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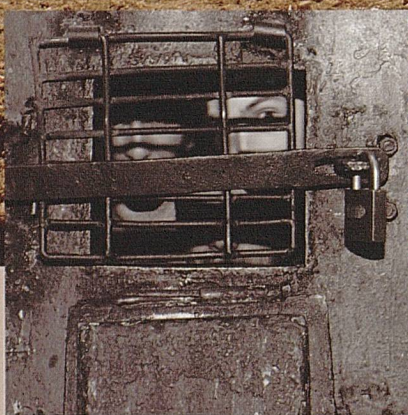
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G. Dimidant/ICRC

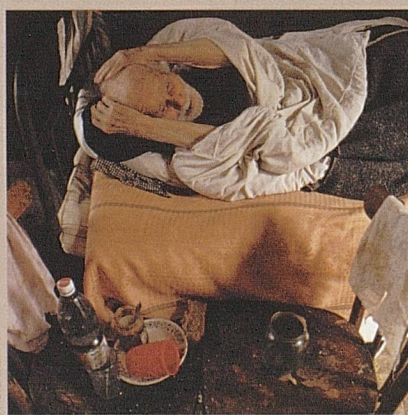
A mined village: mines continue to pose a threat well after active hostilities have ceased (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia).

F. Clarke/ICRC



A prison cell for detainees suffering from tuberculosis (Southern Caucasus).

F. Clarke/ICRC



A displaced elderly man, one of many needing assistance to survive (Southern Caucasus).

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Delegations

- Albania
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of
- Southern Caucasus (Armenia and Azerbaijan)
- Southern Caucasus (Georgia)
- Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of

Regional delegations

- Budapest
- Kyiv
- Moscow
- Washington
- Brussels
- New York
- Paris
- International Tracing Service (ITS)

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	17,097,902
Assistance	106,623,774
Preventive Action	24,307,472
Cooperation with National Societies	7,991,350
General	2,910,616
Overheads	9,569,714

168,500,827



✚ ICRC regional delegation ✚ ICRC delegation

In the Balkans, the outlook was more optimistic in 2001 than at any other time in the previous 10 years. While tensions persisted in the contexts of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo and southern Serbia, all parties appeared to have the will to find political solutions. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, after several months of internal conflict, a peace agreement (the Ohrid Framework Agreement) was signed in August. Similarly, in southern Serbia, the parties agreed in June 2001 to cease hostilities and implement the "Covic Plan". UNMIK¹ and the Belgrade authorities entered into dialogue on the future of Kosovo.

¹ United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

However, after 10 years of strife and political and economic isolation, many issues remained to be addressed. Although prospects of a peaceful future were encouraging in much of the region, the risk of renewed fighting was still apparent in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

As a result of the conflict that erupted in February 2001 between the Macedonian security forces and the National Liberation Army (NLA), large numbers of civilians were rapidly cut off from supplies and essential services, and many were displaced from their homes. During the ensuing six months of conflict, the ICRC managed to secure uninterrupted access to the populations thus affected and led the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in responding to their needs for humanitarian assistance.

In cooperation with the Macedonian Red Cross, the ICRC provided relief mainly on a monthly basis to more than 120,000 displaced and resident people. In addition, delegates evacuated more than 1,200 vulnerable people from conflict-affected areas to safety. The ICRC reunited around 200 family members from the Tetovo area separated by a sudden population movement that took place in July, and supplied some 26 hospitals and clinics with basic medical and surgical supplies. Delegates visited people held in relation to the conflict and facilitated the release of 15 people held by the NLA. They systematically gathered data from family members concerning relatives unaccounted for as a result of the conflict, and urged the authorities to help shed light on their fate or whereabouts.

Immediately after the peace agreement had put a formal end to the fighting, the ICRC continued to respond to needs resulting directly from the conflict. This included bringing food supplies to communities which were still cut off because of police and army checkpoints or the continued presence of NLA fighters, maintaining assistance for displaced people, attempting to establish what had happened to people gone missing, and warning civilians about the dangers of unexploded ordnance and mines.

Serbia and Montenegro were in transition as the Yugoslav federal government made efforts gradually to restore a sound political, economic and social system. The government's pledge to rule in accordance with all its international commitments and to ensure and respect democracy led to the reintegration of Yugoslavia in international fora, raising hopes of a new era of stability and economic prosperity in the country and in the region as a whole. In Kosovo, the situation had stabilized and the province was ready to envisage long-term development. Its status nonetheless remained undetermined. Precarious security conditions continued to threaten the Serb and Roma population left in Kosovo, while dissuading those who had fled to Serbia proper from returning home.

In 2001, the ICRC maintained a large-scale relief operation in Serbia and Montenegro for the most vulnerable population groups, including both displaced people from Kosovo and destitute residents. Working closely with the Yugoslav Red Cross, it provided daily hot meals for up to 100,000 welfare cases until June and continued to provide monthly food and hygiene assistance to the displaced. By careful monitoring and improved selection of beneficiaries, the ICRC reduced its assistance gradually so as to focus on 70,000 of the most needy. It complemented this assistance with income-generating and community support schemes providing opportunities for internally displaced people (IDPs) to become self-reliant. A project to provide primary health care in the Kraljevo region, which had a high concentration of displaced people, was set up thanks to an agreement between the World Bank, the health authorities and the ICRC.

The situation remained tense in the Presevo valley, in southern Serbia, particularly in the former Ground Safety Zone (GSZ), the scene of fighting until June 2001 between the Yugoslav forces and the armed group known locally as the UCPMB.² The ICRC monitored the situation closely, and addressed the needs of the resident and returning population in the former GSZ through food assistance and a mine-awareness programme.

The ICRC kept up its efforts to ascertain the fate of some 25,000 people who had gone missing in the Balkan conflicts, be it in Bosnia (some 18,000 missing), between Serbia and Croatia (some 3,000 missing), between Kosovo and Serbia proper (3,700 missing) or in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (20 missing), and to address the needs of their families during their long wait for an answer.

In the Russian Federation, the security operation of the federal forces in Chechnya continued. The northern Caucasus region as a whole remained affected and humanitarian aid remained crucial to the survival of vulnerable groups. In terms of budget, the ICRC's relief operation there was the organization's second-largest worldwide.

² Liberation Army of Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac

The ICRC consolidated and refined its nutritional, material, medical and sanitation assistance benefiting over 150,000 IDPs in the republics and administrative areas bordering Chechnya. Household surveys in Ingushetia showed that this aid, which supplemented the bulk food assistance provided by the UN system and its partner NGOs, remained indispensable. The ICRC remained the main provider of drinking water and sanitation assistance to the over 60,000 IDPs living in camps and community shelters. It also assisted displaced people in Daghestan and lent its full support to the wide range of relief and medical activities carried out by the Russian Red Cross Society for needy residents and displaced people in the northern Caucasus and other regions of southern Russia. Within Chechnya, despite major security constraints, the ICRC managed to keep aid programmes going for most of the year and ensured a continuous supply of safe water for the population of Grozny. This was possible thanks to its dedicated local staff and the support of the Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross.

Agreements with the Russian Federation to visit all persons detained in relation to the ongoing security operations in Chechnya were reaffirmed by the Russian government, notably during an official visit by the ICRC President to Moscow at the end of September.

The ICRC expanded its network of contacts substantially in both houses of the Russian Parliament, and consolidated its working-level contacts with the Russian government.

Programmes to promote knowledge of and support for international humanitarian law (IHL) among the armed forces, academic circles and secondary schools showed encouraging results. Major advances included the issuing of order No. 360 by the Ministry of Defence, on "Measures to respect IHL by the armed forces of the Russian Federation" and the adoption of "Regulations on IHL for the armed forces of the Russian Federation".

Ongoing programmes to support reforms in the Russian Red Cross with a view to making it self-sustainable yielded positive results, both at Moscow headquarters and in the northern Caucasus region.

In the southern Caucasus, the effect of unresolved conflicts and the spillover from the fighting in Chechnya continued to cause great distress for displaced and local populations. The situation was particularly precarious in Georgia, which faced an almost total economic breakdown and political instability coupled with dwindling interest on the part of donors and the international community at large.

An ICRC assessment in western Georgia in summer 2001 showed that donor fatigue and a policy shift of international agencies in favour of yet to be implemented development programmes had left the most urgent needs of the poorest 5% among the 400,000-strong resident and IDP population unattended. The ICRC therefore prepared to provide the most destitute with basic food and health assistance and shelter materials.

In the breakaway region of Abkhazia, by the end of 2001 the ICRC, *Médecins sans frontières* and the Halo Trust were the only foreign organizations left to assist a population that had become ever more vulnerable. An external evaluation published in March 2001 showed that the ICRC's assistance to destitute and minority groups in the region was indeed life-saving.

In Armenia and Azerbaijan, including Nagorny Karabakh, the ICRC continued to insist that the question of missing persons be treated without regard to the political agenda. It encouraged the authorities to take effective measures to resolve at least some of the more than 2,600 cases that families of missing persons had brought to its attention.

In all three republics of the southern Caucasus, the ICRC cooperated with the national authorities in tackling the tuberculosis epidemic in prisons. The physical rehabilitation programmes in Azerbaijan and Georgia were in the process of being handed over to local partners once the training of local technicians had been completed. Programmes to integrate IHL in military and police training and university and school curricula continued; their aim was to make arms carriers and young people aware of the limits of war. The mine-awareness programme in Nagorny Karabakh helped to reduce the number of mine accidents involving children to zero.

ALBANIA

Personnel:
3 expatriates
19 locally hired staff

The ICRC has been present in Albania since unrest and lawlessness gripped the country in 1997. It focuses on relations with the authorities and the National Red Cross Society and is working to improve conditions for detainees, prevent mine accidents among civilians and help the Albanian Red Cross develop its tracing and dissemination capacities.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	280,268
Assistance	53,416
Preventive Action	422,531
Cooperation with National Societies	211,893
General	178,425
Overheads	66,799

1,213,332



 ICRC delegation

CONTEXT

The year was marked by a tumultuous run-up to general elections held in June and subsequent disputes over the outcome. After a lengthy series of reruns, the Socialist Party was declared the winner. The opposition coalition refused to accept defeat, alleging fraud had been widespread, but there was no major outbreak of violence.

Despite the political impasse, the Socialist Party re-elected Ilir Meta as Prime Minister. He pledged his government's commitment to combating illegal trafficking, signing a stabilization and association pact with the European Union (EU), and developing the economy. Albanians also expected his government to deal with their more immediate problems, such as water shortages, power outages and poverty.

Relations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) remained good despite the conflict being waged on its territory. The people, government and all political parties in Albania pulled together on this sensitive issue and made a determined effort to keep out of the crisis, for which they were commended by the international community. The Albanian government hailed the peace agreement signed in Skopje, and denied accusations that it had supplied weapons to ethnic Albanian rebels.

Albania enjoyed good relations with Montenegro and re-established diplomatic ties with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which had been severed during the Kosovo crisis. The country took major steps towards satisfying conditions for EU membership. EU officials praised its economic and fiscal progress and its privatization programme, but stressed that more needed to be done in terms of implementing law reforms. Albania was also grappling with the evergrowing problem of illegal trafficking, including the trade in women and children.

Most of the humanitarian organizations still present in Albania prepared themselves for a possible influx of refugees from the FYROM, but the general trend was towards development aid.

The discovery of new mine fields on the Macedonian side of the border meant that a new mine-awareness programme was needed even in Albania, because the local population travelled back and forth across the border for economic reasons.

Despite a general improvement in security, robberies and ambushes still occurred, especially in the north. Security measures were stepped up along the country's borders and at the international airport following the 11 September attacks in the US. In addition, police forces began a nationwide operation to scrutinize the identification documents of all foreigners.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Refugees

Although nearly 500,000 Kosovar refugees fled to Albania in 1999, most of them either returned to Kosovo or left for a third country. The UNHCR closed down the last refugee camp in May, and the few remaining refugees had little need for ICRC services. When immigration programmes were suspended, the demand for ICRC travel documents practically ceased.

Missing persons

Of the 3,788 people reported missing in connection with the Kosovo crisis, 16 remained unaccounted for. The ICRC took every possible step, including submitting cases to other organizations and making follow-up inquiries during field trips, to shed light on the fate or whereabouts of these people.

Families with relatives detained in Serbia

At the beginning of the reporting period there were four families that had one relative each in detention in Serbia. The ICRC collected and distributed 24 Red Cross messages on behalf of these families. At the end of 2001, one detainee was still being held in Serbia.

Mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO)

Mines and UXO posed a serious threat to civilians, particularly in villages along the northern border. One of the ICRC's priorities was to raise awareness of this threat and attract funds and mine/UXO-clearance companies into Albania. The organization therefore maintained contacts with embassies and other foreign-government representatives in Tirana, and supported the community-based mine/UXO-awareness programme of the Albanian Red Cross. The ICRC also met regularly with mine-clearance companies to be briefed on the

problems they encountered in the field and to discuss how the mine-awareness programme could achieve its objectives.

The organization carried out an assessment in Peshkopi, in northern Albania, to establish the needs of the mine-affected population and draw up a suitable plan of action. In addition, it negotiated special customs procedures for raw materials sent by the Swiss Red Cross for the Tirana Orthopaedic Centre, and provided the Albanian Mine Action Executive with technical support.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Problems such as inadequate infrastructure and overcrowding persisted in detention centres, particularly in pre-trial sites such as police stations.

The ICRC made 66 visits to 42 places of detention, including 39 pre-trial sites, with the aim of improving conditions where it was most urgent to do so. In particular, it sought to raise awareness among authorities and potential donors of the critical situation in places of detention. It also alerted Albania's main donor, the EU, to the lack of funds for the improvement of detention conditions, which contrasted with the considerable sums of money that had been made available for the police forces. After meeting with the ICRC in March, the EU allotted a large sum of money to the rehabilitation of police stations. In May the ICRC submitted to the authorities its annual report on detention, in which it raised the issues mentioned above. Aid provided directly to detention centres by the ICRC included a water tank, a boiler, mattresses, blankets and cleaning materials.

WOUNDED AND SICK

The conflict in the FYROM aggravated the mine/UXO problem in Albania, exposing civilians in border communities to increasing danger as they crossed the border in the course of their everyday activities. Together with the Albanian Red Cross, the ICRC began to aid recent victims of mines in the Peshkopi area, five of whom underwent hospitalization and physical rehabilitation, and were given orthopaedic shoes. The ICRC expanded its assistance programme through the Tirana Orthopaedic Centre and also directly to the families of victims.

AUTHORITIES

The Albanian authorities pursued their efforts to build democratic institutions. A legal framework was slowly emerging, but the capacity to enforce it remained low. The political will to adopt standards of international humanitarian law (IHL) was apparent, but the pace of reform tended to be slow, largely because of the frequent changes of and within government.

In June representatives of the foreign affairs and defence ministries attended the regional experts' meeting in the review process of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the proposed new protocol on explosive remnants of war, which was organized by the ICRC and hosted by Hungary. The ICRC maintained contact with the ministries to promote the CCW and encourage both its ratification and the adoption of national measures for the implementation of ratified treaties. The ICRC also presented its advisory service and assistance programmes to the ministries.

In meetings with Albania's President and Prime Minister, the ICRC discussed its activities in the country and region. The President urged the ICRC to step up its protection activities relating to human trafficking.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces

The Albanian armed forces incorporated the law of armed conflict in military training programmes, but still needed to ensure that military personnel of all ranks received proper instruction and would apply the relevant provisions in practice.

The ICRC funded the publication of a booklet entitled *Rules of the law of war* to help the armed forces include provisions of IHL in their regulations and new manuals. The Fourth and Fifth Hague Conventions of 1907, and the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and its Protocols I and II, were translated into Albanian by the ICRC and included in a new publication entitled *Some Hague conventions and other treaties*, 1,000 copies of which were printed for use in training armed-forces trainers. Three films, *Fighting by the rules*, *War and dignity* and *The Ottawa treaty*, were also translated into Albanian and dubbed. Finally, the ICRC continued work on a translation into Albanian of a manual entitled *Fight it right*.

The organization conducted IHL courses for Albanian air force officers in June and for naval officers in October. The authorities and course participants received copies of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. The ICRC also sponsored the participation of a defence-ministry official in a military course in San Remo.

Police forces

The police and security forces were in the process of restructuring. They showed little awareness of humanitarian and human rights law, which had seldom been included in their training in the past. Courses on IHL were planned for the year under review, but had to be postponed owing to a request from the Ministry of Public Order for a special training session for the Special and Rapid Intervention Force. Three two-day courses on IHL and human rights law were conducted by the ICRC for 38 commanders and instructors of the Force in Tirana in April. A manual entitled *To serve and to protect* was handed out to all participants.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The transition towards a more open society was reflected in changes in the educational system. There was willingness at all levels to improve school and university curricula and to include issues of humanitarian concern.

Meetings held with various members of the local and international media covered a variety of topics such as missing persons in Albania and ICRC programmes in the country, including those relating to mines. An ICRC documentary on women in mine-infested areas of Albania, broadcast by the international media, was well received. The local media produced a 30-minute documentary entitled *Red Cross contribution to mine action*, which covered ICRC activities such as its efforts to shed light on the fate and whereabouts of the missing.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

With the end of the Kosovo crisis in 1999, the Albanian Red Cross and the ICRC considerably reduced their cooperation in tracing, which nearly ceased in 2000. At the same time, the Albanian Red Cross decreased its capacity for tracing cases unrelated to the conflict. However, because of the sizeable Albanian diaspora, the need for an operational tracing agency remained.

Working within the scope of a project delegated to the American Red Cross, the ICRC stepped up efforts to strengthen the capacity of the National Society's tracing services. The Albanian Red Cross appointed a new tracing coordinator who settled in and became acquainted with her work. An American Red Cross tracing specialist provided training and guidance. The new coordinator strengthened working relations with the National Society's branch network by presenting the tracing agency to the general secretaries of the 12 key branches and to most of the other 24 branches. Efforts also got under way to establish working criteria and train tracing volunteers of the Albanian Red Cross branches throughout the country.

A newly appointed Albanian Red Cross mine-awareness coordinator for the northern districts underwent one week of training in Kosovo in September. Performances of the interactive children's play *Bear trap* in border villages reached 1,349 children and 258 adults. With the ICRC's support, the Albanian Red Cross produced 5,000 copies of the game "Beware of mines", an effective way of educating children about the danger of mines and how to avoid it.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Personnel:

11 expatriates

135 locally hired staff

The ICRC, in partnership with the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, supports the population in its efforts to recover from the emotional and physical wounds of the conflict that ended with the Dayton Peace Agreement in 1995.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	2,142,895
Assistance	2,760,168
Preventive Action	1,973,472
Cooperation with National Societies	1,937,888
General	120,811
Overheads	616,312

9,551,547

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



ICRC delegation
 ICRC sub-delegation
 office
 - - - - Inter-Entity Boundary Line

CONTEXT

Bosnia-Herzegovina remained a fragile political set-up of two entities (the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska) under the central State institutions. NATO's 20,000-strong military stabilization force (SFOR) continued to ensure peace and stability, while the Office of the High Representative oversaw implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton Agreement.

The Alliance for Change won a resounding victory in the elections held in November 2000 in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBH). However, although weakened, some of the former ruling parties retained much of their influence over

the country's political and economic destiny, and the ability to mobilize a large number of supporters. This was particularly evident during the transition process in the first half of 2001 when the legitimate FBH and State authorities were seriously challenged by the attempt to establish a parallel Bosnian Croat administration. Determined action by the international community managed to quell the "rebellion", but the underlying instability persisted. Towards the end of the year, one of the former ruling parties, the HDZ, signalled a willingness to return to legislative bodies and seek solutions to political problems through the institutions of the State.

In the Republika Srpska, the SDS party still held sway, and although the entity's National Assembly adopted a law on cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in October, the Republika Srpska's government remained the only one in the region not to have handed over any war-crime suspects to the ICTY. The FBH government, for its part, arrested and transferred some senior commanders of its army to the Tribunal in 2001.

With its economy still stagnant, Bosnia-Herzegovina continued to survive on donor aid. Demonstrations and protests by dissatisfied pensioners and disabled war veterans, rising unemployment and frequent workers' strikes bore testimony to a worsening economic crisis and social turbulence.

The return of refugees from abroad was hampered by the danger of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), insecurity in general, legal obstacles to the recovery of properties by their former owners, and other problems. Conversely, around 40,000 refugees from Croatia remained in the Republika Srpska, and of the 8,000 to 10,000 refugees from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, 3,000 stayed sheltered in transit centres throughout the FBH. According to State estimates, there were 518,252 internally displaced people (IDPs) in the country.

Following the events of 11 September, Bosnia-Herzegovina's parliament adopted a variety of measures aimed at helping to curb global terrorism, including more stringent vetting of foreigners. A number of arrests were also made.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

People unaccounted for and their families

By the end of 2001, the ICRC had collected 20,741 tracing requests in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The families of 2,498 missing persons received answers (300 persons were found alive, 2,198 were confirmed dead). The families of another 867 missing persons received information on their relatives' death but not their mortal remains. The families of 17,376 missing persons had not yet received any information on the fate of their loved ones.

Over 5,800 families consulted at least one of the two volumes of the *Book of belongings* containing photographs of clothing and other belongings recovered from bodies exhumed in the Srebrenica area. By the end of 2001, the books had resulted in 243 strong leads for forensic specialists to work on. Six identifications had been confirmed by DNA analysis, while DNA confirmation was pending for another 31 presumed identifications. A total of 113 leads had been rejected, and 93 were still being investigated. A third *Book of belongings*, concerning various regions of the Republika Srpska, was in preparation.

Through ICRC field work, the fate of four ICRC-registered detainees who had gone missing from detention places during the conflict was clarified, which left 264 detainees unaccounted for.

The ICRC continued efforts to establish a network of specialized institutions and organizations in the Republika Srpska capable of providing relatives of missing persons with psycho-social and other forms of support. Production of the second *Book of belongings*, the referral system supporting families of the missing, and three psycho-educational projects carried out in conjunction with family associations remained on course.

Financial and material support from the ICRC enabled associations of families of missing persons and commissions on missing persons to organize commemorations of relatives who had disappeared, produce publications, carry out exhumations, travel for the purpose of identifying mortal remains, attend meetings and conduct other activities.

Restoring family links

The ICRC collected and distributed 169 Red Cross messages and repatriated one person to Bosnia-Herzegovina from Kosovo. Tracing activities unrelated to the conflict were handed over to the newly established tracing service of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Internally displaced people and refugees

The home-care programme of food assistance to the vulnerable resumed in May after a brief interruption, and was completed in October when the ICRC was satisfied that the National Society and its entity components could run it independently.

When floods struck parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina in June, the ICRC promptly brought aid to the victims as part of a co-ordinated International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement response. In addition to dispatching 600 one-kilogramme cans of ready-to-eat meals to Brcko, the ICRC met the flood victims' most urgent needs during the first seven days. It also served 4,300 hot meals to IDPs at two locations and provided safe drinking water to the population.

People living in mine-affected areas

Landmines and UXO scattered throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina threatened the lives of its inhabitants. This caused major social and economic disruption, which in turn hampered reconciliation and reconstruction. It was recognized that an integrated approach combining mine awareness and other mine action and humanitarian programmes was needed to deal with the problem. Children were the subject of much concern because their natural curiosity puts them at great risk in mine-infested areas.

A total of 224 mine-awareness instructors maintained contacts with municipal authorities and various organizations involved in the return process and working with IDPs to discuss activities aimed at preventing mine incidents. Data gathering on mine incidents remained an integral part of the effort to develop appropriate mine-awareness programme strategies.

ICRC activities during the period under review included: a publicity campaign involving the production of 90 giant billboards with a mine-awareness caption; the supply of materials for 10,000 mine-awareness posters, 30,000 leaflets, 20,000 badges and banners, as well as T-shirts, caps, etc., in support of community-based activities; ad hoc assistance to 28 people to help them regain their self-sufficiency; prostheses for five amputees and 1,400 pairs of socks for stump protection for the most needy amputees, as part of Japanese Red Cross aid to mine victims; assisting the local Red Cross in Tuzla canton to organize activities alerting the population to the mine risk; and special television and radio programmes to caution the population returning to mine-contaminated areas.

Activities designed to inform children about the danger of mines and UXO included the publication of a quarterly mine-awareness magazine written by schoolchildren and their teachers, 11,000 copies of which were distributed in two cantons. Other such efforts included presentations, drawing competitions in Gorazde and Tuzla cantons, and the production of a television spot based on a theatre performance of a mine-awareness version of *Little Red Riding Hood*, video tapes of the performance, and comic books with a mine-awareness message. Audio tapes with songs from a play were delivered to 23 schools for children with special needs throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The ICRC supported an initiative by students to create relief models of areas that had been mined or hit by air strikes in Sarajevo canton. Students also set up a mine-awareness e-mail forum which allowed teachers, students and others concerned by mine awareness to exchange ideas, messages and projects free of charge. This initiative was supported by the government agency in charge of mine action (BHMAG), the FBH Ministry of Education and the ICRC.

The ICRC launched an extracurricular mine-awareness programme, involving activities such as theatre, for secondary-school students in both entities. At the federal level, four mine-awareness training seminars were organized in September and October for secondary-school teachers from Sarajevo, Gorazde, Herceg-Bosna, Zenica-Doboj and Tuzla cantons. In the Republika Srpska, the ICRC encouraged teachers in five secondary schools to administer questionnaires to their pupils to assess knowledge gained from mine-awareness sessions. The sampling will be analysed and used for planning further activities in secondary schools.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC visited 28 detainees held for war crimes in Mostar East, Mostar West and Kula Butmir prisons. By the end of 2001, all detainees of concern to the ICRC previously held in Mostar Prison had reportedly been released and nine were still awaiting trial. Indications were that these detainees no longer needed the ICRC's protection or assistance.

The ICRC visited a detainee it had registered during the armed conflict who was still being held in the Republika Srpska. It also arranged for three people to visit a member of their family held in the custody of the ICTY in the Netherlands.

WOUNDED AND SICK

The health and well-being of people in Bosnia-Herzegovina continued to be affected by the slow implementation of health-system reforms.

The "healthy communities" project initiated by the ICRC in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which concerns all those involved in primary health-care reform, was received enthusiastically. Community members and local Red Cross coordinators prepared project proposals based on health needs assessments. Proposals from 25 of 27 communities were translated into projects implemented through selected companies, institutions and individuals.

A doctors' peer group in Trebinje caught the attention of the World Bank's basic health programme, and as a result the town became a pilot site for a major health-care reform project. Doctors and nurses belonging to peer groups continued to improve their skills and services through regular meetings and also in other ways, such as by using the "Peer Net" Internet interactive communication tool. The ICRC worked with these groups and also supported the development of the nursing profession through meetings, workshops, translations of training and research texts, and by inviting teams of experts from Poland and Slovenia to help set up nurses' associations in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

AUTHORITIES

The difficult economic and financial situation in the country made it hard for the government to maintain the level of mine clearance that would minimize risk to the population. This made mine-awareness activities even more urgent. International humanitarian law (IHL) had not yet been integrated into the country's legal system, which was undergoing reform. Owing to the very complex and unstable political situation countrywide, contact with the national and entity-level authorities to discuss humanitarian law issues was sporadic. However, draft laws to protect the red cross emblem were adopted by the Council of Ministers, thus clearing the way for their passage through parliament. This was a major step towards reinforcing the status of the fledgling Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Contacts were maintained with representatives of the BHMAL and entity mine action centres to exchange information, analyse joint activities and prepare future joint mine-awareness programmes.

A round-table debate with 10 leading political figures from the war period was held in Tuzla in April under ICRC auspices to generate discussion on the theme "Even wars have limits".

The ICRC translated *Respect for international humanitarian law, a handbook for parliamentarians and IHL: Answers to your questions* into Bosnia-Herzegovina's three national languages, and published them in September. Over 100 copies of the handbook were distributed to members of the State and entity parliaments.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

During the year under review, the ICRC maintained its support for entity armed forces' IHL programmes by conducting training courses, providing translations and supplying publications and audio-visual equipment. The ICRC briefed newly arrived SFOR officers and made presentations to officers of all ranks involved in civil and military cooperation. The ICRC continued to broaden its knowledge of the role and function of SFOR units by maintaining its contacts with them.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The media scene in Bosnia-Herzegovina is complex and reflects the difficult socio-economic and political situation in the country. The media are undergoing changes that should eventually lead to the introduction of public-service broadcasting throughout the country.

The visit of the ICRC President to Bosnia-Herzegovina in April received extensive coverage, as did the observance of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day in May.

Thanks to the ICRC's sustained proactive media policy, media in Bosnia-Herzegovina became very supportive of the organization and its activities. The ICRC was interviewed by leading national newspapers and magazines on such topical issues as the missing and the mine/UXO threat. It carried out a media campaign to promote the second edition of the *Book of belongings*. An international film crew shot footage for an ICRC film on women and war and for a documentary on ICRC activities. Finally, the ICRC started a programme of media-related support to three family associations.

Teaching of IHL

In October, a regional conference on the teaching of IHL in universities, that brought together university professors and advanced-degree students from all over the Balkans, was held in Sarajevo. While most participants were chosen on the basis of their professional knowledge and experience, others, including the FBH President, were also chosen to represent various cultural and political groups. The participants agreed on the urgent need to develop university curricula in the Balkans that will generate greater interest in IHL, and on the desirability of offering extra-curricular activities such as summer schools, law clinics and specialized courses.

The translation of an ICRC publication entitled *Answers to your questions* was completed and its distribution to universities and schools of journalism throughout the country was set to begin.

Schools

Over 100 secondary-school pupils took part in a trial of the ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme in three secondary schools in Mostar, Tuzla and Banja Luka. The teachers selected to conduct EHL classes, representatives of the education ministries and training institutes involved, and staff of entity Red Cross societies attended a training workshop in Sarajevo before the programme's launch in May.

The EHL pilot programme was evaluated in readiness for translation into all three national languages. The final report concluded that while all teachers and educational authorities involved in the trial were extremely positive about EHL, the time was not right for introducing it into secondary-school curricula. A decision was taken to have the programme reach young people through extracurricular channels, namely in Red Cross summer camps, youth clubs and elsewhere. Accordingly, EHL was incorporated into the train-the-trainers programme for Red Cross youth.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Red Cross organizations in both entities made progress towards meeting the requirements for recognition of a single National Society. On 8 May the ICRC officially recognized the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina as the 177th National Society member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This was a remarkable achievement. In a difficult post-war environment, Red Cross members from the various ethnic communities managed to build one Red Cross organization which is open to all and carries out its humanitarian work throughout the country.

The ICRC maintained its financial, technical and material support for entity, regional and cantonal tracing activities throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina. In particular, it promoted information sharing by setting up meetings, and provided office equipment and supplies.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Personnel:

15 expatriates

68 locally hired staff

The ICRC was the main humanitarian organization on the ground during the six-month conflict between the Macedonian security forces and the National Liberation Army. It provided tens of thousands of civilians displaced by the conflict with relief. Today, it continues to bring aid to the most vulnerable groups, endeavours to ascertain the fate of people still unaccounted for and seeks access to all those detained as a result of the conflict. The ICRC is the lead agency in the current response by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It is closely supported by the Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	1,249,226
Assistance	8,688,182
Preventive Action	571,078
Cooperation with National Societies	333,510
General	12,170
Overheads	689,870

11,544,035



⊕ ICRC delegation + ICRC office

CONTEXT

The signing of a peace agreement by the country's four main political parties in Skopje on 13 August abruptly ended nearly six months of escalating internal conflict between the Macedonian security forces and the ethnic Albanian National Liberation Army (NLA). Over 70,000 people (roughly equally divided between ethnic Macedonians and ethnic Albanians) had been internally displaced, around 80,000 ethnic Albanians had sought refuge in Kosovo and significant damage had been caused to civilian property in the areas directly affected. In addition, a number of ethnic Albanians had been arrested by the Macedonian police. The ICRC had been approached by families, of both eth-

nic Macedonian and ethnic Albanian origin, requesting help in locating missing relatives.

The arrival of a 3,500-strong British-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) contingent to conduct "Operation Essential Harvest", whose sole aim was to collect weapons from NLA fighters, contributed to a marked improvement in the overall security environment in the country. The weapons collection was completed on schedule. Apart from a few sporadic incidents, the truce held, and in late September the NLA officially disbanded. Since further international intervention was deemed necessary, a follow-up to "Essential Har-

vest" was rapidly agreed upon. The German-led "Operation Amber Fox" consisted of some 500 NATO soldiers whose mandate was to provide security to a large number of international monitors – 200 from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and 55 from the European Union Monitoring Mission.

The process of approval in parliament of the new constitutional changes was hampered by objections both to the letter and the spirit of the agreement. These obstacles were generally overcome only following shuttle diplomacy conducted by high-level international representatives. The painstaking parliamentary process looked almost complete, but by the end of 2001 no consensus had been reached on a proper law on local self-government. The precise terms of an amnesty law for those who had taken part in the NLA-led fighting were another serious sticking point, but the law ultimately took effect in December.

The situation on the ground gradually improved. In particular, there was a major spontaneous return of most refugees and other displaced people to their homes. The restrictions on freedom of movement in villages affected by the conflict eased as the NLA disbanded and the police and army checkpoints were gradually removed. By the end of 2001, only around 20,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) remained registered in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and 10,000 Macedonian refugees in Kosovo (down from a peak of around 140,000 IDPs and refugees in August).

There were, however, problems and tensions outstanding that were linked to the return of the remaining displaced people to their homes, and to the emotive and controversial issue of people still unaccounted for. Furthermore, the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO), and to a lesser extent mines, posed a considerable threat to the resident and returning populations. The arduous process of police re-entry into former crisis areas began under the coordination of the OSCE and the Macedonian authorities. Although on track by the end of the year, the re-entry programme was hampered by numerous problems and delays.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

The unforeseen events in the FYROM during the reporting period obliged the ICRC to adapt its activities in accordance with the urgent needs of the population as they emerged.

The ICRC reminded both sides of the conflict of the main rules of international humanitarian law (IHL) when the hostilities erupted, and made representations whenever violations were noted. It appealed to both sides to respect non-combatants.

The cases of 13 ethnic Macedonians, six ethnic Albanians, and a Bulgarian who disappeared during the conflict were reported by their families to the ICRC. The organization made representations to its contacts on both sides in an effort to shed light on the fate and whereabouts of persons unaccounted for. It maintained close contact with the families of the missing, especially in Tetovo, where most of the cases were reported.

Internally displaced people

The ICRC was the only international humanitarian organization able to work in villages affected by the fighting throughout the entire duration of the conflict. The ICRC was also the main organization assisting IDPs in host families and collective centres. It registered displaced people on a continuous basis and gave them aid for three months, after which international non-governmental organizations took over where further assistance was needed.

The extremely volatile situation in the FYROM in July and August was evidenced by significant population movements. Extensive fighting and military stand-offs in areas around and above Tetovo and Kumanovo persisted until mid-August, hampering the ICRC's distribution of relief items to civilians. The majority of IDPs from the Skopska Crna Gora, Tetovo and Lipkovo regions were accommodated with host families. Following the opening of the first collective centres, the ICRC assumed responsibility for food aid. At the peak period, over 4,000 IDPs accommodated in collective centres around Skopje received assistance. After the first six months the ICRC handed over its IDP food programme to partners funded by ECHO, the European Commission's humanitarian aid office, who ensured continued relief to the programme's beneficiaries.

The number of civilians (vulnerable people, residents affected by the conflict and IDPs) receiving aid on a monthly basis peaked at 102,000 in September. A large number of IDPs returned spontaneously to their homes in October, and the number of beneficiaries declined towards the end of the year to 3,900 in December. The Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which began aid distributions in March, handed out more than 3,000 tonnes of food and other items by the year's end.

Resident population

The ICRC provided residents in Tetovo town and villages affected by the fighting with food and other necessities. In May and June, however, attempts to deliver food to residents trapped in the villages above Tetovo were thwarted by lack of access. Hygiene parcels, soap, jerrycans, water-purification tablets, etc., were supplied to the civilian population in Lipkovo area. An ICRC assessment of areas around Tetovo and Kumanovo paved the way for efficient implementation of an aid programme for residents and returnees. By the end of 2001, the ICRC had put in place a three-month programme of assistance to over 50,000 residents and returnees affected by the conflict, and later handed it over to ECHO-funded partners.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC started visiting prisons in the FYROM on the basis of an agreement signed with the Ministry of Justice in February 2001. Conditions of detention and treatment in all prisons were assessed, and discussed with the detention authorities. However, the ICRC only managed to gain access to sentenced detainees despite repeated requests at all levels for access to pre-trial detainees as well. In all, the organization visited 13 prisons in 2001.

When the fighting broke out in March 2001, the ICRC sought access to all persons arrested or captured by the Macedonian forces or the NLA. Whenever possible, the organization gave detainees the opportunity to exchange Red Cross messages (RCMs) with their families, and served as neutral intermediary between the belligerents for the transfer of released detainees across the front lines. The organization visited 43 persons, distributed three RCMs and transferred four released detainees. However, it was denied access to pre-trial detainees held by both sides.

WOUNDED AND SICK

By mid-March, Tetovo hospital was treating the war-wounded, notably from Tetovo town. The hospital received medical supplies from the ICRC, the only organization to support it at the time. In the earlier stages of the conflict, serious and emergency cases were transferred by ambulance or helicopter to Skopje. The ICRC also supplied medical and basic surgical materials to the Special Police Forces Rescue Unit, which was responsible for the medical evacuation of the wounded (mainly combatants) from conflict regions to Skopje. Later in the year, the hospitals in Tetovo and Kumanovo districts, where the fighting was concentrated, and the State University Hospital were provided with substantial quantities of surgical supplies. Additionally, the City Hospital and the Military Hospital received medical supplies. ICRC support enabled these facilities to treat 650 war-wounded from both sides in the conflict.

The ICRC evacuated 1,246 people in all from various regions of the country, and transferred the sick and wounded among them to Kumanovo, Skopje and Tetovo hospitals. It monitored patients from ethnic-minority communities after their transfer to government hospitals. The organization also conducted regular sessions in health education to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, particularly among IDPs. With the ICRC's assistance, the Macedonian Red Cross established contact with the Kumanovo Hospital and deployed a portable water purification unit in the 386-bed hospital for two months, which offset a water shortage and kept the facility operational. The ICRC maintained a water tanker for emergency purposes, and in August restored water supply to the hospital's surgical department by installing a water-pump. The department carried out an average of 200 operations per month.

The ICRC frequently assessed the medical needs of the population in conflict-affected areas, and the response capacity of 32 hospitals and *ambulant*s (primary health centres). The general health situation was found to be satisfactory in the circumstances, although supply lines to most *ambulant*s in the affected areas had been disrupted. However, elderly people faced difficulties obtaining medicines for chronic illnesses. On the basis of its assessments, the ICRC extended medical assistance, in one form or another, to 28 health facilities. To some of the facilities, it distributed medicines provided by UNICEF, which were sufficient to treat approximately 3,000 patients for a month.

The cessation of hostilities towards the end of 2001 led to a gradual shift in the focus of ICRC activities, from war injuries to public health. As the ICRC had been the only international humanitarian organization with access to the conflict-affected areas during most of 2001, it made the information gathered from its assessments available to WHO and UNICEF to help them design their programmes. A surgical seminar organized by the ICRC in November in cooperation with the Macedonian Surgical Association was attended by 156 physicians.

AUTHORITIES

In four induction courses for 85 new OSCE observers, who were to be deployed in areas where the ICRC was operational, the organization presented its mandate and activities in the FYROM. It also gave similar presentations at three OSCE workshops in which the authorities and the armed and security forces in crisis regions took part.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC maintained contacts with army representatives and the authorities to ensure that its mandate and activities were understood and respected. In September, the organization conducted an IHL course for 16 Macedonian army instructors.

The ICRC presented its mandate and activities at a NATO civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) course in February, and at four workshops organized by the OSCE and attended by army, police, provincial and municipal representatives.

The ICRC provided the Ministry of the Interior and the police forces with technical and material support as part of an ongoing attempt to raise awareness of the need to integrate IHL and human rights law in police training. In November, it conducted an IHL instructor workshop for 21 Macedonian military officers from field units, training institutions and the general staff.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Secondary schools

As part of the "Promotion of human values" school programme, the ICRC organized teacher-training seminars, workshops and support lectures for teachers and students in various communities. It visited four schools in Skopje and delivered five lectures, three in Macedonian and two in Albanian classes. It continued to work with the Macedonian Red Cross in anticipation of the eventual handover of the programme, which, however, was suspended in April owing to the new developments in the country. Contacts established with teachers and Red Cross volunteers were maintained with the aim of involving them in new programmes such as those relating to UXO awareness.

General public and media

Contacts with the international and local media increased sharply in 2001 and substantially improved the media's perception of the ICRC and its mandate. A seminar organized by the Macedonian Red Cross and attended by national media representatives, which was held in Ohrid in December, received financial support from the ICRC. The seminar focused on the mandate and activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's various components in the FYROM.

Mines and UXO

The ICRC assessed the mine/UXO threat in order to define an appropriate strategy for dealing with it, and in August launched a mine/UXO-awareness programme. The ICRC trained 30 mine-awareness instructors from the Macedonian Red Cross and 19 local community representatives. The instructors and community representatives then conducted 247 presentations for affected resident populations, returnees and IDPs, reaching 3,051 adults and 2,771 children. Some 12,000 leaflets for children and 51,000 for adults, and 1,000 posters were distributed.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

To ensure good coordination of the Movement's response to the needs, in humanitarian terms, arising from the conflict in the FYROM, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies issued a joint statement on 22 March 2001. This statement, the outcome of discussions between the International Federation, the Macedonian Red Cross and the ICRC, defined the roles of the three institutions and other components of the Movement as follows. The ICRC, in accordance with the Seville Agreement, was to assume the role of lead agency in directing and coordinating the Movement's operation in the country, in cooperation with the Macedonian Red Cross, which was to be its major partner there. The Federation was to play the lead role in mobilizing the expertise needed to improve the National Society's operations, communications and management.

The Movement's operation in the FYROM was coordinated by a Skopje-based task force presided over by the ICRC, comprising representatives of the Federation, the Macedonian Red Cross and other National Societies active in the country.

The Macedonian Red Cross, particularly the Skopje, Tetovo and Kumanovo branches, played an important and effective role in responding to the needs of displaced people. The ICRC maintained regular contact with both the National Society and the International Federation to ensure a coherent public communication strategy within the Movement and proper implementation of the Seville Agreement. The American Red Cross also contributed to the Movement's response to the crisis by strengthening the logistical and financial management capacity of the Macedonian Red Cross. Other National Societies active in the country were the German Red Cross and the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

The ICRC continued to provide the Macedonian Red Cross's tracing and dissemination departments with financial, material and technical assistance, including training, with the object of strengthening its capacity and enhancing its emergency preparedness to cope with increased instability in the country or elsewhere in the region. The ICRC assisted the National Society in conducting 27 dissemination sessions throughout the country. Other support included the translation and printing of various publications.

Cooperation between the ICRC and the National Society on mine/UXO awareness began as soon as the IDP programme in the FYROM was launched, and was subsequently formalized by an operational agreement. A network of Macedonian Red Cross instructors was trained by the ICRC to conduct presentations for IDPs. Leaflets on the danger of mines and UXO were distributed to IDPs all over the FYROM through local Red Cross branches.

SOUTHERN CAUCASUS: ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN

Personnel:

Armenia:

8 expatriates

55 locally hired staff

Azerbaijan:

13 expatriates

56 locally hired staff

In Armenia and Azerbaijan, the ICRC focuses on addressing the consequences of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, including the missing persons issue and the problems of detainees who are held in connection with the conflict or otherwise vulnerable. Other priorities are to control the spread of tuberculosis (TB) in prisons and build up local capacities in the areas of health care and physical rehabilitation. The ICRC is also carrying out mine-awareness work and promoting the incorporation of international humanitarian law (IHL) into national legislation, military training and school and university curricula.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

(Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia)

Protection

3,517,170

Assistance

13,495,470

Preventive Action

2,984,302

Cooperation with National Societies

472,337

General

664,465

Overheads

1,333,517

22,467,262



ICRC delegation

ICRC mission

Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

CONTEXT

Despite a number of mediation initiatives led by the French, Russian and United States co-chairmen of the OSCE¹ Minsk group and bilateral talks between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, the year 2001 saw no progress towards a settlement of the 11-year-old dispute over the territory of Nagorny Karabakh. Both countries were admitted to the Council of Europe. They nonetheless continued to suffer from widespread poverty, the slow pace of reforms and the lingering effects of the conflict, including the protracted exile of more than one million displaced people

and refugees. The economic and social situation in Nagorny Karabakh remained bleak.

One of the ICRC's continuing priorities was to involve the parties in a constructive dialogue on the issue of people unaccounted for. While the organization was called upon on several occasions to carry out various activities for people detained in connection with the conflict, the focus of its work in this area was on monitoring the living conditions of security detainees and vulnerable groups within the prison population. Its efforts to contain the threat of TB in prisons and its primary health care and physical rehabilitation programmes all

¹ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

progressed as planned. Programmes to promote the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, military training and school and university curricula were maintained.

Apart from occasional skirmishes reported along the cease-fire line, the situation on the whole stayed calm. The main security concern was the threat posed by widespread anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance across Nagorny Karabakh, which still resulted in casualties. The ICRC's mine-awareness programme thus continued to meet a vital need.

As before, the ICRC coordinated its efforts with other organizations, mainly the OSCE, UNHCR, the World Food Programme, the Clasen group² on missing persons, and local and international NGOs.

ICRC ACTION CIVILIANS

Missing persons and their families

Over a decade after the outbreak of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, thousands of families were still without news regarding the fate or whereabouts of relatives who had gone missing. The ICRC received over 2,800 tracing requests from families in Armenia and Azerbaijan, including Nagorny Karabakh, and kept reminding the authorities of their duty to provide clear answers in all these cases. Armenia set up a commission on prisoners, hostages and missing persons in August, similar to the ones already established by the Azeri and also the Karabakhi authorities. While maintaining contact with these bodies, the ICRC, as in the past, sought to convince the parties of the need to establish a multi-lateral mechanism to deal comprehensively with this issue. Similarly, the Clasen group attempted in vain to bring representatives of all the parties together for discussions in November. By the end of the year, they had come no closer to engaging in a constructive dialogue.

Family members separated by the conflict

Telephone and postal links between Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Nagorny Karabakh territory were still disrupted as a result of the conflict. For a small number of people, the Red Cross message (RCM) service was still the only way of maintaining contact with family members they had left behind. In 2001, this ICRC service collected and distributed 931 RCMs.

Mine awareness in Nagorny Karabakh

Anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance still posed a threat to the lives and limbs of civilians, particularly children, in front-line areas. Concerned to help reduce the risk of mine-related deaths and injuries, the ICRC kept up its mine-awareness programme, concentrating on activities carried out in schools or by children for other children, and on community-based work. It cooperated closely with 30 communities, the Nagorny Karabakh emergency rescue service and civil defence, 101 teachers from as many villages and representatives of the five regional education departments.

The ICRC message of mine-awareness and ways to avoid accidents reached 22,000 children in 242 schools across Nagorny Karabakh by the end of 2001. Outside school, 140 youngsters were trained as youth instructors and puppeteers and went on to perform shows attended by some 1,160 children and take part in an ICRC-organized puppet festival in Stepanakert. According to ICRC statistics, no children were involved in any of the 16 mine accidents recorded in 2001, whereas six children had been injured the previous year.

The community programme consisted in producing luminescent "white boards" with a warning message for mine-affected areas. By the end of 2001, the ICRC, working together with the civil-defence agency, had set up 80 such boards across Nagorny Karabakh.

² Clasen group: a working group of the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People detained in connection with the conflict

On both sides, people were still detained in relation to the conflict, albeit in small numbers. During the year, the ICRC visited eight such detainees in Armenia and Azerbaijan and supervised the repatriation of three of them. On two occasions, after numerous representations to the authorities, the organization was able to arrange for the exhumation and transfer back home of the mortal remains of a former detainee. The body of one, an Azeri, was repatriated from Stepanakert to Baku, and the body of the other, an Armenian, from Baku to Yerevan. Both men had died in 1994.

Vulnerable and security detainees

To the best of its knowledge, the ICRC had unrestricted access to the entire prison population in Armenia and Azerbaijan. It focused on people held for security reasons and on vulnerable groups such as women, minors, foreign nationals and those sentenced to death, whose conditions of detention it monitored on an individual basis. In Nagorny Karabakh, negotiations regarding access to the entire prison population were under way. Over the course of the year, the ICRC carried out 184 visits to 61 places of detention and registered 370 detainees. In addition, the ICRC maintained the RCM service for detainees who wished to exchange news with their families. In total, it collected and distributed 723 RCMs.

Detainees with tuberculosis (TB)

The prevalence of TB among prisoners, coupled with a high level of resistance to first-line TB drugs, remained a serious problem in Armenia and Azerbaijan, which was exacerbated by overcrowding, inadequate prison infrastructure and poor sanitary conditions. In 2001 the ICRC maintained its firm commitment to the DOTS³-based prison TB-control programmes it had launched in both countries in cooperation with the authorities.

In Armenia, where the programme began in 2000, the ICRC completed its projects as planned. The organization rebuilt the TB department at the prison system's central hospital in Yerevan, built and equipped a national reference laboratory for diagnosis in Abovyan, trained laboratory staff and started a health-education project. It then handed responsibility over to the authorities. By the end of the year they had not yet arranged for the TB department to be furnished and a security wall to be built, which meant that the start of TB treatment had to be postponed.

In Azerbaijan, the authorities had taken full responsibility for the TB project since the ICRC handed it over in 2000, and remained committed to the DOTS approach. In addition, the authorities' move in June 2000 to allow the ICRC into all of the country's detention centres held out the prospect of implementing diagnostic and treatment procedures fully and of ensuring that all prisoners with TB had equal access to treatment facilities. This prompted the ICRC to extend its involvement in the TB project beyond the planned deadline in June 2001. Under the new plan of action, the ICRC continued to monitor the project and advise the authorities, promote health education, provide medicines, laboratory supplies and equipment, and train staff. Another priority was early case finding, which required boosting existing diagnostic and treatment capacities. The ICRC therefore started to expand the laboratory at Colony 3, the country's referral hospital for prisoners suffering from TB. Work on the expansion was well under way by the end of the year.

³ Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course

WOUNDED AND SICK

Primary health care in Nagorny Karabakh

As in previous years, the health system in Nagorny Karabakh was affected by the general economic decline and by a lack of resources, skilled staff and reform. The region's medical facilities, many of which were wrecked during the conflict, required rehabilitation and proper maintenance. In its third year, the ICRC's primary health-care programme carried out by the American Red Cross continued to serve a population of 45,000 in the conflict-affected districts of Mardakert/Agdara and Martuni/Khocavend. The rehabilitation of 43 health facilities was completed and equipment was installed. Some 200 health professionals, including future trainers, were trained in diagnosis and treatment of the 10 major adult and childhood diseases prevalent in the region. The ICRC provided essential medicines and trained health workers in drug use and management. In the second half of the year the programme was extended to the Hadrut district, with the aim of upgrading 23 health facilities serving a population of some 13,000. In addition, the ICRC maintained an emergency stock of drugs and surgical materials so as to be able to assist local structures promptly should hostilities recur or an epidemic break out. It also arranged for two surgeons to be trained in war surgery.

Amputees and other disabled people

Ensuring access free of charge to good-quality prostheses for amputees and other people with disabilities in Azerbaijan remained a serious concern. In 2001, the ICRC's prosthetic/orthotic project enabled more than 700 patients to be treated. Having provided technical assistance, equipment and financial support and held training courses for local prosthetic technicians since 1994, the ICRC handed the project over to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The ICRC then switched the focus of its cooperation with the health authorities to decentralizing physical reha-

bilitation services. This will be done by setting up a new limb-fitting and production facility in Ganja, in western Azerbaijan. The terms of future cooperation were being drawn up at the end of 2001.

Helping to build local skills remained the ICRC's other priority. During the year seven advanced students graduated from the third-year complementary training course on orthotics and obtained the internationally recognized ISPO⁴ diploma. The ICRC decided to support the initiative of one of the graduates to take his new skills back to his native Nakhichevan, an isolated region where there is a demand for such services.

AUTHORITIES

By 2001 Azerbaijan had adopted a penal code that included comprehensive measures to repress war crimes and a law to protect the red cross and red crescent emblems, thereby meeting the ICRC's basic criteria regarding the implementation of IHL. In Armenia, these laws were still at the draft stage. Both countries sent representatives to the regional conference on the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Moscow.⁵ Azerbaijan's representative subsequently undertook to carry out a study of the compatibility of the country's national legislation with the provisions of the ICC's Rome Statute. The study will serve as a major tool to promote and facilitate ratification and implementation of the Statute, an ICRC priority. At the end of the year, Azerbaijan was preparing a conference for government officials and legal experts on the Rome Statute, to be organized in cooperation with the ICRC in early 2002. In addition, discussions were still ongoing between the ICRC and the Azerbaijani authorities regarding the country's accession to Protocols I and II additional to the Geneva Conventions.

⁴ International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics

⁵ See *Moscow regional delegation*.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In February Armenia's Ministry of Defence requested the ICRC's assistance in integrating IHL in military doctrine, procedures and training. The ICRC agreed to provide support for the Ministry's six-monthly advanced courses for commanding officers and instructors. In September a five-day course including 30 hours of IHL training was given by an ICRC-trained instructor for 11 officers of the Ministry of Defence, the combat training board and other military institutions in Armenia. At the end of the year a cooperation agreement on IHL training in 2002 was being discussed by the ICRC and the Ministry of Defence.

In addition, the Military Institute of the Ministry of Defence – the main higher educational institution of the Armenian armed forces – introduced IHL teaching into its curriculum. At the end of the year, the ICRC, the head of the education department of the Ministry of Defence and the Military Institute agreed that the IHL teaching programme needed to be further adapted to practical field training, and that the ICRC would submit a revised proposal in early 2002.

In Azerbaijan, the ICRC kept up its efforts to initiate systematic cooperation with the Ministry of Defence.

In Nagorny Karabakh, the ICRC held discussions with the chief of staff and the head of combat training on the armed forces' plan to integrate IHL in military training and, more specifically, on a number of training courses for IHL instructors planned for 2002. The head of combat training then took part in a 10-day course on humanitarian law and human rights law organized by the ICRC in Moscow.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The delegations in Baku and Yerevan maintained regular contact with the media, including the military press, and produced and used a wide range of printed and audio-visual materials to promote knowledge of the ICRC's mandate and activities in the region.

Schools

In both Armenia and Azerbaijan, including Nagorny Karabakh, the ICRC kept up its support for a school programme carried out in cooperation with the education authorities, which aimed to familiarize secondary-school pupils aged 11 to 15 with the basic principles of IHL and humanitarian action. In Armenia, the publication of the ICRC-sponsored manual for the sixth to the eighth grades, *One for all and all for one*, was delayed because of copyright problems. At the end of the year, a revised version was nearly complete. In Azerbaijan, the ICRC reprinted and distributed the fifth-grade manual, *We are all rays of the same sun*, to schools across the country (176,000 copies for pupils and 8,500 for teachers). A test run of the sixth-grade manual, *My world, your world*, was launched in 33 schools, mainly in Baku, and was still under way at the end of the year. To ensure that IHL themes were taught appropriately, the ICRC organized 10 seminars for some 150 methodology specialists from the country's eight regions, who in their turn held seminars for literature teachers working with the manuals in their respective regions.

Universities

In 2001 the ICRC continued to boost the two countries' academic capacities in the field of IHL by providing training and support materials. In Armenia, the organization worked closely with Yerevan State University and the Armenian Centre for the Protection of Constitutional Rights. With support from the ICRC, the director of the centre took part in two events on IHL held in the Russian Federation and organized a seventh annual human rights teaching course. The participants included 24 secondary-school and university teachers, members of NGOs and journalists, who went on to enrol in a correspondence course with a view to qualifying as human rights/IHL instructors. In addition, the ICRC sponsored the participation of a journalist working for the Ministry of Defence in a seminar on war reporting which took place in the Russian Federation.⁶

In Azerbaijan, IHL had by 2001 become a compulsory subject at seven of the country's 12 universities with law faculties. The ICRC worked closely with Baku State University and Khazar University, where it financed a humanitarian-law book fund and sponsored the participation of a lecturer in journalism in an IHL seminar for such teachers in Moscow. Two teams from the Baku State and Khazar universities took part in the fifth De Martens moot court competition on IHL.

In Nagorny Karabakh, IHL was taught at two universities. The ICRC sponsored the participation of a lecturer in a conference on the Ottawa landmine treaty held in Poland.⁷

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The National Societies of Armenia and Azerbaijan continued to rely on external funding and on support from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to strengthen their capacity to meet the extensive needs of vulnerable people in their countries. In close coordination with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC continued to work with both National Societies, providing financial support and training for their tracing and dissemination activities and building up their first-aid services to enable them to respond quickly in emergencies. It also involved them as monitors in the ICRC school programme to familiarize youngsters with humanitarian principles. During the year the ICRC provided financial support and technical assistance enabling the National Societies to organize three workshops for dissemination instructors and two seminars on tracing activities for 20 branch chairmen in Armenia, and three workshops for tracing and dissemination coordinators in Azerbaijan.

⁶ For events in the Russian Federation, see *Moscow regional delegation*.

⁷ See *Budapest regional delegation*.

SOUTHERN CAUCASUS: GEORGIA

Personnel:
32 expatriates
253 locally hired staff

In Georgia and the breakaway region of Abkhazia, the need for humanitarian aid remains acute. The most vulnerable people in Abkhazia still rely on ICRC assistance, as do internally displaced people (IDPs) and needy residents in western Georgia. Throughout Georgia (excepting Abkhazia and South Ossetia, another separatist region), the ICRC visits detainees and runs a tuberculosis (TB) control programme in prisons. It also supports a physical rehabilitation programme for war amputees and other disabled people, and works to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) among the authorities, the armed forces and civil society.

Expenditure: see *Southern Caucasus (Armenia and Azerbaijan)*



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

CONTEXT

Dismal economic and social conditions, coupled with the breakdown of basic services, fuelled political instability and popular discontent across Georgia in 2001. Efforts on all sides to negotiate a solution to the separatist conflict in South Ossetia yielded no tangible result, and similar efforts in the case of the breakaway region of Abkhazia suffered a serious set-back. Tension once again reached dangerously high levels in the second half of the year as rogue Georgian and Chechen armed groups made inroads from the Kodori valley into Abkhazia, where they clashed heavily with the Abkhaz armed forces. The crisis peaked in early October when

unknown culprits shot down a UNOMIG¹ helicopter over the valley and all nine passengers were killed in the crash. Tensions then eased somewhat, but the situation remained volatile throughout the rest of the year. This environment caused fear and uncertainty in western Georgia's Gali district, where residents and IDPs from Abkhazia were still haunted by memories of the hostilities of 1993 and 1998.

The presence of several thousand Chechen refugees from the neighbouring Russian Federation in eastern Georgia's Pankisi valley remained a destabilizing

¹ United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

factor for the sensitive relations between Georgia and Russia.

An assessment carried out by the ICRC in June clearly showed that western Georgia, where humanitarian emergency aid had been drastically reduced, was still suffering from the economic and social consequences of the conflict. This prompted the organization to extend its assistance in the form of food, housing and primary health care to the most destitute residents and IDPs in the region, whose basic needs were not being met by the longer-term development strategies favoured by major donors. The ICRC also stepped in with medical and material relief on several other occasions when the authorities were unable to respond to emergencies. In October, for example, it provided some 2,800 inhabitants of the Kodori valley with blankets and food.

The ICRC's other programmes went ahead as planned, despite security constraints which made the Pankisi valley a no-go zone for most of the year and temporarily restricted delegates' movements in the Gali region. The ICRC's efforts to make headway on the missing persons issue focused on building trust between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides and providing them with technical assistance. Detainee-welfare activities, including the TB control programme, proceeded relatively smoothly and had the cooperation of the authorities.

In Abkhazia, the ICRC maintained its assistance for vulnerable groups. In both western Georgia and Abkhazia, the organization kept up its "safe blood" programmes and continued to support key surgical facilities and the prosthetic/orthotic centres in Tbilisi and Gagra. Responsibility for running the Gagra centre was handed over to the ICRC's local partner, the Abkhaz health authorities. The ICRC also implemented programmes to promote IHL widely in Georgian schools and selected universities.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Missing persons and their families

In Abkhazia, many families still did not know what had happened to relatives who went missing during the armed conflict in 1992-93 (at least 1,300 people were unaccounted for, according to official estimates). Some new cases were reported to the ICRC in the wake of the renewed hostilities in October 2001. As in the past, the ICRC encouraged the Georgian and Abkhaz State Commissions for tracing the missing to exchange all relevant information in their possession. The ICRC also assisted them by enlisting the services of a forensic expert from Physicians for Human Rights specializing in the identification of mortal remains.

In June, at the request of both sides, the ICRC acted as an observer during the transfer of the mortal remains of 15 people from Abkhazia to Georgia proper. They had died in 1993 in a plane crash over Abkhazia.

Family members separated by conflict

For a majority of the Abkhaz population, the ICRC's Red Cross message (RCM) network was still the only means of keeping in touch with relatives outside Abkhazia, mostly in Georgia, but also in the Russian Federation and other countries. In total, 30,450 RCMs were collected and distributed.

Given Abkhazia's widespread poverty, insecurity and high crime levels, isolated elderly members of minorities remained particularly easy targets for criminal attacks and harassment. The ICRC kept a close watch on their situation. On a number of occasions where individuals had experienced problems it brought their cases to the attention of the authorities. Those who wished to leave were given the opportunity to join their relatives elsewhere, mostly in Georgia proper. In all, the ICRC reunited 15 families.

Vulnerable groups in Abkhazia

In view of the large numbers of destitute people who still depended on food aid, the ICRC ran three types of programmes to cover the food requirements of the most vulnerable, either in full or partially, depending on the degree of need. About two-thirds of the beneficiaries of these programmes were women over 60 belonging to minorities.

Under a community kitchen programme delegated to the Finnish Red Cross, the ICRC supplied food on a daily basis at 26 soup kitchens and seven mobile canteens for an average of 6,400 people in urban areas. A home assistance programme, delegated to the Swedish Red Cross and carried out with the help of some 440 local Red Cross volunteers, provided some 1,340 housebound elderly people with meals and basic health care every day. Dry-food rations were distributed monthly to an average of 1,300 destitute people in rural areas, and quarterly to between 10,000 and 11,000 people in urban areas with no support from other sources. In total, the ICRC delivered 2,850 tonnes of food relief. The ICRC also provided the beneficiaries of these programmes with other forms of assistance, such as clothing and school materials, as needed.

Rural population in Abkhazia

To increase long-term self-sufficiency in Abkhazia's rural areas, the ICRC carried out an agronomy programme, supplying 2,470 families in 16 villages with fertilizer, pesticides and agricultural tools. In addition, it provided the Abkhaz veterinary authorities with sufficient vaccines to protect 70,000 head of cattle against foot-and-mouth disease in the Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli and Gali regions.

Population of Sukhumi and Ochamchira

Given Abkhazia's steadily deteriorating infrastructure and the authorities' chronic lack of resources, water supply and basic sanitation remained a major problem. The ICRC assisted the municipal water boards of Sukhumi (population: about 50,000) and Ochamchira (population: about 10,000) with equipment and expertise. This enabled them, for example, to ensure sewage evacuation in Sukhumi's residential areas and to increase Ochamchira's inhabitants' access to uncontaminated water from two to six hours per day, for the first time in at least 10 years.

Vulnerable population in western Georgia

In mid-year, the ICRC assessed the situation of the resident population and the 100,000 or so displaced people stranded in western Georgia since 1992, mostly in communal centres. This prompted the ICRC to include assistance programmes for some 20,000 of the worst-off residents and IDPs – mostly elderly, chronically ill or otherwise vulnerable people living in often insalubrious conditions – in its objectives for the following year. Ad hoc distributions of food and clothing to the neediest began straight away. By the end of the year, the organization had distributed 490 family food parcels, 115,000 individual food rations and 450 winter jackets.

As planned, the ICRC bolstered the foundering sanitation infrastructure in the chief town of Zugdidi, whose population of 100,000 included about 60% displaced people. The ICRC made improvements in two toilet blocks in the most run-down communal centre and built a new public toilet block in the town centre. In September, when contaminated water caused an outbreak of typhoid fever, the ICRC stepped in to supply antibiotics to the Republican Hospital.

Chechen refugees in the Pankisi valley (eastern Georgia)

In February the ICRC distributed 7,500 blankets to Chechen refugees and their host families in the Pankisi valley. This was its first operation in the valley since three of its employees were abducted there in August 2000. In cooperation with *Médecins sans frontières*, the ICRC continued to provide Hospital No. 5 in Tbilisi with medical and surgical supplies so that refugees could be treated there free of charge. Amputees and other disabled people were referred to the ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre in Tbilisi.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The efforts of the Georgian authorities to upgrade living conditions in prisons continued to be confounded, among other things, by the country's economic crisis. Although the Ministry of Justice granted representatives of the Council of Europe and some NGOs access to places of detention, the ICRC remained the only organization to have access to prisons throughout Georgia, including Abkhazia and South Ossetia. It focused on people detained for conflict-related or security reasons and on vulnerable groups (such as women, minors and foreign nationals), whose cases it monitored on an individual basis. In total, the ICRC carried out 62 visits (including 21 in Abkhazia) to 151 detainees held in 34 prisons (nine of them in Abkhazia). Of the detainees, 62 were newly registered. In addition, the ICRC handled 515 RCMS between detainees and their relatives.

Detainees with tuberculosis (TB)

Given the TB risk which threatens the detainee population in particular, the ICRC continued to support the government in implementing comprehensive control measures in prisons. Systematic screening, coupled with strict adherence to the WHO-recommended DOTS² approach, helped to reduce further the number of infectious cases and significantly lower the rate of multi-drug resistant cases.

The ICRC focused on further improving the TB programme in prisons. A major concern was to see it extended from Ksani, the main prison TB hospital in Tbilisi, to other detention facilities so that all infected prisoners would have access to treatment. A decentralized DOTS programme was run in the Kriti high-security prison, the central penitentiary hospital and the women's prison. Systematic screening of the populations in seven other detention facilities by ICRC-trained doctors working for the Ministry of Justice allowed TB sufferers to be identified in the early stages of the disease. In coordination with the national TB programme, the ICRC and the Ministry of Justice continued to hold health-education sessions for prisoners. After signing a number of new agreements with the Ministry aiming at substantial improvements in terms of water and sanitation, the ICRC set about upgrading prison cells in Ksani's prison No. 1 and the medical ward in prison No. 5.

Over 1,700 patients have been treated since the programme started in June 1998, with a cure rate of over 70%.

² Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course

WOUNDED AND SICK

Surgical patients

Given the poor shape of the region's health facilities, the ICRC, as in the past, regularly supplied equipment, supplies and medication to surgical hospitals. In western Georgia, these included the Republican Hospital in Zugdidi, the regional referral hospital, which received enough supplies to treat between 60 and 80 patients each month, and two facilities in Darcheli and Jvari. In Abkhazia, the ICRC regularly assisted three referral hospitals and two front-line hospitals with sufficient supplies to treat between 300 and 500 surgical cases monthly. In October, when the security situation worsened in the Kodori valley and the number of war-wounded patients rose, the ICRC supplied emergency surgical assistance to the Agudzera military referral hospital and several other facilities.

The ICRC maintained its project for safe blood transfusion at the Zugdidi Republican Hospital and three hospitals in Abkhazia. The expatriate blood specialist left in May, leaving two ICRC field officers in charge of monitoring the activities. An evaluation showed that the risk of transfusing contaminated blood had been significantly lowered. In all, some 450 patients received about 1,000 units of blood.

Among those attending the ICRC's seminar on war surgery in Moscow in June were five surgeons from Georgia, including three from Abkhazia.

As planned, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and *Médecins sans frontières* took over responsibility for keeping the outpatient clinics for IDPs in Zugdidi and for vulnerable residents in Sukhumi supplied with medicines. Both facilities had been upgraded by the ICRC in 2000. However, by the end of 2001, the Federation had withdrawn from Georgia and suspended all its programmes (see *National Society*).

Amputees and other disabled patients

The ICRC kept up its support for the prosthetic/orthotic centres and workshops in Tbilisi and Gagra, still the country's only physical rehabilitation facilities. During the year, 388 patients were fitted with artificial limbs. For the first time in Georgia, four advanced students graduated from the third-year complementary training course on orthotics and obtained the internationally recognized ISPO³ diploma. The ICRC submitted a new proposal to the Georgian Ministry of Health and Social Affairs regarding future cooperation on the project in Tbilisi. A reply was still outstanding at the end of the year. In Gagra, the ICRC handed all responsibilities over to the Abkhaz health authorities.

AUTHORITIES

By introducing comprehensive measures into national legislation to repress war crimes, to protect the red cross and red crescent emblems and to set up a national committee for the implementation of IHL, Georgia met the ICRC's basic criteria on IHL implementation. This enabled the ICRC to focus on the next step, which is to obtain ratification and implementation of the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court⁴ and encourage the subsequent training of judges. Georgia was the first CIS⁵ country to complete a draft study on the compatibility of national legislation with the provisions of the Rome Statute, which will serve as a major tool to promote and facilitate ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute. By the end of 2001, the draft, prepared by the Vice-President of Georgia's Supreme Court, had been submitted for comments to the committee for implementation of IHL, the authorities concerned and the ICRC. In addition, by decree of the Georgian President, the Ministry of Justice had set up a committee of experts to work on promoting and preparing the ratification process.

³ International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics

⁴ See *Moscow regional delegation*.

⁵ Commonwealth of Independent States

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC continued to work closely with the Georgian Ministry of Defence with a view to integrating IHL in military training. The Ministry introduced IHL as a regular subject into the curriculum of the Joint Military Academy and issued Order 169 requiring all military structures to include IHL systematically in all aspects of training, including combat training, starting in January 2002. The ICRC, reckoning that at least 200 IHL instructors would have to be trained to achieve this, began holding instructor's courses for officers from operational units. During the year under review 62 instructors were trained.

In addition, the ICRC provided financial support and technical advice to assist the military authorities in integrating IHL gradually in all training manuals and procedures.

In November, the ICRC made contact with the military authorities and the police school in Abkhazia with a view to cooperating on IHL programmes.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Media and NGOs

The ICRC maintained regular contact with the media in Georgia proper and Abkhazia. Its press releases were regularly picked up by the major regional information agencies, and documentaries on its activities were broadcast on Georgian and Abkhaz television. The ICRC strengthened its cooperation with major NGOs, including some organizations specializing in women's issues and two law students' associations (see below).

In addition, the ICRC lent support in the form of information materials and training to mine-awareness programmes run by HALO Trust in western Georgia and by a local NGO, Refugees Against Mines, in the Pankisi valley. Following a three-week assessment at the end of the year, the ICRC drew up a systematic training plan for HALO Trust field officers to be put into practice in 2002.

Schools

The ICRC kept up its support for the school programme carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education which aims to familiarize secondary-school pupils with the basic principles of IHL and humanitarian action. By 2001, some 140,000 children at 3,000 Georgian schools had received copies of the ICRC-sponsored manuals for the sixth and seventh grades, *Know yourself* and *What hate destroys*. Throughout the year, 18-hour interactive training courses were held to familiarize teachers with the programme content and methodology. After receiving training in September, the first five teacher trainers went on in their turn to instruct other teachers. In Abkhazia, where the Russian version of the fifth- and sixth-grade manuals was used to teach some 6,000 pupils, refresher courses were held for 65 teachers to prepare them for the introduction of the seventh-grade manual in 2002. In South Ossetia, the Russian manuals were used by some 800 pupils in the fifth and sixth grades.

Universities

The ICRC continued to facilitate the inclusion of IHL in the law and journalism curricula of universities in Tbilisi, western Georgia and Abkhazia by arranging seminars for lecturers and by providing or supporting the production of teaching materials. In March, in cooperation with the European Law Students' Association Georgia (ELSAG), the ICRC organized the country's first IHL moot-court competition for law students from three universities, which was won by the Kutaisi team. In May, with ICRC support, ELSAG organized a student conference in Ajaria on IHL.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The year was overshadowed by an internal crisis which largely paralysed the Red Cross Society of Georgia. The situation was exacerbated in September when the incumbent National Society President was re-elected amid widespread controversy. This prompted the International Federation to withdraw and to stop all its programmes. The ICRC maintained strict neutrality with regard to these problems. Meanwhile, it kept up support for the Red Cross message network in Ajaria and Georgian Red Cross youth programmes.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Personnel:
76 expatriates
512 locally hired staff

The ICRC is working throughout the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to ensure that civilians and detainees are protected and to help them cope with the psychological and material consequences of the internal and international conflicts that have affected the country. It seeks to clarify the fate of missing persons, and aids their families. While focusing on support to key public services and organizations at the community level, the ICRC also endeavours to meet the basic needs of vulnerable groups.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	7,632,331
Assistance	45,682,075
Preventive Action	2,938,862
Cooperation with National Societies	1,742,003
General	689,285
Overheads	3,154,963

61,839,519

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA



ICRC delegation ICRC sub-delegation ICRC mission ICRC office

CONTEXT

In the more than two years since the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) emerged from a period of internal and international armed conflict, the country has seen a number of developments on various fronts. The change of government led to the country's readmission to the international fold, and subsequently to international institutions such as the UN, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the World Bank. Plans also got under way for Yugoslavia to formally submit its candidature for European Union (EU) membership in 2004 if it meets conditions laid down in the EU stabilization process. Meanwhile, the political situation stayed fragile, with

the relationship between Serbia and Montenegro in the balance.

The FRY handed over ex-president Slobodan Milosevic to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague. This paved the way for the country to renew dialogue with its neighbours, easing the political and security situation in the region. Amnesty laws were adopted and implemented, expediting the release of most Kosovo Albanian detainees held in Serbian prisons. In addition, the Yugoslav Army (VJ) began to court-martial those in its ranks accused of crimes committed in Kosovo. Elsewhere, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was

under investigation for its role in murders committed during the conflict.

During the year under review the Yugoslav authorities and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) continued their dialogue on the missing and on the exhumation of mass graves in both Serbia proper and Kosovo. The graves found in Serbia proper were believed to contain hundreds of bodies of ethnic Albanians killed in Kosovo but secretly buried outside the province. Members of the Serb community were also among the missing, and in some cases their remains were also buried in mass graves.

Economic reforms in FRY, including measures to attract foreign investment and rehabilitate the banking and monetary systems, slowly got under way. These weighed down upon the already impoverished population, 60% of which officially qualified as poor. Major problems included unemployment, a foreign debt estimated at US\$ 12 billion and the burden of some 230,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) from Kosovo and nearly 400,000 refugees from the region. However, the donor conference held in June more than lived up to its pledge to allocate US\$ 1.28 billion in aid to FRY by granting it US\$ 1.36 billion, 10% of it earmarked for Montenegro.

In southern Serbia, the gradual deployment between March and May of the Yugoslav Security Forces in part of the former Ground Safety Zone (GSZ), and the decommissioning of the armed group known as the Liberation Army of Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac (UCPMB), helped ease tensions and encouraged people who had fled after 1999 to start returning. However, the situation remained tense in the Presevo valley, with sporadic incidents fuelling fear and distrust between the Serb and Albanian communities. The insecurity in the region was compounded by the presence of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Kosovo remained under UN administration as stipulated by Security Council Resolution 1244, which was adopted on 10 June 1999 following the signing of a Military Technical Agreement between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the FRY. The agreement provided for an international security presence, to be maintained by the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR), and for an international civil presence under UNMIK.

General elections held in November in Kosovo cleared the way for the formation of a 120-seat assembly, a government appointed by a prime minister and an elected presidency. The turnout was high even among Serbs, despite calls for a boycott. The elections were won by Ibrahim Rugova's Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), while the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK), led by Hashim Thaci, came second. Ten of the seats were reserved for Serbs. Once formed, the government will control 80% of the Kosovo budget. UNMIK retained overall responsibility for the government of the province, while 30 municipal authorities elected in 2000 were responsible for local affairs, including health and education.

Belgrade maintained a dialogue with UNMIK to ensure that Kosovo Serbs were able to participate in Kosovo society, including in the November elections.

More than two years after the FRY emerged from a period of internal and international armed conflict, Kosovo and the rest of the country faced very different realities. On the economic front, Kosovo still needed major investments to improve its infrastructure. Remittances remained the primary source of income and over 50% of the province's population lived in poverty.

Over 3,700 families from all ethnic groups remained without information on the fate or whereabouts of a family member, but the issue gained increasing political importance with the exhumation of mortal remains in mass graves in Serbia proper. Harassment, intimidation and occasional murders of members of minority communities continued.

The Roma, the Serb community in ethnic Albanian areas and the Albanians in ethnic Serb areas lived in poverty and isolation, with their movements, access to services and opportunities for employment curtailed. In Serbia 226,000 people (Serbs and Roma) displaced from Kosovo continued to face particularly harsh living conditions, while precarious security conditions for minorities in Kosovo militated against their return there. Although a few IDPs did return to Kosovo of their own accord, a greater number of people belonging to minority communities were estimated to be leaving the province.

Another humanitarian concern was the lurking danger of UXO and minefields. Weapons were also readily available, and a three-month weapons amnesty in 2001 did not noticeably reduce their accessibility. Tension persisted in the south, and the uncertain situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) was a further destabilizing factor, Kosovo being the destination of choice for ethnic Albanian refugees. According to the office of UNHCR, over 80,000 refugees crossed into Kosovo during the conflict in the FYROM. By December, however, under 10,000 remained in Kosovo, the rest having returned home.

Several hundred NGOs and most international organizations remained in Kosovo. Nevertheless, the focus of humanitarian activities had begun shifting from emergency to development assistance.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Missing persons

In cooperation with the authorities and the missing persons unit of the UNMIK police, the ICRC continued to present to relatives of missing persons the *Book of belongings*. In 2001 approximately 1,300 people consulted the book at ICRC offices in Kosovo. Sets of belongings of 50 missing persons were recognized by relatives, which has so far led to three identifications.

In 2001 the Yugoslav authorities and UNMIK set up a contact group comprising two working groups, one on detention and the other on missing persons, and meeting fortnightly. The discovery in 2001 of five mass graves in Serbia proper, and the subsequent exhumation and identification process, increased the need for cooperation between the FRY and UNMIK authorities. The ICRC's collection of ante-mortem data (AMD) on both sides of the administrative boundary helped speed up the identification process.

The ICRC maintained regular contact with the Joint Implementation Commission – which handled contacts between KFOR and the FRY military authorities, and also served as a liaison between FRY and UNMIK authorities on the issue of the missing – and participated in the work of its subcommission on missing persons.

Since January 1998, a total of 5,703 tracing requests have been collected by the ICRC from immediate family members. The total number of persons missing at the end of 2001 stood at 3,781. So far, 1,922 cases have been solved:

- 946 missing persons have been located during ICRC visits to places of detention in Serbia proper since July 1999 (eight during the year under review). Most of these newly registered detainees had been arrested in relation to the situation in southern Serbia;
- 327 missing persons made contact with their families or returned home by themselves, including 72 in 2001;
- the mortal remains of 537 missing persons were identified and buried, 130 of them in 2001; and
- 112 cases were closed for administrative reasons (such as when two inquiries are opened for the same missing person or cases where all contact with the inquirer is lost).

SERBIA (except Kosovo)/ MONTENEGRO

The ICRC developed contacts with representatives of the recently created Coordination Centre for Kosovo, which assumed responsibility for matters concerning refugees, missing and displaced persons, and cooperation between the FRY and UNMIK on such matters.

Five mass graves were exhumed, bringing the total number of mortal remains recovered in Serbia proper in 2001 to approximately 430. To expedite the identification of remains recovered in Kosovo, the ICRC, together with the Yugoslav Red Cross and representatives of the missing persons' family association, started collecting AMD in July. By the end of the year, data on 496 missing persons had been collected. The *Book of belongings* published in February by the OSCE, and containing pictures of personal belongings found on mortal remains exhumed by the ICTY in 2000, was presented by the ICRC to relatives of missing persons, who made 133 identifications still awaiting confirmation. Presentation of the book in Serbia proper was completed during the year under review.

The ICRC also produced a CD-ROM version of the *Book of belongings*, provided families of the missing – especially those involved in AMD collection – with psycho-social support, and supported staff assisting families on a daily basis with training.

KOSOVO

In Kosovo, the ICRC continued to chair weekly meetings of the working group on missing persons, which were attended by the authorities and by organizations such as UNMIK, OSCE, the International Commission on Missing Persons in the former Yugoslavia (ICMP), KFOR and the Forensic Institute of Pristina. The working group aimed to facilitate cooperation among all individuals and organizations concerned, and functioned as an advisory board.

A study on the specific needs of families of missing persons was launched by the ICRC to assess the response of the government and humanitarian organizations. In order to create a network of organizations for referral purposes, the ICRC continued to identify local and international organizations and administrative authorities active in the field of psycho-social support to families of missing persons.

**Residents, refugees
and internally displaced people**
**SERBIA (except Kosovo)/
MONTENEGRO**

A tense and volatile situation prevailed in southern Serbia until the decommissioning, in May, of ethnic Albanian armed groups and the re-entry of the Yugoslav Security Forces into Sector B of the former GSZ in Bujanovac and Presevo municipalities. Deployment of the Yugoslav Security Forces in villages adjacent to the former GSZ reportedly limited civilians' freedom of movement. The ICRC followed up on arrests and sought access to all detained persons. It visited 12 people held by the Yugoslav authorities. In addition to its office in Bujanovac, a second office was opened in Presevo town, from where the ICRC carried out field trips within and beyond the former GSZ to assess the living conditions of civilians, monitor their situation in terms of protection, and provide food and other items, and medical assistance where necessary.

The presence of mines and UXO remained a primary threat to the population. Accordingly, the ICRC launched a programme to alert the population to the danger.

Internally displaced people

Each IDP from Kosovo received a 6.5-kg food parcel and 12 kg of wheat flour monthly from the ICRC through the Yugoslav Red Cross. Some 120,000 of the most vulnerable people benefited from this aid. The ICRC continued to provide an average of 135,000 IDPs, some of them in Montenegro, with hygiene parcels every three months. Baby hygiene parcels were provided for approximately 18,500 babies. In all, 23,500 tonnes of food and hygiene parcels were distributed in 2001.

A water tank was installed in Veliki Trnovac to overcome the shortage of water during peak consumption periods. After carrying out an assessment of two *ambulant*s (primary health centres) in Muhovac and Cerevajna in the former GSZ, the ICRC provided assistance to the one in Muhovac to ensure that it reopened.

Vulnerable groups

Besides maintaining its assistance to IDPs returning from Kosovo to the former GSZ, the ICRC continued to aid the most vulnerable civilians in 13 villages in Presevo municipality and 16 villages in Bujanovac municipality. A total of 42.5 tonnes of food supplements and 7,275 hygiene parcels were distributed to some 10,000 people.

Soup kitchens

With the social safety net overstretched, the ICRC, through assistance programmes developed together with National Societies, supported community mechanisms to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable people. At the beginning of 2001, the organization encouraged the local authorities to assume greater responsibility towards vulnerable groups. Meanwhile, the number of beneficiaries of its soup-kitchen programme continued to increase. Some 73,000 people received a hot meal on a daily basis at 350 distribution points supplied by 145 kitchens in 95 municipalities.

In July the ICRC transferred responsibility for the soup-kitchen programme to the Yugoslav and German Red Cross Societies. In cooperation with the Yugoslav Red Cross, the ICRC began supplying improved equipment to the kitchens so as to reduce the programme's operational costs. In addition, the ICRC conducted training for local authorities, social-welfare centres, Red Cross branches and soup-kitchen personnel to enhance the programme's efficiency and cooperation between the above-mentioned partners at the local level.

Agricultural programme

By implementing income-generating projects (vegetable production, livestock breeding and workshops for agricultural machinery), the ICRC actively encouraged IDPs to increase their economic security and decrease dependence on external aid. Many of the 300 households benefiting from the projects also noted the psychological impact of the activities: IDPs became more active and displayed an increasingly positive attitude towards life. They stepped up their involvement in the local community, which in turn helped change the resident population's perception of them.

Water and habitat

The ICRC stepped in to help in areas with potable water supply problems, offering over a dozen water boards the spare parts and equipment necessary to keep their systems running normally. Eight monitoring projects were started with public-health institutions to put donated equipment to use and identify water-related environmental issues in communities with a combined population of around 5.7 million. Planning continued on the three-year integrated primary health-care project devised to benefit the entire population of Kraljevo municipality, which has the largest number of IDPs (25,694), refugees and vulnerable people (6,269) in proportion to its population (estimated at 152,000).

KOSOVO

Life remained difficult and sometimes dangerous for members of minority communities in Kosovo. Persistently poor security was the overriding concern for the communities, which remained in geographic and social isolation. The ICRC maintained a dialogue with other humanitarian organizations and the security forces to ensure that civilians, including members of minority communities, were protected, that their needs in humanitarian terms were met and that their situation was monitored. It also regularly visited areas to which Serb IDPs returned from Serbia proper.

The number of family reunifications carried out by the ICRC remained low since most of the people who wanted to or were compelled to leave Kosovo to join their families in Serbia proper had already done so. During the year under review, 16 people were reunited with relatives in Serbia proper and Montenegro on the basis of established criteria (people under 18 or over 60, women with small children, those unable to travel without ICRC assistance). The mortal remains of one person were transferred from Serbia proper to Kosovo, while the body of one person was transferred from Kosovo to Serbia proper.

A total of 263 Red Cross messages (RCMs) were distributed on behalf of people living in Yugoslavia and their families within the country and beyond.

Internally displaced people

Between February and June the ICRC provided displaced and needy civilians in Kosovo, notably those displaced from southern Serbia, with 365 tonnes of food and 208 tonnes of other items. The number of beneficiaries varied from 2,000 to 10,000 per month. The ICRC ended its assistance programmes once the government social welfare scheme and a World Food Programme (WFP) food safety-net programme were in a position to absorb the remaining 2,500 IDPs in need of assistance.

Refugees from the FYROM

As a result of fighting in the northern region of the FYROM, some 80,000 civilians crossed the border into Kosovo, primarily in late March. Most found shelter with host families. The ICRC provided host families with food and other items.

The most vulnerable among the resident population

The soup-kitchen programme, run in cooperation with National Societies on behalf of the most vulnerable, ended in late April after the WFP had agreed to take over responsibility for assisting the programme's beneficiaries.

Rural population

A project to deliver sunflower seed to the rural population was completed after six tonnes of seed and 587 tonnes of fertilizer had been supplied. The project's aim was to generate employment, diversify crop production and provide a cash crop to farmers who would otherwise have practised only subsistence farming. Technical and material support to the Lipjan/Ljiljane Agricultural High School continued. Pilot plots were seeded and information was given to help improve agricultural production. Evaluations of the project showed a huge increase in harvest potential, estimated at 3,500 kg per hectare, compared to an average of 1,800 kg per hectare before the project began.

Water and habitat

The water-board support project is part of a comprehensive ICRC programme to ensure effective operational capability of water-supply systems. In cooperation with National Societies, the ICRC supported the efforts of municipal water boards to carry out structural repairs to war-damaged installations and provided them with specialized training, essential replacement parts, maintenance equipment and treatment chemicals.

The ICRC carried out an urban sewer-cleaning programme using specialized high-pressure mobile machinery. It also made sure that emergency water supplies reached some 3,000 IDPs and communities with temporary water shortages.

To ensure adequate water-quality control the ICRC provided the Institute of Public Health with the requisite specialized equipment and training. The ICRC also assisted the Institute in developing an environmental health-education programme for rural areas.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**SERBIA (except Kosovo)/
MONTENEGRO**

The ICRC, which had access to all detainees falling within its mandate, went to 31 places of detention on 94 occasions during which it visited 654 detainees and assessed their conditions of detention. It transferred back to Kosovo 489 people released from detention in Serbia proper. On 11 occasions, the ICRC went to two places of detention where it visited detainees held in relation with former conflicts. Two of the five Croatian detainees released in 2001 were repatriated to Croatia under the auspices of the ICRC. Before their release, the ICRC had organized a family visit enabling five family members from Croatia to visit their relatives detained in Serbia.

The ICRC maintained a dialogue with the Yugoslav authorities and UNMIK on the issue of detainees. A contact group, which included a working group on detainees, met twice monthly and exchanged information on Kosovo Albanians detained in Serbia proper, and non-Albanians detained in Kosovo.

To enable detainees to maintain contact with their families in Kosovo, the ICRC distributed 2,668 RCMs and took 137 people from Kosovo to places of detention in Serbia to visit relatives (figures for Montenegro are not included). In addition, 21 visits with Serb detainees held in Croatia were organized for family members.

The authorities in Yugoslavia lacked adequate financial means to support the country's prison dispensaries and hospitals. The supply of food, drugs and disposable medical materials was also a major problem. Often, patients were unable to receive full treatment for common diseases. The incidence of tuberculosis in jails was alarming (20% of the detainees visited in Belgrade prison hospital in June 2001 had the disease). The ICRC monitored over 100 medical cases in FRY prisons, and sought to improve the quality of medical care through contacts with the relevant authorities. The organization provided 4,000 of the most vulnerable prisoners in district prisons and detention centres with hygiene parcels and bed linen.

KOSOVO

The ICRC continued to visit nine detention places under the jurisdiction of KFOR and UNMIK. The organization registered 331 people, most of whom were detained for insurgency in the former GSZ or in the eastern part of Kosovo, or in relation to the situation in the FYROM.

WOUNDED AND SICK**SERBIA (except Kosovo)/
MONTENEGRO****Surgical programme**

The Ministry of Health continued to experience problems supplying the majority of hospitals on a regular basis and in sufficient quantities. The ICRC therefore maintained its aid to 40 major hospitals in Yugoslavia with the aim of improving the quality and accessibility of health care. The organization provided basic surgical equipment needed for 3,000 emergency operations per month on average and part of the materials needed for 250,000 consultations per month on average in the hospitals' outpatient departments. The surgical supplies programme was phased out at the end of the year.

Pharmacies

The ICRC developed a three-year pilot project that involved planning, developing and implementing an integrated basic health services package (BHSP) to meet health needs in Kraljevo municipality, which had the highest number of IDPs in the country. One of the project's objectives was to pave the way for the expansion of a sustainable BHSP programme throughout the FRY, thereby enhancing conditions for IDPs and other victims of conflict.

The ICRC continued to supply basic drugs for chronic diseases to 12 Yugoslav Red Cross "humanitarian pharmacies" on a monthly basis until the project wound up in June. The subsequent "Joint State and Red Cross pharmacy project" became operational in September with the distribution of essential drugs through five selected Red Cross pharmacies in the regions with the highest concentration of IDPs. Over 7,000 IDPs benefited from the project on a monthly basis.

Health needs in southern Serbia

Through mobile clinics, support to selected *ambulantas* and cooperation with the local health authorities, the ICRC helped meet the health needs of resident populations cut off from other sources of health care by intensified conflict in southern Serbia. The ICRC evaluated, planned and implemented a three-month medical-relief programme. Joint ICRC and health-ministry teams provided basic health care to the local population and treated over 1,600 patients per month, mainly for respiratory-tract infections, and cardiovascular diseases and complaints.

The main problem remained the shortage of doctors and nurses, particularly in Presevo municipality. Only one of the four *ambulantas* earmarked for ICRC assistance was fully operational during the reporting period, mainly because of a shortage of qualified staff.

KOSOVO

With the cooperation of National Societies, the ICRC continued its assistance to the Gjilan/Gnjilane hospital and regional primary health-care facilities by providing equipment, training and technical support. This enabled the facilities to cope with the increased health-care demands occasioned by population displacements from the former GSZ and new influxes of refugees from the FYROM.

The organization completed the Decan/Decane Main Family Health Centre project, installed equipment and furniture and handed the facility over to the municipality. The shortage of doctors throughout Kosovo persisted.

Limited rehabilitation of medical and surgical facilities in Gjilan/Gnjilane neared completion with a few remaining fixtures to be installed. Rehabilitation of the main operating theatres in Mitrovica hospital began.

Minority communities

The ICRC assessed the situation of ethnic-minority individuals and communities on the basis of reports and requests from its field offices, UNMIK Department of Health and Social Welfare (DHSW) and other parties concerned. The ICRC then discussed minority communities' lack of access to adequate health care with the UNMIK DHSW Minorities Office. At UNMIK's request, the organization assisted in the transportation of essential drugs to health facilities in minority enclaves.

Construction of the internal medicine and paediatric facility at Laplje Selo, a project undertaken in cooperation with the French Red Cross, was completed. Equipment and furniture were installed. Difficulties with the recruitment of medical staff persisted, and the opening of the hospital was delayed for technical reasons.

The Belgian Red Cross completed the mobile-clinic programme for ethnic minority communities in the Zhupa Valley and Prizren town in June and handed it over to the Municipal Health Authority.

Surgical programme

As NGOs in Kosovo started scaling down their activities or leaving altogether, there were increasing reports of civilians needing medical and surgical treatment and rehabilitation for war-related injuries. The ICRC began collecting information so as to be able adequately to assess the situation and the prospects for assistance.

The programme for the supply of surgical instruments and equipment to the Mitrovica hospital operating theatres progressed. Because of Mitrovica hospital's increasing cooperation with UNMIK DHSW and WHO, the need for ICRC support declined gradually. Nevertheless, the ICRC kept a contingency stock of surgical supplies in Pristina and began providing emergency medical-evacuation training for local Red Cross teams in the Mitrovica region.

AUTHORITIES**SERBIA (except Kosovo)/
MONTENEGRO**

The ICRC made two pilot presentations for 50 middle-management staff members in Belgrade and Nis prisons, which focused on the ICRC, particularly its protection activities, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

KOSOVO

Presentations were made on the issue of the missing during meetings organized with UNMIK, UNHCR and OSCE. Information sessions on protection activities organized for officials of municipal assemblies were also attended by international administrators and KFOR representatives.

**ARMED FORCES
AND OTHER BEARERS
OF WEAPONS****SERBIA (except Kosovo)/
MONTENEGRO**

In the wake of the changes that took place in the FRY, the ICRC intensified its contacts with the army and security forces. Its training activities had to be put on hold, however, as these forces restructured.

In Serbia and Montenegro the ICRC conducted a two-day course on human rights applicable to police functions, which was attended by 31 and 20 senior police officers, respectively.

KOSOVO

Sessions on the ICRC were conducted for a number of KFOR officers from the contingents of 13 different countries.

The ICRC assisted in conducting two introductory seminars on international humanitarian law (IHL) attended by 41 senior staff of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC). In addition, the organization held an IHL trainers' workshop for 30 KPC participants. The aim of these initiatives was to introduce the activities of the ICRC to senior officers, gain support for an IHL programme and train IHL instructors for the KPC.

Basic training courses were conducted in April and included a session on the ICRC for 200 police officers in all communities. Sessions on the issue of missing persons were organized for police investigative units in order to enhance cooperation with the ICRC.

A presentation on ICRC activities and basic principles of IHL was incorporated into the training of KPC trainers organized by KFOR. The ICRC contributed to a training programme conducted at the Kosovo Police Service School for around 220 police cadets from different communities. Sessions focused on the ICRC's role and mandate.

In December, the ICRC conducted a five-day train-the-trainers workshop on human rights and IHL for 18 instructors of the Kosovo Police Service School.

CIVIL SOCIETY**SERBIA (except Kosovo)/
MONTENEGRO****Media**

The newly liberalized media became more accessible to the ICRC and showed a willingness to cover a wide range of subjects relating to humanitarian work. The electronic and print media gave extensive coverage to issues of humanitarian concern and ICRC activities, notably the collection of AMD from families of missing persons and support to displaced persons, and focused on security in conflict-prone southern Serbia. The ICRC's media-related activities included communication support to family associations of missing persons, a health project and a water-saving campaign. The ICRC continued to organize seminars for journalists, focusing on its activities and IHL.

Youth

Representatives of the Ministry of Education and the Yugoslav Red Cross attended the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) trainers workshop in Geneva as part of the effort to integrate EHL educational modules into the secondary-school curriculum currently under revision. In addition, EHL material was translated into Serbian. The ICRC also met with Montenegro's newly appointed Minister for Education, whose reaction to the EHL programme was positive.

Students and professors

The rapid development of political institutions in Serbia provided an opportunity to promote IHL within academic circles. Contacts were established with the faculty and students at universities in Belgrade and Novi Sad. Together with the Yugoslav Red Cross, the ICRC made a number of presentations on IHL, the ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at selected schools.

Mine-affected population

Mine-awareness activities were intensified after the relaxation of the former GSZ in May and June. The ICRC organized three mine-awareness workshops for 50 primary-school teachers, one workshop for nine Yugoslav Red Cross instructors from municipalities along the border with Kosovo to enable them to carry out mine-awareness activities in their respective areas, and one workshop for 45 community volunteers. The ICRC carried out 68 mine-awareness theatre performances for 9,870 children in various villages in the former GSZ and engaged two theatre groups (one Serb, one Albanian) to perform a play based on *Little Red Riding Hood*, adapted to convey a mine-awareness message. The performances were attended by 900 adults.

KOSOVO**Media**

Media coverage of ICRC activities included interviews on topics such as missing people, detention, assistance to IDPs in eastern Kosovo and the former GSZ, and IHL sessions for the KPC. The press published articles on activities carried out by the ICRC and various components of the Movement.

Mine-affected population

As the lead agency for data-gathering on mine/UXO incidents, the ICRC collected and analysed information on 30 such incidents to help adapt the mine-awareness programme to the reality in the field. Data were also collected from health facilities and through direct contacts with communities, and regularly passed on to the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre. Save the Children Fund started implementing the mine-awareness school curriculum in 2001. For this reason, the ICRC phased out its school activities, but provided materials in support of the curriculum.

Regular contact was maintained with mine-awareness volunteers and the local authorities in order to obtain a clear picture of the mine/UXO danger and plan future action. Data gathering on mine incidents continued, particularly in view of the influx of IDPs from the Presevo Valley and the former GSZ, and refugees from the FYROM. Efforts to alert the population to the mine threat included a community-based "safer village" programme working with trained volunteers, and the use of daily broadcasts, videos, posters, and leaflets to advocate safe behaviour. Some 7,600 children and 1,425 adults attended 74 mine-awareness performances. Additionally, 3,000 children and 1,350 adults received mine-awareness information. ICRC teams continued to support agencies involved in mine clearance.

NATIONAL SOCIETY**SERBIA (except Kosovo)/
MONTENEGRO**

Having scaled down relief activities, the ICRC donated to the National Society 14 minivans, five trucks, a forklift and spare motor parts to ensure continuation of the soup-kitchen programme handed over in June. Meanwhile the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, together with the ICRC, played a major role in strengthening the National Society's relief department. Indeed, the ability of the Yugoslav Red Cross, and particularly the Republican branch of the Serbian Red Cross, to manage its relief operations effectively, in full respect of international accounting standards, was significantly enhanced. Implementation of the recommendations of an extensive external audit of Yugoslav Red Cross relief operations, combined with the appointment of a new Serbian Red Cross management duly trained in modern management and accounting techniques, improved the National Society's capacity to meet its responsibilities as a viable operational partner for other components of the Movement, the UN and other international agencies.

Priorities for cooperation between the Yugoslav Red Cross and the ICRC gradually shifted towards other activities such as tracing and dissemination. The ICRC provided training for the National Society's disseminators, as well as technical and material support to strengthen its tracing capacity.

KOSOVO

In Kosovo, there were two operating Red Cross organizations, namely the "Red Cross of Kosovo and Metohija" and the "Red Cross of Kosova". Owing to a variety of factors, both branches faced challenges in carrying out humanitarian activities in conformity with the Fundamental Principles. The inability of either Red Cross organization to gain the confidence of all sectors of the population, which is necessary for impartial operation throughout the territory, underscored the need to establish one multiethnic Red Cross organization that is open to all. At the end of 2001, 14 National Societies were still working in Kosovo, mainly in health care, water and sanitation and reconstruction.

The ICRC maintained contacts with the Yugoslav Red Cross to ensure capacity building for the "Red Cross of Kosovo and Metohija". The "Red Cross of Kosova" was very active in sustaining the local hosting capacity and became a partner of the UNHCR in the Stabilization and Support Programme for Host Families. Within this context, the International Federation helped the "Red Cross of Kosova" strengthen its organizational capacity from June onwards, and together they assisted host families. The "Red Cross of Kosova" also extended support to the ICRC during prisoner-release operations.

Throughout the year, the ICRC provided both Red Cross organizations, which together have over 30 branches, with training so as to strengthen their conflict preparedness. It also organized sessions for them on the Movement and on the practical application of the Fundamental Principles in everyday work and in emergency situations – including conflict situations. ICRC support to the two Red Cross organizations included a medical-evacuation programme (for the ethnically divided town of Mitrovica), which strengthened the capacity of both organizations to evacuate the wounded and sick and give them first-aid treatment.

BUDAPEST

Regional delegation

Countries covered:

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

Personnel:

9 expatriates
48 locally hired staff

The Budapest regional delegation aims to develop a broad network of contacts with governments, academic circles, civil society and the media in Central Europe. It supports the civilian and military authorities in their efforts to incorporate international humanitarian law into education and training curricula, and cooperates with the National Red Cross Societies of the region. In Croatia, the ICRC is also addressing the consequences of the conflicts that occurred between 1991 and 1995.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	455,226
Assistance	0
Preventive Action	2,395,512
Cooperation with National Societies	923,019
General	166,985
Overheads	257,194

4,197,935



⊕ ICRC regional delegation ⊕ ICRC mission

CONTEXT

The transition to a market economy and multiparty democracy, and aspirations to full membership of the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) were common features of the region's countries, while stability characterized their political situation. Since the transition began over a decade ago, each country has had at least one smooth, democratic change of government. The economic situation in the region was characterized by a functioning market economy in all the countries covered. Restitution of once nationalized assets was either complete or advancing.

Throughout the region, the bulk of the national product was realized through private initiative and production.

However, not everyone benefited from the developments of the past decade. Older generations unable to adapt to new challenges, the handicapped, and certain groups – such as Roma throughout Central Europe, Turks in Bulgaria or Russians in some of the Baltic States – were clearly disadvantaged. The social safety net that could protect such groups was still embryonic.

In 2001, encouraged by NATO's overtures, the countries of the region started diplomatic initiatives, such as organizing multilateral conferences and top-level consultations, in their bid to gain entry into NATO. A favourable decision at the organization's next summit, at the end of 2002 in Prague, would mean that the selected countries might be admitted into NATO in 2004 or 2005. The events of 11 September in the United States appeared to have added a sense of urgency to some of the countries' efforts to join NATO.

Successful candidates for EU membership must have, *inter alia*, stable and democratic institutions, respect for the rule of law, for human rights and the protection of minorities, and viable market economies capable of withstanding competition from other countries in the Union. The region's countries were at varying stages of fulfilling these membership requirements and had encountered hurdles, such as the Austro-German initiative to freeze the movement of labour from new member States for seven years upon admission into the Union, and the Irish electorate's rejection of ratification of the Nice Treaty on EU expansion. Despite these impediments, EU leaders meeting at the Gothenburg summit in June 2001 set 2002 as a target for the completion of negotiations with the best-prepared candidates. The objective was that those countries should participate as EU members in the 2004 elections for the European Parliament. The 2002 target was welcomed by the candidate countries, which had been waiting for a date to be set for at least a decade.

Although the conflict in Croatia ended in 1995, the scars had not yet healed, and the ramifications were still being felt in a number of ways. Of the 5,182 persons reported by families to have disappeared in Croatia between 1991 and 1995, the fate of some 2,675 remained unclear. Furthermore, several thousand people were still refugees or otherwise displaced, and civilian lives remained at risk from over one million mines scattered over a large portion of the country.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Missing persons

Croatia

The year under review saw a number of breakthroughs in efforts to shed light on the fate and whereabouts of people who disappeared as a result of conflicts in Croatia from 1991 to 1995.

With the cooperation of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the Croatian Government Office for Detained and Missing Persons started exhuming human remains dating back to the conflict waged in 1995 in the former UN sectors. In most cases, the remains that were recovered turned out to be those of missing people of Serb ethnic origin. Exhumations took place in Knin cemetery, where the remains of some 300 people were recovered, and also in Gospic.

The mortal remains of over 200 people – a record – were identified and returned to their families for burial in 2001.

From July onwards, the ICRC assisted the identification process by transporting families residing in Serbia to the forensic institute in Zagreb to confirm identifications and make burial arrangements. Two trips were organized for the families of 20 missing persons, and further trips were arranged to enable families to attend burial ceremonies, mostly in Croatia.

Under ICRC auspices, the 24th and 25th meetings of the "Miscom", which brought together the Croatian and Yugoslav commissions on missing persons, were conducted successfully. Discussions focused on the repatriation of human remains that had floated down the Danube into Serbia, where they were buried.

Of the 5,182 persons recorded as missing by the ICRC, the fate of 2,571 was clarified – including 278 during the year under review – leaving 2,611 cases unsolved.

Mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO)

Croatia

According to the Croatian Mine Action Centre, about one million landmines and other UXO remained scattered over a 6,000 square-kilometre area in Croatia, putting at risk the lives of those who worked on the land and of all others who passed through it.

In mine-affected regions, the ICRC continued to support and facilitate community-based initiatives such as a multimedia photo exhibition on mines and an interactive theatre performance entitled "*Ne, ne mine*", which reached over 11,000 adults and children.

The ICRC also assisted mine-awareness activities of the Croatian Red Cross and the Croatian Mine Action Centre, including a weekly radio programme, a television spot on hunters and mines, interactive presentations, an exhibition in Strobeč, and a "Musicians against mines" concert featuring well-known Croat musicians. In addition to its support for the awareness-raising activities of various local artists, the ICRC also assisted the Croatian Red Cross in ensuring that children were provided with safe playgrounds in mine-infested villages.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Croatia

The ICRC visited prisons in Croatia in order to assess conditions of detention and treatment of detainees. It visited 128 persons detained in connection with past conflicts. It continued its programme of family visits between Croatia and Yugoslavia and ensured that even family members with no travel documents could visit their detained relatives. In all, 21 visits were organized for family members to Serb detainees held in Croatia.

AUTHORITIES

In their quest for membership of supranational and regional institutions such as the EU and NATO, the countries of the region were faced with wide-ranging tasks. Priority was given to political and economic matters. As a result, issues of humanitarian concern appeared to be of lesser consequence. Even where the political commitment to deal with them existed, action was slow to follow.

Conferences and workshops held in 2001 in which the ICRC was involved as organizer or participant included the second regional European meeting of national committees and other bodies on international humanitarian law (IHL), a meeting entitled "Towards a ratification of the ICC Statute", a regional experts' meeting on remnants of war, and the 2001 Review Conference of the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, all held in Budapest, and meetings on tackling the proliferation and misuse of small arms in Central and south-eastern Europe and trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration, both organized in Bucharest.

The ICRC continued to urge the region's governments to ratify IHL instruments, set up national IHL committees and conduct studies on the compatibility of national legislation with IHL, where they had not already done so. Hungary's compatibility study, which was funded by the ICRC, was completed and submitted to the competent authorities. The ICRC prepared documents, notably on the repression of war crimes and other serious violations of IHL, which it made available to authorities in the region.

The organization's efforts to promote IHL paid off. By the end of 2001, Hungary and Slovenia had ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, while its ratification by Poland and Slovakia was imminent. In addition, the Czech, Polish and Romanian governments withdrew the reservations they had made to the Geneva Conventions. Poland, which launched a compatibility study, and Romania were at advanced stages in the process of setting up national IHL committees. The IHL committees of Croatia and Lithuania held their first working sessions, which the ICRC attended. In Estonia, a revised bill for the protection of the red cross emblem was completed and translated.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The law of armed conflicts was reasonably well integrated in armed-forces training at officer level but less so among troops. Efforts were under way to incorporate the law into operational concepts and collective and individual training.

The ICRC provided seven of the region's countries with financial support to defray the cost of translating and producing IHL materials such as the ICRC manual *Fight it right* and the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and of dubbing IHL videos for distribution. The ICRC conducted IHL courses for commanders and instructors of the police forces of four countries in the region, and for Estonian police trainees. The organization also conducted 15 IHL courses, including two specialized ones, for the region's air forces and two for its navies. It participated in a "Partnership for peace" exercise in Lithuania attended by 2,800 military personnel.

In Croatia, a restructuring of the police academy's educational curriculum was under way, and a new IHL/human rights programme was being implemented in the police force. The ICRC therefore focused on training in its cooperation with the authorities. ICRC activities included three courses on human rights, IHL and the ICRC mandate, which were attended by police trainees and officers.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Knowledge of humanitarian law and human rights was not widespread in academic circles. Issues of humanitarian concern and efforts to resolve them tended to receive little media coverage and analysis.

Mine awareness

To encourage an integrated approach to the mine problem in Croatia, the ICRC hosted a first meeting for all those involved in mine action, which was followed by further meetings at monthly intervals. The ICRC supported mine-awareness activities, in particular Croatian Red Cross presentations and interactive performances.

Media

In cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Latvian Red Cross, a two-day seminar on IHL and reporting on humanitarian matters was organized by the ICRC in Latvia. The seminar was attended by about 15 members of the Latvian national and regional media. The ICRC also assisted the South-eastern European Network for Professionalization of the Media (SEENPM) in raising awareness of IHL among journalists and discussing their role in reporting on this body of law.

Universities

Together with the Polish Red Cross, the ICRC organized the 19th course on IHL, which was attended by participants from 25 countries. The ICRC also sponsored the participation of the law faculty of Prague's Charles University in the Jean Pictet Moot Court Competition, and continued to encourage the University's promotion of IHL. Other ICRC activities included support for the course on media and armed conflicts at the University of Warsaw and for the annual conference of the Forum of European Journalism Students, which was held in Dubrovnik and attracted 150 students. The ICRC provided 15 of the region's universities with IHL publications and teaching tools. By providing material support and maintaining a dialogue with Zagreb University, the ICRC sustained its encouragement of that institution's efforts to incorporate IHL into its journalism curriculum. Finally, the ICRC held a student workshop on IHL and – as part of a Council of Europe conference – a workshop on women and armed conflict, both in Budapest.

Secondary schools

The ICRC continued to lend financial and technical support to the efforts of the Lithuanian Red Cross to implement the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme in school and extracurricular activities. This involved presenting the programme to the Ministry of Education and carrying out a series of consultations with the Ministry which led to an agreement to incorporate EHL modules into the curriculum. Ministry and Lithuanian Red Cross representatives participated in an EHL master trainers workshop organized by the ICRC. Translation of EHL modules began in December and a plan of action was submitted to potential donors.

The ICRC continued to encourage the Croatian Red Cross to act as a trend-setter for EHL in the region. The EHL programme was introduced to 120 youth educators and trainers from 26 Red Cross branches during a series of five-day seminars. Modules were translated into Croatian and a peer-to-peer approach was developed in preparation for the programme's launch in youth clubs and summer camps. In addition, EHL was presented to the Ministry of Education and to 25 school principals and teachers to gauge the feasibility of incorporating it into the curriculum.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Despite the significant differences among the region's National Societies in terms of their levels of activity and standard programmes, one thing they had in common was a need to strengthen their capacities in areas of ICRC development support, namely dissemination, communication, tracing, fundraising and emergency preparedness.

As the lead agency for the dissemination of IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the ICRC prepared a tool in both print and electronic forms called the *Dissemination ring folder* to help the region's National Societies boost their dissemination capacity. The folder, a brain-child of the ICRC, came about through knowledge-sharing among the National Societies. As a compilation of the best practices in Central Europe and the Baltics for raising awareness of IHL and the Fundamental Principles, it cultivated a feeling of "ownership" among the National Societies involved in its production. The folder was adopted by all National Societies for use in their internal training programmes, particularly as a tool for training volunteer disseminators.

The adoption by the Croatian parliament of a new law on the Croatian Red Cross was an important development. ICRC support to the Croatian Red Cross focused on the mine-awareness programme, which received assistance primarily in the form of training, funding and materials. This support has been all the more important in view of the recent recognition of the Croatian Red Cross as the State's auxiliary in implementing the mine-awareness programme.

A total of 23 workshops, meetings and training courses were conducted in the region by the ICRC or with its assistance as part of the effort to consolidate the tracing and dissemination capacities of the region's National Societies, as well as their conflict and disaster preparedness. The meetings included a regional round-table tracing conference, a regional meeting of National Society leaders, and four meetings on disaster and conflict preparedness jointly organized by the ICRC and the International Federation for National Societies. The ICRC also extended financial support to a number of the region's National Societies.

KYIV

Regional delegation

Countries covered:

Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine

Personnel:

1 expatriate

9 locally hired staff

The Kyiv regional delegation concentrates on promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) and encouraging the authorities in the region to implement it. The far-reaching reforms currently under way in the countries covered offer a unique opportunity for the ICRC to pursue its efforts to make humanitarian law an integral part of national legislation, national education and training programmes, and codes of conduct for the armed, police and security forces.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection

26,946

Assistance

0

Preventive Action

858,600

Cooperation with National Societies

373,849

General

0

Overheads

81,196

1,340,592

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA KYIV



⊕ ICRC regional delegation

⊕ ICRC office

CONTEXT

All three countries covered by the Kyiv regional delegation maintained a certain degree of political and economic stability in 2001, although living conditions remained difficult for much of the population. In Ukraine as in Belarus, where elections were held in September 2001, the presidents kept their strong position. In Moldova, the Communist Party gained a stable majority in February's parliamentary elections. Moldova and Russia signed a friendship treaty in November and, in accordance with the OSCE¹ Istanbul summit declaration, Russia withdrew all its military hardware from the self-proclaimed

Moldovan Republic of Dniestr (Transdnistria). Nine years after the armed conflict between Moldova and Transdnistria, there was still no definitive resolution of their dispute. The process of settling their differences had nonetheless sufficiently advanced to make any renewed outbreak of hostilities increasingly unlikely. Similarly, tensions in Crimea simmered down.

¹ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

In this context, the ICRC pursued its brief to spread knowledge of and foster respect for IHL. The authorities and the armed forces remained highly receptive to these activities and made considerable efforts to implement IHL at national level and integrate it progressively into military training. The programme to promote IHL among students and academics went on at selected universities in all three countries, while the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme continued in schools that were taking part in the pilot phase in Belarus and Ukraine. The ICRC associated the National Societies closely with all its activities in the region covered.

ICRC ACTION

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC kept a close watch on the situation of security detainees and pursued its efforts to negotiate renewed access to members of the "Ilascu group" held in Transnistria in connection with the armed conflict in 1992. The ICRC had last visited these detainees in October 1993. In May 2001 the authorities in Tiraspol freed Mr Ilascu, but not his three fellow detainees. By the end of the year the ICRC's request to be allowed to visit them had still not been granted.

AUTHORITIES

By 2001 the three countries covered by the regional delegation were well advanced in terms of implementation of IHL, although the process was at times hampered by internal political factors. All three had adopted a law on protection and use of the emblem and set up national commissions for implementation.

Having itself introduced comprehensive measures to repress war crimes (one of the ICRC's priorities for the implementation of IHL), Belarus was preparing a comparative study of the measures adopted by various CIS² countries to repress these crimes. Belarus also withdrew its reservations to the Geneva Conventions.

In Moldova, the national committee for the implementation of IHL set up a working group to carry out a study on the compatibility of national legislation with the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The committee submitted to the Moldovan parliament the ICRC's recommendations regarding measures to repress war crimes which are to be included in the new penal code. In the course of the year the committee organized two conferences to review the status of IHL implementation in Moldova. The

participants included representatives of academic circles and the armed forces.

In Ukraine, the ICRC focused on encouraging the authorities to include comprehensive measures to repress war crimes in the country's new penal code and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The ICRC provided the committee for the implementation of IHL with material and financial assistance enabling it to begin a study on the compatibility of national legislation with the provisions of the Rome Statute. The study is expected to serve as major tool to facilitate and promote ratification and implementation. At the end of the year the Ukrainian President asked the Ministry of Justice to draft recommendations regarding constitutional amendments necessary in anticipation of the Statute's ratification.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In all three countries covered by the regional delegation, the ICRC pursued its cooperation programmes with the respective defence ministries with a view to promoting the integration of IHL in military training and procedures. The continuing cooperation with the interior ministries of these countries involved raising awareness of IHL and human rights among the police and security forces.

Armed forces

In the three countries, the ICRC gave seminars on IHL for a total of 618 senior officers from various armed services and lecturers and students from military academies. In addition, 450 IHL instructors were trained in specialized courses.

To assess the degree to which IHL was applied in training, the ICRC took part in planning and conducting "Peace Shield 2001", a multinational field exercise organized in Ukraine as part of the NATO

² Commonwealth of Independent States

"Partnership for Peace" programme. Similarly, the ICRC participated in a major tactical exercise of the armed forces of Belarus.

To stimulate interest in IHL, the regional delegation assisted the Moldovan Ministry of Defence in organizing a competition on the topic for 16 conscripts and a seminar for 28 graduates of the Alexandru cel Bun military college. The delegation also held a competition on IHL in Odessa, Ukraine, which was attended by six teams of students from military higher education facilities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. In addition, the ICRC gave special courses on IHL for 50 officers, including 25 future military chaplains in Ukraine and 25 military doctors in Belarus.

Police and security forces

In the three countries it covered, the regional delegation organized some 15 seminars and presentations on IHL and human rights for over 300 senior police officers and lecturers and students of police academies and other educational institutions.

Cooperation with interior-ministry troops began in Belarus and Moldova with seminars for 34 high-ranking officers from these units.

An important aspect of the ICRC's activities in Ukraine consisted in preparing police officers to take part, as instructors or policemen, in UN civilian police missions across the world. In all, some 200 Ukrainian police officers attended ICRC courses and presentations on IHL and human rights.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Universities

The ICRC maintained contact with selected universities in the region to promote the study of IHL as part of law, international relations and journalism courses, mainly by providing relevant literature and sponsoring the participation of teachers and

students in IHL-related events. Thus, six teams of students from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine took part in the fifth De Martens moot court competition on IHL, and six IHL experts from Belarus and Ukraine attended the second "De Martens Readings" conference. Two teachers from universities in Lviv and Kyiv attended a seminar on war reporting. All three events were organized by the ICRC in Moscow.³ The law faculty of Lviv State University subsequently requested the ICRC's assistance in integrating IHL in its syllabus.

Schools

In Ukraine and Belarus, the ICRC, in cooperation with those countries' education ministries and National Societies, continued to support preparations for the introduction of the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme into secondary school curricula, planned for 2002. Two orientation seminars on EHL were organized in Kyiv and Minsk for representatives of the education authorities, pedagogical institutes, and universities, and for teachers and Red Cross educators. In Kyiv, a ministerial working group was set up to plan the implementation of the programme, and its translation into Russian was initiated by the Kyiv Interregional Institute of Advanced Studies for Teachers.

The EHL educational programme is aimed at developing knowledge and understanding of the basic rules and principles of IHL and related issues among adolescents. In 2001, efforts were under way in over 55 countries to work towards integrating EHL in secondary school curricula.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

As in the past, the regional delegation gave financial and material support and technical advice to the National Society of the countries covered, in particular their tracing and dissemination services. In Ukraine, this enabled the National Society to develop a computerized tracing programme which will serve as a model for

other National Societies in the region. All three National Societies took part in a round-table discussion organized by the ICRC in Moscow for the 15 National Society tracing services of the countries of the former Soviet Union. In addition, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society held a meeting in Kyiv with the Belarus and Moldovan National Societies to share knowledge and experiences in the field of tracing.

With ICRC support, the three National Societies held six dissemination sessions and training seminars for 175 Red Cross volunteers and National Society staff. The ICRC lent the Ukrainian Red Cross the "People on War" exhibit, which was put on display in six regions and received wide media coverage. The Red Cross Society of Belarus played a particularly active part in ICRC seminars on IHL for police and security forces and law students, and in the EHL programme in schools.

Up until the end of the year the ICRC continued to support the two main projects of the Crimean branch of the Ukrainian Red Cross. These were first-aid centres in rural areas and medical-social consultation facilities, which benefited the most vulnerable people in the region. The ICRC office in Simferopol closed at the end of October, as planned.

After several years of efforts to reform its statutes, develop the capacities of its branches and ensure they worked in accordance with the Movement's Fundamental Principles, in October 2001 the Red Cross Society of Moldova gained recognition as a fully-fledged National Society. The ICRC, in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, had been closely involved in helping the Moldovan Red Cross to achieve this.

³ See *Moscow regional delegation*.

MOSCOW

Regional delegation

Countries covered:

Russian Federation, with specialized services for all the countries in the region

Personnel:

35 expatriates

353 locally hired staff

In the Russian Federation the ICRC is operating at two levels. In the northern Caucasus, it assists vulnerable populations affected by the various armed confrontations in recent years, particularly the ongoing hostilities in Chechnya, and visits people detained in this context. At the level of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the ICRC runs long-term programmes to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) among the authorities, the military and civil society, and foster understanding of the ICRC's mandate and work.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	1,371,929
Assistance	35,938,486
Preventive Action	7,104,991
Cooperation with National Societies	1,495,172
General	375,135
Overheads	2,943,134

49,228,846

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA MOSCOW



⊕ ICRC regional delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC office

CONTEXT

In 2001 Russia's President Putin further consolidated his position in domestic and international politics. In the aftermath of the terror attacks on New York and Washington on 11 September, there was a degree of rapprochement between the Russian Federation and the United States.

Meanwhile, in the northern Caucasus the overall picture did not change. Although large-scale military operations had ceased, the situation in many parts of Chechnya, especially the cities, was still far from normal. Federal forces remained massively present and continued their military operations, as did Chechen fighters. Numerous arrests were made during

mopping-up operations, amid reports of widespread human rights abuses. Rampant crime added to the general insecurity. For the over 180,000 displaced people in the neighbouring republics and regions, roughly 150,000 of whom were stranded in Ingushetia, the situation provided no incentive to return to Chechnya for good, although many of them regularly went back and forth across the border. Along with the vulnerable resident population and some 100,000 people displaced within the Chechen republic, they relied on aid to survive.

The ICRC thus maintained its extensive assistance operation for people affected by the fighting, with programmes ranging from the provision of food and material relief to medical and sanitation projects. In terms of budget, it was the organization's second-largest operation worldwide. The ICRC coordinated its activities with those of OCHA,¹ other UN agencies and NGOs present on the ground. In Ingushetia, the ICRC focused on covering the basic needs of the displaced population. It also assisted displaced people in Daghestan and lent its full support to the wide range of relief and medical activities carried out by the Russian Red Cross Society for needy residents and displaced people in the northern Caucasus and southern Russia. Within Chechnya, despite major security constraints, the ICRC managed to keep aid programmes going for most of the year thanks to its dedicated local staff and with the support of the Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross.

Serious incidents in May and again in September prompted the ICRC to suspend its programmes in Chechnya, each time for about month. Activities in the republic resumed at the end of October after ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger, in the course of a mission to Moscow, had received renewed assurances from the Russian authorities for the safety of ICRC staff. During Mr Kellenberger's visit the authorities reaffirmed previous agreements allowing the ICRC to visit all those detained in connection with the ongoing security operations in Chechnya. Mr Kellenberger nonetheless expressed the ICRC's serious concern about alleged violations of IHL in the northern Caucasus and discussed in particular the organization's work on behalf of families anxious for news of relatives believed to be detained.

At the federal level, the ICRC focused on promoting respect for IHL through nationwide dissemination programmes for the authorities, the armed forces and young people. Programmes for the armed forces, which remained particularly relevant in view of ongoing military operations in the northern Caucasus, made significant progress.

ICRC ACTION

CIVILIANS

Vulnerable resident groups

Chechnya's resident population continued to vary rapidly depending on the security situation. Those who had the means to do so tended to leave the cities, particularly Grozny, every time there was a threat of military operations. They mostly went to Ingushetia and returned home as soon as they deemed it safe. The most vulnerable people, many of them elderly members of the Russian minority without any family living close by, stayed behind. The ICRC, jointly with the Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross, regularly assisted some 29,000 elderly and disabled people, roughly half of them in Grozny, with bread, sugar, oil, soap and tea. About 1,000 food parcels, 300,000 loaves of bread and 60 tonnes of various food commodities were distributed monthly. In addition, the ICRC ran four supplementary programmes to provide food, material assistance and hygiene kits to at least 2,000 destitute people in cities, people in medical and social institutions, schoolchildren, and unpaid or poorly paid workers providing essential services, such as schoolteachers and the employees of Vodakanal, the local water board.

In Chechnya's heavily damaged capital Grozny, water remained a major problem. Despite security incidents which forced it to suspend other activities, the ICRC kept some 45,000 people in Grozny supplied with chlorinated water throughout the year. In cooperation with Vodakanal, around 900 cubic metres of water were produced each day. In addition, the ICRC water and habitat team installed more than 1,500 stoves in schools and hospitals.

¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

In southern Russia, the ICRC regularly provided 1,500 needy people with food parcels and hygiene kits. In southern Russia and the northern Caucasus, thanks to the home-visiting nurses and social assistance programmes carried out by the Russian Red Cross with ICRC support, some 4,250 elderly and bedridden people, other vulnerable individuals and families, and residents of social institutions regularly received similar assistance, in addition to basic medical and personal care.

Internally displaced people

The largest concentration of internally displaced people (IDPs), estimated to include between 145,000 and 160,000 people, remained in Ingushetia. Nearly half of them stayed with relatives or in rented accommodation; the others were housed in collective centres or tent camps. The ICRC, working in complementarity with the World Food Programme, provided regular assistance in the form of food parcels, candles and hygiene kits to virtually all IDPs. In addition, some 29,000 of the IDPs in camps and collective centres each received three bread loaves weekly from the Russian Red Cross. In all, the ICRC delivered 715,000 food parcels, 2,000 tonnes of food and various other commodities to 950,000 IDPs.

The ICRC was the only organization to run a large-scale water and sanitation operation for IDPs in the northern Caucasus. It kept some 40,000 people in camps supplied with sufficient water to meet their daily needs throughout the year. This involved activities ranging from linking camps up to the local water-supply network and water trucking to construction and maintenance work on water distribution points and shower facilities.

Elsewhere in the northern Caucasus (Daghestan and North Ossetia) and in southern Russia, the ICRC regularly assisted nearly 38,000 displaced people with food parcels, wheat flour, hygiene kits and bread, either directly or through the Russian Red Cross.

Over and above its regular relief programmes, the ICRC provided 27,000 sets of clothing and shoes to displaced people in need.

In addition, ICRC/Russian Red Cross mobile medical units provided consultations and essential medicines for displaced people (see *Wounded and sick*). The ICRC lent financial support to a programme started by the Russian Red Cross to provide IDPs with psychological counselling (at a rate of about 500 consultations monthly) and legal assistance, mostly regarding their rights and legal status.

Separated family members

The need remained for family links to be restored, mostly between people in the northern Caucasus and their relatives who had settled elsewhere in the Russian Federation or abroad. In Chechnya, the ICRC's Red Cross message service enabled people living in remote areas and elderly people whose families had left to maintain family contact. In 2001, some 1,115 messages were distributed; inside Chechnya, this was possible thanks to the support of the Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross.

The ICRC also collected requests for information from families regarding the whereabouts of their relatives, whom they believed to be detained, and regularly submitted them to the authorities. During the year under review, 280 such cases were brought to its attention. In addition, the ICRC organized a round-table discussion in Moscow for the 15 National Society tracing services of the countries of the former Soviet Union, allowing them to exchange views and strengthen cooperation among themselves.

Children

Landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) remained a constant threat to the population in Chechnya and displaced people upon their return home. As before, the ICRC's mine-awareness programme focused on children as the group most at risk, notably Chechen children in Chechnya, in IDP camps in Ingushetia or on State-sponsored vacation in sanatoriums in the northern Caucasus. After an assessment in September, the programme was extended to two regions of Daghestan. The programme methods included a puppet show and a child-to-child approach aimed at teaching youngsters ways of avoiding accidents and passing life-saving information on to their peers. A similar approach was developed for teenagers. In addition, the ICRC continued to collect data on mine and UXO casualties from the hospitals it assisted so as to make this information widely available. It also initiated contact with the media with a view to conducting a public education campaign. Throughout 2001, some 51,000 children took part in the ICRC's mine-awareness programme. Some 890 teachers and parents took part in workshops and presentations or were otherwise involved in the programme.

In addition, the ICRC provided needy children with 16,500 school kits and 8,650 pairs of shoes.

Playrooms and psychological help provided by the Russian Red Cross with ICRC support helped young children in IDP camps deal with their experience of war and displacement. In Daghestan, ICRC support to the Russian Red Cross ensured that 500 displaced schoolchildren had a hot meal each day.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

On the basis of an agreement with the Russian authorities, first concluded in March 2000 and renewed after the ICRC President's visit to Moscow in October 2001, the ICRC continued to have access to people detained in connection with military operations in Chechnya. The volatile security situation and the difficulties involved in obtaining the approval of the authorities for escorts to ensure the safety of ICRC staff meant that certain places of detention remained out of bounds, particularly within Chechnya itself. Delegates nonetheless carried out 76 visits to 37 places of detention under the jurisdiction of the justice and interior ministries, including 12 in Chechnya, and registered 1,073 detainees (1,812 since March 2000). The ICRC engaged in direct, constructive dialogue with prison authorities and the relevant ministry officials, aiming to ensure that the detainees were treated humanely. During all visits, detainees were given the opportunity to write Red Cross messages (RCMs) which were then collected for delivery to their relatives. In 2001 the ICRC distributed 183 RCMs.

WOUNDED AND SICK

In Chechnya, surgical and general health facilities and equipment remained crippled by both war damage and lack of means and maintenance. After reassessing needs and reviewing its surgical support programme which had been covering 27 hospitals, in July the ICRC decided to focus on assisting, as needed, nine facilities in Chechnya and one hospital each in Ingushetia and Daghestan. In addition, it ran a primary health-care programme jointly with the Russian Red Cross. The ICRC supplied the necessary vehicles and financed the running of four mobile units and one stationary unit in Chechnya, two mobile clinics in Daghestan and, until October, a mobile clinic and a health post in Ingushetia. This enabled the Russian Red Cross in 2001 to give more than 100,000 consultations to vulnerable residents and provide them with essential medicines.

Through its surgical programme, the ICRC provided wheelchairs and crutches to patients with disabilities. To address longer-term needs for physical rehabilitation among Chechnya's several thousand war amputees and other disabled people, the ICRC signed an agreement in October with the federal Ministry of Labour regarding further training for specialized Chechen staff expected to work at a prosthetic/orthotic centre in Grozny which the authorities were planning to reopen.

AUTHORITIES

Given Russia's weight in international affairs and its central role in the CIS, the ICRC continued to attach particular importance to promoting ratification and implementation at the national level of the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), signed by the Russian authorities in September 2000. An ICRC conference on the subject, held in Moscow in March and attended by representatives of all but two CIS States, resulted in a number of encouraging developments. With ICRC support, a draft study examining the compatibility of national legislation with the provisions of the Rome Statute was carried out by three Russian experts and submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from where it will be passed on to the legal division of the State Duma. The study will serve as a major tool to promote and facilitate ratification of the Rome Statute. In December, the ICRC was invited to take part in the first meeting of the State Duma Council of international law experts on the ICC.

In addition, the ICRC organized the seventh international course on IHL for civil servants from CIS States. The course, which was held in October, was attended by 15 participants representing 11 countries and the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS, which draws up model laws and makes recommendations for member States.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Ministry of Defence

In its seventh year, the ICRC's cooperation with the armed forces in the Russian Federation focused on helping the Ministry of Defence to incorporate basic notions of IHL into all aspects of military training and gradually to take over full responsibility for IHL instruction. The organization sought to develop contacts with high-ranking officials of the Ministry and of the Federal Border Guard, for example by sponsoring their participation in Russian-speaking classes at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, and to foster the creation of a legal framework for the integration of IHL in military procedures. These efforts resulted in a highly encouraging development: the Ministry of Defence issued Order No. 360 regarding measures to ensure respect for the norms of IHL and adopted regulations on IHL for the armed forces, thereby making IHL applicable to all aspects of armed forces activities.

Military training facilities received support from the ICRC in the form of training, technical resources and teaching tools. For example, ICRC support enabled the Combined Arms Academy of the Ministry of Defence to train 110 IHL instructors and the second Skobelev competition on laws and customs of war to be organized for 12 teams (60 participants in all, including some from Belarus and Kazakhstan) from leading officer cadet schools. In addition, the ICRC gave presentations on IHL to 248 staff officers and 80 senior military prosecutors.

The ICRC continued its special effort to address units deployed in the northern Caucasus in order to inform them about humanitarian rules and the ICRC's operation in the region. Presentations were given to some 4,000 servicemen of the Ministry of Defence and the Federal Border Guard.

Ministry of the Interior

In 2001 the ICRC, still the only foreign organization to have a formal programme of cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, continued to work for the systematic integration of human rights law and IHL in training for the police and security forces. At the same time, it focused on spreading knowledge of both types of law, and of the ICRC's action especially, among the large number of Interior troops and special police forces stationed in the northern Caucasus. A special IHL training programme for servicemen conducted on behalf of the ICRC by two retired Russian army officers began at military training centres in Rostov and Stavropol. The programme introduced IHL and human rights to over 1,900 men.

Among the most notable events organized in 2001 were three seminars on human rights law and IHL for 70 officers, many of whom were responsible for training police forces in the northern Caucasus; a competition on human rights law and IHL held in Krasnodar and attended by eight teams from police cadet schools (including a team from Belarus); and a conference on practical aspects of human rights law and IHL held in St Petersburg and attended by 46 officers, teachers and trainers from leading interior ministry educational establishments.

CIVIL SOCIETY

To familiarize the general public with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, IHL and humanitarian action, the ICRC arranged for a travelling exhibition entitled "Humanity and war" to make a tour of the northern Caucasus and southern Russia. In addition, the regional delegation in Moscow produced newsletters, fact sheets and press releases in English and Russian and distributed them widely to the authorities, media outlets and other audiences.

Schools

Working through a team of Russian education experts, the ICRC supported a school programme aiming to familiarize secondary-school pupils across the Russian Federation with the basic principles of IHL and humanitarian action. By 2001, the programme's seventh year, a series of three ICRC-sponsored literature manuals entitled *A world around you* had been distributed to some 80% of Russia's 66,000 schools (except in Chechnya). In terms of production, distribution and reprinting, this represents, for each grade, an average of 1.84 million manuals for pupils and 100,000 user manuals for teachers. At the end of 2001, after a test run in 70 regions, the literature manual for the eighth grade was being prepared for printing. Monitoring of the programme in 2001 showed that more than 60% of all teachers and pupils in grades 5-7 knew the ICRC manual.

In grades 9-11, as a result of the programme, IHL topics had been included in civic education and a course entitled "The basics of living safely". The ICRC prepared a teacher's manual for these courses and distributed 70,000 copies. In 2001 training seminars were held for over 700 teachers. At the same time, the ICRC team kept in touch with the authors of official school books to ensure that they included IHL topics in their manuals. In addition, the ICRC maintained contact with the Ministry of Education regarding the inclusion of IHL topics in federal education standards, which are to be finalized in 2002.

Universities

Students and teachers of law, international relations and journalism remained a key audience for the ICRC's six-year-old programme to promote knowledge of and support for IHL among Russia's future decision- and opinion-makers. The initial effort had been aimed at introducing IHL widely to academic circles, using such tools as the yearly De Martens moot court competition on IHL to encourage teaching and research. By 2001, IHL had been included in federal standards for law and journalism studies and was taught at approximately 60 universities. The ICRC then adopted a more selective approach, focusing its efforts on creating a pool of IHL experts among Russia's academics and State officials, capable of initiating IHL-related events and training, developing reference materials and assisting the authorities in integrating IHL in national legislation. Major events organized by the ICRC in 2001 included, in April, the fifth De Martens moot court competition, which was attended by 17 university teams from seven CIS countries; in June, the second "De Martens Readings", an academic conference organized in cooperation with St Petersburg State University for 66 IHL experts from eight CIS countries; and in September, the third seminar on war reporting and fundamentals of humanitarian law, which was organized in cooperation with the Moscow Lomonossov State University and attended by 23 lecturers and deans of journalism and law faculties from the CIS region.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

As the Russian Red Cross continued its reform process, the ICRC co-supported a financial management project with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to upgrade the National Society's accounting system. At the Russian Red Cross Congress in November, a new President was elected and the National Society statutes were reviewed to strengthen the trend towards decentralization.

As the National Society's strategic partner in the reform process in the southern Russia and northern Caucasus regions, the ICRC maintained extensive cooperation with the 10 Russian Red Cross branches there. At the end of the year, it assigned a full-time cooperation delegate to the sub-delegation in Nalchik. The Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross remained a major implementing partner for the organization. Like the nine other branches in the two regions, it continued to receive ICRC support for its assistance programmes for displaced people and vulnerable residents.

To enable the Red Cross branches in both regions to evaluate their activities systematically, the ICRC also trained 23 monitors.

WASHINGTON

Regional delegation

Countries covered:


Canada, United States of America

Personnel:

2 expatriate

4 locally hired staff

In Washington the ICRC delegation has become an acknowledged source of information to which policy-makers, private organizations and other interested parties turn for information and for a humanitarian law perspective on international issues. The Washington delegation also cooperates with the American and Canadian Red Cross Societies in the dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL) and other public communication programmes, and in operational activities in the field.


 ICRC regional delegation

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	335
Assistance	5,977
Preventive Action	852,301
Cooperation with National Societies	198,018
General	635,135
Overheads	106,487

1,798,253

CONTEXT

As in previous years, the regional delegation in Washington pursued contacts with high-level government officials, private organizations and universities in Canada and the United States to raise funds and secure political backing for the ICRC's programmes worldwide. Both countries offered a supportive environment for the ICRC. At the invitation of the Canadian Red Cross Society, ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger visited Canada in March. In meetings with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and the Minister of External Affairs, and with representatives of the Canadian Red Cross and the country's NGOs, the ICRC President discussed topics relating

to IHL and Canada's support for humanitarian activities.

Following the outbreak of the international conflict in Afghanistan triggered by the 11 September attacks on New York and Washington, the ICRC's Washington delegation engaged in discussions with the US civilian and military authorities on matters relating to the conflict and its consequences. Large numbers of prisoners were transferred from Afghanistan to the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, where from the beginning of 2002 they were visited by ICRC delegates and doctors as required by the Geneva Conventions.

At the end of November ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger paid an official visit to Washington to meet representatives of the newly elected US administration, share the ICRC's concerns regarding the situation in Afghanistan and outline its operational priorities.

Delegates lobbied throughout the year to promote understanding of the ICRC's mandate and operations and took advantage of every opportunity to spread knowledge of IHL.

ICRC ACTION

AUTHORITIES

In addition to its activities linked to the conflict in Afghanistan, the delegation maintained active relations with the US government departments and offices concerned with international humanitarian aid and protection for victims of armed conflict and political tension. These included the Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration, the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, and the Legal Adviser's office at the Department of State; the offices of Food for Peace and Foreign Disaster Assistance and the Bureau for Humanitarian Response at the US Agency for International Development; the Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Affairs and General Counsel's offices, the office of the Legal Adviser to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon; and the Civil-Military Affairs staffs at the US Central and Southern Commands.

The ICRC also maintained relations with Canadian government offices and agencies concerned with international humanitarian aid, within the Canadian International Development Agency and the Ministry of External Affairs.

In its dialogue with the US authorities, the ICRC discussed humanitarian concerns the world over and such issues as the status of the Magen David Adom of Israel and its emblem, the red shield of David. With the events of 11 September, the international consequences of the attacks and the implications for Afghanistan in humanitarian terms became a major topic.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC contributed to US military training programmes on IHL at a variety of institutions, such as the National War College, the Inter-American Defense College and the Western Hemisphere Institute. It also took part in NATO-sponsored and other military field exercises.

In Canada, delegates gave two lectures on IHL for 120 officers and took part in training sessions at the Canadian Forces Support Training Center.



CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC maintained constructive relations with NGOs, policy centres and academic institutions in Washington DC and elsewhere in the US, for example the Brookings Institution, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the US Institute of Peace, the US Committee for Refugees, the Woodrow Wilson Centre for International Scholars, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and Physicians for Human Rights, and also with the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre in Canada. The Washington delegation regularly took part in meetings of the Disaster Response Committee of InterAction, the umbrella organization for private American agencies involved in international humanitarian assistance.

The delegation also took an active part in conferences and gave talks at academic centres such as the American University Washington College of Law, the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, the George Washington University, the Harvard University School of Public Health and the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

In addition, it served as the ICRC's liaison with the World Bank, again seconding a delegate to the Bank's post-conflict unit, and with the Organization of American States.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The Washington delegation worked closely with the International Services and International Social Services departments of the American Red Cross on coordination of overseas projects and tracing activities. Discussions continued on the admission of the Magen David Adom in Israel to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The ICRC maintained its close cooperation with the Canadian Red Cross, focusing on building the National Society's training capacity and increasing its involvement in international programmes.

BRUSSELS

Covering :

Institutions of the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Personnel:

2 expatriates

3 locally hired staff

In Brussels the ICRC is working to build strong institutional and operational relations with the EU institutions, NATO and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. It aims to raise awareness of the ICRC's mandate and mobilize political, diplomatic and financial support for ICRC activities to ensure that the victims of armed conflict receive the protection and assistance to which they are entitled under international humanitarian law (IHL).

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection

0

Assistance

0

Preventive Action

913,128

Cooperation with National Societies

193,304

General

68,205

Overheads

83,890

1,258,527

CONTEXT

As in previous years, the ICRC's delegation in Brussels focused on strengthening its working relations with European institutions and NATO, one of the core aims being to secure much-needed political support for ICRC operations.

Throughout the year the delegation arranged meetings between specialized staff from ICRC headquarters and the field and their counterparts in EU institutions. The main topics of discussion included operational issues, priorities for humanitarian action and aid efforts in Asia and Africa.

ICRC ACTION

European Union institutions

Given the development of the EU and its increasingly prominent role on the international scene, especially in the framework of the common foreign and security policy, maintaining contact with EU institutions remained a high priority. The ICRC kept up extensive high-level discussions with the EU to ensure that its viewpoint on specific issues of humanitarian concern was taken into account. On many occasions throughout 2001 both the EU and the ICRC reaffirmed their willingness to intensify their dialogue, particularly on the topics of early detection of potential crises, conflict prevention and crisis-management policy. In January, Mr Romano Prodi became the first President of the European Commission to visit ICRC headquarters in Geneva. In February, at the invitation of the Swedish presidency of the Council of the European Union, ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger visited Brussels, where he addressed the EU political and security committee. Mr Kellenberger emphasized the ICRC's constructive cooperation with the European Commission, one of the organization's four main donors. As he had on previous occasions, he expressed the hope that the EU's new financial regulations would enable the Commission to offer its support in a way that fully matches the flexibility needed by the ICRC to respond to continuously evolving situations in the field. In May, Mr Kellenberger met the Belgian Foreign Minister in anticipation of Belgium's EU presidency during the second half of the year.

The attacks of 11 September against the United States led to quick approval by the EU of a plan of action against terrorism. The events also prompted member States to look more closely at security arrangements within EU borders, and to boost police and judicial cooperation among themselves.

At the EU-Russia summit in October, the EU expressed its firm commitment to enhancing dialogue on political and security questions. The same month, in response to the crisis in Afghanistan, the ICRC Delegate-General for Asia and Latin America met the Director of the European Commission's humanitarian aid office (ECHO), and representatives of the EU presidency, the European Commission directorate-general for external relations and the Council of the European Union policy unit.

In November, the ICRC Director of Operations and the regional delegate in Brussels took part in a seminar on the security of humanitarian personnel and the protection of refugees, displaced persons and civilians, jointly organized by ECHO and the Belgian presidency of the EU.

In cooperation with the College of Europe, the Brussels delegation organized in October the second annual Bruges Colloquium, which aimed at stimulating discussion on IHL and related issues among diplomats, academics and officials working with Brussels-based institutions. The event, which was opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium, focused on the impact of IHL on current security-policy trends.

NATO

Given NATO's involvement in contexts where the ICRC carries out its humanitarian tasks based on the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the ICRC remained particularly concerned to develop a constructive dialogue with the organization. In March the ICRC President was invited to address the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council on issues of humanitarian concern. He also had a bilateral meeting with NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson and visited SHAPE¹, where he was received by General Sir Rupert Smith, the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander of Europe. Following this, the ICRC was invited for the first time to take part in the annual conference of allied forces in Europe. The event was held in Brussels in June and was attended by some 130 high-ranking officers. The ICRC Delegate-General for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa gave a presentation on the organization's mandate and concerns.

The ICRC addressed the NATO-Russia Working Group dealing with the safe return and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced people, and regularly took part in meetings of the NATO ad hoc committee on depleted uranium.

At the invitation of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the ICRC took part in the Rose-Roth seminar on security and stability in central and eastern Europe, where it submitted a paper on protection issues. ICRC representatives based in Brussels also took part in the Assembly's spring and autumn sessions, held in Vilnius and Ottawa, respectively.

¹ Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe

NEW YORK

Personnel:
4 expatriates
6 locally hired staff

The wide-ranging activities of the United Nations (UN), headquartered in New York, often involve a humanitarian dimension. The ICRC's delegation to the UN and its agencies and programmes is a support and relay station for operational and legal initiatives. It seeks to develop and maintain close contact with UN bodies and member States, and with think-tanks, academic institutions and other humanitarian organizations based in New York. It puts across the ICRC's point of view in the UN and other fora, and keeps abreast of trends and developments regarding issues of humanitarian concern. In addition, the delegation promotes international humanitarian law (IHL).

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection

0

Assistance

0

Preventive Action

2,315,299

Cooperation with National Societies

8,534

General

0

Overheads

137,632

2,461,465

CONTEXT

The New York delegation maintained close relations with the various UN bodies and with think-tanks, academic circles and the media. In June and again in November, the President of the ICRC met with members of the Security Council and representatives of the General Assembly in an informal setting to discuss current humanitarian concerns. In November, the main topics included the situation in Afghanistan and ICRC activities there in the aftermath of the 11 September events.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Throughout the year the delegation followed the various thematic and operational issues addressed by the Council in the period under review. In accordance with established practice, the delegation met at the beginning of each month with the presidency of the Security Council to present the ICRC's concerns regarding operational developments in situations on the Council's agenda.

In November, the New York delegation took part in an orientation course organized for new members of the Council by the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). It briefed the audience on IHL, the mandate and status of the ICRC, and the role of its delegation to the UN.

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In order to keep abreast of developments relevant to the ICRC's work, the delegation closely followed, in an observer capacity, the work of the General Assembly (GA) and its main committees. ICRC representatives also took part in various meetings, such as those of the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court and the Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects.

At the GA's 56th session in November 2001 the delegation contributed statements on a variety of issues on the GA's agenda, including disarmament, the report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, children's rights, women's advancement, peace-keeping operations, the establishment of the International Criminal Court, and coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

The delegation maintained regular contact with permanent missions to the UN, shared its expertise in IHL and promoted understanding of and support for the ICRC's mandate and work. Jointly with the New York University school of law, the delegation organized the 18th annual seminar on IHL for diplomats accredited to the UN.

UN SECRETARIAT AND ASSOCIATED BODIES

The delegation attended the weekly meetings of the IASC,¹ chaired by OCHA.² As a "standing invitee", it also attended working sessions on issues such as the human cost of sanctions, the protection of civilians in armed conflict and post-conflict reintegration, and – in the latter part of the year – the situation in Afghanistan. It also took part in expert group meetings chaired by the UN Mine Action Service.

Numerous bilateral meetings were held with various branches of the Secretariat in order to discuss issues of common concern, which were often related to contexts where the UN and the ICRC were both active. The protection of vulnerable groups in areas where peace-keeping operations were deployed was one such topic. The delegation also maintained regular contact with UNICEF, UNDP (particularly their emergency-response divisions) and UNHCR on various operational and thematic issues, such as the delivery of relief to the Afghan population.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The delegation participated in numerous round-table talks, discussion groups and workshops on topics related to the ICRC's mandate, operations and policy concerns, convened by various organizations and think-tanks, including the Open Society Institute, the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, the International Peace Academy, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Business Council for the UN, the City University of New York and the Stanley Foundation. It also attended Human Rights Watch's regular open meetings.

The delegation regularly published communications to the press on the ICRC's operations, and responded to queries from the media, private organizations and individuals, on issues such as the security of ICRC personnel or the protection of persons deprived of their liberty.

The delegation was regularly consulted on topical issues of humanitarian concern by students, academics and organizations. Its documentation centre was frequently visited and its resources were made available to permanent missions, the media and the public. Upon request, the delegation also provided its visitors with information on the ICRC's work and on IHL.

¹ Inter-Agency Standing Committee

² Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

PARIS

Personnel:
1 expatriate
4 locally hired staff

The ICRC's delegation in Paris focuses on promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) and facilitating ICRC operations in the field. Its target audiences include the French authorities, representatives of the French-speaking world, economic interest groups, the media, the diplomatic community, military and academic circles and the French Red Cross.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	0
Assistance	0
Preventive Action	977,398
Cooperation with National Societies	101,823
General	0
Overheads	75,881

1,155,102

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA PARIS

CONTEXT

The Paris delegation remained a key element in the ICRC's network for humanitarian diplomacy, through which the organization seeks to promote IHL and to increase understanding of its mandate. The year 2001, the centenary of the Nobel Peace Prize and of the adoption in France of a law on freedom of association, which provided a legal basis for the establishment of NGOs, offered particularly good opportunities to promote humanitarian issues.

In April France acceded to Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions, which protects victims of international armed conflict, bringing to 153 the number of States party to that Protocol.

AUTHORITIES

The delegation maintained contact with the French authorities, in particular the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence and the offices of the French President and the Prime Minister, so as to secure support for the ICRC's field operations and for humanitarian concerns.

With a view to facilitating ICRC activities in the field, mainly in Africa, the delegation fostered dialogue with opposition movements based in France. It also developed relations with multinational corporations present in contexts where the ICRC conducts humanitarian operations.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Following an agreement with the *Ecole de gendarmerie* in Rochefort, which prepares armed forces personnel for service in foreign theatres of operation, the delegation regularly gave courses on IHL for French officers due to leave on missions abroad, and for dozens of personnel from other countries taking part in military training programmes in France. In all, 10 courses on IHL were given for some 400 French military personnel, and another three courses were held for about 90 officers from other countries.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In terms of ICRC initiatives in the civil society sector, the first *Etats généraux de l'action et du droit international humanitaire*¹ were a major step in the ICRC's strategy to promote awareness of IHL and related issues. Supported by the French authorities and the French Red Cross, the Paris delegation worked closely with French experts and NGOs such as *Médecins sans frontières*, *Médecins du Monde*, *Handicap international*, *Action contre la Faim* and *Première Urgence* to organize the event, which was held on 27 and 28 November. In a series of meetings, a broad spectrum of key decision-makers, ranging from government officials and executives of multinational companies to representatives of the media and of the humanitarian community, discussed ways of enhancing the protection of war victims, looking in particular at the issue of the accountability of the multiple parties involved in contemporary armed conflict. ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger, the Director of Operations and the head of the Legal Division attended the event. The discussions were transmitted live on the Internet, which allowed participants from across the world to take part in the debates.

¹ States-general of humanitarian action and IHL

INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE (ITS)

Personnel:
1 expatriate

The International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen, Germany, is an international institution which assembles, classifies, preserves, evaluates and uses, for strictly humanitarian purposes, records concerning civilians persecuted during the National Socialist period in Germany (1933-1945) and non-Germans displaced as a result of the Second World War up until 1952. The ITS searches for missing persons and issues certificates to civilians who suffered incarceration or forced labour and to their family members eligible for financial compensation. The institution, which derives its mandate from the Bonn Agreements of 1955, is run by an ICRC-appointed director and supervised by an international commission comprising 11 member States.

Expenditure (in Sfr)

Protection	421,574
Assistance	0
Preventive Action	0
Cooperation with National Societies	0
General	0
Overheads	22,838

444,412

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

The mandate of the ITS is to gather, file, preserve and process personal records concerning civilians who were persecuted under the Third Reich. In particular, the ITS regularly acquires archival documents – in 2001 for example, 640,000 new names were added to the central databank – and provides victims of the Nazi regime with certificates attesting to the fact that they were persecuted, for example by being deported, interned or subjected to forced labour.

The ITS grew out of the Central Tracing Bureau, which was set up by Allied Headquarters at the British Red Cross in London in 1943. The Bureau moved several times before finally settling in Arolsen, Germany, in 1946. It adopted its current name on 1 January 1948. Since 1955, the ITS has been directed and administered by the ICRC and supervised by an International Commission composed of representatives of the ITS member States (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and, since March 2000, Poland).

The digitization of the ITS's central index of names (47 million records) was completed at the end of 1999. The databank, which became operational in the second half of 2000, makes it possible to process a considerable quantity of data electronically rather than manually, and thus to respond more quickly to requests for information and certificates.

Under a German law enacted on 12 August 2000, a federal foundation entitled *Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft* (Remembrance, Responsibility and Future) was set up to provide financial compensation for persons persecuted by the Nazi regime, including those subjected to slave or forced labour. As a result, there was a surge in the number of enquiries sent to the ITS. To deal with the additional workload, the ITS developed a new system for processing requests, using standard lists. This system enables the German foundation's partner organizations (five major foundations in Central and Eastern Europe, the Jewish Claims Conference and the International Organization for Migration in Geneva) to transfer the data contained in the requests they receive to the lists. These are then passed on to the ITS, which cross-checks the names in its central databank and enters the information it finds directly on the lists, before sending them back to the partner organizations. By the end of 2001, under this programme the ITS had cross-checked 161,184 names sent in by the partner organizations and other bodies, such as the Migrant Service in Australia and various National Societies, as well as by individuals.

In addition, during the year under review the ITS received 171,693 new individual requests from 64 countries and gave 239,338 replies to these and other requests received earlier. In total, the ITS thus replied to over 400,500 requests in 2001. At the end of the year, 400,239 requests still awaited processing.

