neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi were still torn by war. For Rwanda, the most pressing issue remained the withdrawal of its troops from the DRC, in line with the Lusaka Peace Accord signed in 1999. The country's political standing within the region and its credibility vis-à-vis the international community depended heavily on this factor. The withdrawal of Rwandan troops from the DRC's front line was announced, but

many viewed this merely as a defensive redeployment into a zone closer to the Rwandan border, notably the two Kivu provinces. The beginning of May saw an increase in infiltrations into northern Rwanda by armed elements of the ex-Rwandan armed forces and *Interahamwe* militia.

The first municipal elections in Rwanda for 35 years took place without incident on 6 March. In October, some 260,000 people were elected to carry out *gacaca* trials in each of Rwanda's 10,000 districts. This traditional local justice system aims not only to try most of the people accused of participating in the genocide, but also to promote reconciliation and social harmony. The *gacaca* tribunals will hear the testimony of survivors, the defendants and the population in order to establish the truth and acquit or convict the accused. Those who confess or bear witness in other cases will be given reduced sentences or be required to perform community service.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

The ICRC continued to register unaccompanied children who had become separated from their parents during the conflict, and where possible reunite them with their families. Particular attention was paid to repatriating Rwandan children found abroad, especially in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Although with time the likelihood of finding relatives of the remaining children registered by the ICRC diminishes, during 2001 the ICRC reunited 795 children with their families and repatriated 724 from Rwanda to their countries of origin. The Red Cross message (RCM) network remained available for family members to restore and maintain contact with relatives elsewhere in Rwanda and abroad. A total of 6,963 RCMs were distributed.

Assistance

Widowed and orphaned survivors of the genocide remained vulnerable, especially in economic terms. During the year the ICRC established 108 agricultural, stock-breeding and agro-pastoral projects to promote their self-sufficiency. An evaluation of agro-pastoral microprojects showed that the beneficiaries managed to continue their activities after the ICRC had phased out its ad hoc assistance.

Water and sanitation

The water-supply infrastructure in Rwanda had to meet the needs of large numbers of people, but the resources required to expand the network and carry out maintenance on existing installations were still unavailable in 2001. The ICRC delegated a number of water projects to the Swiss Red Cross, including the partial rehabilitation of a gravitational water system in Ruhengeri province. The work was completed and responsibility handed back to the Ministry of Energy, Water and Natural Resources. The system caters for 40,000 resident and displaced people, two schools and a health centre. Some 65,000 people benefited from 26 other rehabilitation and construction projects throughout the country, such as water-source protection and tapstand construction.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Prisoners of war (POWs)

Five Congolese POWs and one South African national remained interned in Rwanda during most of the year. The six prisoners were given regular supplies of hygiene products and recreational items and they all exchanged RCMs regularly with their families. The ICRC made representations to the head of the Military Intelligence service to remind the authorities of their obligation to repatriate the men and on 30 November, in accordance with the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention, the five Congolese POWs were repatriated under the auspices of the ICRC.

Prison visits

The ICRC conducted regular visits to assess the conditions of detention in all 19 central prisons, 61 communal lock-ups, 111 police stations and seven military camps, including Bigogwe, to the north-east of Gisenyi, to which access was granted for the first time since 1996. It submitted a report to the authorities on its findings. Rwanda's prisons remained overcrowded in 2001 with people awaiting trial by the *gacaca* tribunals on charges of genocide. The general trend during the year was for detainees to be moved from communal lock-ups to proper prisons. This eased the burden in lock-ups in most areas, except for Butare and Gitarama where they remained severely overcrowded. The problem, however, was simply transferred to the prisons, which became even more overcrowded.

At the beginning of 2001 the ICRC was visiting 109,000 detainees accused of genocide, not including ordinary criminal-law prisoners who numbered around 7,000. Following trials, acquittals and releases, by the end of the year the prison population was down to 105,000. Interviews continued to be held with detainees who had no case files and with witnesses to determine whether the detainees concerned should be formally indicted or released.

The ICRC made regular representations to the authorities on behalf of young detainees who were under 14 at the time of the genocide. It also urged the authorities to ensure that minors and female detainees were held separately from adult males.

In addition, the ICRC paid regular visits to some 1,700 people who had been captured or had surrendered and were held in the "solidarity camps" of Mudende, near Gisenyi, Nkumba, near Ruhengeri, and Gitagata, near Kigali, following the infiltrations in the north in May.

Assistance

Throughout the year, the ICRC provided the country's 19 prisons with half-rations for some 93,000 detainees – the equivalent of 1,000 kcal per detainee per day. Hygiene products were also distributed and rehabilitation work was carried out regularly. The prisons all received some ICRC assistance such as kitchen maintenance, the tiling of internal yards to maintain cleanliness, the construction of dispensaries, and the installation of toilets or pipelines to evacuate waste water. All 19 prisons and 49 health centres serving lock-ups received regular medical supplies from the ICRC throughout the year.

WOUNDED AND SICK

In the highly unstable Great Lakes region armed incidents remained a constant threat. In the event of a large influx of casualties, a sufficient supply of medical items could not be guaranteed, so the ICRC maintained enough emergency stocks to treat 100 war-wounded. Following infiltrations into the north of the country, almost 100 war-wounded were admitted to the hospitals in Ruhengeri and Gisenyi. These hospitals received ad hoc ICRC assistance in the form of first-aid and surgical materials. No further such incidents occurred.

AUTHORITIES

At provincial level, the authorities welcomed the ICRC's offer to organize information and awareness sessions on the basic rules of international humanitarian law (IHL). But despite this undeniable interest, lack of materials and the limited time available to new officials made it difficult to hold sessions. The authorities of Ruhengeri province were able to organize one such session and others took place in the provinces of Byumba, Kamembe, Umutara (east of Byumba) and Gisenyi in October.

At the end of the year the ICRC provided the authorities with advisory documents to help with the implementation of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

AFRICA RWANDA

ARMED FORCES AND
OTHER BEARERS OF
WEAPONS

Armed forces

Restructuring of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) continued so as to transform it into a professional government army. Relations with the RPA were maintained in the field and at headquarters level in an effort to improve knowledge and application of the rules of IHL. The incorporation of IHL into the curricula of military academies was well under way, with courses being held for IHL trainers. The leaders of the RPA gave the ICRC permission to address all the senior officers of six operational brigades, and ICRC representatives made contact with the majority of military commanders during awareness-raising seminars and training courses. Heads of the Rwandan Military Academy gave orders that IHL be incorporated in all courses taught in the establishment. This was due to commence in 2002.

Police

Implementation of the plan of action concerning the training of high-ranking officers continued. The training involved the basics of IHL and familiarization with the rules and principles governing arrests and detention. The last two introductory IHL seminars in the northern and southern regions took place in July and August. The next stage, comprising a train-the-trainers seminar for instructors chosen among participants in the first stage, was scheduled for 2002.

Local defence forces

Local defence forces were set up to ensure security and protection against infiltrators in the communes. Most of these forces received basic instruction on ICRC activities and IHL, and regular meetings took place between their commanders and the ICRC at local and communal level in all provinces and most districts. One-day information sessions were held in several provinces for some 1,500 recruits, who learned about the ICRC and the basic rules of IHL through role-playing activities.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Media

To raise awareness of its specific mandate and activities and of IHL among the general public, the ICRC maintained contact with representatives of the media and of local NGOs as the main channels for reaching civil society. The ICRC's work in the areas of tracing, farming projects, water and sanitation, and dissemination for the armed forces received wide coverage in the media.

Universities

The National University of Rwanda (NUR) introduced an optional 30-hour course on IHL in the fourth and final year of study. The Free University in Kigali, a private institution, also gave a compulsory 45-hour IHL course to the fourth year. Contacts with the NUR Conflict Management Centre were due to be resumed in 2002 in order to organize an IHL-awareness day.

"Exploring Humanitarian Law"

"Exploring Humanitarian Law" is an educational programme designed to familiarize adolescents with the basic rules and principles of IHL. The Ministry of Education expressed interest in the programme and it was hoped that the first secondary schools to implement the pilot project would be chosen in 2002.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Rwandan Red Cross still lacked the resources it needed to become better known in some parts of the country and to strengthen its operational capacity. Four other National Societies – the Spanish, German, French and Belgian Red Cross Societies – provided it with financial and practical support.

On 26 February the ICRC and the Rwandan Red Cross signed a cooperation agreement intended to strengthen the National Society's capacity to disseminate IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Pursuant to this agreement, the ICRC gave support for the organization of events to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May.

A head of the National Society tracing service – a former ICRC employee with tracing experience – was appointed at the end of the year. A tracing cooperation agreement was due to be signed in January 2002.

SIERRA LEONE

Personnel:

33 expatriates

191 locally hired staff

In Sierra Leone the ICRC focuses on providing war-affected civilians with assistance in the form of water, sanitation, medical, non-food and agricultural rehabilitation programmes, mostly carried out with the National Society. In these programmes an integrated approach is adopted which enables the beneficiaries to meet their basic needs and work towards self-sufficiency. Protection activities include visits to detainees held for conflict-related or security reasons and a family reunification programme for unaccompanied children. The ICRC is also involved in cooperation with the National Society and in various dissemination activities for the country's authorities, the military and civil society.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection

1,768,523

Assistance

16,090,512

Preventive Action

527,472

Cooperation with National Societies

1,075,455

General

422,243

Overheads

1,318,113

21,202,317

ICRC delegation



ICRC sub-delegation

CONTEXT

The political and military situation in Sierra Leone improved markedly in 2001, which ushered in a transitional period for the country and gave rise to increased optimism within the international community. The government's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme took off much more rapidly than expected. With over 47,000 former fighters disarmed and demobilized by the end of the year, the "DD" component of the process, begun in May 2001, was nearly completed. The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) deployed troops throughout the country, including former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) territories, and reached its full force of 17,500

men in late November. The newly established Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) took up position along the country's troubled eastern border. Meanwhile, central government authority and essential services such as those provided by the police and the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Education moved slowly but steadily back into the newly opened areas.

In September 2001, the government announced that presidential and legislative elections would be held on 14 May 2002. Both the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party and opposition parties geared up for the elections. At regional level, the

Foreign Ministers of the Mano River Union, comprising Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, met in Monrovia and Freetown and agreed to reactivate a joint security committee and seek ways of resolving the armed conflicts in the sub-region.

On the humanitarian front, three factors shaped the situation in 2001: an increase in humanitarian activities in formerly inaccessible RUF-controlled areas; the growing number of Sierra Leonean refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) returning to former RUF-held areas; and the presence of Liberian refugees in eastern Sierra Leone.

The influx of tens of thousands of people continued throughout the year as Sierra Leoneans returned from Guinea and Liberia and refugees from Liberia fled to Sierra Leone to escape the violence at home. The government's IDP resettlement programme allowed the gradual resettlement of displaced people in areas declared safe by the authorities, mainly in Port Loko, Kambia, Kono, Kailahun and Koinadugu districts. The resettlement operation received support from the International Organization for Migration for transportation, the World Food Programme for food aid, and the ICRC and CARE for non-food aid.

Throughout the year the ICRC continued its core protection and assistance programmes for people affected by the conflict, shifting its efforts to civilians in RUF-held areas as they became accessible. It also continued the programmes it had launched in 2000 to raise awareness of international humanitarian law (IHL) and Red Cross principles among bearers of weapons, civil society and the general public. Whenever possible, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society was involved in implementing the ICRC's assistance programmes. Despite the progress towards peace during the year, the ICRC never lost sight of the need to maintain a capacity for rapid response should the conflict flare up again in any part of the country. Consequently, by shifting emergency stocks from Sierra Leone, it was able to provide timely assistance for victims of the conflict that broke out in neighbouring Liberia.

The ICRC continued to coordinate its operations with UN agencies, other humanitarian organizations and the local authorities. It regularly informed other humanitarian agencies of its activities and mandate, kept abreast of their activities in its turn and held consultations with them whenever necessary.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Non-food assistance

During the year the ICRC distributed items such as tarpaulins, blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, soap and buckets to some 56,400 families in the Port Loko, Tonkolili, Pujehun, Kono and Kailahun districts. Of these families, 13,100 were former IDPs whose areas of origin had been declared safe enough for permanent resettlement. The assistance programme was implemented in close coordination with the government authorities in charge of the official resettlement programme.

Aid was also distributed to vulnerable residents in northern Kenema, Kono and Kailahun whose livelihood had been disrupted by the conflict. It is worth mentioning that Kono and Kailahun districts were not originally covered by the Emergency Appeals for 2001 as they were inaccessible at the time.

The ICRC also assisted recently displaced persons from Kambia district who had sought refuge in the Western Area. Non-food aid was given to over 6,700 IDPs who had fled to Lower Maforki and Loko Massama, in the Lungi area, to escape fighting that had erupted between the RUF and Guinean forces in Kambia district.

Similar aid was given to long-term displaced persons in IDP camps in Kenema and Freetown to replace worn items they had received earlier.

Agricultural assistance

The ICRC provided agricultural input in the form of hoes, rice and groundnut seed to some 30,470 vulnerable farming families. This assistance was intended to help them regain their self-sufficiency, determined according to pre-defined criteria, after the harvest. The target group included both vulnerable residents and the recently displaced, provided that the latter had secured access to land and intended to remain in their area of temporary settlement for at least one farming season, a period of six months. Also included were beneficiaries of aid from the ICRC in 2000 who had not been able to harvest their crops for various reasons such as floods, the resumption of the conflict or subsequent population movements. Such adverse developments also led to delays in the delivery by other agencies of "seed-protection" food rations, and this led to the consumption of seed in some places.

Women's cash-crop programme

The ICRC again selected some 950 associations of vulnerable women for inclusion in its community-based vegetable-production training programme. Close to 60,000 women were trained in vegetable production and received vegetable kits comprising imported and local seed, shovels, buckets, machetes, hoes, watering cans and wheelbarrows to enable them to resume this traditional cash-crop activity. The associations selected were in the Kambia, Port Loko, Bombali, Tonkolili, Kenema, Pujehun and Kailahun districts. This programme was conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Sierra Leone Red Cross.

Assistance for fishing families

During the year the ICRC completed its assistance programme for fishermen in ten chiefdoms along the Moa and Mano rivers in Kailahun, Kenema and Pujehun districts. To foster economic self-sufficiency among these people, who had been displaced by previous clashes, the ICRC distributed 1,000 fishing kits to almost 2,700 families. Over 14,000 people benefited from this assistance.

Water and sanitation

In 2001 diseases such as diarrhoea continued to wreak havoc among vulnerable populations, while the presence of IDPs in some communities made the need for safe drinking water and sanitation more pressing than ever. This was especially true in the Lungi peninsula, which was the temporary home of tens of thousands of people displaced by fighting in Kambia district. A total of 11 wells and 200 latrines were built and waste collection was organized in host communities of the Loko Massama chiefdom, where most of the IDPs had settled. Meanwhile, the ICRC set up temporary water-pumping and purification units for 4,500 inhabitants of the Niawama IDP camp in Kenema district.

Installing wells and latrines addressed only immediate needs. Aware that the users lacked proper instruction in the areas of sanitation and hygiene and knowledge of how to maintain and service the new facilities, the ICRC also provided the necessary training and guidance.

In October and November, surveys were conducted in newly accessible Kailahun district to assess the situation in terms of shelter, water and sanitation and to determine the level of structural damage to the settlements in the area. The ICRC launched health, water and sanitation programmes in the severely war-affected chiefdoms of Peje West, Peje Bongre, Penguia and Yawei, while the International Medical Corps and Oxfam concentrated on Kailahun town. These programmes were to continue into 2002.

To meet the additional demand for safe drinking water and sanitation for the resident population, the ICRC gave support for the construction of some 20 protected wells and 640 latrines in villages in Pujehun, Kailahun and Port Loko districts.

Emergency clinics for internally displaced people

In May 2001, the ICRC and the Sierra Leone Red Cross conducted an evaluation of the emergency clinics that had been operational since May 2000 in Mile 91 and Madina in Tonkolili district, which were receiving a heavy influx of IDPs. The ICRC had rehabilitated the clinics, completed a protected well fitted with a hand-pump, built 27 latrines, conducted basic health training for Ministry of Health staff and donated water-purification and sanitation kits to the clinics.

In view of the gradual departure of IDPs from the area, it was decided to close both clinics and to help the Sierra Leone Red Cross staff who had been running them to reopen the National Society's Makeni (Bombali district) branch clinic.

The Ministry of Health was informed of the decision directly and the community was informed via local radio. The mobile clinic in Madina ceased its activities at the end of July and the Mile 91 clinic at the end of August.

The clinic in Makeni was completely rehabilitated and supplied with a first batch of drugs and medical material in September. The ICRC maintained its support until the end of the year, after which the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies took over.

Restoring family links

Through the Sierra Leone Red Cross, the ICRC tracing service helped thousands of people to restore contact with family members, including Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia and Guinea.

AFRICA SIERRA LEONE

In January 2001, the ICRC started using a plane to carry out its cross-border family reunification activities. There were several hundred unaccompanied Sierra Leonean minors in Guinea and Liberia waiting to be reunited with their parents and relatives in Sierra Leone. The use of the aircraft speeded up the process considerably.

Moreover, a dozen unaccompanied minors had been identified among newly arriving Liberian refugees, and it was believed that many more were to be found among the refugees still in border areas and at entry points. The ICRC began registering these minors in order to carry out cross-border tracing when security conditions in Liberia permitted. Another factor that complicated the ICRC's efforts to help unaccompanied minors was the difficulty in identifying them, as their host families often did not declare them as such.

In all, the ICRC reunited almost 40 children with their families in Guinea and over 200 Sierra Leonean children from refugee camps in Guinea with their close relatives in Sierra Leone. Some 713 cases were still pending at the end of the year.

The ICRC also distributed over 23,400 Red Cross messages in 2001.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits continued to detainees held in connection with the Sierra Leonean conflict under the agreement with the government of Sierra Leone signed on 19 December 2000, and to security detainees in accordance with the ICRC's standard working procedures.

The ICRC conducted an overall assessment of the seven functioning State prisons in Freetown (Pademba Road), Kenema, Bo, Pujehun, Port Loko, Moyamba and Bonthe. It also began conducting visits to 11 district police stations, several of the 100 police posts across the country, and detention centres under the responsibility of the RSLAF.¹

Delegates closely monitored conditions of detention and checked whether certain judicial guarantees regarding detainees within the ICRC's mandate and other prisoners were being respected. Their findings and recommendations were brought to the attention of the Sierra Leonean authorities, with whom the ICRC maintained a regular dialogue throughout the year.

By the end of the year the ICRC had registered 303 detainees, most of whom were detained in the Pademba Road prison. With the consent of the government authorities, the ICRC began rehabilitating the kitchen at this facility in October. The ICRC supervised the work and supplied all the tools and building materials, while inmates and prison officers provided the manpower. The repairs were expected to be completed early in 2002.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Clinics in Freetown

The ICRC continued to provide the Ministry of Health with support in the form of medicines and regular supervision for four clinics in the poorest areas of Freetown. Construction of a new building in Kroobay was completed, and the clinic opened in March.

The ICRC donated water-purification and sanitation kits to the clinics, gave training in hygiene and completed the basic rehabilitation of the premises, including latrines, showers and plumbing.

¹ The RSLAF are authorized to detain persons for short periods of time in connection with border-crossing problems but must turn them rapidly over to the police.

Early in the year, as stability and security improved in Freetown and new areas in the east became accessible, the ICRC discussed with the Ministry of Health its plan to phase out assistance to the four clinics in Freetown. This would enable the ICRC to concentrate efforts on the areas formerly controlled by the RUF.

Given the sound management provided by the clinics' staff and the good level of community support, the Rina and George Brook clinics were the first to be handed over to the Ministry in June 2001. The two other clinics, Kroobay and Clay Factory, were handed over in September.

An ICRC evaluation in November showed that the management of the clinics and the quality of the care they provided were acceptable as compared with other clinics in Freetown. However, owing to cost-recovery constraints, fees had had to be increased, reducing access to health care for destitute people.

Basic health care in Kailahun district

In June, the ICRC installed a new rainwater collection system at the Nixon Memorial Hospital in Segbwema and completed the rehabilitation of the facility.

By mid-June the ICRC had set up a mobile clinic for the wounded and sick in the area served by this hospital. The clinic's activities were temporarily suspended in July because of staffing problems, but agreement was soon reached with all the relevant authorities and the ICRC resumed its medical support via a mobile clinic staffed exclusively by ICRC personnel.

As most Ministry of Health facilities either remained closed or had been destroyed by fighting, the mobile clinic in Segbwema continued to treat large numbers of patients from the surrounding villages and chiefdoms. By the end of the year it had given over 12,000 consultations.

The few international health organizations present in the Kailahun district (*Médecins sans frontières-France*, the International Medical Corps and *Action contre la Faim*) were concentrated in the eastern area bordering Liberia. In November 2001 the ICRC conducted a survey to assess health needs in other parts of the district. Most of the peripheral health units were either completely destroyed or in need of major rehabilitation work, and there was no qualified local staff available.

At the end of 2001 the ICRC and the Ministry of Health reached an agreement regarding future ICRC support for five peripheral health units in the Kailahun district, and were preparing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to that effect.

Basic health care in the Kono district

At the end of July, the ICRC made a first visit to eastern Kono district with a view to determining the needs of the population in terms of health care. The survey revealed that health facilities in Kono had been looted or damaged and lacked skilled staff, roads were in a poor state and the population had to walk long distances to seek health care.

In September, the ICRC provided the Ministry of Health with support for the launching of basic health-care activities at the Koidu Hospital. The ICRC rehabilitated the outpatient department, the medical ward and the water and sanitation system, and delivered medical supplies, basic medical equipment and furniture. Thanks to this support, which continued until the end of the year, treatment was given to about 10,000 patients in the outpatient department, 7,000 children in the clinic for under-fives and 2,000 expectant mothers at the antenatal clinic.

In November, after a rapid assessment in the eastern part of the district, the ICRC decided to help the Ministry of Health to reopen its peripheral health units. Subsequently it reached an agreement with the health authorities and with the community for health activities to begin in five such units. Involvement of the community was considered to be crucial for the success of the project.

Surgery at the Kenema Government Hospital

In January 2001, the Ministry of Health officially inaugurated the Kenema Government Hospital's new 48-bed ward, built by the ICRC, and opened the ICRC's largest water-supply project in the country, which included a 5-km pipeline for the hospital. The ICRC continued to upgrade the skills of surgical teams and nursing staff at the hospital. During the year a total of 1,551 surgical patients, including 15 war-wounded, were admitted, 2,502 operations were performed, and surgical consultations were provided for another 1,411 outpatients. The ICRC also delivered medical supplies, strengthened the hospital's infrastructure and worked to improve administrative practices in the hospital's different departments.

During the year a Sierra Leonean doctor was appointed head of the facility's surgical department and took part in the ICRC training programme. In addition, an ICRC laboratory technician began training hospital staff in laboratory management, introducing standards of practice and improving the registration and handling of specimens. The six-month programme, together with the equipment provided by the ICRC, enabled the hospital to provide safe blood transfusions for surgical patients and to function more efficiently.

In December 2001, renovation of the hospital kitchen and of the plumbing in the maternity ward was completed and the water-supply system was officially handed over to the hospital's board of management. At the end of the year the ICRC evaluated the programme and an exit strategy was defined whereby all ICRC support would be withdrawn as of December 2002.

The Princess Christian Maternity Hospital

During the year, through a project delegated to the Canadian Red Cross, the ICRC continued to support a 20-bed ward at the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital, facilitating access to emergency care for obstetric patients, in particular destitute women. In September, the ICRC began talks with the new consultant in charge of the hospital in order to prepare for its withdrawal, planned for March 2002, and to ensure that access to medical care would be maintained for emergency and destitute cases. This resulted in an agreement between all parties that provided for combining the ICRC and hospital pharmacies, setting up a reception area for emergency cases and other admissions, and improving the operating theatre's procedures and staffing. A total of 559 women were admitted to the ICRC ward in 2001.

The ICRC also continued water and sanitation work on the ward and the operating theatre, which had been ongoing since 1999.

Amputees and war-disabled

Having received a request for prosthetic components from the Ministry of Health, an ICRC specialist conducted a needs assessment in May 2001. On the basis of the results, the ICRC supplied the limb-fitting centre in Freetown with sufficient components, raw materials and tools to manufacture 50 upper-limb prostheses and 200 lower-limb prostheses. The facility was run by the Ministry of Health and supported by Handicap International.

AUTHORITIES

During the year, the ICRC organized workshops on IHL and its own activities for members of Parliament and government officials. As the scope and efficiency of ICRC programmes became evident and the organization's messages became widely accepted, the senior government authorities in Freetown and Kenema adopted a favourable attitude towards the ICRC. Special attention was given to conducting dissemination activities for administrative staff at certain levels of the government in the east of the country.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC conducted information and training sessions on IHL for members of the RSLAF, UNAMSIL officers, and commanders of the RUF and the Civil Defence Forces (CDF). Eleven talks were given to over 1,000 RSLAF officers, non-commissioned officers and privates being trained at the Benguema Armed Forces Training Centre. Efforts also continued to raise awareness of the principles of IHL among demobilized fighters enrolled in a Military Reintegration Programme. Nine dissemination sessions were held for more than 900 former RUF and CDF fighters in the camps in Mape and the Lungi peninsula.

At the RSLAF Defence Headquarters in Freetown, the ICRC gave a lecture on IHL to about 50 senior officers of the RSLAF and IMATT,² comprising both Sierra Leonean and British nationals.

In all, the ICRC's efforts to disseminate IHL reached over 8,500 soldiers and officers.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC's efforts to bring assistance to people in RUF-held territories in 2001 was often misconstrued by both the authorities and the general public. Consequently, the organization made a sustained effort to promote the principles of impartiality and neutrality as widely as possible and to disseminate IHL at every opportunity.

During training programmes conducted within the framework of the community-based women's vegetable-farming project, dissemination sessions were carried out countrywide for representatives of women's associations or groups. The objective was to raise awareness among mothers of the special protection accorded to children under humanitarian law, the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and the mandate of the ICRC.

An information day on the ICRC's activities for women was organized for 15 journalists from the printed and broadcasting media. The session included a brief overview of IHL and the ICRC's activities and a presentation of the ICRC study "Women facing War". The event was widely covered in the local and national media.

The ICRC regularly issued updates and press releases to the media on its various programmes, including those implemented jointly with the National Society. These were supplemented by the weekly panel discussion programme "Red Cross Na Salone", aired by the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service. Additional radio programmes were broadcast in the capital and in Bo and Kenema, with the aim of improving general understanding of the Red Cross, its Fundamental Principles and its activities throughout Sierra Leone.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC's main objectives in working with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society during the year were to further strengthen the National Society's operational capacity and structure and promote its development in the fields of tracing, dissemination and emergency response. The ICRC gave support in the form of salaries and incentives for 20 National Society staff and 75 volunteers, covered administrative, maintenance and operational costs, and provided training for staff.

Jointly with the International Federation, the ICRC also gave the National Society financial support for the construction of a branch office in Kenema so as to strengthen its presence in the field and facilitate the rehabilitation of the Makeni branch clinic.

Through its network of volunteers, the National Society helped the ICRC to carry out a range of humanitarian activities to assist conflict victims in Sierra Leone, including restoring family links via the Red Cross message network; providing agricultural assistance for women affected by war, displaced persons and vulnerable farmers; giving medical support for the clinic run by the National Society at Mile 91 and the mobile clinic in Madina; and spreading knowledge of Red Cross ideals and principles.

Throughout the year the ICRC, in its role as lead agency, the Sierra Leone Red Cross and the International Federation closely coordinated their activities.

² UK-led International Military Advisory and Training Team

SOMALIA

Personnel:

14 expatriates

28 locally hired staff

In Somalia, the ICRC focuses on emergency response to the direct effects of conflict, frequently compounded by natural disasters. Its activities include the provision of mainly non-food aid, medical assistance for the war-wounded (support for four hospitals and 26 health centres) and water and sanitation work. The ICRC also carries out programmes with a medium-term outlook designed to maintain local coping mechanisms and preserve adequate living conditions for extremely vulnerable populations. Cooperation with the Somali Red Crescent Society completes this range of activities.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection

555,338

Assistance

16,590,436

Preventive Action

339,346

Cooperation with National Societies

1,227,039

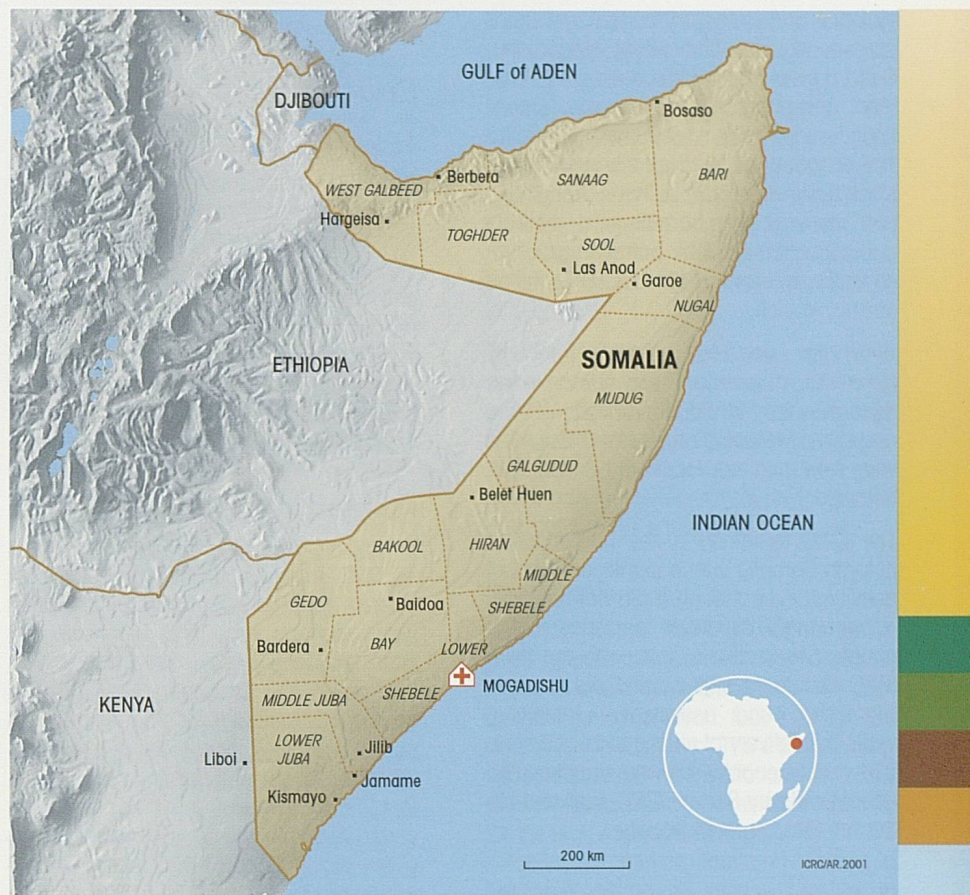
General

8,952

Overheads

1,129,925

19,851,036



(ICRC delegation in Nairobi)

SRCS/ICRC hospital

CONTEXT

Armed conflict, a deteriorating economy, sporadic floods and drought continued to beset Somalia in 2001. The ICRC maintained its two-pronged strategy, combining an emergency response with a medium-term approach. Emergency assistance included food and other supplies for people recently displaced by armed clashes or affected by natural disasters. Medium-term projects aimed to secure basic services or facilities for local communities whose livelihood was indirectly threatened by conflict.

Launched in 2000 with international support, the Arta peace process was challenged by most of the Somali faction leaders and other territorial authorities. The one-year-old Transitional National Government had difficulty in imposing its authority in Mogadishu and elsewhere, and had to deploy police forces in the capital to intervene in inter-clan fighting. In Puntland, the end of the mandate of President Abdullahi Yussuf Ahmed in June, followed by the election in November of Jama Ali Jama, sparked factional fighting and left a split administration.

AFRICA SOMALIA

Violence and inter-clan feuds flared up in various regions, particularly Mogadishu, Gedo, Lower and Middle Juba and Puntland, and population displacements continued, especially in southern Somalia. The economy suffered as the crucial livestock trade was hit by both the Gulf States' ban on importing Somali farm animals and persistent drought. Some areas, such as Gedo, received as little as 10% of their normal rainfall.

With the ongoing conflicts, security remained a problem for humanitarian agencies. In March, six United Nations and five *Médecins sans frontières* staff were held hostage for six days and then released.

The ICRC remained a key humanitarian actor in Somalia with a significant level of activities, even though it did not maintain a permanent expatriate presence in the country. To maintain links with the field, ICRC expatriate staff carried out frequent monitoring and assessment missions, while the delivery of relief goods and services and other activities were implemented countrywide by Somali ICRC staff and the Somali Red Crescent Society.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Assistance

Against a backdrop of armed clashes, sporadic flooding and drought, the ICRC continued to develop a two-pronged approach in Somalia. Emergency food and non-food aid was provided and medium-term projects, often related to water and irrigation, were set up in vulnerable communities. The aim was to have the communities take over the projects in the short to medium term.

Emergency aid

During the year, the ICRC assisted some 15,000 families displaced from their homes because of fighting, providing items such as tarpaulins, blankets, jerry cans and cooking sets. Seed was distributed to 12,700 families in five regions of southern Somalia hit by crop failures and poor harvests. Many of them also received limited food aid and farming tools. A further 27,000 families in other areas were given vegetable seed. In another emergency distribution, 30,000 people in fishing communities in the Shebele and Juba regions, among the poorest areas in the country, received fishing equipment and 80,000 sandbags to protect against flooding. Between April and June, the water shortage became critical in the Dan Gorayo district of Puntland. The ICRC trucked in half a million litres of water to eight villages for 17,000 people and their livestock.

Medium-term projects

Ten years of conflict and a series of natural disasters had taken their toll on resident communities in Somalia. Surface water storage – essential for pastoral migration – had been seriously depleted by conflict-related destruction or lack of maintenance.

During the last six months of 2001, the ICRC set up 76 Community Intervention Projects (CIPs) to help vulnerable communities, mainly in southern and central Somalia. A CIP provides food for work or cash for work in rehabilitation and development activities such as the repair of vital water catchments or irrigation channels. On average, a CIP takes 20 days to complete, costs some 5,000 US dollars and benefits 65 families directly and another 600 families indirectly through flood control. The highest number of CIPs, 19, were carried out in Gedo after an ICRC survey showed the region was the hardest hit by drought. An ICRC evaluation of 16 completed CIPs revealed that the communities considered the rehabilitated infrastructure to be directly relevant to their livelihood.

Another major ICRC initiative was the Gravity Irrigation Project in the Lower Shebele region, potentially one of the richest agricultural areas in Somalia. The aim of the project was to repair or build the river gates to control the flow of irrigation water and thus prevent flooding. With community help, 19 gates were constructed, benefiting over 15,000 farming families.

The ICRC carried out 52 other water projects in 2001, ensuring that some 187,000 families and their livestock had access to clean water within a reasonable distance. These included the construction or repair of 35 boreholes, two rainwater catchments, three shallow wells and 12 traditional underground reservoirs (*berkads*).

Restoring family links

Family members in Somalia had been scattered by the fighting and often could not afford private means of communication. The Red Cross message (RCM) service helped Somalis stay in touch with their relatives at home and abroad. In 2001, the ICRC, together with the Somali Red Crescent, distributed 20,479 RCMs. The ICRC also sponsored the BBC Somali Service's Missing Persons Programme, which in 2001 broadcast names relating to 3,822 tracing cases. The BBC/ICRC contract was renewed in November to continue this successful radio programme in 2002.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Assistance

Somalia has no national or regional health systems. With the ongoing violence and inter-clan feuds, sporadic floods, drought and a flagging economy, the population faced serious health risks. Without outside assistance, medical facilities could not provide the necessary treatment for people wounded in the fighting. The ICRC concentrated on improving emergency care in four main surgical hospitals. To upgrade basic health care, it provided medical, technical and financial support for 26 health posts run by the Somali Red Crescent and strategically placed in remote conflict areas in southern and central Somalia. To combat cholera, the ICRC supported four Somali Red Crescent centres dispensing oral rehydration salts.

Hospitals

To treat the war-wounded and other emergency cases requiring surgery, the ICRC continued to support two hospitals in Mogadishu which are referral units for the war-wounded from most of the country. The 110-bed Keysaney hospital in Mogadishu North, run by the Somali Red Crescent, remained entirely dependent on ICRC support in the form of medicines, surgical material, salaries and food for patients. Keysaney treated 3,763 cases during the year, one-third of them related to war wounds. The 55-bed Medina hospital received medical supplies, food and a major contribution to running costs. Medina treated 2,624 cases, 52% of them related to war wounds. The ICRC introduced cost-recovery programmes in both hospitals in 2001. Medina reached its target of 3,000 US dollars per month, roughly 15% of its monthly cash needs. Keysaney responded more slowly and was generating an average of 1,000 US dollars a month, or just under 5% of its monthly budget. In phase 3 of the ICRC's rehabilitation of Keysaney hospital, the pharmacy was expanded. This, together with ongoing computer training in use of the EASYMED programme, should improve checks and controls of medical stocks. A plan to provide training for staff in both hospitals proved impossible because of security concerns.

Galkayo hospital in the Mudug region of Puntland received monthly deliveries of pharmaceuticals and consumables and the ICRC contributed 40% of monthly incentives for 51 surgical staff. In 2001, Galkayo hospital treated 703 cases, some 45% of them related to war wounds.

Following an ICRC evaluation, a three-month support plan for Baidoa hospital in the Bay region bore fruit, providing a better response to emergency needs with monthly deliveries of medicines and consumables. For example, during fighting in the Juba Valley in July and August, the ICRC sent in extra surgical material and dressings for the war-wounded. Baidoa hospital treated 368 war-wounded in 2001.

The ICRC's plans to put more effort into training staff and improving facilities in both Baidoa and Galkayo hospitals were restricted because of security concerns. The ICRC did, however, install a new generator and a low-energy oven in Baidoa hospital to reduce fuel bills.

Health posts

Four new Somali Red Crescent-run health posts opened this year – two in the Bakool region and two in the Gedo area – to supplement the 11 in Hiran, four in Galgaduud and seven in Kismayo. The 26 posts carried out 280,929 consultations in 2001 and provided rapid and efficient first aid for the war-wounded during fighting in the Juba region and in Puntland. During a two-week period of intense clashes in August, the health posts in Middle and Lower Juba, with the aid of ICRC emergency medical supplies, treated 300 war-wounded.

Cholera

To respond to the annual cholera epidemic, four ICRC-supported centres dispensing oral rehydration salts were open between February and July in Mogadishu South to treat mildly and moderately dehydrated patients. In 2001, the centres treated more than 6,000 patients. Severely dehydrated patients were referred to the cholera treatment centre run by the NGO *Action contre la Faim*.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In view of the impossibility of adopting a structured approach to the dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL) for Somali authorities, armed forces and other bearers of weapons, the ICRC focused its efforts on civil society, especially women's groups.

In November, the ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent organized a workshop for women's groups in Mogadishu to raise awareness of the humanitarian rules applicable during conflict and discuss ways of passing the message on to male relatives. The participants followed up the workshop by conducting eight discussion groups in their own neighbourhoods.

Drawing on the "People on War" project, which also used the focus-group approach, the ICRC produced 16 radio spots promoting respect for civilians in conflict situations. The spots were broadcast on the BBC Somali Service and were scheduled to continue until mid-April 2002.

In an effort to reach future leaders and decision-makers, the ICRC worked towards setting up IHL teaching in the Education Department of Amoud University in Boroma, north-western Somalia, by donating documents and books and sponsoring the participation of a professor in an IHL workshop in Arusha, Tanzania.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The main challenge for the Somali Red Crescent was to preserve its unity in an environment undermined by conflict and maintain the capacity to carry out its humanitarian tasks in a balanced and impartial manner.

The ICRC focused on helping the Somali Red Crescent to become better known and operational throughout the country. To ensure adequate coordination, the ICRC provided 11 National Society branches and offices with audiovisual, communication and general office equipment. The ICRC also funded the construction of a branch in Berbera and the rehabilitation of an office in Hudur. To raise its profile, the Somali Red Crescent, with ICRC support, produced wall and pocket calendars promoting the Red Crescent as a local humanitarian organization working for the Somali people. At the end of the year, the National Society agreed to set up nine new branches, mainly in conflict areas of southern and central Somalia, bringing the number of official Red Crescent branches to 19, one for each region of the country.

The ICRC financed the salaries of 23 Somali Red Crescent tracing officers and 13 dissemination officers, plus running costs, field trips, stationery and publications, and shared its expertise and experience. The dissemination officers conducted information sessions on the Red Cross/Red Crescent and IHL for different groups including elders, authorities and young people. In 2001, over 32,000 people attended the sessions. Towards the end of the year, dissemination and tracing officers in the branches were trained to do both jobs so as to make better use of resources.

With ICRC financial support, in July the Somali Red Crescent Mogadishu branch completed a five-month cholera-awareness campaign aimed at the general public, using billboards, newspaper advertisements, public-address systems and talks.

The ICRC also reviewed the needs of the Somali Red Crescent's first-aid training programme for 2002 and provided the necessary equipment and materials.

SUDAN

Personnel:

76 expatriates

605 locally hired staff

In Sudan, ICRC activities concentrate on protection and assistance for the civilian population (internally displaced people and residents) affected by the conflict; medical assistance for the war-wounded; monitoring the living conditions and treatment of people detained in connection with the conflict; dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL) for government armed forces, the Sudan People's Liberation Army and other bearers of weapons; the exchange of Red Cross messages (RCMs), tracing and family reunification; support for the regional prosthetic/orthotic centres in Khartoum and Lokichokio; and cooperation with the Sudanese Red Crescent.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection

2,029,031

Assistance

29,562,804

Preventive Action

920,671

Cooperation with National Societies

1,357,167

General

403,432

Overheads

2,079,508

36,352,613

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

CONTEXT

The year 2001 was marked by continuing internal armed conflict in Sudan. Almost half of the territory remained affected by the fighting (southern Sudan, the central Nuba Mountains and the east of the country from Kassala state to Eastern Equatoria). The country was also beset by floods and drought. In December 2001, there were a reported four million internally displaced people (IDPs). The end of the year saw a renewed international effort to further the peace process.

In January, newly re-elected President Omar al-Bashir extended Sudan's state of emergency for another 12 months. There were repeated armed clashes during the year between government forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) over the control of Raja and surrounding villages in northern Bahr al-Ghazal. In western Upper Nile and Unity state, heavy fighting flared up periodically between pro-government and SPLA militias, and attacks were reported against oil installations. The rest of the Upper Nile region was also volatile, with interfactional fighting, tribal clashes and cattle raids. The ICRC concentrated its efforts on improving

emergency and basic health care, food production and access to safe water, especially in areas where large numbers of IDPs put severe pressure on the resources of the resident population.

Organizations working in Sudan faced many operational obstacles. Attempts to anticipate humanitarian emergencies and build up stocks of relief supplies were often hampered by restricted access to certain areas and heavy fighting. ICRC access to victims in conflict zones was difficult and almost impossible in areas such as the Nuba Mountains, the Blue Nile region, along the Ethiopian border and Eastern Equatoria. Security remained a constant concern. The ICRC compound in Chelkou was looted and destroyed in early January. On 9 May, an ICRC plane was shot and the copilot was killed instantly. The investigation found that this was a tragic accident and not a premeditated attack, nor was the ICRC deliberately targeted. ICRC flights in southern Sudan resumed on 21 May.

On the international front, Sudan's relations with a number of countries improved and United Nations sanctions against the country, imposed in 1996, were lifted. In September, United States President George W. Bush appointed Senator John Danforth as US special envoy to Sudan.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

In most parts of Sudan there was no postal service and the RCM network often remained the only way for family members separated by conflict, including thousands of children, to re-establish contact with their loved ones in Sudan or abroad. A total of 101,040 RCMs were collected and distributed in 2001.

In coordination with the Sudanese Red Crescent, the ICRC organized family reunifications when requested, especially for unaccompanied minors, released prisoners, the elderly and the disabled. Under ICRC auspices, three children, aged 5, 10 and 15, were airlifted from one rebel-held area to another in southern Sudan to be reunited with their mother. An elderly woman in a rebel-controlled area was able to rejoin her son in the north. Two merchants stranded in Kurmuk, Blue Nile region, since 1997 were reunited with their families in Khartoum. Twenty-one members of the Sudanese armed forces, freed by the Sudan People's Democratic Front, were handed over to the ICRC at Pagak and flown by the ICRC to Khartoum.

Assistance

The combination of a fragile economy, armed conflict and drought meant that the livelihood of most southern Sudanese was extremely precarious. The ICRC responded by developing, with community involvement, sustainable "integrated projects" to improve health care, access to safe water, sanitation and food production. The projects targeted key areas with large numbers of IDPs, such as Yirol, Chelkou, Juba and Wau.

Health care

The ICRC opened two new primary health-care (PHC) facilities in Gumbo (Juba town) and Pagerau and a new health-training centre in Yirol. By the end of 2001 the ICRC was giving 19 PHC units (the new additions plus eight existing centres in Raja, four in Juba, one in Wau, three in Yirol and one in Chelkou) support in the form of medical supplies, construction materials, general building maintenance, and staff training and supervision. The 19 PHCs carried out 220,000 consultations during the year. The Expanded Programme on Immunization in Yirol proved a success, with a marked decrease in reported numbers of preventable diseases such as tuberculosis, polio and measles. A mid-year evaluation of the Chelkou health-care project, which operated without a permanent ICRC presence, showed the staff were highly motivated, carrying out some 1,000 consultations a month. The ICRC also supported a number of workshops held to train or upgrade the skills of PHC staff, including nurses, traditional birth attendants and managers.

Food

To reduce the strain on already scarce resources in areas with large numbers of IDPs, the ICRC provided food and other supplies, mostly seed and tools, for the planting season in April and May to assist farmers until harvest time. In 2001, 55,634 IDPs and 2,748 residents benefited from ICRC distributions, mainly in Wau, Upper Nile and Lafjor state, Bentiu, Kuey, Ruweng County and Ed Da'ein. To improve food production long-term, the ICRC set up five agricultural demonstration plots in Tam, Thonyor, Yirol, Chelkou and Wau, plus a control plot in Lokichokio in neighbouring Kenya. Some 90% of the seed planted produced fruit and vegetables of 28 different varieties. Certain vegetables were identified as capable of surviving the rainy season if improved techniques were used, and work was under way to identify crops that produced high yields under irrigation during the dry season.

Water and sanitation

In Bentiu, which saw a major influx of IDPs during the year, the ICRC set up a temporary water-treatment plant to supply safe water to 15,000 residents and 20,000 IDPs. Following prolonged fierce fighting in Raja, the ICRC provided safe water for over 10,000 IDPs who had fled to El Firdous and Um Herona camps in Ed Da'ein. Each camp received a large Oxfam tank and tapstands. In Yirol, the ICRC helped to repair over 30 hand-pumps, dig new boreholes, rehabilitate hand-dug wells and service drilling equipment. After evaluating Yirol's water programme, the ICRC produced a plan of action for 2002 emphasizing more community responsibility and promotion of hygiene.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In 2001, the ICRC carried out 18 visits to 11 places of detention in Sudan to monitor the living conditions and treatment of 510 people held by the SPLA and Sudanese People's Defence Force (SPDF) in connection with the internal conflict. On the basis of the findings, representations were made to the relevant authorities. The ICRC also provided detainees with basic items necessary for their health and welfare, ranging from clothes and soap to jerry cans and books. For the majority of the inmates, RCMs were the only means of maintaining contact with their families, and in 2001 the ICRC forwarded 6,035 RCMs on behalf of detainees. However, overall access to places of detention remained unsatisfactory.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Health facilities in Sudan had been heavily damaged by years of conflict and, owing to the fragile economy, health services were underfunded. The health care available in opposition-held areas was predominantly medical, with few surgical facilities to treat the war-wounded.

Hospitals

Ongoing heavy fighting in southern Sudan meant a continuing influx of war-wounded at the ICRC-run Lopiding hospital in Lokichokio, near the Sudanese border in neighbouring Kenya. Between July and September alone, the ICRC airlifted some 300 emergency cases from Sudan to the hospital. During the year, Lopiding hospital treated 3,298 patients, 1,277 of whom were war-wounded. Fourteen Sudanese students (10 nurses, two laboratory technicians and two anaesthetists) completed a newly launched six-month training course. Following a survey by a consultant, major improvements were made to the hospital's waste management system, including a new pit for waste disposal, separation of waste, a shelter for the incinerator and staff training.

The ICRC continued to support Juba Teaching Hospital, providing human resources, medical supplies, food for inpatients and a monthly distribution of "food-for-work" to some 900 staff. An ICRC surgeon ran a weekly clinic for non-urgent surgical problems and saw over 100 patients a month. The hospital treated 7,234 patients in 2001. Following an ICRC feasibility study on ways to increase support for non-surgical patients, training was introduced to improve the skills of medical assistants in the most over-worked departments – outpatients, emergency and maternal and child health.

During 2001 the ICRC also gave limited surgical assistance and medical supplies to Wau's two hospitals – one for civilians and one for the military – and helped to improve the civilian hospital's stock management system.

Amputees and other disabled people

To aid amputees and other disabled people, the ICRC continued its support for three centres producing artificial limbs and orthopaedic appliances. The largest, the Prosthetic and Orthotic Cooperation Centre (POC) in Khartoum, produced 839 prostheses in 2001, 158 of which were for mine victims, 603 orthoses and 616 crutches and walking sticks. As a national centre, the POC organized workshops for other regions. For example, with ICRC support, a two-week training course on ankle-foot orthoses took place in March at the Juba Orthopaedic Workshop. The subject was chosen because of the large number of disabled but non-amputee patients (polio, cerebral palsy, club foot, etc.) in the area. The ICRC also gave support for a two-week course for technicians at the Juba Workshop on orthoses for paralysed patients.

Lopiding hospital produced fewer prostheses in 2001, the number of amputees evacuated from southern Sudan having decreased because of flight restrictions. As a result of the polio programme in the south, however, production of orthoses increased and, as part of a pilot scheme, patients selected from the Yirol region came to the hospital to be fitted. The project to deliver wheelchairs produced in Nairobi, Kenya, to disabled people in southern Sudan continued. Lopiding produced 367 prostheses, 91 of which were for mine victims, 174 orthoses, 1,299 crutches and walking sticks, and delivered 22 wheelchairs.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC met with a number of high-ranking Sudanese government officials during the year to promote the signing and ratification of IHL treaties. In connection with the Ottawa treaty on landmines, the ICRC took part in a workshop organized by the Sudanese authorities on landmines in Sudan. Furthermore, after a meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and the Director of the Military Justice Department, government officials agreed to organize, with ICRC support, a seminar in 2002 on implementing IHL.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC continued its efforts to enhance knowledge of IHL and awareness of basic humanitarian principles among all parties to the conflict in Sudan.

Armed forces and police

A joint ICRC/Sudan armed forces/Sudan police forces session on IHL took place for the first time in Malakal from 12 to 17 February. Officers and soldiers of the regular army, the police and security forces were informed about the basic rules of IHL, the significance of the emblem and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In August, the ICRC held the first-ever IHL course at the Military Intelligence Institute, with 43 officers attending the four-day session. In June and July, it organized a major dissemination programme for soldiers doing compulsory military service at camps in and around Khartoum. Some 10,000 young men and 120 staff attended the lectures. A specialized IHL course for 31 air force officers was also held in Khartoum from 24 to 29 March.

Other bearers of weapons

For the first time, the ICRC held a workshop on IHL and the Movement for members of the Southern Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM). Fifty-eight SSLM members attended the three-day workshop in Akobo from 28 March to 1 April. The ICRC also reached other rebel factions with a dissemination course for the SPLA in Rumbeck and for 116 officers of the SPDF in Waat.

CIVIL SOCIETY

To raise awareness among the media and the general public in Sudan of the ICRC's mandate and activities and of IHL, the ICRC newsletter, ICRC press releases and other relevant ICRC publications in Arabic were circulated widely. The editor of a daily State television programme for the armed forces visited the ICRC delegation and was briefed on IHL and the Movement. In November, the ICRC sponsored the participation of the Dean of the Police University, the Director of the Child and Women's Rights Department at the Institute of Training and Law, and a lawyer at the Human Resources and IHL Department of the Ministry of Justice in an ICRC course on IHL held in Pretoria, South Africa.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Branches of the Sudanese Red Crescent in conflict areas lacked sufficient resources to carry out emergency programmes and other activities for vulnerable communities. Throughout the year, the ICRC continued to provide the National Society's headquarters and tracing service and seven of its branches with structural and financial support. There was a generally high success rate for the distribution of RCMs. Thanks to ICRC/Sudanese Red Crescent cooperation in Ed Da'ein, some 200 unaccompanied minors were identified. Their registration and follow-up were carried out by Sudanese Red Crescent volunteers on the spot. The ICRC's annual workshop on tracing, held in Khartoum from 15 to 17 May, was attended by 23 Sudanese Red Crescent members, most of them new volunteers.

UGANDA

Personnel:

24 (5) expatriates
138 (118) locally hired staff

Following the killing of six ICRC staff members in Ituri district in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in April 2001, the ICRC suspended activities at its sub-delegations in Uganda and has since maintained a reduced expatriate presence confined to the capital, Kampala. The ICRC's top priority is to obtain a thorough investigation by the Ugandan authorities into the killings. Its other major concern is to remain fully informed about the situation in the field so as to monitor the humanitarian situation and be in a position to respond in the event of a life-threatening emergency.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	957,312
Assistance	4,626,758
Preventive Action	492,003
Cooperation with National Societies	890,164
General	477,335
Overheads	427,910
Total	7,871,482



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

CONTEXT

Both presidential and parliamentary elections were held in Uganda in 2001. The results of the former, although contested by the opposition, granted President Yoweri Museveni another five-year term. The National Resistance Movement (NRM) also maintained its control of Parliament in the elections which took place on 26 June. Although opposition candidates made some gains, the NRM took 230 of the 282 seats. A wave of bomb attacks, allegedly linked to the electoral process, shook central regions of Uganda. Six bombs went off in Kampala and three in Jinja, killing 12 people and injuring more.

Relations with Rwanda remained strained after President Museveni stated that Rwanda was to be included in a list of hostile countries because it allegedly financed the presidential campaign of the opposition leader, Dr Kizza Besigye. A meeting between the Presidents of the two countries which took place at the Ugandan-Rwandan border at the end of June succeeded in reducing tension at least temporarily. In November, however, relations deteriorated sharply and it took British and American pressure to defuse the situation. The two Presidents were invited to London by the British government. They agreed that a joint military commission, also including officers from

the UK and the United States, would be formed to investigate the accusations of rebel support and other immediate causes of the tension.

In April, President Museveni embarked upon the process of withdrawing Ugandan troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with the exception of the area directly neighbouring Uganda. Uganda had withdrawn most of its troops by the end of 2001.

Under an agreement brokered by Egypt and Libya, Sudan consented to move the Ugandan rebel movement, the Lord's Resistance Army, away from the Ugandan border. Peace talks between Uganda and Sudan were given fresh impetus when Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir attended President Museveni's swearing-in ceremony in May, a gesture which resulted in the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

In the immediate aftermath of the killing of the six ICRC staff members on 26 April 2001 in an area of north-eastern DRC under the control of the Ugandan authorities, the ICRC delegation in Uganda recalled its delegates from its field units in Uganda and suspended all field activities. At the end of 2001, the sub-delegations in Bundibugyo and Gulu and the offices in Kasese and Kitgum were still inactive and manned by local staff. The ICRC reduced the number of its expatriate staff in Uganda to five, but kept on 118 locally-hired staff. Senior operational staff from ICRC headquarters subsequently went to Kampala on two occasions. The purpose of these missions was to convey to the highest Ugandan political and military authorities the ICRC's demand for a thorough investigation into the killings, and to provide them with the information gathered by the ICRC about the incident. The Ugandan authorities formally agreed to undertake an investigation, but by the end of the year no conclusive results had been received.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

At the beginning of 2001, there were still 28 unaccompanied Rwandan minors registered by the ICRC in Uganda. During the year the ICRC continued its efforts to put them back in touch with their families and was able to organize family reunifications for eight of them. After the delegation was put on standby in April, the ICRC continued its tracing activities through the Uganda Red Cross Society (see *National Society*).

Internally displaced people (IDPs)

In mid-March the ICRC wound up its ad hoc assistance to survivors of the Ebola outbreak that had occurred in November 2000 in and around Gulu. This assistance was given in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Uganda Red Cross. Once the crisis abated, the ICRC was able to carry out a postponed distribution of non-food items to 130,000 IDPs in the Kitgum district. In the south-west, following an improvement in the overall security situation, the ICRC was able to resume its non-food distributions delayed by the Ebola crisis to 100,000 IDPs in Bundibugyo and 32,000 in Kasese. These IDPs each received a hoe, *pangas* and seed. The distributions were completed in April.

In April, non-food supplies were handed out to 30,000 displaced households in 60 camps in Bundibugyo district, including 1,356 households in six IDP camps suffering the effects of torrential rain and floods.

Thereafter, some ad hoc ICRC aid distributions were carried out by the Uganda Red Cross (see *National Society*).

The ICRC protected two springs serving 5,000 occupants of Butama camp in Bundibugyo. It also performed emergency repairs on an overflowing septic tank and built latrines in Kilembe Mines camp. These projects benefited a total of 500 people.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Prisoners of war

Under the auspices of the ICRC, one Zimbabwean prisoner of war (POW) held in Uganda was repatriated to Harare on 9 February 2001. One POW and three civilian internees were repatriated from Kinshasa to Kampala by an ICRC chartered plane and handed over to a Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) representative in September.

Visits to detainees

During the first four months of the year, the ICRC carried out 69 visits to 841 detainees within its mandate to assess their treatment and conditions of detention. The ICRC obtained full access to all 48 places of detention it asked to visit.

Although protection activities in the field were suspended at the end of April, regular visits to six detention facilities under the administration of the Prison Services in Kampala district were maintained. The ICRC conducted 12 visits to 189 detainees between May and December.

Programmes providing support for family visits to detainees and assistance for released detainees also continued without interruption. All 270 male detainees sentenced to death were given the opportunity to write to their families inviting them to visit at the ICRC's expense. Six female detainees condemned to death were given the opportunity to benefit from the family visit programme for the first time.

Assistance

To assist the detaining authorities, who lacked the necessary material and financial resources, the ICRC renovated the drainage system for latrines at Gulu police station. This improved living conditions for 21 people. Furthermore, an ICRC water and sanitation engineer resumed an assessment of the water-supply situation at Kigo prison farm near Kampala with a view to installing a new water pump. The work began in September and was completed in December 2001, benefiting 714 inmates.

The ICRC also provided 15 prisons with agricultural assistance in the form of tools, seed and chemicals, to maintain vegetable production and thus help meet the nutritional needs of the detainees.

WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC continued to provide 13 hospitals in conflict areas with medical and surgical supplies. Stocks of medicines and surgical materials and instruments were also supplied to the four referral hospitals in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts in the north of the country. This helped them to treat a total of 350 war-wounded patients. The ICRC also positioned sufficient surgical stocks for 100 patients in its Kasese sub-delegation. The material was used to support the six main referral hospitals receiving war casualties in the region.

Amputees and other disabled people

Despite several approaches to the Ministry of Health, the cooperation agreement between the Ministry and the ICRC was not renewed. Nevertheless, the country's prosthetic/orthotic workshops continued to produce various appliances for the disabled. The activities of the amputee rehabilitation service at the Gulu Regional Prosthetic/Orthotic Centre, which had been interrupted by the Ebola outbreak, resumed in 2001.

The renovation of the Fort Portal Regional Prosthetic/Orthotic Centre was completed by the end of February. Renovation work on the Mbarara Regional Prosthetic/Orthotic Centre and the construction of the new patient hostel in its compound were completed in April and May. The first amputee was admitted to the hostel in May.

Overall, the three centres produced 223 prostheses for 215 patients, 68 of whom were mine victims. In addition, 157 orthoses were produced for 142 patients. All appliances were made using the ICRC polypropylene system and supplied free of charge to the patients.

AUTHORITIES

Representations to and dialogue with the Ugandan authorities focused on efforts to elucidate the circumstances of the killing of six ICRC staff in the DRC. The Ugandan authorities formally agreed to undertake an investigation, but by the end of the year the ICRC had yet to receive any conclusive results.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

At the beginning, the ICRC was invited to take part in a workshop on children's rights held under a partnership agreement between the UPDF and local NGO Gulu Support the Children Organization, Save the Children Denmark and Save the Children Sweden. The workshop dealt with the protection of abducted children who were forced to take part in hostilities. This initiative, the first of its kind in Africa, took place in Kampala and was attended by high-ranking officers from all four UPDF divisions.

The ICRC provided funds to enable an UPDF officer to attend an international conference on Small Arms, Gun Violence and Injury which took place in Helsinki, Finland, between 28 and 30 September. The conference was organized by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

During the year the ICRC launched a three-month radio and poster campaign on its activities and the basic rules of international humanitarian law (IHL), the main target audience being the armed opposition. A total of 45 radio broadcasts were made in nine local languages. They were aired on six radio stations, including Radio Uganda and FM radio stations located in areas of ICRC operations. A total of 10,000 posters were printed in five languages – English, Swahili and three local languages – to cater for northern and south-western Uganda.

AFRICA UGANDA

CIVIL SOCIETY

Activities under this heading remained suspended.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Although the delegation's work was on standby for much of the year, activities directed at strengthening the capacity of the Uganda Red Cross to fulfil its humanitarian mandate did not suffer. The National Society continued to be operational throughout the country and, with the support of the ICRC, was able to respond to various emergency needs at branch level. The ICRC continued to support it in its pursuit of objectives in the areas of tracing, dissemination and emergency preparedness and response, both at headquarters and at branch level.

The Uganda Red Cross, with financial and technical support from the ICRC, continued to render invaluable tracing services to the refugee population in the country and to IDPs, and at the same time responded to needs arising from the international tracing network. It worked closely with the ICRC in the distribution of Red Cross messages for detainees and facilitated family visits from their relatives. It also carried out family reunifications. At year's end, 20 Rwandan minors remained to be reunited with their families.

As part of the ICRC's cooperation objectives regarding emergency preparedness and response, the delegation provided the National Society with relief supplies to distribute to victims of floods and rainstorms in the south-west of the country. Following skirmishes in the north-east, 1,983 households received aid from the National Society, with 992 tarpaulins, 3,966 blankets and 6,345 kg of laundry soap supplied from ICRC stocks. In Bundibugyo, 872 displaced households affected by floods and landslides were given 1,744 blankets, 872 tarpaulins, 4,360 cups, 4,360 plates, 1,744 saucepans and 872 jerry cans from ICRC stocks. Similarly, the ICRC donated relief supplies to the National Society's Arua branch to enhance its emergency preparedness in the north of the country.

The ICRC also provided the National Society with first-aid materials, stretchers and blankets in advance of the elections in March. National Society teams were on standby but the situation remained relatively calm and the teams were only mobilized for minor accidents. Radio equipment, a generator and assorted office supplies were also given to the Uganda Red Cross.

The National Society's 12 dissemination staff continued their activities. A training workshop for 17 new branch staff and volunteers was held in Kumi, in eastern Uganda, one of the conflict-prone areas. In addition, the ICRC helped the National Society set up, at its headquarters, an Information Resource Centre fully connected to the Internet, a mini-library, and a documentation centre for all the National Society's publications and reference materials.

ABIDJAN

Regional delegation

Countries covered:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire,
Ghana, Togo

Personnel:

13 expatriates

45 locally hired staff

The ICRC regional delegation in Abidjan focuses on supporting the efforts made by the region's authorities and armed and security forces to implement international humanitarian law (IHL), and on raising awareness among the armed forces of the need to comply with its rules. Other ICRC activities include visiting places of detention in Côte d'Ivoire, monitoring the situation in the country for any outbreaks of intercommunal violence, and maintaining an operational capacity to provide victims with protection and assistance.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection

477,993

Assistance

419,431

Preventive Action

1,035,619

Cooperation with National Societies

895,187

General

174,260

Overheads

201,964

3,204,454



+ ICRC regional delegation

+ ICRC mission

+ ICRC office

CONTEXT

Côte d'Ivoire continued along its uncertain path towards national reconciliation, with little progress being made in 2001. January saw a failed *coup d'état* against President Gbagbo, while in March municipal elections led to isolated intercommunal clashes in Zouan-Hounien, which caused nearly 3,000 people to flee their homes. On a more positive note, the municipal elections marked the first encounter ever between the country's three major political parties: the Rally of Republicans, the Ivorian Popular Front and the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire. In hopes to put an end to social and political tensions that had persisted since the 1999 *coup* and were refuelled by the post-election vio-

lence in 2000, the President hosted a National Reconciliation Forum in October 2001. Though all key players attended in the end, several issues of major importance remained unresolved.

In June, Benin and Niger agreed to let the International Court of Justice in The Hague settle their border dispute. Later in the year, discontent within the presidential movement saw the creation of the Patriotic Union, Benin's 164th political party.

In Burkina Faso, authorities continued to deal with the political consequences of the assassinations of Norbert Zongo, editor of *L'Indépendant*, and of former president Thomas Sankara. At the end of March the government organized a *Journée nationale du pardon*,¹ which contributed to the reconciliation process. On the economic front, drought led to a severe shortage of grain, with harvests yielding only an estimated 20% of the country's needs.

In Ghana, President Rawlings stepped down after more than 20 years in office to be succeeded by John Kufour, who took on the challenge of carrying out economic reforms. The transition process in Togo continued spasmodically. Legislative elections were again rescheduled, so Togo remained subject to economic sanctions imposed by the European Union. The sanctions were to be lifted once the elections were held.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the regional delegation's activities in 2001 focused on protection for people deprived of their freedom and on providing food and medical assistance for people affected by intercommunal violence. The ICRC stepped up its efforts to encourage military authorities across the region to adopt a standard approach to the teaching and application of IHL.

The ICRC also maintained its cooperation with and support for the region's National Societies, to help them develop their emergency-preparedness capacity and upgrade their tracing services. A number of other humanitarian organizations such as *Médecins sans frontières* and Save the Children were working in the region, especially in Côte d'Ivoire. The ICRC coordinated its activities with those of other agencies in assisting unaccompanied children and in the area of IHL/human rights.

¹ National forgiveness day

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Internally displaced people

During the year, tensions between local rural communities and immigrants living in south-western Côte d'Ivoire led to clashes which left many people dead or injured and displaced many others. When violence broke out following municipal elections in March 2001, internally displaced people (IDPs) were temporarily housed by the Ivorian authorities in public buildings. The ICRC provided non-food assistance and clothing to this IDP population and gave support for one collective kitchen.

In Ghana, victims of December's inter-communal violence between the Mamprusis and the Kusasis were initially aided by the authorities as poor security conditions prevented humanitarian agencies from providing assistance. Towards the end of the year, security improved and the authorities allowed the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire to take on responsibility for some 2,600 IDPs affected by the violence. At the end of the year, the National Society was assessing the IDPs' needs in order to submit a report to the ICRC, as further assistance may be required for this target group in the future.

Throughout the region the ICRC and National Society volunteers provided some 5,300 IDPs with emergency food and other aid in 2001 and provided medical care for 1,200.

Restoring family links

In 2001 some 130,000 Liberian refugees who had fled the armed conflict in Liberia still remained in Côte d'Ivoire. Often separated from family members by the conflict, these refugees needed help in restoring family links and locating missing children. The National Society set up a tracing service with ICRC support to enable refugees throughout the region to use the Red Cross message network.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In January 2001, the ICRC submitted a summary report on conditions of detention in Côte d'Ivoire to the President's office and to the Ministry of Justice. Throughout the year the ICRC conducted 45 visits to 21 places of detention and provided non-food assistance wherever necessary. In the course of the visits the ICRC also met key health authorities to discuss health conditions in places of detention.

The prison population in Côte d'Ivoire remained highly vulnerable, notably in terms of health, hygiene and nutrition. To provide the country's penitentiary administration with guidance, the ICRC held a health and hygiene seminar for 50 administrators, focusing on practical solutions for improving detainees' food and health conditions. In the hope of encouraging medical staff to continue giving consultations at six prisons, the ICRC also donated medical texts to each facility's health centre.

WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC distributed basic medicines to three referral hospitals in Abidjan and 10 health centres in Toulépleu and Zouan-Hounien to ensure that the wounded and sick received proper treatment. Meanwhile, to bring an outbreak of yellow fever under control, the Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross and the Ivorian authorities launched a 10-day vaccination campaign during which 2.6 million people were immunized.

AUTHORITIES

In 2001, certain countries in the region had still not ratified some of the IHL treaties such as the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), nor incorporated them into their national legislation.

Côte d'Ivoire's Council of Ministers submitted two bills concerning IHL – ratification of the CCW and of the ICC Statute – to the National Assembly for adoption. The ICRC held a brainstorming session on the implementation of IHL with 40 representatives of the country's executive and judiciary. One of the main goals of the session was to encourage the authorities to reactivate the country's Interministerial Committee for the implementation of IHL. In addition, with support from the Ministry of Justice representative, the ICRC submitted recommendations to the Ministry for amendments to the bill on the use of the emblem, to bring it into line with the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols. The bill had been pending since 1998.

At the end of 2001, with support from the Canadian Red Cross Society, the ICRC and the Economic Community of West African States were organizing a regional seminar on the ratification and implementation of the ICC Statute, due to be held in Abidjan in January 2002.

Near the end of the year the President of Benin signed the instrument ratifying the ICC Statute, which had been adopted by the National Assembly in August.

With the full support of Ghana's Chief State Attorney, the ICRC organized a working session on national implementation of IHL for key ministries, including Justice, Defence and Foreign Affairs. The Minister of Justice undertook to carry the "Geneva Conventions Act" project through to completion.

In Togo, despite several meetings of the Interministerial Committee in 2001, anticipated reforms concerning IHL implementation did not take shape. The National Society and the Committee nevertheless made plans to organize an awareness-raising campaign on the use of and respect for the emblem, to take place in March 2002.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

As many of the defence and security forces covered by the regional delegation had yet to include IHL instruction in their training programmes, the ICRC pursued efforts in this area throughout 2001.

During the training of military staff in connection with the planned military manoeuvres entitled *Cohésion Kozah 2001*, the ICRC gave IHL sessions for 85 officers from nine countries of the region. An evaluation carried out in Togo confirmed that most of the objectives for dissemination of IHL in the country had been achieved.

In Côte d'Ivoire, ICRC sessions on IHL and the Movement's activities had become an integral part of the programme at the Zambakro Regional Peace-keeping Academy, and at the beginning of the year the Ministry of the Interior agreed to implement the ICRC's dissemination programme for police forces.

In Benin, when the authorities dissolved the country's IHL implementation committee with the full support of the armed forces, the ICRC was put in the favourable position of dealing directly with potential IHL instructors at military training centres. Negotiations were being pursued at the end of the year.

In 2001, IHL seminars and training and awareness-raising sessions were held far and wide, reaching cadets at the Bouaké Military Academy and cadets and non-commissioned and superior officers at the school for non-commissioned officers, also in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire; officers at Togo's Officer Training School in Lomé and Chiefs of Staff of the Togolese armed forces; and non-commissioned officers from Benin's armed forces.

In all, the ICRC's efforts to disseminate IHL reached a total of 261 military officers in the sub-region.

CIVIL SOCIETY

With the aim of laying the groundwork for its dissemination activities, the ICRC held IHL debating competitions in Abidjan and Lomé between local teams comprising members of the security forces and law students. These debates enabled the participants to familiarize themselves with issues of importance within a humanitarian context.

In addition, the ICRC worked to raise awareness of its activities in the region by keeping the media well informed.

AFRICA ABIDJAN

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The National Societies of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo faced financial constraints, compounded by personnel and other problems, which made it difficult for them to improve their operational capacity.

During the year the ICRC conducted dissemination/tracing sessions for National Society staff, gave conflict-preparedness training to 12 branches in conflict-prone areas and defrayed costs for staff from 15 of the National Society's branches to attend a disaster-management workshop in Lomé.

The ICRC supplied first-aid materials to the Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross and to branches in Danané and Zouan-Hounien. In order to bolster the National Society's emergency-response capacity, the ICRC mobilized 20 National Society first-aid workers (two brigades) to provide 3,500 IDPs in Toulépleu and Bloléquin with food aid. It also gave the National Society support

in its efforts to register unaccompanied minors and evaluate the situation in the west of the country.

In 2001, the Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire was in dire financial straits and the ICRC had to step in near the end of the year to cover its operational costs. In order to redress the situation, a Crisis Committee was set up to conduct an enquiry. The resulting recommendations prompted pledges of financial and technical backing from the ICRC and the International Federation. In addition, the ICRC and the National Society signed a cooperation agreement on tracing activities.

In Ghana, the ICRC began to involve the National Society systematically in all its efforts to engage in negotiations with the country's government. While it was felt that this cooperation might slow down certain projects, it reflected the improved relations between the two organizations and the ICRC's commitment to helping to build a more effective National Society.

DAKAR

Regional delegation

Countries covered:

Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal

Personnel:

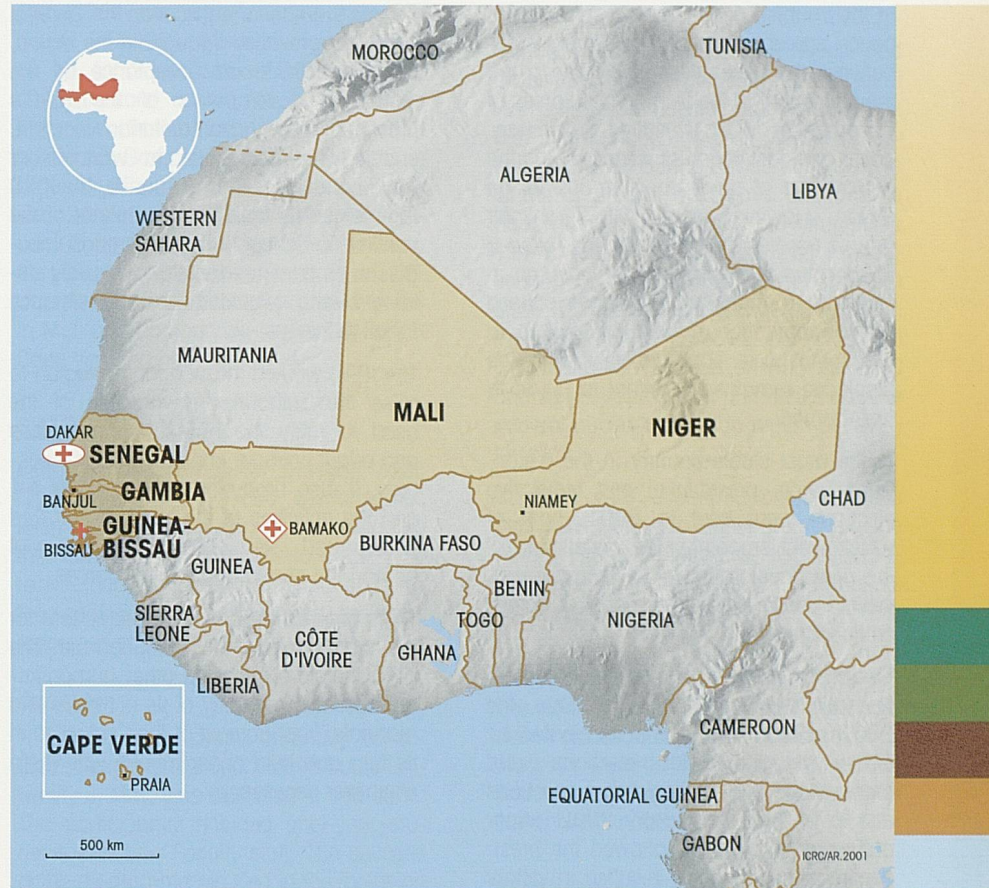
3 expatriates
21 locally hired staff

The Dakar regional delegation concentrates on activities to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) among the armed forces and other bearers of weapons and to encourage its implementation by authorities throughout the region. It also supports the activities of the National Societies, assists victims of violence such as displaced people, and visits detainees, providing them with aid where necessary.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	
390,986	
Assistance	
267,488	
Preventive Action	
929,475	
Cooperation with National Societies	
621,491	
General	
334,425	
Overheads	
177,487	

2,721,351



⊕ ICRC regional delegation ⊕ ICRC mission + ICRC office

CONTEXT

In Senegal, January 2001 saw the adoption of President Abdoulaye Wade's new constitution. Under the new constitution the presidential term was reduced from seven to five years with a limit of two terms in office, and, for the first time, women were granted the right to own land. Another event that marked the year was the dismissal of Prime Minister Moustapha Niasse, with whose support President Wade had won the presidential elections in 2000. Following April's legislative elections, the President's power

base was further consolidated when his Senegalese Democratic Party won 89 of the 120 parliamentary seats. There was growing support for the new government during the year, but at the same time growing impatience with high unemployment, insecurity and steadily decreasing buying power.

In the troubled province of Casamance, a peace agreement signed in March 2001 between the Senegalese government and the Movement of the Democratic Forces of Casamance (MDFC) resulted in the hand-over and destruction of weapons and the deployment of government troops in the region. However, some MDFC splinter groups rejected the agreement and vowed to continue their struggle. An upsurge in violence in northern Casamance caused further population movements, while in areas that were comparatively calm the displaced remained reluctant to return to their homes.

In the most stable country in the region, Cape Verde, presidential and legislative elections were held in 2001, both of which went smoothly. The installation of the new government on 1 February was viewed as an exemplary model of democratic transition.

Elsewhere, political tension heightened in the run-up to elections. In Gambia, the 2001 political scene was dominated by October's presidential elections and preparations for the legislative elections due to be held in January 2002. Minor outbreaks of violence followed the presidential elections which resulted in victory for the incumbent, Yahya Jammeh. In Mali, although the end of the serving President's term sparked a race for power between potential candidates, calm reigned across the country. Meanwhile, the Niger government faced increased pressure from the opposition along with almost uninterrupted student unrest throughout the year. Although it was hoped that local elections would complete the country's democratic process, 2001 was marked by a lack of dialogue between opposition parties and the government. In Guinea-Bissau, the opposition's majority in Parliament led to a constant round of negotiations between the President and leaders of opposition parties throughout the year.

On the humanitarian scene, the general calm that prevailed throughout the region, coupled with broad acceptance by the respective governments of the ICRC's presence and humanitarian action, enabled the delegation to work under good conditions. In Casamance, the ICRC maintained its activities for victims of the conflict. In Senegal, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, it continued visits to security detainees and provided basic assistance for all detainees.

The ICRC worked throughout the region to raise the authorities' awareness of the need to ratify the humanitarian treaties and adopt national implementation measures. It also promoted knowledge of IHL and the activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement among the armed and security forces.

The region still lacked any mechanism for the coordination of humanitarian aid. The ICRC therefore informed other humanitarian agencies regularly of its activities and mandate, kept abreast of their activities in its turn and held consultations with them whenever necessary.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Internally displaced people

The majority of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the Casamance region of Senegal, numbering approximately 30,000, were families who had been forced to abandon their land and their livelihood. These IDPs placed an additional burden on host families, and successive waves of displacement resulted in renewed tension.

At the beginning of the year, poor security conditions prevented the ICRC from conducting on-the-spot surveys in troubled areas. Nevertheless, with the cooperation of the Senegalese Red Cross Society, the ICRC provided food aid to meet the immediate needs of some 10,000 IDPs. Later, when security conditions permitted, the ICRC conducted two assessment missions in Ziguinchor, again in close cooperation with the National Society. Subsequent evaluations showed that the government's infrastructure and its response to the needs of refugees returning to Casamance from Guinea were sufficient.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

During the year, continued fighting in Casamance led the military authorities to make new arrests. The ICRC responded promptly by contacting the detaining authorities and securing access to the new detainees. After its visits, the ICRC submitted a summary report on its findings to the Ministry of Justice, whose reaction to the report was generally favourable.

In Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, the ICRC regularly visited detainees covered by its mandate. It is worth mentioning that during the year most of the detainees in Gambia were released.

AUTHORITIES

To encourage countries to implement humanitarian law into their national legislation, the ICRC persisted in its efforts to promote IHL and ICRC activities throughout the region via meetings held with ministers, ministry representatives and magistrates. Progress was slow, but some ground was gained during the year: the ICRC conducted a seminar for some 40 representatives of Senegal's Prime Minister's office and the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs and the Armed Forces which led to a consensus on priority measures for IHL implementation and a plan of action on the use of and respect for the emblem; and Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde ratified the Ottawa treaty. The ICRC submitted a report to Niger's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the implementation of IHL, which was expected to be used by the government as the basis for a national seminar on the subject.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Most of the defence and security forces of the countries covered by the regional delegation had yet to include IHL instruction in their training programmes.

In 2001, the leadership of Senegal's armed forces agreed to allow the ICRC to organize IHL training for its members. Dissemination sessions were held at two of Senegal's military training schools for a total of 140 officers. At another military training facility, dissemination courses were conducted by an armed forces officer for 70 cadets. Subsequently, an IHL manual especially geared to the maintenance of law and order was produced for use in future courses.

The ICRC also organized the following events in 2001: an introductory seminar on IHL for 35 officers in Guinea-Bissau; an instructors' course for 15 officers in Mali; two dissemination sessions for 30 soldiers in Gambia; instructors' courses in Niger for 35 armed forces training officers and 26 police/*gendarmierie* training officers from throughout Mali. Furthermore, the ICRC helped produce *The Code of Conduct for Combatants* for the armed forces in Mali and approached key authorities in Cape Verde to promote its use.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Although universities in Senegal, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso demonstrated keen interest in introducing or developing the teaching of humanitarian law, the requirements in terms of financial and professional support exceeded the available resources of the universities.

Senegal

The IHL training cycle, originally scheduled to begin at Senegal's Saint-Louis University in May, was launched in mid-June. The participants included final-year students and Law Faculty staff. The success of the programme resulted in the inclusion of IHL as a mandatory subject in the university's curriculum. The ICRC made plans to support the university's commitment by setting up an IHL library at the Faculty of Law.

Mali

During celebrations to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, several local women's and students' associations took part in a campaign to promote the protection of women during armed conflict. Two women's groups also gave public talks about their peace efforts, the struggle to curb small-arms trafficking, and the prevention of violations of IHL in northern Mali. The event received wide coverage in the local media. Moreover, the ICRC held an information session on IHL, the ICRC and its activities for the authorities and the general public in the Gao region of northern Mali.

Contacts with academic circles in the Malian capital led to further progress in the ICRC's efforts to introduce IHL into programmes at the University of Bamako's Law Faculty.

Niger

The ICRC also pursued contacts with academic circles in Niger and achieved some progress towards the introduction of IHL into the programmes at the Law Faculty of the University of Niamey.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

National Societies throughout the region continued to need support in order to maintain their operational capacity and their ability to provide tracing services and other emergency response activities.

Senegal

In 2001, the ICRC funded the organization of emergency-preparedness departments in seven of the National Society's regional branches. Thanks to the delegation's financial support, 350 first-aid workers were mobilized and emergency stocks purchased. The ICRC also provided support to enable the National Society's regional branch in Ziguinchor to set up a children's day-care centre as an income-generating project.

AFRICA DAKAR

During the year, the ICRC donated first-aid materials to strengthen the emergency-preparedness capacity of the Senegalese Red Cross, conducted dissemination and tracing sessions for 30 National Society staff from three branches, and trained 35 volunteers with a view to the establishment of a national network for restoring family links.

Guinea-Bissau

The ICRC gave support for events held by the National Society to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, which included parades and radio debate programmes. It also ran a camp for 65 youth volunteers from nine of the National Society's branches and, to maintain the training and motivation of some 120 volunteers, organized a community clean-up project in Bissau.

Gambia

The ICRC provided financial support for a National Society awareness-raising seminar on IHL and Red Cross activities for 33 secondary-school teachers.

Mali

With support from the ICRC, the National Society trained 25 first-aid workers in the Gao region. The first-aiders were subsequently given the task of conducting hygiene-awareness programmes in the Gao area. Sixty more first-aiders took part in training sessions held by the ICRC in Kayes and Segou, two regions slated to host the 2002 African Nations Cup football tournament.

During activities to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, National Society first-aiders cleaned up Bamako's central hospital and took advantage of the opportunity to raise awareness of Red Cross activities among hospital staff and patients.

Niger

In 2001, the Red Cross Society of Niger trained a total of 40 first-aiders in the Tillabéry and Tahoua regions.

Cape Verde

With financial support from the ICRC, the Red Cross of Cape Verde equipped five of its local branches with tents and stretchers. The ICRC also supported the National Society's efforts to improve conditions of detention for some 850 detainees (distribution of blankets, hygiene items and games).

HARARE

Regional delegation

Countries covered :

Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique,
Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Personnel :

9 expatriates
34 locally hired staff

The ICRC's regional delegation in Harare monitors the humanitarian situation in the countries covered, especially as regards the internal situation in Zimbabwe. Its activities focus on protecting and assisting civilians displaced by violence, visiting people deprived of their freedom in connection with these situations, and helping civilians separated by armed conflict to re-establish and maintain contact with their families. The delegation also makes a sustained effort to inform the security and armed forces and the public as a whole about international humanitarian law (IHL). Finally, it contributes to the development of the operational capacity of National Societies in the region.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	877,227
Assistance	273,327
Preventive Action	886,382
Cooperation with National Societies	808,761
General	327,669
Overheads	245,256

3,418,622



⊕ ICRC regional delegation ⊕ ICRC mission + ICRC office

CONTEXT

In Zimbabwe, parliamentary by-elections and campaigns related to the presidential elections scheduled for March and April 2002 caused politically motivated violence resulting in a number of internal displacements. Moreover, the official "fast-track" land reform policy, whereby the government could take over land without compensation, along with the subsequent resettlement programme and the sensitive issue of the occupation of white-owned commercial land by war veterans, caused divisions among the population. Occupations were often accompanied by violence and led to the displacement of farm workers and their families.

In the northern Kavango region and the Caprivi Strip in Namibia, the security situation saw a slight improvement over 2000. Although the effects of the Angolan conflict were still felt in this border area, there was a decline in the number of landmine incidents, war casualties and allegations of abuses by people bearing weapons. Nevertheless, the Namibian authorities introduced a dusk-to-dawn curfew along part of the Okavango River border with Angola in September in order to prevent UNITA infiltrations. Refugees fleeing the conflict in Angola continued to arrive in Namibia throughout 2001, bringing the total to an estimated 30,000.

Other countries in the region also had refugees within their borders. In most cases their numbers were relatively small, but Zambia was host to over 250,000 refugees, of whom some 127,000 were living in camps. Most of these refugees came from Angola and the DRC. Zambia had declared itself neutral in relation to the conflicts in both these countries.

The political temperature in Zambia began to rise at the end of the year during preparations for tripartite elections (presidential, parliamentary and municipal). On 27 December, Zambia went to the polls. No violence was reported, and Levy Mwanawasa of the Movement for Multi-party Democracy was sworn in as the country's third President on 2 January 2002.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

The prevailing instability in Angola, the DRC and elsewhere resulted in an influx of refugees into the area covered by the regional delegation, particularly Zambia and Namibia, bringing the total to some 300,000. Among the refugees were a number of unaccompanied children whom the ICRC worked to repatriate or put in touch with their families. In Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe the ICRC visited 13 refugee camps to ensure that the Red Cross message (RCM) network was functioning properly and that refugees had the opportunity to restore or maintain written communication with their families. While in the camps, the ICRC registered 37 unaccompanied children, mostly from the DRC, but was unable to reunite them with their families because of the security situation in their countries of origin.

During the year, the ICRC distributed 4,894 RCMs in Namibia, 8,543 in Zambia and 622 in Zimbabwe. As the ICRC relied on the cooperation of the National Societies in the distribution of RCMs, efforts were undertaken to strengthen their capacity to perform this task efficiently, so as to reduce the time-lapse between collection and delivery.

The ICRC continued to monitor events in the countries covered, gathering allegations of abuses against the civilian population. In Zimbabwe, it submitted a report on the political violence linked to the 2000 elections and, during high-level meetings with the authorities, stressed the importance of protecting the civilian population. Also in Zimbabwe, the ICRC continued to assess the situation of displaced farm workers, and in Namibia it collected allegations of abuse in the Kavango and Caprivi areas and made representations where appropriate.

Assistance was also provided as needs arose. In Zimbabwe, where the number of people fleeing their homes in rural areas and heading for Harare because of political violence increased, the ICRC interviewed small groups of internally displaced people (IDPs) who took refuge in Harare and provided them with basic food items, soap and blankets. The biggest distribution was to 679 permanently displaced people registered during an assessment by the Zimbabwean NGO the Amani Trust. Through the Trust, the ICRC made a one-off distribution of 7,000 kg of roller meal (nutritionally enriched corn flour), 200 kg of *kapenta* (dried fish), 306 kg of cooking oil, 600 kg of beans, 400 kg of fine salt, 300 kg of laundry soap, 1,000 blankets and 50 mats. In Namibia, the ICRC distributed blankets and mats to 279 families (1,729 people) who were victims of attacks by armed groups operating in Kavango. It was unable to reach other people in need as they were in areas that were off-limits for security reasons.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In order to ascertain whether people arrested and detained in the various countries of the region were being held in conditions which conformed to international humanitarian standards, the ICRC conducted visits to prisons in Botswana and Namibia. In Botswana, it visited four prisons holding 35 Namibians detained in connection with the Caprivi uprising. The ICRC presented the authorities with a working paper in which it made recommendations concerning the detainees' living conditions and treatment and certain legal considerations.

In Namibia, the ICRC conducted eight visits to eight places of detention, including police stations. It also visited 134 Namibians detained in connection with the Caprivi uprising and 80 Angolans detained in Namibia. In January the ICRC obtained permission from the Ministry of the Interior for the Angolans to restore links with their families by means of the RCM network. To secure access to all those arrested in connection with the conflict in Angola, the ICRC submitted an offer of services to the government at the end of March. A reply was still awaited at the end of the year. Also in March, the ICRC made an offer of services to the Zambian government covering all people falling within the ICRC's purview. By the end of the year, however, a reply concerning all categories of detainees had not yet been received.

The detainees visited in Namibia and Botswana were given the opportunity to re-establish or maintain contact with their relatives, whether within the countries concerned or abroad, via the RCM network. The number of RCMs distributed to detainees in the countries covered by the Harare regional delegation was 286.

WOUNDED AND SICK

In Namibia, the ICRC organized a surgical seminar for health professionals working for the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Defence. After the seminar the ICRC donated sufficient medicines and surgical material to hospitals in the Kavango region to treat 300 war-wounded (100 in Rundu central hospital and 50 in each of the four district hospitals in the north). Between March and September 2001, among the 88 war-wounded treated in Rundu hospital there were 35 amputees.

In Namibia, a Memorandum of Understanding on a prosthetic/orthotic programme was signed with the Ministry of Health on 25 October. It was agreed that the programme would start in January 2002.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to encourage the governments in the countries of the region to sign and ratify the international humanitarian treaties. There was no lack of political will on the part of the governments, but progress was slow. One success was achieved in February when Zambia ratified the Ottawa treaty, and by the end of the year Botswana was in the process of depositing its instruments of accession to the 1954 Hague Convention on Cultural Property with the United Nations. In all the countries covered, the ICRC provided legal expertise to promote the drafting of domestic legislation to incorporate the provisions of the humanitarian treaties.

In Botswana and Zimbabwe, draft legislation for national implementation of the Statute of the International Criminal Court was in preparation. In Malawi, the Ministry of Justice was working on a draft to amend domestic legislation to incorporate the Additional Protocols.

The governments of the countries covered by the regional delegation took part in the ICRC/UNESCO Regional Southern African Development Community (SADC) Seminar on the Implementation of Humanitarian Law and Cultural Heritage Protection Law which was held in Pretoria in June. The seminar was attended by government representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Defence and Culture from SADC member States and Madagascar.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Efforts were pursued to encourage the inclusion of IHL in training programmes for the armed and security forces.

In Zimbabwe, the ICRC continued to contribute to the UN Military Observer Course at the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Harare. In February, it received a copy of a ministerial directive requiring the inclusion of IHL in all the Zimbabwean

armed forces' training courses. It then began focusing efforts on the provision of courses for the air force.

In Namibia, a ministerial directive on IHL training for the Namibian Defence Force was being prepared. The ICRC assisted by providing the Ministry of Defence with relevant documentation.

In Zambia, the ICRC gave the authorities several examples of ministerial directives to encourage the dissemination of IHL within the Zambian armed forces.

In Mozambique, the ICRC pursued discussions with the Ministry of Defence, and its offer of services to support IHL training for the armed forces was accepted. A Portuguese-speaking ICRC specialist began giving sessions in October.

The relocation of the British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT) to the United Kingdom, which took effect from 31 March, prevented the ICRC from achieving its objective with regard to BMATT regional courses. New contacts were, however, established through the Defence Adviser at the British High Commission in Harare to ensure that the ICRC would remain informed of future developments and courses conducted by BMATT/SADC armed forces.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The media remained an effective means of reaching a wide audience to promote knowledge of the mandate, role and activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. A half-day regional seminar for journalists was held in Harare in September with the aim of making the participants better acquainted with ICRC activities in the six countries covered by the delegation. The interview with the head of delegation was reported on the main news bulletins the following day. This aroused the interest of local journalists.

AFRICA HARARE

To mark Mine-Awareness Day on 28 September 2001, an ICRC exhibition on the Ottawa treaty was shown at the regional delegation. Subsequently the ICRC mission in Namibia, with support from the Namibia Red Cross Society, mounted the exhibition at the University of Namibia, at Wernhill shopping centre in Windhoek and at the Franco Cultural Centre. The opening of the exhibition was announced twice on national television and received extensive media coverage. An estimated 10,000 people viewed the exhibition, and National Society volunteers distributed landmine-awareness material to visitors.

The Mozambique Red Cross Society set up the Ottawa treaty exhibition at Josina Machel Secondary School in Maputo. It attracted thousands of visitors, and Red Cross staff and volunteers distributed landmine publications and alerted the public to the danger of landmines throughout the exhibition period. To coincide with the exhibition, the National Society landmine-project officer carried out a mine-awareness campaign.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Dissemination

The role of the Movement was not as well known to the general public as it should be, so the ICRC focused on strengthening the capacity of the region's National Societies to spread knowledge of Red Cross activities.

As Zimbabwe prepared for the presidential elections scheduled for 2002, the ICRC started to assist the National Society in intensive dissemination activities geared towards the authorities and the general public. Priority was given to creating a positive public image and promoting respect for the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. Communication activities such as the regular broadcast of radio spots and the production of newsletters continued in Zimbabwe and throughout the region.

In Zambia, weekly 30-minute radio programmes were broadcast, including interviews with ICRC delegates. The feasibility of producing shorter programmes in each of the country's seven main languages was also being evaluated.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May was marked by all National Societies in the countries covered by the Harare regional delegation with parades, theatre groups, information stands, distributions of leaflets and other events promoting awareness of the Movement.

Tracing

The National Societies in the region remained an integral part of the Red Cross tracing network. In Zambia the National Society, whose tracing service was already operating at full capacity but suffering from weak management at headquarters, needed to be further strengthened so as to be able to cope with the increased workload resulting from the rising number of refugees in the country.

In Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, National Society tracing officers were also involved in other programmes – mainly flood relief – throughout the year, and this limited their capacity to carry out tracing work effectively.

Emergency preparedness and response

The ICRC continued to help the National Societies prepare themselves to respond in the event of an emergency.

By the end of the year, the radiocommunication networks of the National Societies in the region were fully operational. Requests for assistance in this area were dealt with as they arose, and major maintenance and installation work was undertaken in Botswana, Malawi and Zambia.

The emergency-preparedness capacity of several of the region's National Societies was demonstrated during floods which affected the region during the year. Volunteers and staff from both the Mozambique and the Malawi Red Cross Societies were involved in relief operations for flood victims in their respective countries.

In Malawi, National Society volunteers were deployed at the Queen Elizabeth hospital in Blantyre to clean wards, prepare food, and transport bodies to the hospital mortuary during a four-week strike by hospital staff in September and October.

The first draft of a new disaster-management plan for Namibia was produced in July. One of the plan's objectives was to open seven new National Society offices by June 2002, thereby extending coverage to the whole country. Lack of nationwide coverage had led to the temporary suspension of ICRC-supported conflict-preparedness and response programmes.

LAGOS

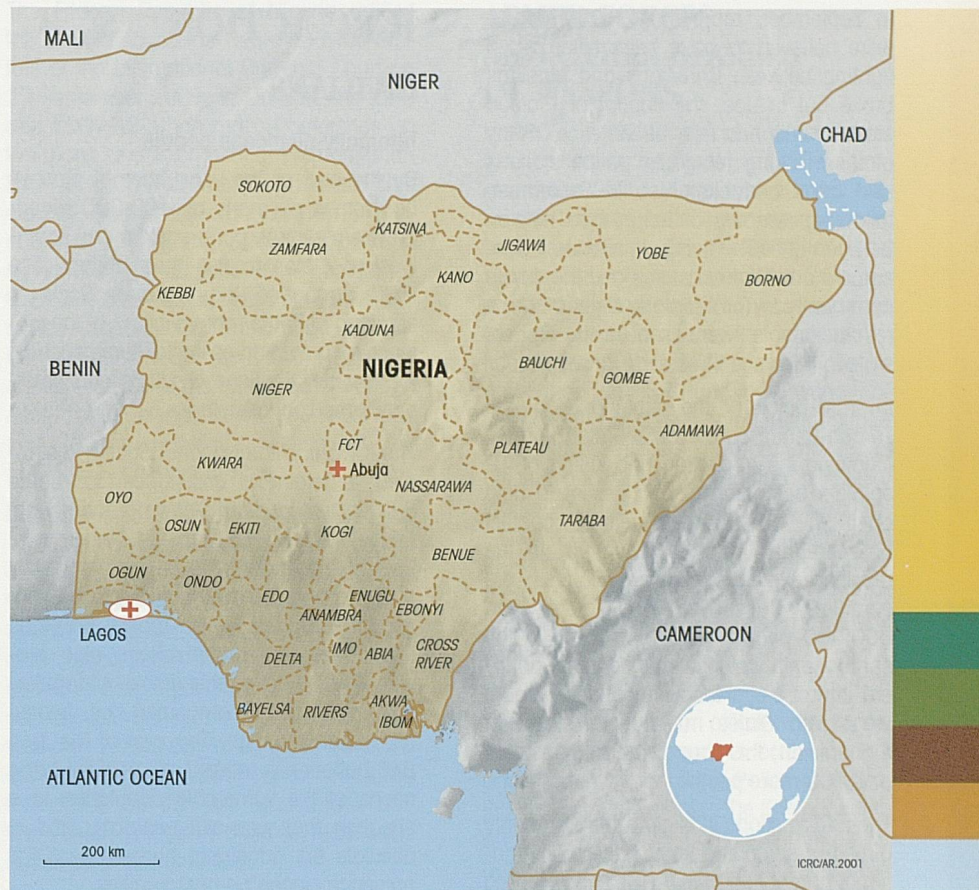
Regional delegation

Country covered:
NigeriaPersonnel:
4 expatriates
26 locally hired staff

Through its Lagos regional delegation, the ICRC maintains the operational capacity to provide people displaced by sporadic outbreaks of violence with protection and assistance. It works in close cooperation with the Nigerian Red Cross Society, helping to strengthen the National Society's capacity to respond to emergency situations anywhere in Nigeria. Preventive activities with political authorities, the armed forces, the police, and members of civil society (the media, NGOs and university students) form the other main components of the delegation's work.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	9,035
Assistance	1,444,161
Preventive Action	768,117
Cooperation with National Societies	894,142
General	71,926
Overheads	255,979

3,443,360

⊕ ICRC regional delegation + ICRC office

CONTEXT

Nigeria was plagued throughout the year by successive waves of intercommunal violence which left hundreds of people dead and caused hundreds of thousands to flee their homes, mainly in Kaduna, Nassarawa, Plateau, Bauchi, Kano, Benue and Taraba states.

In June and July 2001, in the central state of Nassarawa, violent clashes between Tiv and Hausa communities caused some 50,000 Tiv to flee to neighbouring Benue state, where they were housed in camps set up by the authorities. There had been earlier spates of violence in this area, par-

ticularly in April and May. At the end of June, intercommunal violence erupted again in central Nigeria, in Kaduna state, causing large-scale population movements.

In north-eastern Nigeria, violence broke out between Christians and Muslims in July and August in Tafawa Balewa in Bauchi state, in response to the introduction of Sharia law. More than 20,000 people fled the Bauchi area to seek safety in temporary camps nearby.

In September, more than 1,000 people were believed to have been killed when fighting between Christians and Muslims broke out in Jos, the capital of Plateau state. Thousands fled the violence, many of them taking refuge in police stations and army barracks. Also in September, following rumours of heightened tension between the Tiv living in Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau states and the Jukun community in Taraba state, Nigerian army reinforcements were sent from Bauchi state to intervene in eastern Taraba.

In mid-October, the situation on the Taraba-Benue border deteriorated sharply following the abduction and killing of 19 soldiers belonging to a unit sent to help quell the long-running ethnic conflict between the Tiv and the Jukun. In the resulting violence several villages were completely destroyed and more than 300,000 people were displaced. In the same month violence erupted in the northern city of Kano following protests about the United States military operations in Afghanistan; this caused the displacement of 8,000 more people.

The ICRC's efforts in Nigeria were primarily aimed at spreading knowledge of international humanitarian law (IHL) and the Red Cross mandate among the armed and police forces. The efforts bore fruit in that they enabled the organization to establish an extensive network of contacts and to forge solid cooperation with the Nigerian Red Cross Society for the implementation of a number of programmes, including the provision of assistance to victims of clashes. During the year the ICRC worked closely with the National Society, providing expertise for needs assessment and offering logistic resources in emergency situations. Furthermore, the smooth coordination among the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement greatly contributed to projecting an image of cohesiveness, further enhanced the public acceptance enjoyed by the Movement in Nigeria, and facilitated a rapid response to the needs of civilians in emergency situations.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Internally displaced people

By the end of the year, internal clashes had forced as many as 400,000 Nigerians from central, north-eastern and south-western states to flee their homes. The ICRC supported the National Society's efforts to help the many victims of the violence by providing essential items such as food, water, hygiene products and emergency medical assistance.

The ICRC and the National Society distributed emergency assistance to some 8,800 displaced families who had sought refuge in several camps in Nassarawa, Bauchi and Kaduna states. On their arrival at the camps, the internally displaced people (IDPs) were given basic non-food items. The two organizations also provided 3,800 vulnerable displaced families with food rations comprising rice, beans, oil, sugar and salt. The aim of the food distribution was twofold: to meet the basic needs of the vulnerable population in a situation that was still unstable; and to alleviate the additional burden the IDPs' presence placed on host families.

In Jos, Plateau state, the authorities supplied IDPs with food and water. With support from the Benue and Kaduna Red Cross branches, the local branch carried out medical evacuations and gave first aid. Meanwhile, in cooperation with the National Society, the ICRC distributed blankets, sleeping mats, plastic sheeting, buckets, soap and kitchen sets to some 15,000 IDPs who had lost all their possessions and, although their safety and survival were no longer at risk, were living with the bare minimum. In addition, medical material was supplied to treat wounded IDPs and an ICRC delegate travelled to the area to provide logistic support, assess security conditions and, in

particular, draw up a plan of action to meet IDP needs not covered by local or federal authorities or other humanitarian agencies.

With ICRC support, the Nigerian Red Cross distributed non-food items to 35,000 IDPs, of whom 22,000 were in nine camps in Taraba state and the remaining 13,000 in seven camps in Benue state. At the end of November, the same 35,000 IDPs received a one-off distribution of a month's food supplies.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

During the year the 27 state branches of the National Society continued their efforts to improve sanitation in prisons in their respective states. The ICRC provided support in the form of sanitation material. The Red Cross hygiene and sanitation programme covered some 90 prisons across the country and benefited an estimated detainee population of 30,000. The total supplies distributed during the year amounted to 1,800 litres of disinfectant, 4 tonnes of detergent and 25 tonnes of soap. The ICRC also gave ad hoc support to 10 of the National Society's branches or divisions in the form of fumigants and other cleaning products.

Thanks to an increase in the number of its staff, the ICRC was able to supervise the implementation of the prison sanitation programme in 10 different states during the last three months of the year. This additional manpower allowed the ICRC, via the National Society, to gain access to larger numbers of detainees.

WOUNDED AND SICK

At the outset of the October crisis, National Society volunteers from Taraba state evacuated about 25 sick and seriously injured patients to Mutum Biyu and Sankara hospitals and handed over medical supplies to the two facilities. They also looked after families arriving at Jalingo camp and in the town of Mutum Biyu, and gave first aid as needed. The Nigerian Red Cross also organized the distribution of clean water for these victims and, in Benue state, facilitated the evacuation of 1,700 people from Gboko to Makurdi.

Meanwhile, in Kano state, some 8,000 people took refuge in various government buildings and public facilities including military barracks, churches and schools. National Society volunteers helped local hospital staff to look after the injured and gave first-aid treatment to the displaced. In addition, a water transport system was set up to improve access to clean water for the most vulnerable IDPs.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to advise the Nigerian authorities on the incorporation of IHL into their domestic legislation, and to offer them support in this respect.

On 15 February 2001, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the ICRC signed a cooperation agreement which paved the way for the joint organization of a series of events to promote IHL in Nigeria. The two parties then issued a joint invitation to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice of the 15 ECOWAS member States to attend a seminar on the Statute of the International Criminal Court, due to be held in January 2002.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria ratified the Ottawa landmine treaty and the Statute of the International Criminal Court on 27 September 2001. In October, the ICRC and ECOWAS organized a Conference on Weapons and International Humanitarian Law for ECOWAS member States. This was the first jointly organized event pursuant to the signing of the cooperation agreement. The purpose of the conference was to raise awareness of the 1980 United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). High-level representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence of 14 countries took part in the two-day meeting at the ECOWAS Secretariat in Abuja.

Implementation measures required by the 1997 Convention prohibiting the use of anti-personnel mines, also known as the Ottawa treaty, to which 14 out of the 15 ECOWAS member States were party, were also discussed. The participants welcomed the rapid progress towards universal acceptance of the treaty. Emphasis was also placed on Protocol II to the CCW, as amended in 1996, which imposes restrictions on the use of anti-tank and anti-vehicle mines in order to reduce the risk of civilian casualties.

At the end of the year, both treaties were being examined by the National Assembly with a view to their implementation at national level.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In 2001, the ICRC held an IHL course for 300 officers in their final year at the Command and Staff College, which trains officers to become battalion commanders or brigade officers. The presentation had become an integral part of the College's programme and the ICRC was asked to prepare a test to assess the participants' knowledge of IHL. At the Infantry Centre and School, the ICRC and the National Society conducted a session on IHL for a total of 70 junior officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers attending a special warfare and anti-terrorist course. Alongside the basic rules of humanitarian law, the emphasis was placed on the fundamental Red Cross principles and the ICRC's need to have access to victims affected by internal violence.

The ICRC regional delegate and the national dissemination officer of the Nigerian Red Cross delivered a lecture on IHL and human rights at the Police Staff College for 50 participants. The ICRC donated an IHL library to the College and its Commandant pledged to help facilitate access for the ICRC to the Mobile Police School in Maiduguri.

Elsewhere, the ICRC held meetings with operational commanders in Jos, capital of Plateau state, and in Benue and Taraba states regarding access to victims of inter-communal violence. As a result, the ICRC and the National Society enjoyed the full cooperation of the armed forces in their work and were granted unrestricted freedom of movement.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In cooperation with the Nigerian Red Cross, the ICRC organized an exhibition on women and war at the Goethe Institute in Lagos in July 2001, and later in the year in Yola and Jos, the capitals of Adamawa and Plateau states respectively. In October, the same exhibition was presented in Abuja during the conference on IHL and weapons organized jointly by ECOWAS and the ICRC. The aim of the exhibition was to raise awareness of the plight and the rights of women in conflict situations. The exhibition comprised the winning entries in a painting contest on the theme organized earlier in the year by the ICRC.

At the end of the year, in an effort to maintain a high level of awareness of the subject, the ICRC sent greetings cards and ICRC calendars for 2002 on the theme of women and war to 1,200 of its contacts in Nigeria, including all Ministers, members of the National Assembly, state Governors, senior military and police officers, diplomats, journalists, members of NGOs, former leaders, members of the business community and staff of the National Red Cross Society.

During the year, the ICRC continued its regular exchange of correspondence and informational material on its mandate and activities with a number of NGOs working in the area of human rights.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Thirty-five out of the 37 Red Cross branch secretaries, 12 zone officers responsible for health and emergency-preparedness programmes, 10 national officers and representatives of National Society headquarters, and several International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and ICRC staff attended the Nigerian Red Cross Society's annual staff seminar held in Abuja in October 2001. The meeting provided the participants with an opportunity to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the most recent relief operations.

The 37 branch secretaries and 12 zone officers also attended a tracing workshop conducted by the ICRC in October 2001. The main objectives of the workshop were to ensure better follow-up of tracing cases and to brief the participants on the respective responsibilities of the ICRC and the National Society for tracing in emergency situations.

As the National Society was busy responding to numerous emergencies, the implementation of the emergency-preparedness programme (EPR) was delayed in 2001. Nonetheless, 80% of its EPR zone officers were trained as well as several EPR team leaders. On a positive note, the hundreds of volunteers who took part in the various emergency operations gained valuable hands-on experience, as did the zone officers in charge of the operations.

With a view to facilitating access to all victims of intercommunal clashes, particularly in the northern region, the National Society and the ICRC launched an awareness-raising programme on the red cross emblem. The programme comprised the production of information pamphlets in Hausa and English, a radio jingle, a radio drama in Hausa, and national and state television broadcasts in the north. The programme began at the end of the year and was due to continue throughout 2002.

At the beginning of the year, together with the ICRC and the National Society, the NGO Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action implemented the first phase of its Alternatives to Violence Project Nigeria (AVP) in Lagos, Port Harcourt and Kaduna. The goal of the AVP was to encourage and motivate young people prone to violence to modify their attitudes and behaviour, either by training them to become local Red Cross volunteers or by involving them in activities that benefited their communities. Results were extremely promising, especially in Kaduna where the participants came from antagonist groups that had been involved in widespread violence in 2000.

By June 2001, nine AVP workshops had been held in the three locations for some 270 participants. In the context of the project, the NGO also conducted five facilitator-level workshops for 91 participants, 26 from Lagos, 32 from Port Harcourt and 33 from Kaduna.

By the end of the year, 23 AVP workshops had been conducted which were attended by a total of 323 participants, including 72 Nigerian Red Cross Society volunteers. The first phase of the AVP came to a successful conclusion in 2001, with a good number of the participants having been registered as new National Society volunteers – 75 from Kaduna, 54 from Port Harcourt and 65 from Lagos.

NAIROBI

Regional delegation

Countries covered:

Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania

Personnel:

36 expatriates

411 locally hired staff

The ICRC's regional delegation in Nairobi has a dual purpose: first, to carry out operations and pursue humanitarian diplomacy in the three countries covered; and secondly, to provide logistic services for ICRC operations in neighbouring countries of the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes regions, or even further afield.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection

1,216,097

Assistance

3,639,142

Preventive Action

1,648,788

Cooperation with National Societies

1,693,849

General

474,348

Overheads

481,593

9,153,815



ICRC regional delegation
 ICRC sub-delegation
 ICRC mission
 ICRC office
 ICRC hospital
 Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

CONTEXT

Kenya

Political debate in Kenya continued to intensify ahead of the presidential elections scheduled for 2002.

Violence remained a major cause for concern. In remote rural areas throughout Kenya, clashes between farmers and nomadic communities, most commonly over access to scarce water resources and farm and grazing land ravaged by climatic extremes, left many dead or wounded and displaced many others. The situation was complicated by the growing problem of arms trafficking. In cooperation with the

Kenya Red Cross Society, the ICRC responded by providing food and other assistance and distributing water to people fleeing fighting. These activities were combined with longer-term projects to construct water and irrigation systems in violence-prone regions.

At the end of 2001, some 200,000 refugees from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Rwanda were living in Kenya. For many, the Red Cross message (RCM) and tracing service was the only means of communicating with their families.

AFRICA NAIROBI

Tanzania

After the violent disturbances of late January connected with the October 2000 elections, calm returned to the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba. Tanzania continued to host the Burundi peace talks and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). In November, in a step towards forging closer union within the East African Community, the Presidents of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda officially launched the East African Legislative Assembly and the East African Court of Justice in Arusha.

Tanzania continued to feel the effects of conflicts in neighbouring countries. Over half a million refugees from Burundi, the DRC and, to a lesser extent, Rwanda were living in Tanzania's Western Corridor region. In 2001, the ICRC's priority in Tanzania was to provide an efficient RCM and tracing service for refugees, to monitor the conditions of detention of people held in Zanzibar in connection with the January events and in Arusha at the ICTR, and to provide support for medical centres treating the war-wounded arriving from Burundi and the DRC.

Djibouti

On 12 May, the Djibouti government and the Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy signed a peace accord ending their 10-year conflict. ICRC activities focused on monitoring the treatment and living conditions of detainees held for reasons of State security and disseminating international humanitarian law (IHL) among various target groups.

Regional support

In addition to its activities in Kenya, Tanzania and Djibouti, the regional delegation in Nairobi supplied a wide range of essential services for ICRC operations in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region, and even further afield. Nairobi-based ICRC experts provided advice and field support in the areas of nutrition, agriculture, medicine and surgery, water and sanitation, and the dissemination of IHL among the armed forces. The ICRC's Nairobi Logistics Centre maintained – and stood ready to deliver by truck, ship or aircraft – sufficient emergency stocks to meet the food, non-food, shelter, water and sanitation needs of 100,000 people for seven days and an additional 50,000 people over three months.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Kenya

In Kenya, tribal and ethnic clashes continued in 2001, mainly in rural areas where nomads and farmers fought over scarce water resources. The ICRC provided food and other aid for people displaced by the fighting, and carried out projects to repair damaged community infrastructure, particularly water-supply systems and schools.

Internally displaced people

In 2001, the ICRC and the Kenya Red Cross jointly provided ad hoc medical assistance, food and other items for over 13,000 people displaced by fighting.

In the Tana River district, for example, violence increased in the course of the year between the pastoral Orma and Wardey communities and the farming Pokomo community. In November the ICRC, together with the Kenya Red Cross, launched a three-month food distribution programme, provided access to water by means of a 10,000-litre bladder tank and supplied plastic sheeting and latrine slabs for 6,000 internally displaced people in the district.

During the violent clashes that took place in Nairobi's Kibera slum in December, the Kenya Red Cross, with ICRC support, distributed food, tarpaulins and blankets, installed a 5,000-litre plastic tank and trucked in water over five days for 650 displaced families.

Water and habitat

In two rural regions severely affected by intercommunal clashes over shared water resources, the ICRC initiated projects to rehabilitate water systems.

In the Kerio Valley, the scene of conflict between the Pokot and Marakwet tribes, an ICRC project delegated to the American Red Cross achieved its main goals. The project, which reached some 30,000 people in the Pokot, Marakwet and eastern Baringo regions, centred on providing water, rebuilding schools and strengthening the capacity of the local Red Cross to promote hygiene awareness. Activities in 2001 included digging wells and drilling boreholes, installing generators, pumps, tapstands and latrines, and building or repairing water collection tanks and dams. With no sign of a let-up in tribal tensions, in August the ICRC and American Red Cross decided to extend the project until April/May 2002.

Tribal violence in the Rift Valley between the Kikuyu and semi-nomadic herdsmen prompted the ICRC to set up a regional water-rehabilitation project, which was delegated to the Swedish Red Cross. In 2001, the main activity was repairing or drilling boreholes to serve some 20,000 people. After the project was launched, tension eased in the area and the number of reported cases of water-borne diseases declined.

The ICRC's Wajir water project was delayed by security concerns, but three boreholes were drilled and equipped with pumps and generators to benefit some 15,000 families.

Restoring family links

In 2001, over 200,000 refugees from Burundi, the DRC, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and Rwanda were living in camps in northern and north-eastern Kenya. During the year, the Kenya Red Cross handled some 50,000 Red Cross messages (RCMs) on behalf of the refugees.

Tanzania**Emergency assistance**

During the post-election clashes between government forces and protesters on the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba in late January, a joint ICRC/Tanzania Red Cross Society team distributed emergency medical supplies to hospitals.

Restoring family links

The year 2001 saw a new influx of refugees into Tanzania, mainly from Burundi and the DRC, bringing the total living in the country's Western Corridor to over 500,000. The Tanzania Red Cross Society, with ICRC support, handled 15,400 RCMs on behalf of the refugees during the year.

Water and sanitation

The ICRC/Tanzania Red Cross project, set up in the Zanzibar archipelago in 1999 to improve water and sanitation in villages prone to cholera outbreaks, proved successful in promoting hygiene awareness. The project built and repaired wells, latrines and communal bathing areas to serve some 7,500 families.

Djibouti**Restoring family links**

Some 21,000 Somali refugees from Somaliland and 700 Ethiopian refugees had been living in Djibouti since 1990. In 2001, 560 RCMs were exchanged on their behalf.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**Tanzania**

In Tanzania, the ICRC regularly visited detainees held in prisons on Zanzibar and Pemba following the January disturbances, and also in the ICTR detention facility in Arusha.

Within two weeks of the clashes on the islands, the ICRC had carried out its first prison visit and registered 50 new detainees in Pemba and nine in Zanzibar. During the year it conducted four visits to Wete prison, Pemba, and four to Kilimani prison, Zanzibar, and submitted recommendations concerning the treatment and living conditions of the detainees to the relevant authorities. The ICRC also held four dissemination sessions on the basic rules of IHL and ICRC activities for some 260 prison warders.

The ICRC went twice to the United Nations detention facility in Arusha to monitor the conditions and treatment of 48 detainees held in connection with the ICTR.

Djibouti

The ICRC carried out four visits to Gabode central prison to monitor the treatment and living conditions of 13 detainees held for State security reasons after the December 2000 disturbances, and made representations to the relevant authorities. The ICRC also repaired the prison's water-supply and sewerage system.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Tanzania

Owing to the ongoing conflicts in neighbouring Burundi and the DRC, there was a steady flow of war-wounded into Tanzania, where medical facilities lacked the resources and expertise to cope with emergency surgery. The ICRC provided three hospitals in Kigoma, Heri and Kibonda and nine dispensaries with material and financial support, and helped organize the transfer of wounded refugees from reception centres to hospitals.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC regional delegation promoted the implementation of IHL and the ratification of humanitarian treaties by the authorities of the countries it covered.

Kenya

There was significant progress in the area of IHL in Kenya, which ratified the Ottawa landmines treaty on 27 January. With ICRC support and input, Kenya also set up a National Committee for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law. The official launch of the Committee in October was attended by government officials, members of Parliament and of the diplomatic and academic communities, and the Presidents of the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. And for the first time, the ICRC was regularly invited to give lectures on its activities and IHL at the Kenya Institute of Administration and at other government training institutes.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Kenya

Significant advances were made in 2001 to promote knowledge of IHL among Kenya's armed and security forces, but the subject was still not included in standard training programmes.

Armed forces

At the start of 2001, the ICRC took part in the African Crisis Response Initiative, an international training programme for peace-keeping operations held in Kenya and Tanzania. Relations were established with high-ranking military officials at the National Defence College and the new Peace Support Training Centre in Nairobi. The ICRC donated an IHL library to the Centre and, in December, gave three sessions on the basic rules of IHL and the ICRC for 28 battalion officers about to join the United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia. At the National Defence College, a similar session was given for 40 participants from the armed forces of Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and Namibia, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and College staff.

Other bearers of weapons

In 2001, the ICRC conducted three dissemination seminars reaching some 300 officers of Kenya's security force, the General Service Unit (GSU). Some 7,000 new GSU recruits took part in a day-long programme on the work of the Red Cross which included a battle simulation with medical evacuations and first aid.

Tanzania

Armed forces

IHL was taught as a compulsory subject to trainee officers at the Command and Staff College in Arusha but had not been fully incorporated in all training programmes of the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF). Four ICRC seminars on IHL were held in different parts of the country in 2001 for TPDF army, navy and air-force officers.

The ICRC was involved in the planning and execution of Tanzanite, an international peace-keeping exercise involving 17 countries under the umbrella of the RECAMP 3 (Reinforcement of African Peacekeeping Capabilities) initiative. Delegates gave talks and took part in simulation exercises to promote knowledge of the ICRC's mandate.

Other bearers of weapons

During 2001, the ICRC held seven courses on the basic rules of IHL and ICRC activities for over 400 police officers on the violence-prone islands of Zanzibar and Pemba.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Kenya

To improve knowledge of IHL among civilians in Kenya, the ICRC focused on promoting the teaching of the subject in universities and fostering contacts with the media to draw attention to related issues.

With ICRC support, the United States International University-Africa launched an elective course on IHL, thus becoming the fourth university in Kenya to teach the subject. In Arusha, Tanzania, in November, five Kenyan universities took part in the first East African moot court competition on IHL, organized by the ICRC and held at the ICTR.

A new 20-minute video entitled *Women, Water and Survival*, produced as part of the ICRC's "Women and War" campaign, was broadcast nationwide on three television channels, KTN, Nation and KBC.

Tanzania

At Dar es Salaam University, which introduced IHL as a subject in its public international law course last year, the ICRC gave a two-hour talk to 30 students and took part in the inauguration of a course entitled "Refugees and Humanitarian Affairs".

New media contacts were made via a two-day ICRC seminar for 18 Tanzanian journalists representing 15 print, radio and television media.

Djibouti

The ICRC was in regular contact with the National Educational Research Centre to discuss the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law project. The aim was to include the project in secondary-school curricula countrywide. In December, three teachers from the Djibouti Ministry of Education and the Djibouti Red Cross took part in a train-the-trainers seminar in Geneva.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Kenya

The Kenya Red Cross Society played a major role, with ICRC support, in responding to humanitarian problems in the country and in the dissemination of IHL and the role of the Red Cross. During 2001, the National Society was reorganized, and two Kenyan ICRC employees were seconded to it to help develop assistance and information/dissemination activities.

The ICRC continued to provide financial, material and training support for the Kenya Red Cross tracing and dissemination services. The National Society and the ICRC jointly set up a tracing data bank, and 21 tracing and dissemination officers attended the annual four-day tracing workshop in June. At the end of the year, an ICRC/Kenya Red Cross team carried out an assessment of the National Society's tracing services in refugee camps.

To respond to outbreaks of political or tribal violence, the ICRC and the Kenya Red Cross jointly formulated a National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan. The Kenya Red Cross, with eight other National Societies, attended a regional disaster-response workshop organized by the International Federation with ICRC support in Nairobi. As a follow-up, the Kenya Red Cross, with the ICRC, held another disaster-response course for 37 participants in the conflict-prone Tana River district. Both workshops involved simulation exercises on the assessment of needs and the distribution of emergency aid. A series of first-aid instructor and refresher courses were also given jointly by the ICRC, the International Federation and the Kenya Red Cross for over 100 Red Cross workers.

Tanzania

At the beginning of 2001, the ICRC and the Tanzania Red Cross carried out a full-scale assessment of the tracing programme in the refugee camps in the Western Corridor, and subsequently came to an agreement on finance and administration. The National Society, with ICRC support, also stepped up its dissemination sessions to make its role and activities better known. For example, a series of five information sessions held in the Lugufu refugee camp resulted in the refugees eagerly filling out RCMs.

The ICRC also increased first-aid training for Red Cross workers, especially in hot spots such as Zanzibar and Pemba. In 2001, 23 first-aid instructor and refresher courses were held for 61 participants. The ICRC also provided Tanzania Red Cross branches with first-aid kits and stretchers.

PRETORIA

Regional delegation

Countries covered:

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

Personnel:

6 expatriates
23 locally hired staff

The Pretoria regional delegation keeps a close eye on the domestic situation in the countries covered, promotes the incorporation of international humanitarian law (IHL) into domestic law and into military and police training, and provides services to restore family links for civilian victims of violence. In cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, it also supports the region's National Societies in their efforts to disseminate humanitarian law, develop their tracing activities and prepare for emergencies.


Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	259,890
Assistance	7,615
Preventive Action	1,114,303
Cooperation with National Societies	1,096,445
General	263,039
Overheads	179,916

2,921,208

AFRICA PRETORIA



 ICRC regional delegation

CONTEXT

In 2001, South Africa was the ICRC's operational focus in the region. The government took steps during the year to implement President Mbeki's Millennium Recovery Plan. It increased its efforts to tackle economic and health problems and to improve the security situation, and increasing foreign-policy initiatives clearly indicated South Africa's intention to be a regional power. On the political level, however, internal difficulties grew for the President and there was further evidence of problems within the ruling party. There were also challenges from the business world, the political opposition and the South African media. Violent and organized crime remained a major problem.

Elections also caused tension in the region. Madagascar experienced intense electoral activity, beginning with the provincial elections in December 2000 and continuing throughout 2001. In June, President Didier Ratsiraka officially announced that he would run for another term of office. The first round of the presidential elections took place on 16 December 2001, with opposition candidate and mayor of Antananarivo Marc Ravalomanana seemingly taking the lead. The Constitutional Court was due to release the final results in January 2002. In Lesotho, after several postponements of the election date, public dissatisfaction increased as citizens awaited the polls scheduled for

the beginning of 2002. Strong disagreements persisted between Lesotho's political parties as well as with the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Elsewhere in the region political tensions also ran high. The Comoros remained plagued by unrest even though, on 17 February 2001, an accord was signed with the breakaway Comoran island of Anjouan establishing a follow-up committee in charge of drawing up a new constitution and establishing an independent electoral commission. Delays were frequent and the time-frame for approval of the Constitution was not respected. On 9 August, the leader of Anjouan, Colonel Abeid, was toppled in a *coup d'état*. The new military leadership also faced an attempted *coup* some weeks later, but the situation was kept under control by the army; Abeid tried in vain to regain power in November. The following month was particularly difficult for the Comoros, with the Constitution being called into question by the opposition. A referendum was held on 23 December, but at the end of the year the official result was still not known.

Although the political crisis that had erupted in Swaziland during the last quarter of 2000 had died down, the underlying problems remain unresolved. Members of the Constitutional Review Commission were divided on the subject of political reforms. On 22 June the King issued a decree reinforcing the 1973 Act which suspended the 1968 Constitution and banned political parties and activity.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

The political tension that arose in Swaziland at the end of 2000 caused several families, comprising some 80 individuals, to seek refuge in South Africa. The ICRC assessed their medical and nutritional status and provided emergency food and other assistance as needed. Shelter was provided by the local authorities. The South African government granted the Swazis asylum until they were able to return home in June. Following meetings between the ICRC and the army and police, the Swaziland National Society organized dissemination sessions for troops posted in the villages of these families.

There were thousands of economic refugees or asylum seekers in South Africa during the year. The ICRC's Red Cross message (RCM) service enabled separated family members to keep in touch with one another, and the ICRC also provided 89 travel documents to enable refugees to resettle abroad. Some 1,252 RCMs were distributed in the countries covered by the regional delegation.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC visited 51 detainees, including security detainees, in Koki and Moroni in the Comoros. Reports relating to the treatment and material conditions of the detainees held at these two places of detention were submitted to, and discussed with, the authorities. The ICRC met the State Prosecutor to make recommendations about the detainees' living conditions and treatment. In Moroni, the prison authorities informed the ICRC that the Internal Regulations for the Prison Population and the Guards had been finalized, following the ICRC's recommendations.

Financial constraints made it difficult for the authorities to ensure proper maintenance of the prisons and supply the necessary food, medical care and sanitation facilities. The ICRC provided the detainees with hygiene articles during its visits. In Koki, the ICRC took over supervision of a project to provide running water, funded by the French embassy and implemented by *Aide médicale internationale*.

AUTHORITIES

The main aim of the ICRC's contacts with the authorities of countries in the region in 2001 was to encourage them to create interministerial/national committees to oversee the implementation of IHL and the incorporation of its provisions into domestic legislation. These efforts bore fruit in Lesotho and the Seychelles. In the former, the first draft of a bill setting up a national humanitarian law committee in Lesotho was prepared during an ICRC-sponsored seminar, and the new Committee met for the first time in April under ICRC guidance. In the Seychelles, an interministerial committee was created in June.

Some progress was also made in Mauritius and the Comoros. In Mauritius, the government decided to create a national humanitarian law committee to advise and assist the government in the implementation of IHL instruments to which Mauritius is party. The ICRC gave its views on which ministries should be involved and what their functions should be. In the Comoros, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs designated an official to liaise with the Comoros Red Crescent with a view to establishing an interministerial committee.

AFRICA PRETORIA

In Swaziland and Madagascar the ICRC continued to remind the government of the importance of such national bodies. In Swaziland, a national seminar on IHL and the creation of a national implementation body took place at the beginning of December with the participation of the main ministries and other institutions such as the National Society and the University. In Madagascar, the election crisis set back the schedule.

Otherwise, progress, albeit slow, was made in incorporating the provisions of IHL treaties into domestic legislation. South Africa's Interministerial Committee was established in November 2000, and during 2001 completed draft legislation for the implementation of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. In Lesotho, a draft Geneva Conventions Act prepared by the ICRC was presented at the Interministerial Committee meeting in August 2001. In Mauritius, the draft legislation on the Ottawa landmine treaty was finalized. In South Africa, the ICRC maintained regular contact with the authorities, and by the end of the year the Geneva Conventions bill and the International Criminal Court Statute bill had been submitted by the government for consideration by Parliament. The Ottawa treaty bill was scheduled to be submitted in February 2002 at the next sitting. The ICRC-UNESCO Regional Seminar on the Implementation of IHL was held in Pretoria from 19 to 21 June with the participation of the SADC States and Madagascar.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC continued its efforts to have IHL modules included in training programmes for defence and security forces in the countries covered by the regional delegation. The military authorities of the Seychelles confirmed their intention to coordinate with the ICRC to this end. An

instructor was selected to attend courses organized by the Madagascan armed forces, with ICRC support. The Police Commissioner requested the support of the ICRC in incorporating IHL teaching into the initial training of police officers at the Police Academy and welcomed a National Society dissemination programme. A session on IHL was organized for about 30 police officers.

In the Comoros, two IHL training sessions took place for 19 army, police and *gendarmerie* officers and 48 non-commissioned officers on Anjouan early in the year. The armed and security forces included IHL in training for all levels on a regular basis. In Moroni and on Mohéli, the Comoros Red Crescent dissemination officer took part in IHL training for new recruits, and material was handed out at each training session. The head of the *Cabinet militaire* attended the course on IHL in San Remo, Italy.

In Madagascar the ICRC financed the organization of a regional military seminar for high-ranking officers, which took place in Antsirabe Military Academy from 3 to 8 September. The ICRC took advantage of the opportunity to train instructors from the defence forces of the Comoros, Seychelles and Mauritius.

In South Africa, the ICRC organized a seminar on 5 October for representatives of the Ministry of Defence and of the army, air force, navy and medical service. The seminar covered IHL, the obligations of the State in terms of including IHL in training programmes for the armed forces, and an assessment of the current programme. Some 35 senior officials and high-ranking officers – the entire top military command – took part. The ICRC also gave presentations on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities to members of the South African MONUC¹ contingent.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Universities

Students, academics and the educational authorities were becoming increasingly aware of humanitarian law and the ensuing obligations for signatory States. The main events of the year were the first Pan-African IHL course held on the campus of the University of Pretoria from 6 to 14 November and the first regional IHL teachers' meeting on 9 November. The two events attracted students and teachers of IHL from all over the region and succeeded in building up a network for the sharing of expertise and information.

Furthermore, the ICRC met and established good working relations with the Dean and humanitarian law professors at Lesotho University. IHL was introduced as part of the curriculum and was taught on a regular basis. A representative of the University contributed to the establishment of the national humanitarian law committee.

In October the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences of Mauritius University agreed to the ICRC's proposal to include IHL in the law curriculum. To this end, the University appointed a teacher who had already received ICRC training.

In Madagascar, the ICRC's legal adviser had talks with the University of Antananarivo's public international law professor who was interested in teaching IHL as part of his course. This began during the first semester of the academic year. Similarly, a draft Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Swaziland was submitted to the Dean of the Social Sciences Faculty for approval and subsequently to the Vice-Chancellor. The law professor planned to teach IHL as part of the public international law course at the beginning of the 2002 academic year, with the support of the ICRC.

¹ United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Secondary schools

The ICRC continued to facilitate the implementation of its educational programme "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) into the formal education systems of South Africa and the Seychelles. In South Africa, the Minister of Education reiterated his commitment to the programme, stating that it was "a valuable contribution to the common values and understanding currently being sought in the Curriculum 2004 Reform". A national programme coordinator was appointed and travelled to Geneva to attend a Master Trainers' workshop organized by the ICRC. A plan of action was adopted to incorporate EHL into the "Life Orientation" syllabus at secondary level. The modules will be translated into the 11 dialects used in teaching, and teacher-training and pilot schemes will take place in each of the nine provinces from 2003. An assessment of the feasibility of extending the programme to the non-formal sector will be carried out by external partners such as the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation and the Human Sciences Research Council.

In the Seychelles, following a series of consultative meetings spearheaded by the National Institute of Education (NIE), the Ministry of Education endorsed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the inclusion of EHL in the national secondary curriculum. A senior NIE official was appointed as coordinator and received training in Geneva. A working group comprising heads of faculties, curriculum coordinators and education specialists was set up to review the content and to design an implementation strategy. A series of teacher-training sessions and the final adaptation of the materials and their distribution to all secondary schools were due to be completed by the end of 2002. It was expected that by January 2003 EHL would be included in the syllabus of "Personal and Social Education, History, English and the Arts", and that systematic teaching would begin.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The six countries of the region, although very different geographically and economically, shared some common features when it came to their National Societies. These lacked sustainable structures and had weak economic foundations, relatively poor volunteer management, and little capacity for internal training. The financial straits of the Lesotho and South African National Societies were particularly serious and hampered activities in all areas.

Improvement of the Red Cross image and dissemination of the Fundamental Principles are permanent tasks of National Societies, so the ICRC continued to strengthen their capacity in this regard in the countries covered by the regional delegation. The Comoros Red Crescent, which was still not recognized by the Movement, drafted a manual and training material, which were being finalized and translated into the national language at the end of the year. The dissemination officer conducted sessions for members of the community, National Society volunteers, members of the military and the government, and police trainees. A draft dissemination training manual designed to meet national criteria was also being prepared by the South African Red Cross Society. In Mauritius, little progress was made in the field of dissemination as the National Society did not fill the post of dissemination officer until November. Once appointed, however, the officer was invited by the ICRC to attend the first regional workshop for dissemination staff.

In order to respond promptly and effectively in an emergency, the National Societies needed well-trained first-aid teams. In the Comoros, a draft emergency-preparedness and response training document was submitted to the ICRC for approval. The political events in the autumn severely affected even the limited progress that the National Society had been expected to make. In Madagascar, a first-aid manual in Malagasy was in preparation. The ICRC conducted a mission to the Mauritian island of Rodrigues in order to improve the communications system in the island's branch of the National Society and thus enhance its disaster preparedness. The ICRC also provided a reference library for the branch.

YAOUNDÉ

Regional delegation

Countries covered:

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

Personnel:

6 expatriates
18 locally hired staff

Through its Yaoundé regional delegation, the ICRC closely monitors developments in the countries covered, particularly the Central African Republic and Chad. In addition to its work on behalf of detainees, it promotes dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) and lends technical, material and financial support to National Societies throughout the region.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	804,537
Assistance	973,513
Preventive Action	479,845
Cooperation with National Societies	837,400
General	245,719
Overheads	191,112
Total	3,532,126

AFRICA YAOUNDÉ



ICRC regional delegation



ICRC mission

CONTEXT

In the Central African Republic, with the support of Libyan troops and the forces of Congolese opposition leader Jean-Pierre Bemba, President Ange-Félix Patassé's personal guard foiled an attempted *coup d'état* in Bangui in May 2001. Close to 80,000 civilians temporarily fled their homes to seek refuge in the eastern and western parts of the capital, while thousands more fled to the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Although the majority of those who had left Bangui subsequently returned home, several thousand remained displaced in forest areas and neighbouring countries. The repercussions of the attempted *coup* continued to affect the

political situation in the country, which further deteriorated when in October 2001 President Patassé relieved General Bozizé of his duties as Chief of Staff of the country's armed forces. The disturbances generated by the failed *coup* further disrupted the country's already ailing domestic affairs, and at the end of the year the internal situation was still extremely unstable.

During the early part of 2001 Chad's civilian population was suffering the effects of famine and drought. The falling water level of Lake Chad further aggravated the country's water-supply crisis. By contrast, from September floods ravaged the country's southern regions, resulting in over 100

deaths and material damage affecting some 130,000 people. The government appealed for international aid to cope with the disastrous effects of both drought and flooding.

On the political front, Idriss Deby was re-elected President in May by 63% of the vote. The outcome of the election caused tension in N'djamena, where opponents alleged electoral irregularities and staged protest demonstrations. In the north of the country, fighting between the Chadian army and the Movement for Democracy and Justice in Chad (MDJT) intensified during the year. No direct peace talks had taken place between the two parties to the conflict since their meeting in Syrte, Libya, in September 2000.

In Cameroon, there were signs of slow economic recovery during the year. President Biya signed a number of decrees in July with the aim of setting up a professional army. Municipal elections originally scheduled for January 2001 were postponed until 2002, and the country was still awaiting the ruling of the International Court of Justice on its dispute with Nigeria over the Bakassi peninsula. Recurring floods claimed many victims and caused heavy damage in certain parts of the country.

In Equatorial Guinea, preparations for the 2003 presidential elections were well under way. Despite a significant increase in the country's oil production, there was no significant improvement in everyday living conditions for the country's 500,000 citizens in 2001.

Electoral campaigning in Gabon began against a backdrop of persistent social unrest and economic difficulties. Legislative elections took place at the end of the year, with President Omar Bongo's party maintaining its majority.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Internally displaced people

Central African Republic

In the Central African Republic the ICRC, in cooperation with volunteers of the Central African Red Cross Society, organized the delivery of aid in the form of tarpaulins, kitchen sets, blankets and soap to 1,598 families (over 10,500 people) near the capital or in villages along the Ubangui River to the east. Most of the people concerned had either remained in their homes or had fled briefly when the conflict escalated. When the latter returned to their places of origin they found that their homes had been looted, burned or destroyed.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Cameroon

In accordance with its objectives for 2001, the ICRC focused its efforts on visiting security detainees, improving conditions of detention in general and ensuring the observance of judicial prodders. It set up and initiated a plan providing for quarterly visits to eight of the country's ten central prisons. At the end of the visits the ICRC submitted a summary report to the authorities concerned. Ad hoc medical assistance, mats and soap were provided for the detainees visited, an insect extermination programme was completed and mosquito netting installed.

During the year, clashes in Cameroon led the military authorities to make new arrests. The ICRC responded promptly by contacting the detaining authorities and securing access to new detainees. In October, delegates visited detainees arrested in connection with unrest in Bamenda. These were freed about six weeks later. Following the completion of a series of medical visits, the ICRC submitted a summary report on its findings to the ministries concerned. It also supplied doctors at eight central prisons with medical texts.

Chad

In July, the ICRC completed its first series of visits to 28 detention centres throughout the country, which also included medical examinations. The second series of visits was completed in September. The dilapidated state of most of the detention centres visited prompted the ICRC to provide the inmates with ad hoc assistance in the form of personal hygiene articles and sleeping mats.

Visits were maintained during the year to MDJT detainees held at the national *gendarmerie* in N'djamena and other detainees held in the capital's central prison. Only minor improvements were noted in the central prison, mainly in the areas of registration of detainees and kitchen management.

Central African Republic

In the Central African Republic the ICRC regularly visited detainees held for questioning by the commission set up to investigate the attempted *coup*. Towards the end of the year, delegates visited two other detention centres, the *Section enquête, recherche et documentation* and the military camp in Roux. The visits were conducted in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedures and all detainees visited received soap, insecticides and games.

AFRICA YAOUNDÉ

Equatorial Guinea

The ICRC conducted a series of visits to 12 places of detention comprising prisons, armed forces barracks and police stations. This gave the team the opportunity to see detainees visited previously in Malabo, Bata and Evinayong.

WOUNDED AND SICK**War-wounded**

During the year the ICRC implemented its plan of action aimed at improving the treatment given to the war-wounded. It focused on providing war-surgery training for staff at medical facilities treating victims of violence in the Central African Republic and Chad and supplying first-aid and surgical materials as needed.

Central African Republic

In October, the ICRC held a war-surgery seminar in cooperation with the Ministries of Public Health and Defence for 65 participants, including civilians, military officers, university professors and 38 surgeons.

Although this was not included in the objectives of the Emergency Appeal for 2001, the ICRC provided support for the Community Hospital, the referral facility for military and civilian war-wounded, and two other facilities, the *Hôpital de l'Amitié* and the Children's Hospital, which were both capable of treating war-wounded patients. To enable these hospitals, which had handled an influx of war-wounded, to replenish their emergency stocks, the ICRC provided dressing materials, antibiotics, perfusion kits and surgical equipment sufficient to treat a total of some 100 war-wounded. In addition, the infirmary at the Obrou military camp received dressing materials, the Children's Hospital received ten paediatric kits, and health centres in Petevo, Yapele, La Kouanga and Ouango received sanitation training materials.

Chad

Another war-surgery seminar, jointly organized by the ICRC and the Ministry of Defence, was held in N'Djamena in October for 24 civilian and military surgeons from the country's main hospitals in N'djamena, Faya Largeau, Abéché and Sarh. The seminar enabled the participants to consolidate their skills in basic war-surgery techniques and treatment of the wounded. The seminar came after a first-aid course, also organized jointly by the ICRC and the Ministry, which was held in the Faya Largeau oasis in northern Chad for 24 military nurses working in eight health posts situated on the front line.

Together with the Chadian Army Medical Service, the ICRC co-organized a first-aid training seminar in September in Faya Largeau, designed to consolidate the participants' knowledge in the areas of handling the war-wounded, dispensing emergency care and preparing victims for evacuation. It also enabled them to identify weak points which caused major delays in providing treatment. At the end of the seminar the ICRC provided the army's medical facility in Faya Largeau with two dispensary tents, three hospital beds and 50 blankets.

Amputees and war-disabled in Chad

During the year, the ICRC and the NGO *Secours catholique pour le développement*¹ (SECADEV) continued to cooperate in providing physical rehabilitation services for amputees. The two signed a cooperation agreement concerning treatment for victims of landmines or unexploded munitions. With financial support from the ICRC, SECADEV fitted 94 landmine victims with artificial limbs and renovated its prosthetic/orthotic centre in N'djamena.

In July, the ICRC organized the airlift of the first seven patients from Faya Largeau to the prosthetic/orthotic centre. Most of them had been injured by landmine explosions. Their 14-day stay at the facility was financed by the ICRC. A second air transfer was organized in September for two more mine victims. Eleven other amputees were registered in Faya Largeau by the Chadian NGO *Haut Commissariat National au Déminage*, which was the ICRC's partner in identifying beneficiaries for its amputee assistance programmes.

¹ Catholic Development Aid

AUTHORITIES

With a view to organizing sessions to raise awareness of IHL in the region, the ICRC pursued its contacts with the various national parliaments, those of Cameroon and Gabon in particular.

In Chad, the ICRC gave a presentation on its "Women and War" campaign and its advisory service on IHL for about 30 parliamentarians from 13 countries in the region during the forum on population and development of the Bureau of African and Arab Members of Parliament.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In March the ICRC organized three national train-the-trainers seminars on IHL in Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic which were attended by a total of 105 army instructors. The aim of the seminars was to ensure that proper IHL training was dispensed by the armed forces for junior officers. Each participant received IHL reference and teaching materials. Documentation on IHL was given to both the *état-major interarmées* military schools and the *gendarmerie* training centres in all three countries.

During the year, a triennial cooperation agreement was signed between the ICRC and Cameroon's Delegate-General for National Security. Under the terms of the agreement, the ICRC was to give Cameroon's police force training in the areas of IHL and human rights. By the end of the year, training activities for Cameroon's armed forces and police in 2002 had already been scheduled.

The ICRC's efforts to train members of the country's armed forces bore fruit when an army officer who had received such instruction initiated a radio programme on IHL. It was broadcast in ten parts over local radio. The officer also proposed holding a series of training sessions for officers and non-commissioned officers from six military units based in Logone, in the country's southern Moundou region. The ICRC donated a reference library and some IHL instruction video tapes to the Chadian armed forces' newly established IHL documentation centre.

The ICRC maintained good relations with its contacts in the Central African Republic's armed forces and presidential guard. Following a seminar held to promote IHL teaching among the armed and security forces, both the army and police expressed their interest in further activities of this kind.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In May, the ICRC held a regional seminar on IHL for university teachers. The seminar, which took place in Yaoundé, was attended by 18 lecturers and professors from Cameroon, Gabon, the Central African Republic and Chad. Its aim was twofold: to create a readily available pool of trained IHL lecturers; and to gain an overview of progress in incorporating IHL into the curricula of the region's academic institutions.

In Cameroon itself, the ICRC pursued its aim of providing universities and training institutions with IHL documentation, donating reference materials to the research department of the Catholic University of Central Africa and a complete library to the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa. In addition, it gave IHL training to four university professors and held awareness-raising and information sessions for the media on IHL, the red cross emblem and the "Women and War" campaign. In the Central African Republic, the ICRC held a one-day workshop on IHL at the National School of Administration and Magistracy in Bangui and donated a basic IHL library to the school. It also held a dissemination session on the topic "The ICRC and the implementation of IHL" for 30 third-year international law students from the University of Bangui.

A training session on IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was held for 15 Central African journalists in Bangui. The session enabled the ICRC to renew its contacts with the country's media following its return to Bangui on a permanent basis. Meanwhile, 50 people took part in two information sessions held at the US embassy in the Central African capital. Topics covered during the sessions included the Movement, its Fundamental Principles, and the mandate and activities of the ICRC, including those carried out successfully in Bangui.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC provided various forms of support for the region's National Societies, including materials and equipment for Red Cross first-aid brigades, for disaster relief and for work in the area of disaster preparedness and limitation. In addition, it gave water and environmental sanitation training for Red Cross volunteers, promoted the dissemination of IHL and supported the National Societies' information, tracing and family reunification services at the regional level.

In the area of institutional development, again at regional level, the ICRC provided support in the form of equipment and local human resources and offered guidance on questions relating to National Society statutes.

As part of its efforts to build up the dissemination capacity of the region's National Societies, the ICRC conducted a five-day regional tracing seminar in February. Twelve people took part (two dissemination officers from each of six National Societies).

Most of the National Societies in the region produced and broadcast radio programmes during the year to raise awareness of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and Red Cross activities.

Cameroon

In November, the ICRC donated material to the Cameroon Red Cross Society to strengthen its emergency preparedness. A tracing seminar was held for 20 tracing officers from as many branches of the National Society.

With financial support from the ICRC, the Cameroon Red Cross produced three newsletters and conducted a training programme for first-aiders. The latter was followed by a series of five first-aid training sessions for 60 Red Cross volunteers, in preparation for the 2002 presidential elections.

The second quarter of the year was marked by a slowdown in cooperation programmes between the Cameroon Red Cross and the ICRC, as the National Society had suspended a large part of its activities in order to focus on reorganizing its 57 local branches. By the end of the year cooperation activities had resumed.

Central African Republic

At the beginning of 2001 the ICRC strengthened the crisis preparedness of the Central African Red Cross in Bangui: 30 instructors and 160 volunteers received training and 200 first-aid kits were distributed. Even with such support, the period of the attempted *coup* was a difficult time for the National Society as the activities of some 160 Red Cross volunteers across the capital were restricted by security concerns.

Chad

The ICRC conducted refresher courses for 180 first-aiders and 30 first-aid instructors and donated first-aid and radio equipment to eight National Society committees to strengthen their capacity for action in the event of internal violence. Some 550 Red Cross first-aiders were mobilized throughout the country in preparation for the presidential election on 20 May 2001. During the tense post-electoral period, daily meetings took place between the ICRC and the Red Cross of Chad. Furthermore, in anticipation of post-election violence, the ICRC distributed 150 first-aid kits to Red Cross volunteers in the field.

During the year the Chad Red Cross reorganized 15 of its branches. Even though some of its activities were maintained, such as weekly radio broadcasts on the Fundamental Principles in Arabic and French, the National Society opted to postpone its cooperation activities with the ICRC during the reorganization process.

Equatorial Guinea

The Equatorial Guinea Red Cross Society held training sessions in the dissemination of IHL for new members of its Malabo and Bata branches. It also organized IHL sessions for several schools. The ICRC supported the National Society's main activities, which consisted in providing safe water and constructing latrines throughout the country.

São Tomé and Príncipe

From the beginning of the year the São Tomé and Príncipe Red Cross carried out all the activities included in its cooperation agreement with the ICRC. With the exception of a tracing workshop that was rescheduled for 2002, this National Society achieved all its objectives for 2001, principally in the areas of dissemination for various target groups and of water and sanitation (building latrines in schools).

